



Small Group Discussion Questions
"The Birthright and the Bowl of Stew"
Genesis 25:19-34
Pastor Tyler Scott
August 2/3, 2014

Intro

Let's dive into the story of Jacob and Esau. We will discover an incredibly applicable life lesson here that focuses on our APPETITES. We all have appetites. They are never fully and finally satisfied. And we must learn to control them in a Spirit-led manner, or they will eventually control us. Our response to our appetites will determine the direction of our lives. Since most of us wonder about God's larger plan or purpose for our lives, it's important that we don't trade that preferred future – whatever it looks like, according to God's will -- for a bowl of stew.

Warm it up

1. Share about a time in your life when a specific appetite was raging. How did you respond? Over how long? What were the results and/or lessons learned?

Talk it Over/Work it Through

1. Read Genesis 25:29-34.
2. Which of the 3 facts/comments about appetites (see: top of sermon outline) had the most impact on you, and why?
3. Which appetite do you wrestle with the most: progress, responsibility, respect, winning, love, fame, achievement, acceptance, to be envied, etc.?
 - A. Why do you think it is so easy/common for appetites to rule our decision-making?
4. Based on v30, share an example of "*Impact Bias*" or "*Focalism*" being a factor in your life.

5. Have you ever watched someone else make a huge mistake (aka trade something valuable (like a birthright) for something temporary (i.e. a bowl of stew)...and later found yourself wrestling with a similar dilemma? If so, explain.

A. In the message, Tyler commented that, "in your situation/dilemma/dealing with your appetites, you not unique...and you are not alone." Why is this important to remember?

6. What do you want to see God do in your faith, your family (spouse, children, grandchildren?), your work and your future...in the next 10 years? The more specific and detailed you are in this explanation, the easier it will be to reframe your appetites and decisions with this picture in mind!

A. Why is it so important to reframe your decisions with that preferred future in perspective?

B. WHAT IS YOUR BOWL OF STEW? (*chances are good you can think of a current one; if not, share about a bowl of stew from your past.)

7. What is one specific way you can practice "REFRAME...and REFRAIN" as soon as this week?!?

8. What is your biggest takeaway from this message/study? Why do you suppose this story so applicable to our lives?

Pray it Through

Pray for one another!