

Supplemental Questions for The Twelve

OBADIAH

Family Squabbles On A Huge Scale (Introduction)

- Forgiving one another is essential in walking through life together. Some wounds can go very deep. What kinds of things can make forgiving someone difficult? How does Jesus' forgiving us set the example in forgiving others?

Mom Liked Me Best (Genesis 25:19-33:20)

- Jacob and Esau were about as different as two people could be. But Jacob cheated Esau out of his blessing by his father and out of his birthright. There was a lot between them to foster bad feelings and unforgiveness. Even so, it appears that Esau did forgive Jacob and that there was some reconciliation between them. What do you think that forgiveness meant to Esau? What do you think that forgiveness meant to Jacob?
- Deeply relevant history can be easily forgotten if not passed on. It doesn't appear that the descendants of Jacob and Esau held that reconciliation in high regard. Their own family history was forgotten or maybe even discarded in favor of an unforgiving spirit. Why does the cost of forgiving others seem too high sometimes while living in broken relationship seems easier?

The Rest Of The Story (Numbers 20:14, Deuteronomy 2:3-5; Obadiah 10)

- The breakdown of the family is a very real issue in today's world. Emotional wounds and hurts from family members can be the hardest ones to forgive and overcome. But God always emphasized the family connection between Jacob's descendants and Esau's descendants. How is it significant that God called each family line as "your brother" when speaking to these people?

A Word For Those Who Had Lost Everything (Obadiah 1, 10; Ezekiel 25:12)

- God did not forget His people and rose up to defend them in difficult times. He had provided for Esau and his descendants, but now their cruelties against God's people had to be addressed. How must God have felt after warning generation after generation against the hardness of heart born from familial hatred to now have to act in judgment?

What You Don't Know Won't Hurt You (Ezekiel 35:2, 4, 6, 11, 15)

- The attitude and posture of the people of Edom is very telling. They “cherished perpetual enmity.” How can our sense of justice and the understanding of righteousness be very skewed because of cherishing hatred over years against someone or a people group?
- Why is vengeance an action that only God can handle rightly?

Calling Obadiah To The Witness Stand (Psalm 137:7; Obadiah 3, 12, 15)

- At the heart of so much of Edom's action was one thing: pride. Pride is often a silent killer that grows in the shadows. Trying to be king of the hill all the time and to make ourselves untouchable is often born out of a prideful heart. How do you think pride can be deceptive? Why do you think it's not always easy to recognize pride in our own hearts?

Kingdom (Obadiah 19-21)

- God's view is a longer view—an eternal view. When our present situation seems too much to bear, how does taking an eternal view that is characterized by God's promises, His good will, and action help us lift our eyes above the rubble?

