

IN THE BEGINNING GOD

Which Way Should He (we) Go? Genesis 34:1—36:43

“Then God said to Jacob, ‘Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.’” Genesis 35:1

Day 1: Read Genesis 34:1–29.

1. Where has Jacob chosen to pitch his tents? (Gen. 33:18) Is this where God had directed him to go? (Gen. 31:3; 32:9; 35:27)

2. From reading Genesis we’ve learned that Canaanite cities were dangerous places, so Jacob puts his family at risk by settling at Shechem. What happens to Dinah there? (v. 2)

3. What does this tell you about Jacob’s decision and the consequences of it?

Day 2: Read Genesis 34:1–31.

4. A person’s action’s are a reflection of what is going on in his or her heart (Titus 1:15, 16). Fill in this chart to explore what might be going on in these people’s hearts.

	Actions	Possible Motivations
Shechem		
Hamor		
Jacob		
Simeon/Levi		
Men of Shechem		

Day 3: Read Genesis 34:1–31.

5. There are two father/son relationships portrayed in this passage. Compare the ways that Jacob and Hamor interact with their sons. How are the fathers partially responsible for what happens?

6. Our desire to make our kids/family/friends happy and to keep them out of trouble is so strong that we can be tempted to cross the line into unethical behavior. Have you found yourself being tempted in this way?

7. Does the violation of the city of Shechem fit the crime?
8. Count the number of times God is mentioned in Chapter 34. What's the significance?

Day 4: Read Genesis 35:1–29.

9. In Chapter 35 God directs Jacob to continue on his way. What does God command Jacob to do now? (35:1) What does Jacob direct his household to do so they can meet with God? (v. 2)
10. What do we need to do before we meet with God? (Ps. 24:3–4; 1 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 10:19–22)
11. God reaffirms the covenant with Jacob, yet again, despite all that's happened (Gen. 1:22; 9:1, 17:6; 28:3). What does this reveal about God's character? (Deut. 7:6,–8; Eph. 2:1–4)
12. What are the three deaths that occur in Chapter 35? Where is each buried?
 - a. v. 8
 - b. v. 19
 - c. v. 29
13. Death is a part of life for us also; how does God comfort believers who have lost a loved one? (Ps. 23:4, 1 Thess. 4: 13–18)
14. Who is present at Isaac's burial and why is this significant?

Day 5: Read Genesis 36:1–40.

15. The writer of Genesis dedicates a whole chapter to the descendants of Esau (who become the Edomites). How is the formation of the nation of Edom a partial fulfillment of God's promises? (Gen. 17:6, 16)
16. Esau and the Edomites are a great nation but are not part of the covenant. What hope do those outside of the covenant have? (Eph. 2:19-20; Gal 3: 26-27)