

# The Story Jacob and Esau's Reunion

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

Week of October 12, 2008

**Read Chapter 6 of "The Story" or check out Genesis chapters 32-33 and 35.**

Perhaps you know that Jacob had been a conniving little cheat. He tricked his twin brother (not identical) years ago, and received their father Isaac's blessing that should have been Esau's. Consider it kind of like stealing dad's inheritance.

1. **Tell of a time when you took (or received) something that wasn't rightfully yours.** (Perhaps you took it intentionally, or maybe through no effort of your own it was given to you.) **Did you feel guilty, thrilled or what? How did it affect your relationship with the one(s) who SHOULD have had it?**
2. **Imagine that you are the lawyers for Jacob and Esau arguing over the "blessing" or inheritance. What reasons are there for Jacob keeping it, and what are the reasons for giving it back to Esau?**
3. **Years later, when Jacob was coming back and entering Esau's territory, what tactic did he use to make a peaceful reunion? Did it work? Was it needed?**
4. In the middle of all this, we read of Jacob wrestling with a man who turns out to be God. **What do you make of this? What's the significance of this event in Jacob's life...in history?**
5. **In what ways have you wrestled with God lately?**
6. **What does Esau's response to his brother (who had wronged him and betrayed him) tell you about Esau?**
7. **Are you likely to have Esau's response to those who have wronged you or betrayed you and come seeking forgiveness? Why or why not?** (It's o.k. If you're a vindictive, spiteful, mean old grudge-holder, you can tell us.)

At the time of this story, Jacob--whose name God changes to "Israel"--is traveling with his family including his 11 sons, the youngest so far being Joseph (of Technicolor dreamcoat fame). One more son is yet to be born, bringing the whole set to an even dozen, setting the stage for the 12 tribes of Israel!