

Good News and Bad News

Genesis 33:1-20 | August 30, 2020

Context: After Jacob wrestles with God all night, the next morning he and his estranged brother Esau meet to reconcile after 20 years apart.

What God still does today:

1. God changes hearts and reconciles people (1-15).

Our response:

2. God clears paths for us to follow his will (16-20).

Our response:

3. God points us to our need for a Savior.

Our response:

God's Word:

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the challenges or barriers to reconciliation between estranged people?
2. What guidance does God give us in other places in the Bible regarding full, 100% obedience to Him?
3. What is one way that you can put the Word of God from Genesis 33 into practice in your life?



Questions for Parents to use with their children:

- 1. Have a few people share a story (or example) of someone who did wrong, but instead of receiving justice or harm, received grace and mercy... (An ex. Prodigal Son in Luke 15:20)**
- 2. Read Genesis 33 out loud together. In verses 1-11, how many times do you see the word “grace” or “favor”? What do you think “grace” means?**
Answer: 4 times (v5,8,10,11). Grace means unearned favor. It also can mean covenant or loyal love.
- 3. How do you see grace displayed in Esau’s response to Jacob in v4? Why is this unusual?**
Answer: Esau runs out to meet Jacob. He then embraces, hugs, kisses, and cries with Jacob. This is unusual because Jacob deceived Esau of his birthright and blessing. It would have been natural for Esau to take revenge especially since he said he would do this earlier (27:41).
- 4. What was instrumental in Esau responding the way he did?**
Answer: A couple of things. 1) God. God protected Jacob from his uncle Laban and now he would protect him from his brother Esau. After all, God was the one who told Jacob to go back home. 2) God’s promise. God promised to give Jacob and his descendants a land and to create from him offspring like the dust of earth. 3.) Jacob’s prayer in Genesis 32:9-12. Jacob asked God for protection and God answered. It even appears that Esau’s heart was turned toward Jacob.
- 5. How does this story point to Christ and the gospel?**
Answer: We are like Jacob in the story. We deserve justice and eternal punishment for the wrong we have committed against God and others. But instead of giving us what we deserve, God forgives us of our sin and embraces us because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Esau’s response to Jacob is a picture of God’s response to us when we turn toward him by confessing our sin and believe that Jesus’s died in our place so we can be forgiven and reconciled.
- 6. What are some ways you can apply this story to your life?**
Answer: 1. Confess your sins and by faith believe that Jesus died for them so that you can be restored to God the Father. 2. Forgive and perhaps pursue anyone who has wronged you in the past. 3. Praise God for the way He shows us mercy and grace in our lives.