

August 2023 10 Minute Bible Study:

Who is Jacob—who is he becoming?

One of the great characters in the Bible's first book is Jacob—as readers we get to see him transformed from a younger man who would cheat his own brother to a father who dealt with conflict among his own children.

Look up Genesis 25:19-26

What do you think of Jacob and Esau's competition before they were even born?

Look up Genesis 25:27-34

There's no easy way around it—Jacob took something valuable from his brother.

Jacob's character was on display—his name in Hebrew meant heal grabber, supplanter, or cheater—do you think his name fit?

Look up Genesis 27:1-17

Jacob's mother Rebekah helped him to take his brother's blessing. This was a family conflict in the making. What lessons does this imperfect family have to teach us about being God's people?

Look up Genesis 27:18-41

Jacob chose to listen to his mom. And he took his brother's blessing.

How is Jacob's character shown in this story?

Jacob's life story continues as Jacob runs away, settles near his mother's relatives, gets married, and in many ways meets his match in his father-in-law Laban. But the time would come when he would head back to the promised land and inevitably meet his brother.

Look up Genesis 32:22-32

Along the way he had an unexpected meeting in the dark. Jacob ended up wrestling with a man who wouldn't let go.

Why do you think it took until dawn before Jacob realized he had been wrestling with God?

What significance does his new name have for him? What about for us today?

Look up Genesis 31:3-17

Jacob knew what he had done—it was clear that his brother had reasons to be upset with him. But he kept on going towards his brother all these year later.

How had time changed these two men?

How can this story help us to rethink our relationships and the power of forgiveness?