

JACOB CHEATS HIS BROTHER ESAU**Genesis 25:20-28 & 27:1-41**

25:20 Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. 21 But Rebekah could not have children. So Isaac prayed to Creator God for her. Then God answered Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant. 23 And God said to Rebekah, "Two nations are inside you. And the older son will serve the younger son – the younger son will rule the older son."

24 Rebekah gave birth to twins. 25 The first boy's name was Esau. 26 Then Esau's brother came out – and the younger brother was grabbing Esau's heel. So the younger brother was named Jacob ("he grabs the heel" or "deceiver"). Isaac was 60 years old when the twins were born.

27 The boys grew up. Esau became a very good hunter – he liked the prairie. But Jacob was a quiet man – he stayed near the tents. 28 Isaac loved Esau, because Isaac liked to eat wild meat. But Rebekah loved Jacob.

27:1 When Isaac was old, his eyes were bad – and he could not see. Isaac said to his oldest son Esau, 2 "I am an old man. Maybe I will die soon. 3 So get your bow and arrows – and go out to the prairie and hunt a wild animal for me. 4 Then make the delicious food that I like to eat. I will eat it – then I will bless you before I die. (You are my oldest son, so I will give you my special blessing – a blessing from God about your future.)" 5 So Esau went out to the prairie.

But Rebekah was listening – she heard what Isaac said to Esau. 6 So Rebekah said to her son Jacob, 7 "Your father will bless your brother Esau – he will bless Esau before God. 9 So, go and bring me two young goats. I will make some delicious food for your father – I will make food that he loves. 10 Then you take the food to your father. He will eat it – then he will bless you before he dies."

11 But Jacob said to his mother, "Esau is a hairy man, but I have smooth skin. 12 Maybe my father will touch me. Then my father will not bless me – he will curse me." 13 His mother said, "The curse will be on me! Go and get the goats." 14 So Jacob got the goats – and his mother made some delicious food.

15 Then Rebekah got Esau's best clothes – and she put Esau's clothes on Jacob. 16 Then Rebekah put goat fur on Jacob's hands and neck. 17 Then she gave the delicious food to Jacob – 18 and Jacob went to his father.

"Father," Jacob said. "Who is it?" Isaac asked. 19 Jacob answered, "I am Esau – I am your oldest son. Please sit up and eat my wild meat – then bless me." 20 Isaac asked, "How did you hunt a wild animal so quickly?" Jacob answered, "God brought the animal to me quickly."

21 Then Isaac said, "Come here – I want to touch you. I want to know: Are you really Esau?" 22 So Jacob went close to his father – and his father touched him. Isaac said, "Your voice is like Jacob. But your hands feel like Esau. 24 Are you really my son Esau?" Jacob answered, "I am."

25Then Isaac said, “Bring me your wild meat to eat – and I will bless you.” So Jacob brought the food to his father – and his father ate it. 26Then his father said, “Come here, my son, and kiss me.” 27So Jacob went to his father and kissed him. Then Isaac smelled his clothes – and Isaac blessed him:

“Oh, the smell of my son! You smell like the prairie – the prairie that God has blessed! 28God give you much grain and new wine. 29Nations will serve you – peoples will bow down to you. Rule over your brothers – your brothers will bow down to you. People who curse you will be cursed – and people who bless you will be blessed.”

30Isaac finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob left his father. Just then, Esau came in from hunting. 31Esau also made delicious food – and he brought it to his father. Esau said, “My father, sit up and eat my wild meat – then bless me.” 32Isaac said, “Who are you?” Esau answered, “I am your oldest son Esau.”

33Then Isaac trembled – he trembled very much. And he said, “Who came in before you? Who hunted a wild animal? Who made delicious food? – and I ate it – and I blessed him – and he will certainly be blessed.”

34Then Esau cried a loud, bitter cry, “Bless me – bless me, too, my father!” 35But Isaac said, “Your brother came and he lied and he took your blessing.” 36Esau said, “His name is truly Jacob – he really is a deceiver.” Then Esau asked, “Do you have any blessing left for me?”

37Isaac answered Esau, “I made Jacob your ruler – and I made all Jacob’s brothers his servants. There is nothing I can do for you, my son.” 38Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, too, my father!” And Esau cried loudly.

39Then Isaac answered Esau, “You will live far from good soil – and in a dry place. 40You will live by fighting with the sword. You will serve your brother. But someday you will make yourself free.”

41Esau hated Jacob because Jacob got the blessing from his father. Esau said to himself, “My father will die soon. Then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why did Isaac pray to Creator God? What did he pray for? (Genesis 25:21)

Is it important to pray for our spouse, parents, children or grandchildren?

- How long did Isaac & Rebekah wait to get a child? (verses 20 & 26)
- What did God tell Rebekah about the babies in her womb? (verse 23)
- What were the boys' names? (verses 25-26)
- Who chose Jacob? (Genesis 25:23)
- What does Jacob's name mean? (verse 26)
- What did Esau and Jacob like to do? (verse 27)

Were Esau and Jacob the same? Or were they very different?

- Which son did Isaac love? Why? (verse 28)
- Which son did Rebekah love? (verse 28)

Why do you think Rebekah loved Jacob more?

When parents have a favorite child, is it good?
What happens in the family?

Which is easier for a parent?
To love a child who enjoys what the parent enjoys?
Or to love a child who does not enjoy what the parent enjoys? – to love a child who enjoys different things?

How can we show love to all our children?
How can we love all our children equally?

Do we have to treat all our children exactly the same?
Do we have to do the same thing for each child?

Or, do we love each child in a way that fits him (or her)?

What would be a good birthday present for Esau?
What would be a good birthday present for Jacob?

Is love just a feeling? What is true love?

4Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5Love is not rude, it is not selfish, it does not get angry easily. Love does not write down (in my heart) all the bad things someone does to me. 6Love is not happy about evil, but love is happy about the truth. 7Love puts up with everything. Love always trusts, it always hopes, it never gives up. 8Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Did Isaac and Rebekah show true love to their children?

- When Isaac was old, what did he tell Esau to do? (Genesis 27:1-4)
 - What problem did Isaac have? (verse 1)
- Why did Isaac tell Esau to do this? (verse 4)

Was Isaac following his own feelings about Esau and Jacob? (Genesis 25:28)
Or was Isaac following Creator God's plan? (Genesis 25:23)

What happens when parents don't follow God's plan? What do you think?

- What did Jacob do to his father? (Genesis 27:18-27)
 - Who helped Jacob lie to his father? (verses 6-10)

What happens when a husband and wife don't agree about their children?
What happens when parents tell their children to do opposite things?

- What did Jacob do to his brother Esau? (verse 35)
- So what did Esau plan to do to Jacob? (verse 41)
- Jacob did a very bad thing. But will God change his plan in Genesis 25:23?
Will God's love for Jacob change?

Over 1000 years later, God still says:

I chose Jacob.

Isaiah 41:8

I loved Jacob.

Malachi 1:2

What is God's promise to us forever – if we believe in Jesus?
Does God's love for us change?

Nothing in heaven and earth can separate us from God's love – this love is in Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:39