

## Week 3

Questions to keep in mind while reading (and note that the focus question for your group will appear on your forum page):

### Read Chapter 3 of TIOT, pages 67-98.

1. Be sure to note the various types of criticism involved in the Critical Study of Genesis 12-50 (pp68-76).
2. "Jacob becomes Israel because of his ability to stand successfully in conflict with God." (p91) Do you agree? Is this a broad biblical theme? (*focus for Joshua Group*)
3. "One may read the story of Jacob's family as one of family alienation and reconciliation." (p94) How does this theme fit into the larger biblical scheme? (*focus for Numbers Group*)
4. Promise, covenant, conflict, accommodation, providence, alienation, reconciliation (p97): These themes are deeply embedded throughout the story of Abraham/Sarah, Isaac/Rebekah, Jacob and his wives and sons. They are, in general, a pretty messed up family. Does this encourage or discourage you? (*focus for Deuteronomy Group*)

### Read Exodus 1-18.

1. Names are very important indicators of a person's character in the Bible. In Exod 2.10, Moses' name is given as meaning "to be drawn out." How is this name suited, not only to his being drawn out of the water, but to his whole career? (*focus for Genesis Group*)
2. The first 15 chapters of Exodus, and Moses in particular, have been represented in music, art, film, etc. than probably anything else in the Hebrew Bible. Why do you think this is so?
3. The Exodus account is told, of course, from Israel's perspective. How would you imagine this story would be told from an Egyptian perspective? (*focus for Exodus Group*)
4. If you were Pharaoh, would you think it appropriate to use such severe measures against a religious/ethnic subgroup in your community or nation that threatened violence? (*focus for Leviticus Group*)