

01

FREE GRACE

Genesis
27:18-29



This week's **FOCUS**

Jacob's name means "trickster," and today we will see how he and his mom lived up to this name. Remember Jacob wasn't the only trickster in his family. Both his father (Isaac) and his grandfather (Abraham) tried to trick foreign kings into believing their wives were their sisters in order to gain their favor (Gen. 20:1-7; 26:7-11). Instead of trusting in God, Rebekah and Jacob intentionally deceived Isaac and Esau (27:5-10). Surprisingly, however, Jacob's deceitful ways do not negate God's promise to bless him.

Central **TRUTH**

God's grace is not dependent
on our good behavior.

D1



EXPLORATION

Genesis 27:18-29

*Begin by reading
through the
passage.*

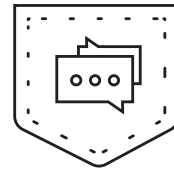
18 When he came to his father, he said, "My father." And he answered, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" 19 Jacob replied to his father, "I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may bless me." 20 But Isaac said to his son, "How did you ever find it so quickly, my son?" He replied, "Because the LORD your God made it happen for me." 21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come closer so I can touch you, my son. Are you really my son Esau or not?" 22 So Jacob came closer to his father Isaac. When he touched him, he said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." 23 He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him. 24 Again he asked, "Are you really my son Esau?" And he replied, "I am." 25 Then he said, "Bring it closer to me, and let me eat some of my son's game so that I can bless you." Jacob brought it closer to him, and he ate; he brought him wine, and he drank. 26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Please come closer and kiss me, my son." 27 So he came closer and kissed him. When Isaac smelled his clothes, he blessed him and said: Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed. 28 May God give to you—from the dew of the sky and from the richness of the land—an abundance of grain and new wine. 29 May peoples serve you and nations bow in worship to you. Be master over your relatives; may your mother's sons bow in worship to you. Those who curse you will be cursed, and those who bless you will be blessed.

Talk it out

.01 SHARE ABOUT A TIME WHEN SOMEONE TRICKED YOU. WAS IT FUNNY OR DID IT CROSS A LINE?

.02 HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN A JOKE GOES TOO FAR AND HURTS SOMEONE? HOW CAN WE AVOID THIS?

CONVERSATION



Genesis 27:18-23

.03 LOOK BACK AT GENESIS 25:29-34. WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT JACOB? WHAT ABOUT ESAU (SEE ALSO HEB. 12:15)? WHAT MOTIVATED EACH?

.04 WHAT PROMISE HAD GOD MADE TO JACOB ALREADY (SEE GEN. 25:23)? HOW SHOULD JACOB AND REBEKAH HAVE ACTED IN LIGHT OF THIS PROMISE?

.05 IN CONTRAST TO JACOB AND REBEKAH'S ACTIONS, HOW SHOULD WE LIVE IN LIGHT OF GOD'S PROMISES TO US (SEE 2 PET. 1:3-8)?

Genesis 27:24-27

.06 WHAT TACTICS DID JACOB AND REBEKAH USE TO GET THE BLESSING FROM ISAAC? WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL ABOUT THE KIND OF PERSON JACOB WAS AT THIS POINT IN HIS LIFE?

*Read and
respond.*



01

.07 WHAT DOES REBEKAH'S ROLE IN THIS TELL US ABOUT THE DYNAMICS OF JACOB'S FAMILY?

.08 HOW SHOULD OUR FAMILIES BE DIFFERENT TODAY IN LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL?



LITERARY CONTEXT

Isaac's blessing also looks forward to Jacob's prophecy later on in Genesis 49:8 that someone from the house of Judah would be king in Israel. Isaac's blessing, therefore, serves as a crucial link between the blessing of the offspring of Abraham and the rise of a king from the line of Judah, paving the way for David and the ultimate lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ (Rev. 5:5).

Genesis 27:28-29

.09 WHAT SPECIFIC BLESSINGS DID ISAAC GIVE JACOB? WHY DID GOD ALLOW JACOB TO RECEIVE THESE BLESSINGS?

.10 DID THESE BLESSINGS SECURE FOR JACOB AN EASY LIFE (SEE GEN. 27:38-40)? IF NOT, WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE BLESSINGS?

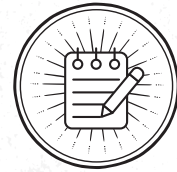
Journal your response here.



CENTRAL TRUTH

God's grace is not dependent on our good behavior.

NOW WHAT?



.11 LIKE ISAAC, WE'VE ALL FELT BETRAYED AT SOME POINT. HOW DO YOU TEND TO RESPOND WHEN YOU FEEL WRONGED? HOW SHOULD THE GOSPEL CHANGE THE WAY WE RESPOND WHEN PEOPLE WRONG US?

.12 WHY IS IT GOOD NEWS THAT GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS NOT BASED ON OUR GOOD BEHAVIOR? HOW SHOULD THIS REALITY MOVE US TO LIVE?

How does this apply to your life?

.13 HOW WILL YOU LOOK TO GOD TO REDEEM AND RENEW YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD A FRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER, OR NEIGHBOR THIS WEEK?

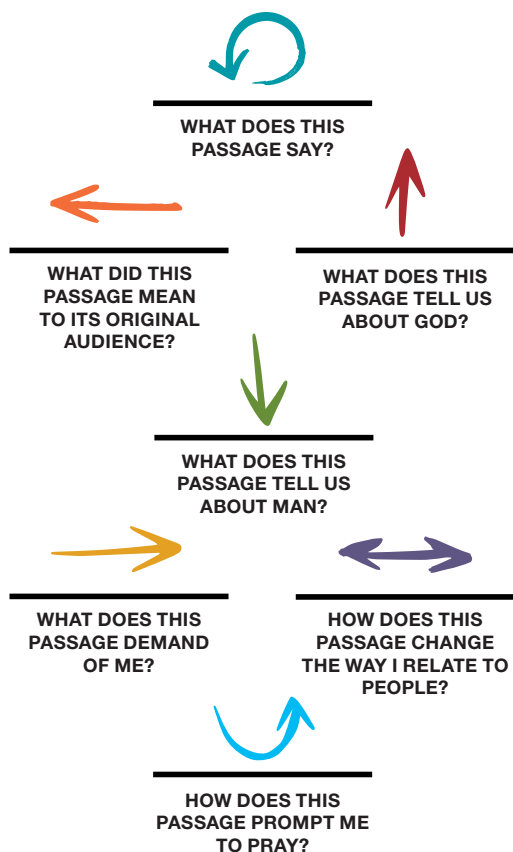
.14 HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE GOD'S GRACE THIS WEEK?



Daily DEVOTIONS

Choose five days this week to set aside time to dig deeper into God's Word with these devotions. We hope you'll make this a priority and encourage others in your group to do so as well.

7 Arrows FOR BIBLE READING



Day One GENESIS 27:1-13

Dwell



.01 HOW DID REBEKAH AND JACOB PLOT AGAINST ISAAC AND ESAU? WHAT DOES THIS TELL YOU ABOUT THEIR FAMILY DYNAMICS?



.02 HOW CAN YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE TEMPTATION TO ONE-UP YOUR BROTHERS OR SISTERS OR FRIENDS?

This wasn't the first time Jacob was involved in a plot using food to take something from his brother Esau. The first time, Jacob tempted Esau with a pot of stew when Esau was exhausted in order to take his birthright. This time, he and Rebekah plotted to take Esau's blessing together by taking advantage of Isaac in his old age.

Memorize

Write Genesis 25:23 on a note card and tape it to your bathroom mirror.

Pray

Ask God to help you love your family well and to fight the temptation toward rivalry.



Day Two

GENESIS 27:14-25

Dwell



.01 IT IS ONE THING TO PLOT TO DECEIVE SOMEONE BUT QUITE ANOTHER TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE DECEPTION. WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT JACOB'S HEART?



.02 HOW MIGHT PRAYING FOR THOSE WE FIND OURSELVES JEALOUS OF CHANGE HOW WE RELATE TO THEM?

You've probably contemplated telling a lie to get something you want from someone close to you and if you are honest, you've probably gone through with it before too. What we don't see in this story is Jacob or Rebekah slowing down to consider the impact of their actions on Esau or Isaac. Furthermore, God had promised to bless Isaac (Gen. 25:23)—Isaac and Rebekah's actions demonstrated a lack of faith.

Memorize

Read Genesis 25:23 aloud several times today and write it out in your journal as you strive to commit it to memory.

Pray

Pray for someone you are jealous of. Ask God to help you love this person.

Day Three

GENESIS 27:26-29

Dwell



.01 READ GENESIS 12:1-3 AS WELL. HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE BLESSING JACOB RECEIVES?



.02 HOW HAS GOD BLESSED YOU IN WAYS YOU DID NOT DESERVE?

The most significant aspect of Isaac's blessing to Jacob was the promise that those who bless Jacob would be blessed and those who curse him would be cursed. This looks back to God's promises to Abraham in Genesis 12:3. It is important to note that neither Jacob, Abraham, or Esau deserved this blessing. God's grace is not dependent on human behavior.

Memorize

Recall Genesis 25:23 as you walk or exercise. Consider recording the verse or using an app to read it aloud to you.

Pray

Thank God for loving you and blessing you even though you don't deserve it. Pray that He would make you a blessing to the people around you.

Day Four

GENESIS 27:30-40

Dwell

← .01 WHY DIDN'T JACOB JUST REVOKE THE BLESSING HE HAD GIVEN TO JACOB AND GIVE IT TO ESAU INSTEAD?

→ .02 HOW SHOULD YOU RESPOND WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY? WHAT MIGHT GOD BE TEACHING YOU IN SUCH MOMENTS?

The problem Isaac and Esau uncover in this passage may seem like an easy to fix, but, in the ancient world, the formal blessing a father gave to a child was final. Despite Jacob's sinful actions, God allowed Jacob to take hold of the blessing. The final blessing given to Esau indicated he would succeed in getting out from under the shadow of his brother.

Memorize

Ask a friend or family member to quiz you on Genesis 25:23. Continue to practice reciting it.

Pray

Ask God to help you trust Him even when things don't seem to be going your way.

Day Five

GENESIS 27:41-46

Dwell

↓ .01 WHILE ESAU WAS UNDERSTANDABLY UPSET, WAS HIS REACTION APPROPRIATE?

↔ .02 HOW SHOULD THE GOSPEL CHANGE THE WAY YOU RESPOND WHEN OTHERS WRONG YOU (MATT. 5:43-48)?

While it's certainly easy to understand why Esau was upset, Jacob's actions did not warrant murder. Furthermore, knowing Jesus should radically change how we think about and relate to those who wrong us. Jesus calls us to love our enemies and pray for those who would persecute us.

Memorize

Treasure God's Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11), and continue to reflect on Genesis 25:23 in the days and months to come so you don't forget it.

Pray

Pray for someone you tend to think of as your enemy. Ask God to bless this person.