



FIRST LIGHT CHURCH

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Date: 2/23/2025

Series: Genesis: Jacob

Text: Genesis 36: 1-43

BIG IDEA: When we allow our appetites to lead our lives, we lead others away from the Lord.

ICEBREAKER: What is your ultimate comfort food? What is the one food you could never eat again?

CONTEXT: The context of Genesis 36 is a genealogy of the descendants of Esau, and a list of the kings of Edom, however there are some interesting things that we can glean from this passage. Although this passage seems like it is fairly mundane information, there is a reason that Moses included this information in the narrative surrounding the Abrahamic covenant and the development of the nation of Israel. This passage shows the path that Esau had chosen to take as he followed his own desires and what lasting consequences will eventually be brought about by his poor choices as well as his disregard for God's plan. The outcome of Esau following his own appetites led him away from his family, his homeland and ultimately shows where some of the greatest enemies of Israel were derived. Genesis 36 at first glance is arguably not much more than a genealogical list yet it holds profound implications for understanding leadership, directional change, and legacy. It reminds us of the transient nature of authority and the overarching sovereignty of God in guiding human affairs. The lessons drawn from this passage are as relevant today as they were in ancient times, offering insights into our personal lives, our roles as leaders, and our responsibilities to those who follow us.

PASSAGE: Have volunteers read Genesis 36:1-43 (Have fun with the name pronunciation!)

DISCUSSION:

1. What does the establishment of the Edomite nation proclaim about God's covenant promise to Abraham?
2. Discuss the theme of reconciliation between Jacob and Esau. (Gen. 33:1-12; 35:29; 36:6-8) How is this portrayed in Esau's migration away from his familial place with Jacob? Was this simply conflict resolution?
3. Many of the names that are within this passage aren't mentioned elsewhere in Scripture, indicating that Esau and his descendants were cut off from God's chosen people. Was God moving them out of the land for a reason?
4. Compare and contrast Jacob and Esau. How did their choices affect their lineages and legacies?
5. Read Genesis 26:34-35; 27:46; 28:6-9. How does Esau's choice of wives reflect his relationship with his family? What does say about his character?
6. How does the narrative of Esau influence or move you to manage your appetites, relationships, and responsibilities today?
7. How does God provide a way for us to avoid falling into the temptation of satisfying our sinful appetites? What tools does He give us?
8. Why does God's path sometimes seem so unclear to us?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

It only takes one generation to steer an entire family away from God or back toward Him. God wants us to live a life that is a testament to His faithfulness and promise to us. Seek others in your circle who can help to hold you accountable to the things that God is compelling you toward. Look for others who you may be able to help to navigate through difficulty and temptation by providing godly counsel, showing biblical wisdom and through faithful prayer.

CARE AND PRAY:

- Take time to thank God for His faithfulness.
- Pray that God will give you guidance in understanding Scripture.
- Ask God to help you to trust in His sovereignty, even when things don't make sense.
- Pray that God will bring people who are willing to serve in the different ministries of our church.
- Pray for those in our faith family who are dealing with seasonal sickness (flu, Covid, colds, etc.)
- Pray for those in our faith family who are experiencing serious health problems, chronic conditions and uncertainty.