Opening

Gathering: Tell of a time you had things planned out, but God had better plans.

Today’s Focus: To recognize that times when things work out differently than what we planned may be because we were not following God’s plan.

Key Verses:

- *It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.*
  - Romans 9:16

- *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.* Hebrews 11:20

- *May God Almighty bless you and … may He give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham.* Genesis 28:3-4

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Abraham Dies (Genesis 25:1-8)

What happened when Isaac was 37 years old?
  - Genesis 23:1-2

How much longer did Abraham live?
  - Genesis 25:7-8

How did Abraham deal with his loneliness during his last 38 years without Sarah?
  - Genesis 25:1 (1-4)

My Eight Sons (Genesis 25:5-18)

Were all of Abraham’s sons to divide his wealth and blessing after he died?
  - Genesis 17:18-19

How did Abraham handle the tradition that the birthright belonged to the first-born (Ishmael)?
  - Genesis 21:10, 14, 20

How did Abraham handle claims his other sons would likely place on Isaac’s inheritance?
  - Genesis 25:5-6

Did any of Abraham’s sons maintain any contacts with the family?
  - Genesis 25:9-12 (9-18)

The Next Generation - Miracle Birth (Genesis 25:19-21)

Who does the writer of Genesis focus on now that Abraham has died?
  - Genesis 25:19-20

How was God involved in making this generation possible?
  - Genesis 18:11-14

How was God involved in enabling the next generation?
  - Genesis 25:21, 26b

How was God involved in enabling the next generation?
  - Genesis 29:31; 30:22
The Next Generation - Younger / Older  (*Genesis 25:22-23*)

How were Rebekah's troubles in pregnancy a sign of things to come?  
*Genesis 25:22-23*

How was this similar to the previous generation?  
*Genesis 17:20-21*

How was this repeated in the next generation?  
*Genesis 49:3-4, 10*

How was this repeated in the following generation?  
*Genesis 48:17-20*

The Birthright  (*Romans 9:10-16*)

The birthright belonged to the firstborn. It conveyed:  
*Genesis 27:4*  
*Genesis 27:29*  
*Deuteronomy 21:17*

What did the fathers want in each circumstance?  
*Genesis 17:18*  
*Genesis 25:28, 27:32-33*  
*Genesis 49:3*  
*Genesis 48:17-18*

What is God's message to us through these changes in birthright?  
*Romans 9:10-16*

The Sons  (*Genesis 25:24-26*)

What was the birth-order of Jacob and Esau?  
*Genesis 25:24-26*

What were the meanings behind the names given to the sons?  
*Esau*  
*Edom*  
*Jacob*  
*Israel*

Expensive Stew  (*Genesis 25:27-34*)

How well did Esau's name fit him?  
*Genesis 25:27-28*

How well did his nickname, Edom, fit him?  
*Genesis 25:29-30*

How well did Jacob's name fit him?  
*Genesis 25:31-33*  
*Genesis 27:36*

How upset was Esau that he had lost his birthright?  
*Genesis 25:34*

What does this say about Esau's discernment and faith?  
*Hebrews 12:16*
Isaac's Last Responsibility  (Genesis 27:1-4)

What did Isaac need to take care of before he died?  
Genesis 27:1-4  
How was this repeated in other generations?  
Genesis 24:1-4  
Genesis 48:21-49:1  
Genesis 50:24  

How old were Isaac's sons at this time?  
Genesis 26:34  
Was Isaac on his deathbed?  
Genesis 25:26; 35:28  
Was Isaac's plan in line with God's plan?  
Genesis 25:23  

Rebekah's Plan  (Genesis 27:5-17)

How righteous was Rebekah's plan after eavesdropping in on Isaac's plan?  
Genesis 27:5-10  
Was Jacob reluctant to sinning by deceit?  
Genesis 27:11-12  
How did Rebekah ease Jacob's concern?  
Genesis 27:13  
What details did Rebekah consider in her plan of deceit?  
Genesis 27:14-17  

Jacob's Blessing  (Genesis 27:18-29)

How hard did Jacob work to deceive his father?  
Genesis 27:18-19  
Genesis 27:20  
Genesis 27:21-23  
Genesis 27:24  
Genesis 27:25  
Genesis 27:26-27  
What was the blessing that Isaac gave Jacob?  
Genesis 27:28-29  

Esau's Blessing  (Genesis 27:30-40)

Did Esau know what had just happened?  
Genesis 27:30-31  
How did Isaac and Esau react when they learned what had happened?  
Genesis 27:32-34  
Note: Isaac recognized that God's blessing had been given as God desired, it would happen  
Why didn't Isaac just give Esau the same blessing?  
Genesis 27:35-37  
What was the blessing that Isaac gave Esau?  
Genesis 27:38-40
Jacob Flees  (Genesis 27:41-28:9)

How upset was Esau with Jacob?  
Genesis 27:41

What did Rebekah plan to protect Jacob?  
Genesis 27:42-45

How did Rebekah again use deceit to accomplish her plan?  
Genesis 27:46-28:2

Did Isaac do this to get rid of his less favorite and deceiving son?  
Genesis 28:3-5

What Hittite women was Rebekah referring to?  
Genesis 26:34-35

How did Esau mistakenly try to please his parents and try to get a blessing also?  
Genesis 28:6-9

Examples of Faith (?)

How did Isaac's faith, or lack of faith, reveal itself?  
Genesis 25:28  
Genesis 27:1,4

How did Rebekah's faith, or lack of faith, reveal itself?  
Genesis 25:28  
Genesis 27:6-10  
Genesis 27:46

How did Jacob's faith, or lack of faith, reveal itself?  
Genesis 25:31  
Genesis 27:11-12  
Genesis 27:19-27

How did Esau’s faith, or lack of faith, reveal itself?  
Genesis 25:33-34  
Genesis 26:34-35, 28:6-9  
Genesis 27:38  
Genesis 27:41

Why did God continue to bless and protect this family?  
Genesis 22:17-18

Response

1. Do I do things out of my own desire without considering if they are within God’s plan?  
   (Genesis 25:1-6; 27:1-4; Joshua 9:3-6, 14-16; Prov 16:3; 19:21; Isaiah 30:1; Acts 5:33-39; 26:14)
2. How have I despised the birthright I have as God’s child?  
   (Genesis 25:29-34; 26:34-35; 1 Chron. 5:1-2; 2 Chron. 10:16-17; Romans 8:12-17; Gal. 3:26-4:7)
3. Have I deceived others today trying to what I wanted?  Have I deceived myself?  
   (Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-36; Acts 8:9-24; 13:6-12; Galatians 6:3-5, 12-14; 2 John 7; James 1:21-26)
4. Am I more concerned with doing what God wants, or with getting caught?  
   (Genesis 27:11-13; Joshua 7:10-11, 19-25; 1 Sam. 13:8-14; 15:17-30; John 3:19-21; Eph. 5:8-17)
5. Do I add wrong to wrong hoping to make a right?  
   (Genesis 28:6-9; 2 Samuel 11; Matthew 5:38-42)

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