

Sermon Discussion Guide (for small groups, families, or individuals)



Reconciled: Conflict and Separation – July 17, 2022

Satan divides, and the Lord reconciles. He reconciles us to Himself, and He also reconciles us to the ones we love all through His Son Jesus Christ. In life we long so much to have our relationships with the ones we love reconciled, and in this series we will look at how that happens through the Good News of Jesus Christ! Satan brought some of his strongest divisions into Jacob and Esau's - and yet the more Jacob and Esau submitted them to the Lord, the more reconciliation they enjoyed! - *Pastor Jeremy*

Tips for Group/Family Leaders

- Look over questions and consider discussion points in advance
- Start group by praying for the Holy Spirit to teach you from God's Word
- Read and discuss each section
- Be sensitive to other members' level of spirituality
- Consider and discuss how you can apply each lesson in your lives
- Follow suggestions in the Transform and Respond section

Numbers 5:7 (NLT)

They must confess their sin and make full restitution for what they have done, adding an additional 20 percent and returning it to the person who was wronged.

Hosea 12:4-5

Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought His favor. He found Him at Bethel and there He spoke with us, even the LORD, the God of hosts. The LORD is His name.

Luke 11:9-10

"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

WISDOM FROM JEREMY

"Seeking the Lord with our whole heart requires effort. Don't let go!"

Connect

Children trust their parents to meet their every need. Toys broken beyond repair are lifted to moms and dads in confidence that they can be fixed. Is part of your life broken? Share your situations and prayer requests. Do you trust the Lord enough to lift up your situations to him? Even if God does not fix the problem in the way you hope, what can you learn from bringing your needs to him?

Explore

Read Gen 32:1-21. (focus verses: 4, 9-12, 13-16, 20)

- When Jacob heard Esau was coming to meet him (v. 4), he expected Esau to destroy him. This reality did not line up with God's promises. Jacob must have believed in God, but what actions did he take to prepare in case Esau chose a different path?

- In Jacob's prayer, (v. 9-12), what do his words reveal about his beliefs? His feelings?

- Jacob sent gifts (v. 13-16, 20) to "appease" Esau. The definition of the Hebrew word, *kaphar*, includes elements of repentance and reconciliation. Read Num 5:5-7. What does this teach about true repentance. Can you share a time you found it necessary to make restitution for a wrong?

Read Gen 32:22-32, Hosea 12:2-5, and Luke 11:5-13.

- Jacob was determined to hold on to God. What do we learn about this event from Hosea? How does it compare with the Genesis passage?

- What is the significance of Jacob's name being changed to Israel?
- Jesus taught the disciples to be persistent in prayer. According to Luke, what did Jesus say would be the outcome of our persistence?

Read Gen 33:1-17

- Jacob and Esau reconciled, however it was not a total reconciliation. Other passages in Scripture teach that Esau's descendants did not follow God and eventually became enemies of the Israelites. What boundaries did Jacob set in his relationship with Esau that probably were necessary for him to remain faithful to God? (see v. 13-17)

Transform and Respond

What would happen if we took our faith seriously? If we prepared to know God through Bible study and prayer? If we recognized God's plan and purpose for our lives? How confident would we be in God even when bad things happen? Discuss how you can grow in a deeper, more intimate relationship with the Lord. Make a short list of actions you will take in the coming week.