

03

GENESIS 27:18-30

A SON'S DECEIT



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

It's hard for us to avoid deception in our world. From politicians and social media influencers, to parody news sites, to even some of the people we know and trust—we are surrounded by half-truths, misleading information, and lies. And much of this seems to be culturally acceptable. We need to be on our guard to discern the truth and notice the falsehoods. From the beginning, humans have been tempted to twist the truth for their own gain, and Isaac's son Jacob was no different. But God was still faithful to His promises to bless Abraham and Isaac's offspring. God will always accomplish His purposes—and He uses flawed people along the way.



CENTRAL **truth**

God accomplishes His purposes, even through flawed people.



EXPLORE

scripture

GENESIS 27:18-30

GENESIS 27:18-20

18 When he came to his father, he said, “My father.” And he answered, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” **19** Jacob replied to his father, “I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat

some of my game so that you may bless me.”

20 But Isaac said to his son, “How did you ever find it so quickly, my son?” He replied, “Because the LORD your God made it happen for me.”

GENESIS 27:21-27

21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come closer so I can touch you, my son. Are you really my son Esau or not?” **22** So Jacob came closer to his father Isaac. When he touched him, he said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” **23** He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him. **24** Again he asked, “Are you really my son Esau?” And he replied,

“I am.” **25** Then he said, “Bring it closer to me, and let me eat some of my son’s game so that I can bless you.” Jacob brought it closer to him, and he ate; he brought him wine, and he drank. **26** Then his father Isaac said to him, “Please come closer and kiss me, my son.” **27** So he came closer and kissed him. When Isaac smelled his clothes, he blessed him and said: Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed.

GENESIS 27:28-30

28 May God give to you — from the dew of the sky and from the richness of the land — an abundance of grain and new wine. **29** May peoples serve you and nations bow in worship to you. Be master over your relatives; may your mother’s sons bow in worship

to you. Those who curse you will be cursed, and those who bless you will be blessed.

30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob and Jacob had left the presence of his father Isaac, his brother Esau arrived from his hunting.

03

GENESIS 27:18-30
CONVERSATION

questions

▶ READ GENESIS 27:18-20.

.01 What might Jacob's response in verse 20 indicate about his relationship with God?

.02 How do lying and deception hurt our relationships and our families?

.03 Why do we tend to justify our wrong actions? How can we fight this temptation?



HISTORY

A birthright and a father's blessing were important in the days of Isaac and his sons. They were like our modern-day "last will and testament," which are legal documents that define how someone wants his or her estate distributed after that person's death. One of the privileges of the birthright was that the firstborn son would inherit a double portion of the father's estate. In Esau and Jacob's case, it meant that Esau would receive twice as much of the estate (property, animals, wealth, and so on). The blessing was the expression of the father's desire (often a prophetic pronouncement) for what his sons and their heirs would experience or become. In the story of Jacob and Esau, Jacob tricked Esau and his father to receive the greater blessing along with the birthright.¹

¹ Betty Dunn, "What Does the Bible Say About Having a Birthright?", Christianity.com, December 19, 2022, <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/bible/what-bible-say-about-birthright.html>.

▶ READ GENESIS 27:20-27.

.04 How were each of these family members focused on the wrong thing? What are some ways we lose focus on God?

.05 How do you think Jacob's deception would affect his relationship with his father and his brother in the future? Why?

.06 Despite Jacob's sin, God was committed to His promise. What does this tell us about His character?

▶ READ GENESIS 27:28-30.

.07 Whose blessing and approval means the most to you? Why?

.08 Why can we trust that God will bring about His purposes and plans in every situation?

Q **GIVE AN ANSWER**

Why would God bless Jacob when he was so deceitful? Because Jacob receiving the blessing was a part of God's plan. In Genesis 25:23, God told Rebekah that her oldest child (Esau) would serve the youngest (Jacob). We also read in Genesis 25:34 that Esau "despised" his birthright, meaning that he didn't treat it with the respect it deserved and lost it to his brother's trickery. Though God had already planned to build the nation of Israel through Jacob, the way Jacob and Rebekah went about securing the blessing for him was sinful and dishonoring. Yet despite this, God chose to honor His promise and extend grace—a theme that we see over and over in Scripture.

03

GENESIS 27:18-30

NOW

what?



CENTRAL truth

God accomplishes His purposes, even through flawed people.

.09 God tends to use flawed people to fulfill His plans. What does this tell us about Him?

.10 What's the problem with disregarding God when we make decisions or solve problems?

.11 What are some takeaways from this lesson that can increase our trust in God?

.12 How can we encourage one another to trust in God instead of using deceit to get ahead?

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE LUKE 21:8

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

GENESIS 27:18-23

DWELL

Practicing deception is a heart issue. Esau and Jacob, as twin brothers, had a lot of the typical sibling relationship issues. One of these was deception—lying, cheating, and betrayal. Jacob’s name means “supplanter” or “deceiver,” and in these verses, we can see that he deceived his father—twice. While it may be tempting and something that has become almost acceptable in the eyes of the world around us, deceiving others to get what we want is never the godly choice.



In what ways did Jacob deceive his father in these verses?



How do these verses make you feel about deceiving others? When have you been guilty of deceiving others?

MEMORIZE

Write Luke 21:8 on an index card or sticky note and attach it to your bathroom mirror. Say the verse aloud each day, emphasizing a few different words each time.

PRAY

Ask God to challenge you to be a person who doesn't lie or deceive others. If this is a real struggle for you, ask Him to help change your heart through the power of His Holy Spirit.

day 2

ROMANS 6:12-14

DWELL

These verses are a warning for us to keep sin from ruling over our lives. We can only serve one master or ruler: Will it be Jesus as Lord, or will it be our sinful nature? There is no shortage of temptation in our lives. Jesus's challenge and invitation is for us to offer ourselves to Him daily as we seek to live righteously. Sinful choices—including the choice to deceive others—have no place in a Christian's life.

↔ Why should we be concerned about sin ruling our lives, according to these verses?

→ When you examine your own life, what sins or obstacles are keeping you from completely surrendering to Jesus's rule?

MEMORIZE

Save Luke 21:8 as a wallpaper or screensaver on your phone or computer. Read it aloud each time you see it.

PRAY

Ask God to reveal any areas in your life that you need to turn over to Him so you can grow in righteousness. Thank Him for being patient with you as you grow in obedience to Him.

day 3

GENESIS 27:24-27

DWELL

In Jacob's day, the father of a family would speak a blessing over his sons as he was nearing death. These blessings were often prayers that would determine the future of the family. Jacob had already tricked his brother Esau into trading his birthright to Jacob in exchange for a meal when he was hungry, and now Jacob was after his father's greater blessing. Taking advantage of his father's failing eyesight, Jacob had dressed in clothing that smelled like his brother and goat skins to make him feel hairy like his brother. Isaac fell for the deception and began the blessing.

↻ How did Jacob deceive his father in these verses? Compare this with your answer from day 1.

↓ What signs of remorse does Jacob show, if any? What does this tell you about his relationships with God and his family?

MEMORIZE

Say the book, chapter, and verse number for Luke 21:8 out loud several times. Then read aloud just the first few words of the verse. Do this a few times a day and see if you can memorize more each time.

PRAY

Consider any recent times that you purposefully deceived someone. What do you think God wants you to do about it? Offer Him this situation in prayer.

day 4

GENESIS 27:28-30

DWELL

By the time Esau had returned from hunting and preparing his meal for his father, the first blessing had already been spoken over his younger brother instead. It wasn't enough for Jacob to have taken Esau's birthright—now he had taken his father's primary blessing as well. Esau was furious. In fact, his anger turned into so much hatred of Jacob that he planned to kill his brother (see v. 41). When we allow sin to rule in our lives, it creates havoc in our relationships.



How do these verses describe what Jacob's future relationship with Esau would be like?



What are some ways that God has continued to fulfill His promises in your life, even when you are guilty of sin?

MEMORIZE

Write out Luke 21:8 on a piece of paper. Circle three to five key words in the verse and consider their importance. Focus on those words and see how much of the verse you can speak from memory.

PRAY

Consider your relationships with your family members. Pray that God would give you wisdom about how and when to seek restoration in relationships that have been broken by sin.

day 5

LUKE 21:5-9

DWELL

We, too, must be on guard to not be deceived by others—especially when it comes to matters of the gospel and Jesus's return. Jesus gave His disciples signs to watch for (see vv. 10-28), but He also pointed out that no one other than His Father—not even Jesus—knew when this would happen (see Matt. 24:36). When people say they have all the answers about when or how these things will take place, be careful. Often these discussions just keep us from focusing on what's really important: our daily walk with Jesus. The way we prepare for His return is to walk with Him daily and follow His commands.



How can being deceived about the gospel affect your relationship with God?



How can these verses encourage you to talk to God when you have doubts about Jesus's return?

MEMORIZE

Read Luke 21:8 several times. Then start by trying to memorize the first two or three words. Once you have those words memorized, add a few more words at a time until you can say the whole verse.

PRAY

Ask God to give you the wisdom (see James 1:5) to know if what someone is telling you about Jesus is the truth already revealed in Scripture.