



## Genesis Lesson 28 Chapter 35-36

*After many years of separation, coupled undoubtedly with fear and regret, God has brought reconciliation between Jacob and Esau. The events of the breaking of their relationship seems to be an instance, as many years later with Joseph, where man meant something for evil, but God meant it for the good of many. When Rebekah was pregnant with these twins, God told her the older would serve the younger. God always intended for the birthright to continue through Jacob, but Rebekah felt she needed to use her own conniving to make sure it happened. The results of these attempts led to the breakup of their family, as well as suspicion, bitterness, and anger between the siblings. How heartbreaking it must be for God when His people will not believe His promises, and they feel the need to use deceitful schemes to play god.*

*Thankfully, by God's grace, some healing was able to take place between Jacob and Esau, and God's purposes were carried out in them.*

*As Jacob moves into the promised land and the covenant is reestablished between him and God, the immediate reality of the corrupt culture that dwells there becomes evident. His daughter Dinah is raped by the son of the ruler in the area. In response, Jacob's sons take matters into their own hands and seek vengeance by killing every male of the city. Jacob fears repercussions from the surrounding cities that would put his whole family in danger. In response to this, Jacob is called to move to Bethel and present himself and his family to the God who protected him from Esau's wrath, and would now protect him from the potential violence of the nations around him.*

### READ CHAPTER 35

1. *Give the details of Jacob's previous experience at Bethel from chapter 28.*
  
2. *What does Jacob tell the people to do before they leave for Bethel?*

3. *Read Joshua 24:1-24. Where had the “foreign gods” referred to in Genesis 35:2 come from? What are both Jacob and Joshua saying to the people they are dealing with regarding the objects of their worship? What are some of the “foreign gods” you worship, and what is God saying to you through the events in these passages?*
  
4. *What was the result of purifying themselves and committing to worship God alone? Genesis 35:5 and Joshua 24:12-13*
  
5. *What covenant promises does God renew to Jacob (Israel) at Bethel?*
  
6. *Find Bethel and Bethlehem on a map. What is the distance between them? What two significant events in Jacob’s (Israel’s) life happened in Bethlehem?*
  
7. *Though as the firstborn Reuben would have eventually received Bilhah as part of his inheritance, to take her before the death of his father was an overt act of disrespect. In Genesis 49:3-4 and 1 Chronicles 5:1-3 what price would Reuben pay for this dishonor?*



***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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