

Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Group Guide | November 16

Open your group time with a question (10 minutes)

Reflect on the following:

When was a time you had a craving for something that it led you to do something that you wouldn't normally do? What happened?

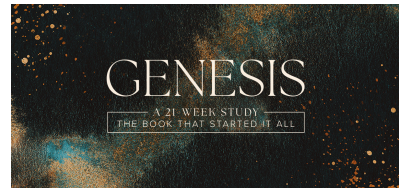
After some sharing, pray together.

Next, read Genesis 25. When finished, thank God for His Word in prayer and spend a few moments reflecting on this passage and on the sermon (40 minutes)

Begin by reading all of **Genesis 25** and then praying. Thank God for His Word.

Ask the following:

- What resonated or stood out or challenged you from Dan's sermon on Sunday?
- As you think on this passage, what motivates Esau to sell his birthright? Why might Jacob have put Esau in this position? Verse 34 says that Esau "despised" his birthright. In what way? How does Hebrews 12:14-17 shed light on this moment in Genesis?
- In his sermon, Dan listed out all kinds of appetites that we are liable to succumb to: Food. Physical intimacy. Leisure. Entertainment. Acceptance. Approval. Admiration. Success. Wealth. Possessions. Which of these is most tempting for you? How has that appetite played itself out in your life recently?
- Read Romans 6:1-14 and the following quote from Dan: "Appetites are a gift from God, but sin distorts our appetites so that instead of serving us, they rule over us." How have you seen or how do you see sin distorting your appetites and ruling over you?



- How do you discern between an appetite that's a need and an appetite that's a want? What Scriptures help you discern this?
- In his sermon, Dan mentioned how unchecked appetites can often lead to apathy for what truly matters. How might this be true in your life right now? Explain.
- What effect did Esau's unquenchable appetite bring about in his life (see Gen. 25:34 and Hebrews 12:17). How has giving into appetites in unhealthy ways led to anguish in your life? How might current appetites you're engaging with in the present be setting you up for anguish in the future?
- Read Romans 8:1 and Romans 8:13. How does the cross of Christ help you have strength to overcome appetites? Where are you needing the help of the Holy Spirit in overcoming sinful appetites?

Split into groups of 3-4 of the same gender to wrap up your time in prayer (20 minutes)

Split your groups into smaller groups of 3-4 of the same gender.

In your smaller groups, have a few moments where each person can reflect on how sinful appetites control them in the present. In your smaller groups, after reflecting, share with one another anything that is rising to the surface.

Once everyone shares, go around in a circle and pray for the person next to you until everyone has been prayed over. The goal is to take what the person has shared before the Lord, intercede for them, and ask for the Holy Spirit to help them walk in holiness!

Finish your group time by coming together, sharing prayer requests, and praying for one another (5 minutes)