

ChristChurch London Life Group Discussion Outline – 08/06/08
“Unfinished business: Jacob versus Esau” – Adrian Holloway

Read Gen 32:1-21 & 33:1-20

1. Divide the group into two groups A & B. Get group A to study Genesis 32: 1-21. Get the other group, group B, to study Genesis 33:1-20. Imagine you knew nothing else about Jacob, get group A to describe his character based on their reading. Then do the same with group B.

Question: In moving from A to B, can you detect any character development in Jacob?

Question: What does this character development tell us about the impact of the wrestling match in Genesis 32: 22-32? (This is the passage Dave Stroud will preach on next Sunday, 15th June.)

2. Taking the story of Jacob as a whole, can your group brainstorm 4 encouraging things that we can take away from it?

(Here are some examples, if your group is stuck:

- a. Even if you come from a dysfunctional family, where your brother hates you, God can still use you.
- b. Even if your Dad doesn't show you love, God will never give up on you, because you were chosen even before you were born (Romans chapter 9, Ephesians chapter 1)
- c. Even if you've sinned as a believer, you are still called by God, and you have inherited by faith, all the promises God gave to Abraham (Romans chapter 4, Galatians chapter 3)
- d. Even if you feel like Leah, in the shadow of your sister, God can use you to bring Jesus to people, just as Leah gave birth to Judah, the ancestor of Jesus Christ.

Jacob was reconciled to Esau (Gen 32:1-20). Is there anyone you need to be reconciled to? How does Jesus tell us to go about it?