

Reconciliation

Jacob Reunites with Esau

Genesis 33:1-20

Cell Notes

Genesis 33 is the story of Jacob and Esau's RECONCILIATION, the chapter gives us 4 key principles of what is necessary for reconciliation – these are;

- (1) **Courageous Initiation** v1-3a; approaching Esau who has 400 men with him!
- (2) **Humility** v3b-4a; bowing & running.
- (3) **Forgiveness** v4; embracing him, running to him, falling on his neck, kissing him.
- (4) **Reconciliation is fulfilled in Jesus** v10b; like seeing God! 2 Cor 5:17-19 & Rom 5:10-11 (also Col 1:21-22)

- Ask people for any **EXAMPLES IN THEIR LIVES WHEN ANY OF THE ABOVE HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATED TO THEM BY OTHERS, OR WHEN THEY HAVE HAD TO APPROACH SOMEONE** else for reconciliation (depending on the size and intimacy of your group – how comfortable are the people with each other - this may need to be done in 2s/3s)
- What was the **HARDEST PART OF RECEIVING OR INITIATING RECONCILIATION?** (Guilt, fear, further hurt, rejection, other's thinking?)
- Consider these verses: Matthew 5:23-24 & Rom 12:18
 - **WHO SHOULD INITIATE THE RECONCILIATION?** The guilty party?
The innocent party?
 - Take taking some time in light of these verses to think if there is anyone you need to be reconciled with – just as in Esau's forgiveness and actions, Jacob saw something of God's character, we too have the opportunity to be a witness to friends/family in the way we go about reconciliation.

THE WORD WOULD LEAD BRILLIANTLY INTO WORSHIP - finish with considering the verses mentioned in point 4 above and use them to fuel your prayers and worship, thanking Christ for his reconciling work. The parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 is a great example of how God treats us, reflecting how Esau treated Jacob.