

Context/Background

- Abraham sent his servant to his relatives back in his home country to find a wife for Isaac
- The servant brought back Rebekah, Isaac's first cousin once removed, to marry Isaac

Read Verses 19-26

1) How long did Isaac and Rebekah have to wait before the Lord blessed them with children? (verses 20 & 26)

2) For what reasons did Isaac and Rebekah want to have children?

3) In an age when the medical community has given us ways of manipulating conception, the Lord wants us to remember that he is in control of life. In what ways do these verses demonstrate that truth?

4) How did the name each child was given reflect the child's characteristics? Look at the footnotes.

5) How old was Abraham when his grandsons were born? How many years could he enjoy them? (See 21:5; 25:26. Also note Genesis 25:7) What truth might we learn about the way Scripture is written by looking at these verses?

Read Verses 27-34

- 1) Describe the differences between the two brothers.

- 2) What parenting mistake had Isaac and Rebekah made?

- 3) How did Jacob live up to his name “heel grabber/one who deceives”?

- 4) What Jacob did was wrong, yet we should not focus on his sin in this account. How did his action help ensure God’s promise would be carried out? (v 23, 28)

- 5) In Hebrews 12:16 whom does the Holy Spirit hold responsible? Why call him “godless”?

Hebrews 12:16 – See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

Skip ahead to chapter 27. Read Verses 1-4

- 1) How did favoritism lead Isaac into sin? Did Isaac act in innocence? What about Esau?

Read Verses 5-29 and discuss the following questions with the people around you

- 1) Using the verses below, describe the precautions Jacob and Rebekah took to ensure their deceptive plan was foolproof. Also note how these precautions paid off.

Verses 9, 10, 25—

Lesson 5: Jacob Deceives Isaac

Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-27:40

Verses 11, 12, 16, 22, 23—

Verses 15, 27—

2) What was likely the main motive behind Rebekah and Jacob's plot? What ultimately did their lies and deception show a lack of?

3) This story presents sin in all its complexity. Each of the four family members was caught up in his or her own sinful nature and responded in sin to the sinful actions of others in the family. What could have each of the family members done differently to break this cycle of sin?

Rebekah—

Jacob—

Isaac—

Esau—

Read Verses 30-40 (Esau gets the leftovers)

Note: To fully understand these 11 verses, it's important to know how the following terms would have been defined at that time:

Birthright— A double share of the inheritance which included servants, money, cattle, property, etc.

Blessing— A favorable pronouncement or prediction for one's future. For instance, "May you always be happy" ... "May you live long" ... "May you have many children." The unbelieving ancient world "believed" that a blessing had a kind of magical power to accomplish what it

pronounced. The believers knew by faith that God had the power to make blessings “come true” and *would* make them “come true” at some point in the future.

- Key point—A blessing and a birthright were usually given at separate times and completely unrelated.
- What God promised to Abraham about his line and descendants and what he had revealed to Rebekah and Isaac was passed on in Isaac’s blessing on Jacob. What promises are you able to pick out? What promise is attached to this blessing?

27:28,29—May God give you of heaven’s dew and of earth’s richness—the abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed.

- In what way was this blessing unique?

1) What do Esau’s words show he didn’t understand? (V 36)

2) After Esau’s whining and crying, Isaac gave in and “blessed him” (V 39). How would you describe the blessing Esau received in comparison to Jacob’s? What one small blessing did he add? See 2 Kings 8:20-22; 21:8-10 for the fulfillment of the last part of the blessing.