

Kids Church: 19th September

Jacob and Esau

Genesis ch 25:19-33

Last week we learned about how Abraham found a wife (Rebekah) for his son Isaac. This week it's 20 years later and Isaac and Rebekah still have no children. Yet we know that God's promise to Abram was that he would have many descendants.

Before we find out what happens next, I want you to think about something -

Activity

- Mums and Dads
 - If someone turned up at your door offering to buy your home for \$10, would you sell it to them?
- Kids - choose your most valuable possession - something that's very special to you
 - If one of your friends offered to buy it for 10cents, would you sell it to them?

I'm guessing you've all said no. Why would it be a bad idea?

Now let's have a look at the story of Jacob and Esau.

Genesis 25: 19-33 International Children's Bible

Isaac's Family

19 This is the family history of Isaac. Abraham had a son named Isaac.

20 When Isaac was 40 years old, he married Rebekah. Rebekah was from Northwest Mesopotamia. She was Bethuel's daughter and the sister of Laban the Aramean. **21** Isaac's wife could not have children. So Isaac prayed to the Lord for her. The Lord heard Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant.

Discuss:

- What similarity do you see here to Abraham and Sarah's story?
- What did Isaac do?
- What happened?

Read

22 While she was pregnant, the babies struggled inside her. She asked, “Why is this happening to me?” Then she went to get an answer from the Lord.

23 The Lord said to her,
“Two nations are in your body.

Two groups of people will be taken from you.
One group will be stronger than the other.
The older will serve the younger.”

24 And when the time came, Rebekah gave birth to twins. **25** The first baby was born red. His skin was like a hairy robe. So he was named Esau.^[a] **26** When the second baby was born, he was holding on to Esau’s heel. So that baby was named Jacob.^[b] Isaac was 60 years old when they were born.

27 When the boys grew up, Esau became a skilled hunter. He loved to be out in the fields. But Jacob was a quiet man. He stayed among the tents. **28** Isaac loved Esau. Esau hunted the wild animals that Isaac enjoyed eating. But Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 One day Jacob was boiling a pot of vegetable soup. Esau came in from hunting in the fields. He was weak from hunger. **30** So Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red soup. I am weak with hunger.” (That is why people call him Edom.^[c])

31 But Jacob said, “You must sell me your rights as the firstborn son.”

32 Esau said, “I am almost dead from hunger. If I die, all of my father’s wealth will not help me.”

33 But Jacob said, “First, promise me that you will give it to me.” So Esau made a promise to Jacob. In this way he sold his part of their father’s wealth to Jacob. **34** Then Jacob gave Esau bread and vegetable soup. Esau ate and drank and then left. So Esau showed how little he cared about his rights as the firstborn son.

Discuss

Esau acted foolishly. The rule in those days was that the first born son would inherit most of his parents property.

- Why do you think Esau gave up his birthright so easily?

(Maybe because he was tired and hungry. He probably wasn't thinking straight. Maybe he was joking)

- Have you ever given away something and wish you hadn't later on?
- Have you ever said or promised something then wished you hadn't later on?

Sometimes we say or do things without stopping to think it through. Sometimes it is wise to stop and ask God what he wants us to do first.

Things went from bad to worse after that meal. In the next chapter we learn that Rebekah encouraged Isaac to trick his father into blessing him instead of Esau. That caused lots of heartbreak and trouble. The boys became bitter enemies and Jacob had to run away. Esau turned his back on God.

Read Romans 9:8-12. - International Children's Bible

8 This means that not all of Abraham's descendants are God's true children. Abraham's true children are those who become God's children because of the promise God made to Abraham. **9** God's promise to Abraham was this: "At the right time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."^[a] **10** And that is not all. Rebekah also had sons. And those sons had the same father, our father Isaac. **11-12** But before the two boys were born, God told Rebekah, "The older will serve the younger."^[b] This was before the boys had done anything good or bad. God said this before they were born so that the one chosen would be chosen because of God's own plan. He was chosen because he was the one God wanted to call, not because of anything he did.

Where is Jesus in this

Jesus is the fulfilment of old testament prophesy. The fulfilment of the promise that all the nations of the world would be blessed.

God isn't looking for people who have always been perfect and never sinned. He doesn't mind what language we speak or where we come from. He is looking for people will have faith in Him.

Abraham made a lot of mistakes but over time, he learned to trust God completely.

Abraham and Sarah had one son - Isaac.
Isaac and Rebekah had 2 sons, Esau and Jacob.

God's promise to Rebekah that the son who was born second (Jacob) would inherit all the privileges of the first born would be fulfilled. Jacob would also make mistakes. But nothing would stop God's plan. Jacob eventually had 12 sons. One of them was called Judah. Judah wasn't perfect either but many many years later, one of his descendants would be born in Bethlehem - Jesus. God's plans never fail.

God loves us. He does not want to save us because we are strong or because we were born first. Or because we know lots of things. We are saved by faith (trusting in God's plan) and even our faith is a gift God gives us. The most important part of God's plan to save us was the death of Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, who died to take our sins away.

Prayer

- Spend some time praying for one-another's needs
- Pay for others that you know outside your family
- Thank God for his love and mercy - even when we do wrong, he continues to love and forgive us

