

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 = His mother, Sarah, died at age of 127

How much longer did Abraham live?

Genesis 25:7-8 = Died at 175, 100 years after he left Haran

How did Abraham deal with his loneliness during his last 38 years without Sarah?

Genesis 25:1 (1-4) = He married his concubine (1 Chronicles 1:32) Keturah, had 6 other sons

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 = No, only Isaac was the chosen heir - other sons threatened inheritance

How did Abraham handle the tradition that the birthright belonged to the first-born (Ishmael)?

Genesis 21:10, 14, 20 = He sent Ishmael away with his mother, God protected him

How did Abraham handle claims his other sons would likely place on Isaac's inheritance?

Genesis 25:5-6 = Gave gifts to them and sent them far away

Did any of Abraham's sons maintain any contacts with the family?

Genesis 25:9-12 (9-18) = Ishmael was close enough to join in burying Abraham

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 = The story of Isaac, the next generation

How was God involved in making this generation possible?

Genesis 18:11-14 = Miraculous birth of Isaac, God's chosen covenant child

How was God involved in enabling the next generation? = Waited 20 yrs (married at 40, father at 60)

Genesis 25:21, 26b = Rebekah was barren, she became pregnant through prayer

How was God involved in enabling the next generation? = More beyond this (next week's lesson)

Genesis 29:31; 30:22 = Opened Leah's womb, Rachel was barren; Opened Rachel for Joseph

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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 = Two nations, one stronger, older to serve younger

How was this similar to the previous generation?

Genesis 17:20-21 = Ishmael & Isaac would become nations, covenant to younger

How was this repeated in the next generation? = Reuben, Simeon, Levi, then Judah

Genesis 49:3-4, 10 = Reuben was firstborn, no longer excel, covenant through Judah (4th born)

How was this repeated in the following generation? = Both to become great

Genesis 48:17-20 = Jacob blessed Ephraim over Manasseh, younger / greater

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

The birthright belonged to the firstborn. It conveyed:

Genesis 27:4 = Blessings of the father

Genesis 27:29 = Leadership of the tribe and family

Deuteronomy 21:17 = Double share of the inheritance

What did the fathers want in each circumstance?

Genesis 17:18 = *If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!*

Genesis 25:28, 27:32-33 = Isaac loved Esau, Very upset when learned he blessed Jacob

Genesis 49:3 = Reuben, my firstborn, my might, strength, honor, power

Genesis 48:17-18 = Joseph corrected Jacob in blessing Manasseh over Ephraim

What is God's message to us through these changes in birthright?

Romans 9:10-16 = *Does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy*

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

What was the birth-order of Jacob and Esau?

Genesis 25:24-26 = Esau first, then Jacob

What were the meanings behind the names given to the sons?

Esau = Means *hairy* - implies ruggedness and wildness

Edom = *red* - red body, reddish hair, red stew

Jacob = *he grasps the heel* - means *he deceives* (you're pulling my leg)

Israel = *he struggles with God* (*Genesis 32:28*)

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

How well did Esau's name fit him?

Genesis 25:27-28 = Esau was a man of the open country, skillful hunter

How well did his nickname, Edom, fit him?

Genesis 25:29-30 = Esau also called Edom because of red stew

How well did Jacob's name fit him?

Genesis 25:31-33 = He deceived Esau out of his birthright for stew

Genesis 27:36 = Jacob rightly named, deceived Esau twice - Also deceived for blessing

How upset was Esau that he had lost his birthright?

Genesis 25:34 = Wasn't at this time, he despised his birthright

What does this say about Esau's discernment and faith?

Hebrews 12:16 = Esau was godless, sold his birthright for a meal

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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 = Pass on God's blessing to the next generation

How was this repeated in other generations?

Genesis 24:1-4 = Abraham sent servant to get covenant wife for Isaac

Genesis 48:21-49:1 = Jacob about to die, blessed his sons

Genesis 50:24 = Joseph about to die, gave promise to brothers (tribes)

How old were Isaac's sons at this time?

Genesis 26:34 = Over 40, full adults, not kids as might appear

Was Isaac on his deathbed? = Isaac lived to 180 - Didn't realize he had a lot of years left

Genesis 25:26; 35:28 = Isaac was over 100, under 130 (no older than 130 per other verses)

Was Isaac's plan in line with God's plan?

Genesis 25:23 = No, God had planned for the covenant to go through Jacob

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

How righteous was Rebekah's plan after eavesdropping in on Isaac's plan?

Genesis 27:5-10 = It wasn't, she planned to deceive Isaac for God's blessing

Was Jacob reluctant to sinning by deceit?

Genesis 27:11-12 = No, he was only afraid of getting caught

How did Rebekah ease Jacob's concern?

Genesis 27:13 = *Let the curse fall on me* (Not afraid of God's curse)

What details did Rebekah consider in her plan of deceit?

Genesis 27:14-17 = Cooked to Isaac's liking, Esau's best clothes, goatskins on hand & neck

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

How hard did Jacob work to deceive his father?

Genesis 27:18-19 = Said he was Esau

Genesis 27:20 = Included God in his lie

Genesis 27:21-23 = Goatskins over hands to make hairy

Genesis 27:24 = Again claimed to be Esau

Genesis 27:25 = Gave food & wine as Isaac had asked Esau

Genesis 27:26-27 = Wore Esau's clothes for his smell, betrayed with a kiss

What was the blessing that Isaac gave Jacob?

Genesis 27:28-29 = God bless you, others serve you & be blessed by you

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

Did Esau know what had just happened?

Genesis 27:30-31 = No, Jacob had just left, Esau prepared food unaware

How did Isaac and Esau react when they learned what had happened?

Genesis 27:32-34 = They were very upset; Isaac trembled, Esau screamed

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 = Oral statements were legally binding and irrevocable

What was the blessing that Isaac gave Esau?

Genesis 27:38-40 = Live away from God's blessings, live by sword, serve your brother

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Jacob Flees (*Genesis 27:41-28:9*)

How upset was Esau with Jacob?

Genesis 27:41 = Planned to kill him as soon as Isaac died

What did Rebekah plan to protect Jacob?

Genesis 27:42-45 = Sent him to brother Laban until Esau's anger subsided

How did Rebekah again use deceit to accomplish her plan?

Genesis 27:46-28:2 = Had Isaac send Jacob away to find a wife from the family

Did Isaac do this to get rid of his less favorite and deceiving son?

Genesis 28:3-5 = No, he saw God's hand in blessing Jacob, remembered call to keep separate

What Hittite women was Rebekah referring to?

Genesis 26:34-35 = Esau had married two Hittites earlier

How did Esau mistakenly try to please his parents and try to get a blessing also?

Genesis 28:6-9 = He married a daughter of Ishmael

Examples of Faith (?)

How did Isaac's faith, or lack of faith, reveal itself?

Genesis 25:28 = Isaac loved Esau more than Jacob

Genesis 27:1,4 = Planned to give God's blessing to favorite son, Esau

How did Rebekah's faith, or lack of faith, reveal itself?

Genesis 25:28 = Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau

Genesis 27:6-10 = Planned & helped Jacob deceive Isaac for blessing

Genesis 27:46 = Deceived Isaac to send Jacob away for protection

How did Jacob's faith, or lack of faith, reveal itself?

Genesis 25:31 = Deceived Esau for his birthright

Genesis 27:11-12 = Not afraid of sinning, only of getting caught

Genesis 27:19-27 = Deceived Isaac for God's blessing

How did Esau's faith, or lack of faith, reveal itself?

Genesis 25:33-34 = Despised his birthright, sold it for stew

Genesis 26:34-35, 28:6-9 = Married outside the covenant family

Genesis 27:38 = Pushed for blessing although God's blessing was given

Genesis 27:41 = Held a grudge and planned to kill Jacob

Why did God continue to bless and protect this family?

Genesis 22:17-18 = This was the family of His covenant, God is faithful to His promises

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*)