



L1.30: Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 21-25

When Abraham was 100 years old, God fulfilled His promise and gave him a son. Amazingly, Sarah was 90 years old! Abraham and Sarah watched and guided Isaac as he grew. As God worked with Abraham, Isaac saw first-hand his father's example of faithfulness and obedience. Once Isaac was grown, God brought him a beautiful wife from among his relatives. Her name was Rebekah. God blessed Isaac and Rebekah with a family of their own as the blessings God promised to Abraham were passed to the next generation.

Discuss:

- Isaac's birth was the fulfillment of a promise God made to Abraham and that it was a miracle.
- Isaac was also being tested when Abraham was to offer him as a sacrifice. Isaac had to be obedient to his father and to trust God as well.
- Rebekah chose to leave her home to go to a land she did not know to marry a man she had never met. How does this show that she was a brave woman?
- How must have Isaac felt when he saw Rebekah for the first time? Isaac inherited the promises God made to Abraham. God chose to work with Abraham's family. Why do you think He chose Abraham's family?



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Memory Challenge:

Genesis 24:60

And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, *may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess the gates of those who hate them.*"



L1.31: Jacob, Esau, and the Promises

Genesis 25-27

Jacob and Esau were twins, but never were two people more different. Esau was hairy, but Jacob had smooth skin. Esau was a skillful hunter, but Jacob was a mild-natured shepherd. Esau was the older of the two, but God chose Jacob to inherit the promises. One day Jacob was cooking lentil stew when Esau came in from the fields. He had been hunting and was very hungry. Jacob, whose name means “supplanter” (schemer), offered to give Esau some stew in exchange his rights as the firstborn. Esau agreed because he did not value his birthright. The day came when it was time for Isaac to pass the blessings on to his sons. He wanted to give the greater blessing to Esau. Rebekah and Jacob decided to try to trick Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing. For Jacob to receive the birthright and the blessing would impact the rest of history.

Discuss:

- The twins Jacob and Esau were very different from each other in many ways. They became the fathers of distinct nations.
- What attitude did Esau display when he sold his birthright for a bowl of lentil stew? Did Esau appreciate his birthright? Talk about God’s laws concerning inheritance and the responsibilities and blessings of being firstborn in the family.
- What were some of the Commandments that were broken when Jacob and his mother tricked Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing?
- It was God’s intent for Jacob to receive the promises. However, Jacob did not wait for God to give the promises to him. He tried to take the matter into his own hands instead of relying on God.



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Memory Challenge:

Genesis 27:29

“Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!”



L1.32: Jacob Returns with a Family

Genesis 28-35

On the way to Haran, God spoke to Jacob in a dream. God promised to be with him and to bring him safely back to Canaan. When Jacob arrived at his uncle Laban's home he fell in love with Rachel, Laban's younger daughter. Jacob bargained with Laban to work for seven years in return for Rachel as his wife. When the time came, Laban tricked Jacob and gave him Leah, his older daughter, to Jacob for his wife instead of Rachel! Jacob had to work another seven years to marry Rachel. Jacob had many more adventures, but eventually he and his family made it back to the land of Canaan just as God had promised. He had twelve sons, who became the foundation for the nation of Israel.

Discuss:

- Laban tricked Jacob just as Jacob had tricked Esau. What lessons did Jacob learn from the way Laban treated him?
- God was with Jacob and protected him from Laban and Esau. What can we learn from how God took care of Jacob?
- God changed Jacob's name from "Supplanter" to Israel which means "Overcomer with God". Why did God change Jacob's name?
- Notice how Jacob received the promises God made to Abraham. His large family was important in fulfilling the promise that Abraham would have many descendants.



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Memory Challenge:

The Sons of Jacob

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin



L1.33: Joseph Saves Israel

Genesis 37-50

Jacob had twelve sons, but Joseph was his favorite. Seeing the special treatment he received from his father, Joseph's older brothers became very jealous of him. They were also annoyed that Joseph would tell their father what they were doing, and would bother them by talking about his crazy dreams. One day, when they saw him coming, they decided to get rid of him for good and sold him to some traders as a slave. They thought they would never have to see or hear from him again. How wrong they were! Joseph ended up being taken down to Egypt and sold to an officer of Pharaoh named Potiphar. This was only the beginning of Joseph's adventures, and as time went by, God began to work out his special purpose for Joseph. Little did his brothers know that Joseph's dreams were about to be fulfilled in a way they would never have imagined.

Discuss:

- God was with Joseph throughout his trials. How do you think Joseph was able to stay close to God even when things got tough?
- What was the important position that Joseph had in Egypt under Pharaoh?
- God used Joseph to save many people in the area from starvation, including the Israelites and the Egyptians. What was Joseph's plan to make sure that the people didn't go hungry during the seven years of famine?
- Jacob blessed each of his sons near the end of his life. Joseph, who was the firstborn son of Rachel, was given a double portion and Ephraim and Manasseh (Joseph's sons) were given an inheritance with Israel's sons.



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Memory Challenge:

Genesis 45:8

“So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.”