

Family Worship Guide

Week 13

Read

Part 1: Genesis 25:21-26

Part 2: Genesis 27:1-45

- **Questions**

1. In our last time of family worship, we read about how God protected Isaac when he was a teenager. Now, Isaac is married to a woman named Rebekah, and he is 60 years old. God blessed them with twins growing inside Rebekah - and they were fighting with each other in her womb. Rebekah prayed and asked God to explain this to her. What did God tell her? (Gen 25:23)

God told her that "two nations" were growing within her. He also said (and this was surprising) that the younger would serve the older. It was normal for the oldest son in the family to be the leader of the next generation. However, God told Rebekah that He had chosen the younger son to be the family leader.

2. The second chapter we read takes place many years later. Isaac is about 137 years old. Jacob and Esau are over 70 years old. Isaac asks Esau, the older son, to prepare a meal for him and receive his father's blessing. This blessing meant that Esau would become the leader of the family after Isaac died. But what did Rebekah and Jacob do?

Rebekah planned a trick. She convinced Jacob, the younger brother, to lie to his father. Jacob pretended to be Esau, and the lie worked. Isaac gave Jacob his blessing.

3. How do you feel about what Rebekah and Jacob did?

This is an opportunity to talk about important family issues like lying, favoritism, and trust.

4. This family is a mess! Read verses 41-45 again. What happens because of all the sin in this family?

The family suffered. Jacob and Esau's relationship came close to the point of murder - just like Cain and Abel. Their family was broken apart, as Jacob had to run for his life. Isaac and Rebekah's marriage was damaged. All of this sin had great consequences.

5. Perhaps the biggest sin in this story is the sin of lying. Can you think of a time that you told a lie? What happened? How can we help each other as a family to always tell the truth?

6. Every member of this family did things wrong. They all suffered because of what they did. But what was God doing through all of this?

God's plan continued. He chose Jacob to be the next leader of the people of Israel. Jacob did indeed become that leader - despite all these problems. We are not on the throne of the Universe. God is. While our sin grieves God, and it hurts us, He has a plan for our family and for the world.

Praise

Praise God for giving us:

Himself

Grace and Mercy

Salvation

Our family

Our church family

What has God done in our family this week that we can give him praise?

Pray

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION - "He keeps His promises."
- CONFESSION - "Confess times when we have not obeyed"
- THANKSGIVING - "How has God been faithful to your family?"
- SUPPLICATION - "God encourages us to bring all of our needs and burdens to Him."
- Pray that we will live obediently to God's Word.
- Pray for your neighbors by name! Pray that God will bless them!
- Pray for our Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting pastors as they in the next few weeks. Pray for their travel and safety! For strength and the ability to be an encouragement to one another!

Memorize

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

Proverbs 16:9

Digging Deeper

(Optional activities)

Kids Fun

Option 1

Supplies needed: A blindfold (a bandana works great). Family members may go and get other items as the activity unfolds, but nothing else is required to be on hand.

Let's start family worship today with a game. This is a game of disguises. I am going to need your best pretending skills. You might even need to play a little bit of a trick on someone. To get things started, I need a volunteer. I will need more people in a few minutes, but for now I just need one. It may work best to have a parent or older child be the first volunteer.

The first thing we need is for you to put on this blindfold. It is very important that you can't see anything. You are going to pretend to be a blind person - because we are going to read about a blind person in our Scripture reading in a few minutes. Once the person is all set with his or her blindfold...

You can't see anything right? Now the game begins. Each one of us is going to come up to you. We will offer you a part of our body to touch. We may offer you our head, our hand, or our arm. You have to figure out who it is, just by touching them. Be careful! We can try and trick you. We can put a blanket over our arm. We can put on something to use as a wig. Disguises are allowed! But there is no talking, and you can only touch the part of the person that they want you to touch. Who wants to go first? Let each person try and trick the person with the blindfold. Now we are going to try this again. But we need a new volunteer.

This time we are going to make it a little more tricky. This time, you need to figure out who is standing next to you without talking or touching. All you can do is smell them! You can't even touch them with your nose...just smell. See if you can guess! Let each person in the family take a turn with the blindfold. It can be hard to recognize who is with you if you can't see them. In our Bible passage today, we are going to read about a situation where this really happened.

For Teens

1. This is a complicated passage of Scripture. Why did God choose Jacob to be the leader of the family and not Esau? God helps us understand more of His decisions in the New Testament. Read Hebrews 12:14-17. What does this tell us about Esau's heart?

In Hebrews, Esau is called "godless." Esau knew that God had called the oldest son of the family to become the family leader. He didn't care about God's will. He was willing to trade his life purpose before God for a bowl of soup. We also see Esau's godlessness in his rage and desire to murder Jacob after he lost the blessing. God knew that Esau's heart was wicked.

2. The Bible is filled with families filled with problems. Many of the historical accounts God chose to give us in the Bible have to do with siblings. Jacob and Esau were fighting with each other even before they were born! What do you think God desires for how brothers and sisters should live together and relate to each other?

The world tells us that the best we can hope for is that siblings "get along." God gives us a dramatically different vision in the Bible. If God has blessed you with siblings, He has created spiritual partners for you. He has given you prayer warriors to do battle with you. He has a mission for you and your siblings to accomplish together for Christ and for His Kingdom. What would it take for you and your brothers/sisters to move from just "getting along" to building powerful Christ-centered friendships for the glory of God?