

## 2008-09 BSP#8 Group Time Discussion

*L – Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.*

### (A) “He Opened to Us the Scriptures” - Questions for scriptural reading and discussion (Time available: 10 minutes. Do at least 2 questions.)

1. [L] Read what Esau told Isaac in Genesis 27:36. Verify his allegation of Jacob’s first deception against what actually happened in 25:29-34. Do you think Esau was telling the truth? Why?
2. [M] Do you think Esau cried (Gen 27:34, 38) because he actually cared about the blessings of the elder son? (Hint: Read Hebrews 12:15-17). What was the real reason for his tears? (Hint: Read Gen 27:41).
3. [M] Given what we learned about Rebekah in Genesis 25 to 28, how would you describe her personality?

### (B) “Did Not Our Hearts Burn?” – Question for meditation, sharing and prayer. (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

Jacob was a grown man before he had a personal encounter with his parents’ God in Genesis 28:10 ff. That encounter made him vow to love God personally.

In discussing St. Paul’s conversion at Damascus, Pope Benedict observed, “It was not simply a conversion, but rather a death and a resurrection for Paul himself. One existence died and another, new one was born with the Risen Christ...This encounter is a real renewal that changed all his parameters....We are only Christians if we encounter Christ...Only in this personal relationship with Christ, only in this encounter with the Risen One do we truly become Christians. And in this way our reason opens, all Christ’s wisdom opens as do all the riches of truth” (General Audience, Sept 10, 2008).

Sometimes it happens among cradle Catholics that they grow to adulthood without having a personal encounter with God. Are you living off your parents’ (or spouse’s or friends’) faith? If so, what can you do to encounter God personally, as He did with Jacob and St. Paul? Are you ready for this personal encounter?