

GENESIS: REAL GOD – PART 2: REAL PEOPLE
OVERCOMING CONFLICT – GENESIS 25:19–34

MESSAGE NOTES:

Steps to Overcoming Conflict...

1. IDENTIFY the PROBLEM
2. OWN your PART
3. SEEK to RECONCLILE

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

For Starters: *Conflict is an unavoidable part of life.* Agree or disagree? Who have you had the most amount of conflict with and how do you handle conflict? Think of one way you would personally like to change the way you handle conflict.

The Basics: Read Genesis 25:19–34. What stands out to you and why? What do you learn about experiencing conflict? Consider their family dynamics, sibling rivalries, and parenting techniques in relation to your own life experiences.

Quick Fire Round:

1. What are the three points of conflict in the passage? What do you think is the underlying source of conflict between Esau and Jacob? How do the two brothers' personalities and characteristics play a part in their hostilities and division?
2. In what ways are you similar or different to your siblings, parents and, if applicable, how are your children different to one another? Has this caused conflict or harmony in your family? What often happens when parents choose favorites?
3. Discuss the conflict from both Esau's and Jacob's perspective. Who was right or wrong? What were their personal flaws and blind spots? When conflict occurs, why is it important to seek to understand or see it from the other person's viewpoint? How could you do this?
4. Read Romans 9:6–13. Why did Paul refer to the struggle between Esau and Jacob? What was Paul's point concerning whom God chooses and uses? What does this mean to you?
5. Read Romans 12:18, Colossians 3:12–13, Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 5:24, 6:14–15, 18:15–17 and 2 Corinthians 5:18–19. Who do you need to forgive or ask forgiveness from? With whom do you need reconciliation? How can you take the first step and the high road?

Community Group Word-based prayer – Matthew 6:9–13. Pray the Lord's Prayer together. Take time to worship God's Name; ask for His Kingdom come, and His will be done in your life, marriage, family, community, country and world. Thank him for His provision. Be specific. Take time to privately pray for forgiveness – be clear on areas that you need to repent. Consider people you need to reconcile with and then ask God to give you the wisdom, humility and strength to make amends. Prayer for one another against temptation.

A Closing Prayer: Father God, thank you that you sent your one and only Son to sacrificially give up His life to forgive me fully for all my sin and unrighteousness. Give me the strength this week to forgive myself, forgive others and work toward reconciliation in my relationships. Amen.