

Series: Lessons from God's Servants

Lesson 6: "Jacob's Fight to be His Father's Heir"

*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What are some of the things in life people fight for?

Transition: Today we are going to look at a fight that makes God's servant look really bad. However, God does not present this aggressiveness as the sign of a wicked person. God eventually makes him the father of the nation of Israel. Today we look at the life of God's great servant, Jacob.

Bottom Line: Jacob would do anything to be his father's heir.

LESSON PLAN

Read Genesis 25:19-26

1. Why does God tell Rebekah she is experiencing so much pain in her pregnancy?
2. What would be unusual about a statement that the younger will serve the older in this culture?

The oldest is always the rightful heir. Whichever twin is born first becomes the heir of the father's possessions.)

3. Who was born first and what did he look like?
4. What do we learn about Jacob during the birthing process?

Question: Who are some of the exceptionally aggressive people that God has used greatly throughout history?

Question: Who are some of the exceptionally aggressive people God has used in more modern history?



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Read Genesis 25:27-34

5. What is Esau's weakness?

Question: What is our birthright because we have been born again in Christ Jesus?

Question: How could a Christian in a weak moment act like Esau?

Question: How could we help someone who is caught up in the Esau syndrome wake up before they sell out their witness and their relationship without even realizing it?

Read Genesis 27:1-4

6. Where does God send Isaac and why?

Read Genesis 27:5-12

7. Mom was eavesdropping. What Rebekah conniving plan does the wife of Isaac set in motion?

8. Is Jacob eager to listen to his mom?

Question: What are some areas Christians seem to be willing to try to deceive God and hope they don't get caught, as if God doesn't already know our thoughts and plans?

According to the latest research from George Barna's research data, some Christians are trying to claim Christ and yet alter His truth. Barna says, "Nevertheless, despite their own personal faith convictions, many born again Christians embrace certain aspects of universalist thought. One-quarter of born again Christians said that all people are eventually saved or accepted by God (25%) and that it doesn't matter what religious faith you follow because they



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all teach the same lessons (26%). An even larger percentage of born again Christians (40%) indicated that they believe Christians and Muslims worship the same God." Some people want the blessings of God while seeking also the approval of the world.

Read Genesis 27:13-17

Rebekah is willing to lay everything on the line for her son. We know she loved Jacob most. But was she doing this because knew Esau so well? Could it be she realized that Isaac was blinded to the heir that would truly follow his God?

9. How did Rebekah orchestrate the great deception that led to Jacob receiving the blessing which was all the rights of his Father, especially the blessing that all the earth would be blessed through Abraham and Isaac?

Read Genesis 26:18-29

10. Why did God allow this deceitful act to stand and for Jacob to go unpunished?

Question: How seriously are we committed to the fight to know Christ intimately as our Lord and the master of every area of our lives? How badly do we want His blessings?

Maybe a great devotion for the next few weeks would be to read and re-read the Sermon on the Mount and look closely at the lifestyle Jesus describes to those who want to be blessed. Search for areas you need to work on and write them in a journal.

Group Exercise: *Have each table read Genesis 26:30-41. Have them summarize the results of the great deception. Include its cause and the final outcome. Then have them share their final thoughts.*

Question: What great truths can we learn from this study?

Final Question: What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?