

Jacob's Deception

GENESIS 27–28

FIRST DAY: Introduction

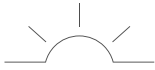
God's grace is extensive and wonderful! Even when we take matters into our own hands and preempt His perfect timing, creating strife, God is ready to forgive (Psalm 86:5) and reinstate us in His promises. That is wonderful grace!

God promised He would bless Jacob instead of Esau (Genesis 25:23). However, when Rebekah overheard Isaac planning to do the contrary, she took matters into her own hands. She drew Jacob into a conspiracy to deceive Isaac and procure the ancestral blessing. Though they successfully obtained the blessing, the deception brought enmity between the brothers, which forced Jacob to leave his parents and seek refuge 500 miles away with his mother's brother.

Alone and exiled on his way to Padan Aram, God met Jacob with a heavenly revelation and His blessing. By this, God indicated His intention to still bless Jacob and fulfill the word He promised.

Have you taken matters into your own hands? Have you felt the disastrous effects of your own schemes? Take heart, God is ready to forgive! Isaiah 30:18 states that, *The LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you*. He waits until our ways fail, and we are alone and forsaken, not knowing what our future holds. He then forgives us and reinstates us in His promises.

Ask God to reveal to you the wonder of His great grace!



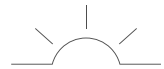
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Before a father died, he would perform a ceremony of blessing, in which he would officially hand over the birthright to the rightful heir. Although the firstborn son was entitled to the birthright, it was not actually his until the blessing was pronounced. The father could take the birthright away from the oldest son and give it to a more deserving son. However, after the blessing was pronounced, the birthright could no longer be removed. This is why fathers usually waited until the sons were grown so they could know the character of the sons before giving the blessing. Although Esau had sold his birthright to his younger brother years before, Jacob still needed his father's blessing to make it official.

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 27:1–29

1. Isaac had grown old, and feeling his death was imminent, he called Esau to himself (Genesis 27:1–2). Use Genesis 27:1–4 to note and comment on:
 - a. Isaac's condition (verses 1–2)
 - b. Isaac's desire (verses 3–4a)
 - c. Isaac's purpose (verse 4b)
 - (1) According to Genesis 25:23, God had said, *The older shall serve the younger*. Typically, the patriarchal blessing would have been given before the entire family (Genesis 49). Yet, Isaac requested to meet alone with Esau. What do these actions convey about Isaac?
2. According to Genesis 27:5, *Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau*. After Esau left to *hunt game*, Rebekah concocted a scheme. Summarize this scheme from Genesis 27:6–10.

- a. Recalling the promise of Genesis 25:23, why was Rebekah's scheme unnecessary?
3. From Genesis 27:11–12, identify and remark on Jacob's concern with his mother's scheme.
 - a. How did Rebekah respond to Jacob's concern? Genesis 27:13
 4. Jacob obeyed his mother's instructions. Use Genesis 27:14–25 to describe and comment on:
 - a. The preparation (verses 14–17)
 - b. The deception (verses 18–25)
 - (1) What do you find most disturbing about this entire situation?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jacob used five different elements of deceit: goat skins, cooked goat, his brother's clothes, alcohol, and lies.

5. After he had eaten, Isaac called his *son* over to embrace and bless him (Genesis 27:26–27a). Use Genesis 27:27b–29 to note:
 - a. The goodness of the blessing (verse 27)
 - b. The gift of the blessing (verse 28)
 - c. The greatness of the blessing (verse 29)

6. From your study today, share a warning or caution you receive from the actions of:
 - a. Isaac
 - b. Rebekah
 - c. Jacob

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 27:30–46

1. After Isaac unwittingly blessed Jacob, Esau returned *from his hunting* (Genesis 27:30). Use the scene in Genesis 27:31–38 to highlight and remark on:
 - a. Isaac’s realization (verses 31–33, 35)

- (1) Pastor Warren Wiersbe notes, *He knew that the Lord had overruled his own selfish plan so that his favorite son did not receive the blessing.*²⁹ How does this explain Isaac's reaction?
 - b. Esau's plea (verses 34, 36b, 38)
 - (1) Link this with Hebrews 12:16b–17 and share your thoughts.
 - c. Jacob's *deceit* (verses 35–36a)
 - d. Isaac's blessing (verses 33b, 37)
2. Genesis 27:39–40 (NLT) says: *Finally, his father, Isaac, said to him, "You will live away from the richness of the earth, and away from the dew of the heaven above. You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. But when you decide to break free, you will shake his yoke from your neck."* What stands out to you from Isaac's blessing for Esau?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Although this was meant to be a short-term solution, Jacob would be gone for twenty years, and Rebekah would die without ever seeing her son again.

3. Not surprisingly, *Esau hated Jacob* for what he had done. As a result, what did Esau plot to do? Genesis 27:41
 - a. When Rebekah found out about this plot, what did she instruct Jacob to do? Genesis 27:42–45

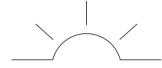
4. From Genesis 27:46 record Rebekah's emotional state.
 - a. How does this explain her actions?

5. In response to your lesson today, what did you glean about the importance of waiting on the Lord? See also Psalm 37:34 and Isaiah 30:18.

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 28:1–9

1. After Rebekah expressed her concern that Jacob might marry a Canaanite woman, what did Isaac charge Jacob to do? Genesis 28:1–2

- a. How is this reminiscent of Abraham's charge concerning Isaac? See Genesis 24:3.
2. Briefly highlight the blessing Isaac pronounced upon Jacob. Genesis 28:3–4
 - a. Recall that Isaac had tried to bless Esau against God's word. How does this blessing indicate Isaac's change of heart? See also Hebrews 11:20.
 - b. Why do you think Isaac emphasized *the blessing of Abraham*?
3. From Genesis 28:5 document Jacob's departure.
4. Esau observed all of these proceedings. Use Genesis 28:6–8 to record what Esau *saw*:
 - a. Verse 6
 - b. Verse 7



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Esau married two Canaanite women, which further showed his disregard and disqualification for this spiritual blessing (Genesis 26:34–35 and 27:46).

c. Verse 8

(1) Esau tried to requalify for the lost blessing by marrying a third wife who was a woman with ties to Abraham through Ishmael (Genesis 28:9). What does this action indicate to you about Esau?

5. What difference do you note between the way that Esau and Jacob:

a. Felt about the blessing

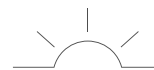
b. Sought to receive the blessing

(1) Why do you desire God's blessing?

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 28:10–22

1. After being blessed and sent out by Isaac, Jacob journeyed *toward Haran*. Along the way, he stopped for the night and *found a stone and put it at his head* (Genesis 28:10–11). From Genesis 28:12 describe what he *dreamed* about as he slept.

- a. This dream symbolized God’s blessing. Link this with John 1:51. What do you see?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God’s time to visit His people with His comfort is when they are most destitute of other comforts, and other comforters. ³⁰
 —Matthew Henry

- 2. *The LORD stood above* the ladder in Jacob’s dream and spoke to him for the first time. Notice how God identified Himself to Jacob in Genesis 28:13a. Why do you think this was significant?

- 3. Use the chart to note the continuity of God’s blessing:

	LAND	DESCENDANTS	SEED
<i>Abraham</i>	Genesis 17:8	Genesis 17:6–7	Genesis 22:18
<i>Jacob</i>	Genesis 28:13b	Genesis 28:13c–14a	Genesis 28:14b

- 4. Print God’s promise to Jacob. Genesis 28:15

- a. Considering Jacob’s circumstances, how do you think God’s promise would have ministered to him?

- b. In ancient times, it was commonly believed that if you left home, you left your gods behind. With this in mind, why was God's word to Jacob so revelatory?
 - c. Link this promise with the following Scriptures to note the necessity of God's presence:
 - (1) Exodus 33:14
 - (2) Deuteronomy 31:6
 - (3) Matthew 28:20b
 - (4) Hebrews 13:5b–6
 - (a) What assurance do you receive from this?
5. After this amazing dream, *Jacob awoke from his sleep*. From Genesis 28:16–22 note and comment on:
- a. Jacob's reaction (verses 16–17)

b. Jacob's actions (verses 18–19)

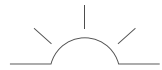
- (1) Note that the name *Bethel* means *house of God*. How does this enhance your understanding of Jacob's experience?

c. Jacob's *vow* (verses 20–22)

- (1) Share a time or place in which you became aware of the presence of God.

6. From your study today, how do you see the grace of God manifested to Jacob?

a. How does this impact you?

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Jacob is the first and only patriarch to make a vow to God. Paying a tithe (a tenth) was an act of worship. The giver was acknowledging that everything he received was a gift from God.

