

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 4

How many sons were born to Jacob? Who bore those children? Why was having a son so important in that time? (Genesis 30:1-24)

How does Jacob become so prosperous while working for his brother-in-law, Laban? Was what he did ethical? Why or why not? (Genesis 30:25-33)

What, in your opinion, is the significance of the story found in Genesis 32:24-32? Why does God change Jacob's name to Israel?

Why is Jacob nervous about returning to the land of Canaan? What does he believe might happen? What actually happens? What does this say about the power of forgiveness? (Genesis 32-33)

The story of Dinah and the Men of Shechem (Genesis 34) is an example of what some theologians call a "tough text" in the Bible. Why do you think it was included in the Genesis story? What does it tell us about human nature? What does it tell us about God?

Where do Jacob and his family settle after the events at Shechem? Why is this place significant? (Genesis 35:1)

Why do Joseph's brothers dislike him so much? What do they do to Joseph? Where does he end up? (Genesis 37)

What is the significance of the story of Judah and Tamar? (Genesis 38)

How does Joseph rise to prominence in Egypt? What brings Joseph's brothers to Egypt and how does Joseph receive them? What does Joseph do to and for his brothers? What is the end result of these actions? Where do you see God working in this story? (Genesis 39-46)

Why is Joseph's story so important in the history of the Hebrew/Jewish people?