

JACOB AND ESSAU

God directs all things - from babies to birthrights.



THE STORY: GENESIS 25:1-23

MONDAY

**God knew
the older son
would serve the
younger son.**

God knew the older son would serve the younger son. Rebekah felt the children moving inside of her and was concerned. She prayed to the Lord, and He told her that she would have twins who would grow up to be two nations and that the older would serve the younger. God has a plan for everything. Rebekah was full of faith. She knew that God had a plan and that her future sons were part of that plan. Full of faith she inquired of the Lord and God answered her prayers.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do we learn about Rebekah from this passage of scripture? *(We learn that Rebekah believes in the Lord and His Word. She knows to go to God with her prayers. There is no evidence of bitterness even though she had been barren.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to give you the kind of faith that makes you want to seek the Lord for direction in your life.



THE STORY: : GENESIS 25:24-28

TUESDAY

**God blessed
Isaac with twins**

God blessed Isaac with twins – Just as God said, Rebekah had two boys. She would have known that they were going to be boys based on the description “two nations” and that the “older shall serve the younger” Because only men could lead a nation. If one would serve the other, Rebekah probably knew they would be very different. Clearly these boys were going to grow up to father two different peoples.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the Lord's accurate prediction of the future say about God's knowledge? *(God knows exactly what is going to happen even before it does. God controls all things.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His sovereign control over all things.



THE STORY: ROMAN'S 9:8-15

WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

?: Rebekah called out to the Lord about the babies in her womb, and God told her she was going to have twins. He also said that the older would serve the younger. All of this happened with the birth of the twins. Before they are born, God chooses Jacob, the younger brother, to be the child of promise. Esau hated his birthright (the firstborn son normally inherited his father's wealth), while Jacob desired it. God's sovereign choice in salvation is demonstrated by the picture of these two sons.

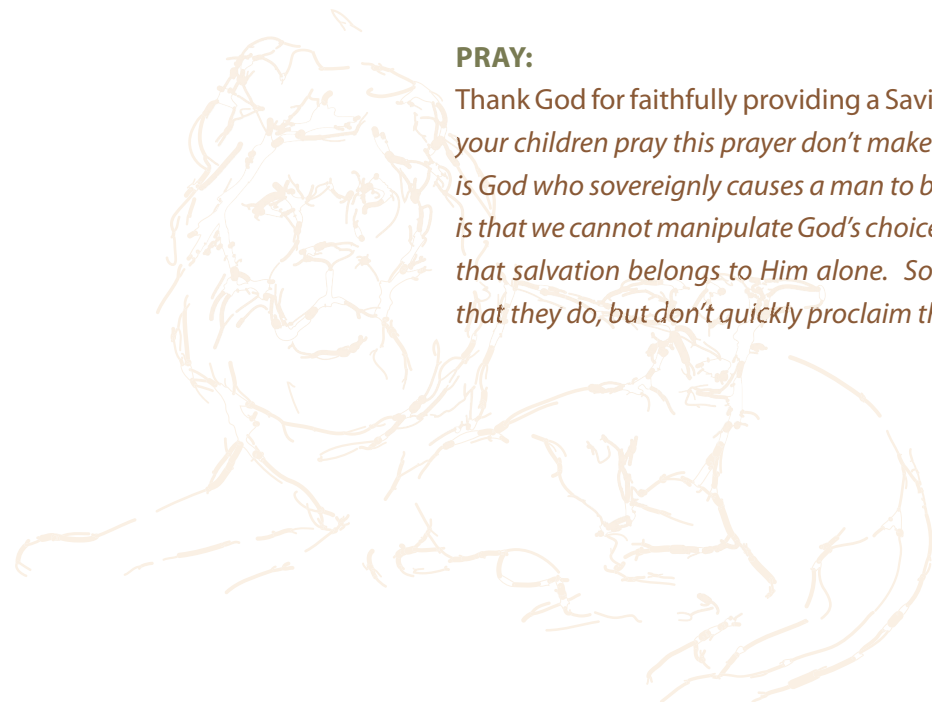
God's election of Jacob highlights that God's salvation comes not with strength, but through faith in Jesus. Jesus didn't come in worldly strength, but in meekness. In the lives of these two sons, God gives us a picture of the struggle between works and grace, unbelief and faith, and His choice over ours.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Our salvation is totally dependent on God. Why is that good news? *(God is faithful, we are sinners. God is able to keep us forever. If our salvation depended upon us we would never choose God. In our sin we would choose to go alone.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for faithfully providing a Savior and ask God to save you from your sins. *(If your children pray this prayer don't make the mistake of assuming they are believers. It is God who sovereignly causes a man to be born again. The whole point of this passage is that we cannot manipulate God's choices. We can only cry out to God in faith knowing that salvation belongs to Him alone. So encourage your children to pray, and rejoice that they do, but don't quickly proclaim them saved. Let them be the ones to tell you!)*





Esau sells his birthright in fulfillment of the prophecy

Esau sells his birthright in fulfillment of the prophecy – Ancient law provided a special position for the firstborn. Jacob, took advantage of his hungry brother by offering to trade him a meal for Esau's birthright. This is was not a random request. It is quite likely that Jacob was aware of God's word and knew that his older brother would end up serving him. Sure enough, Esau does not have the wisdom to refuse the request and gives away his right as the oldest. By doing so, he essentially agrees that he will serve his younger brother.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Did God force Esau to sell his birthright? *(No, Esau sold it of his own foolishness and is responsible for that choice.)*

Is God in control of all that happened? *(Yes. All things happen according to God's plan. How God works the willing choices, even sinful ones, all together to fit His plan is one of the mysteries of God that our small human minds can not understand.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the way He has woven the events of history into His wonderful plan and for His sovereign control of all things.



On the road to Emmaus.

David is aware that he sins both consciously and unconsciously. He is also aware that a mere lamb sacrificed will not be sufficient to redeem his sin. He calls out for God to be his redeemer. God alone can be his redeemer.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why does verse 14 refer to Jesus? *(Jesus is the perfect lamb sacrificed in our place so that we can be redeemed.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus – the perfect lamb. He died so we could live.