

Bible Stories for Adults

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25, 27

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

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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

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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

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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 get 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*)