

The First Family

Date: 5.03.2026 | Isaac Blesses Jacob
Scripture: Genesis 27

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

God wants us to tell the truth and trust Him.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

Jacob tricked Isaac to get the blessing, but God wants us to be honest and trust Him to keep His promises.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

Even though Jacob and Rebekah used deception to obtain the blessing, God's plan still moved forward, showing that we should trust God rather than taking matters into our own hands.

STUDENTS:

Jacob received the blessing through deception, revealing the brokenness of human sin, yet God's sovereign purposes still prevailed—reminding us to trust His timing rather than manipulate outcomes.

ADULTS:

In the account of Jacob's deception, human sin and fractured relationships are on full display, yet God's sovereign purposes are not thwarted. The narrative demonstrates that while God accomplishes His covenant plan, He does not endorse deceit; He calls His people to live in faith, integrity, and trust in His providence.

MEMORY VERSE

So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.
Galatians 3:9



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished? No, every sin is against the sovereignty, holiness, and goodness of God, and against his righteous law, and God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them in his just judgment both in this life, and in the life to come. - New City Catechism Question 18



BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

As we move from *Genesis 26* into *Genesis 27:1–45*, we continue to see God’s covenant promises being passed down through Abraham’s family. In the previous chapter, God reaffirmed His covenant with Isaac, promising His presence and blessing and calling him to trust and obey without fear. Now in *Genesis 27*, we see how those promises continue through the next generation—but in the middle of human sin, deception, and broken relationships.

As a background to this narrative, we must remember an earlier event between Esau and Jacob. In *Genesis 25:29–34*, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew. This birthright appears to have included the blessing of the firstborn, making *Genesis 27* even more significant. What is happening here is connected to both that earlier decision and to God’s word that “the older will serve the younger” (*Genesis 25:23*).

The story of Jacob unfolds in three main sections. This first section shows Jacob in the promised land, striving with his brother Esau (*Genesis 26:34–28:9*). The second section will show Jacob outside the promised land, striving with his uncle Laban (*Genesis 28:10–31:55*). The final section records Jacob’s return to the promised land, where his striving with both Esau and with God is ultimately resolved (*Genesis 32:1–35:29*). Across all of these sections, the purpose is to emphasize God’s sovereign choice in granting His covenant promises to Jacob.

Genesis 27 records the account of Isaac, now old and blind (*27:1–2*), preparing to give the important paternal blessing to his firstborn son, Esau. Based on the timeline in Genesis, Isaac was at least 100 years old at this point—he was 60 when Esau and Jacob were born (*Genesis 25:26*) and would live many more years, eventually seeing

all twelve of Jacob's sons (*Genesis 35:22–27*). Though Isaac believed he was near the end of his life, God's plan was still unfolding far beyond what he could see.

This blessing is central to the entire chapter—the word “blessing” is used 28 times in *Genesis 27:1–46*—showing just how significant this moment is. This blessing was not just a family tradition; it would confirm the heir of the covenant promises given to Abraham and Isaac, ultimately pointing forward to the line through which Jesus would come (*Genesis 12:1–3; 17:6*). However, Isaac's plan to bless Esau ignores several important realities: God had already declared that “the older will serve the younger” (*Genesis 25:23*), Esau had already traded away his birthright (*Genesis 25:29–34*), and Esau's choices had shown disregard for God's ways (*Genesis 26:35*).

In this story, all four main people are guilty. Isaac and Esau deliberately overlook God's intended recipient of the blessing. Isaac ignores God's earlier word and Esau's sale of the birthright, while Esau disregards the fact that he willingly gave it up. Rebekah and Jacob, on the other hand, deliberately deceive to achieve their goal. Rebekah prepares the food and presents Jacob as a counterfeit Esau, taking advantage of Isaac's blindness. Jacob goes along with the plan, lying repeatedly and even using God's name to support his deception. Instead of trusting God to fulfill His promise, Jacob tries to manipulate the outcome.

Eventually, Isaac is convinced when he smells Esau's clothing (*27:27*), and he pronounces the blessing over Jacob, believing him to be Esau. This blessing speaks of prosperity, authority, and the continuation of God's covenant promises, echoing the promise to Abraham that, through this family, blessing would reach the nations (*Genesis 12:3; 27:29*).

When Esau returns and discovers what has happened (*27:30–36*), he is filled with anger and grief. Though he had willingly given up his birthright earlier, he now feels deeply wronged. Isaac does not reverse the blessing but confirms it, saying, “indeed he shall be blessed” (*27:33*). Esau receives a secondary blessing (*27:39–40*), but it does not carry the covenant promises given to Jacob. This moment fulfills God's earlier word that the older would serve the younger (*Genesis 25:23*), even though it happens through sinful actions.

The consequences of this deception are severe and lasting. Because Jacob manipulated his father instead of trusting God, he brought

suffering not only on himself but on his entire family. He was forced to flee his home (*Genesis 27:41–43*), and Rebekah never saw her beloved son again. In the years that followed, Jacob himself would be deceived and exploited by his uncle, Laban, and later by his own sons. Near the end of his life, Jacob described his days as difficult and painful (*Genesis 47:9*), which stands in contrast to Abraham (*Genesis 25:8*) and Isaac (*Genesis 35:28–29*), who both appeared satisfied at the end of their lives. Sinful shortcuts led to long-term consequences.

Yet even in all of this sin and brokenness, God’s sovereign plan still stands. God had declared that “the older shall serve the younger” (*Genesis 25:23*), and He accomplished His purpose despite human failure. The blessing Jacob received was not earned or deserved—it was an act of God’s grace and sovereign choice.

This is the good news of the gospel. God’s promises do not depend on human perfection but on His faithfulness. Just like Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau, we are all sinners who fall short. Yet God, in His grace, continues His plan. Through this same family line, He sent Jesus, the Savior of the world. Jesus came not because people got it right, but because God is gracious. Through His life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven, restored, and brought back into relationship with God.

Genesis 27 reminds us that we can trust God’s plan without trying to manipulate or control outcomes. When we try to force things our way, it often leads to pain and brokenness. But God is always faithful, even when people are not. And through Jesus, He invites us to trust Him fully, rest in His grace, and walk in obedience without fear.

TELL THE STORY

Genesis 27

The Biggest Story Bible: Jacob and Esau

The Biggest Story Storybook Bible: God’s Tricky, Hairy, Blessed People

After Isaac and Rebekah were married, Rebekah was not able to have a baby. So Isaac prayed she would have a baby, and God answered



his prayer. Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons named Jacob and Esau. Esau was born right before Jacob was, which meant Esau was the firstborn son.

When the boys grew up, Esau became a hunter, but Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home. Their father, Isaac, loved Esau because he hunted and brought him wild animals to eat. But Rebekah loved Jacob.

One day, Esau came home from the field feeling very hungry. Jacob was cooking a stew, and Esau asked to have some. Jacob said, "First, sell me your birthright." The birthright meant that Esau, as the firstborn, was supposed to receive a larger share of all the family had and become the family leader after his father died. Esau thought he would die of hunger, so he agreed to give Jacob his birthright to have some of the stew.

Many years later, Jacob and Esau's father, Isaac, was old and knew he was near the end of his life. He also could not see very well. Isaac called Esau to him and asked him to go hunt a wild animal for him to eat. Then Isaac would give him his blessing. The blessing was the way a father passed on the family's leadership to his oldest son.

Rebekah heard what Isaac said and made a plan to trick him. She told Jacob to bring her two goats, and she made a delicious meal for Isaac. She told Jacob to take the meal to his father, Isaac, and pretend to be Esau.

Jacob was afraid he would be caught trying to trick his father. Even though Isaac could not see very well, Esau was much hairier than Jacob. Jacob was worried that Isaac would feel his smooth skin and know that he was not Esau.

Rebekah took Esau's clothes and put them on Jacob so that he would smell like Esau. She also took some of the goats' skin and put it over Jacob's neck and hands so he would feel hairy like Esau. Then she gave Jacob the food, and he brought it to Isaac. Isaac was tricked, and he blessed Jacob instead of Esau.

When Esau got home from hunting, he learned that Isaac had given his blessing to Jacob instead of to him. Esau had been cheated out of his blessing, and he was very angry.

God's covenant with Abraham continued to the next generation.

Esau sold his birthright, giving Jacob the right to the wonderful blessings God promised to his father Abraham. Through Jacob's family, God would send the promised Savior to bring blessing and salvation to the world.

REBUILD THE STORY



1. What earlier decision did Esau make that connects to this story about the blessing? (*Genesis 25:29–34*)
2. What had God already said about Jacob and Esau before they were born? (*Genesis 25:23*)
3. What was Isaac planning to do for Esau at the beginning of the story, and why was this important? (*Genesis 27:1–4*)
4. What plan did Rebekah make to help Jacob receive the blessing instead of Esau? (*Genesis 27:5–10*)
5. How did Jacob and Rebekah deceive Isaac? (*Genesis 27:15–19, 22–23, 27*)
6. What did Isaac give Jacob that made this moment so important in God's plan? (*Genesis 27:28–29*)
7. How did Esau respond when he realized the blessing had been given to Jacob? (*Genesis 27:34–36, 41*)
8. What did Isaac say about the blessing after he realized Jacob had deceived him? (*Genesis 27:33, 37*)
9. What were the immediate consequences of Jacob's deception for his family? (*Genesis 27:41–43*)

10. What does this story show about God’s plan, even when people sin and make wrong choices? (*Genesis 25:23; Genesis 27:29*)

11. Why do you think Jacob and Rebekah chose to deceive Isaac instead of trusting God to keep His promise? What does this teach us about faith?

12. How did Jacob’s decision to manipulate the situation instead of trusting God affect his life and relationships later on?

13. What does this story teach us about the difference between getting what we want and trusting God’s timing and way?

14. How does this story help you understand the gospel—that God’s plan continues even when people sin—and why we need Jesus?

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

God had already promised that Jacob would receive the blessing (Genesis 25:23), so the deception in this story was never necessary. Jacob and Rebekah chose to manipulate the situation instead of trusting God, and their sin led to pain, broken relationships, and long-term consequences. This reminds us that trying to take control instead of trusting God often leads to hurt, even when we think we are helping God’s plan.



Yet even in their sin, God’s promise did not fail. God’s love and plan of redemption are unchanging and cannot be stopped. Jacob was a sinner in need of a Savior, just like us. Our sin separates us from God, but through Jacob’s family, God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven and brought back into a relationship with God, and we can trust Him instead of trying to control things on our own.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use your Attributes of God poster as a guide.

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, please help us to realize Your ultimate authority in our lives. Help us to trust You when we want to control things ourselves. Help us to rest in the sovereignty You provide.



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Genesis 29-30