

*Sermon Questions for Life Groups*  
*The Blessing & The Bad Guys – Gen. 27*

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Sunday, May 24, 2015

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions  
or family or personal devotions*

1. In looking at Pastor John's point about "Isaac's Secret", (Genesis 27:1-5) it was an interesting to consider that Isaac was trying to usurp God's will and authority because of his strong love for his son Esau. We often use the phrase of 'putting God first in our lives', but what does that really mean to you? Use the following scriptural references and meditate on this question – what does putting "God first" look like in your life?
  - a. Matthew 6:33
  - b. Matthew 6:19-21
  - c. Galatians 2:20
  - d. John 3:30
2. What shortfalls do you find in the parenting of Isaac and Rebekah?
3. Explain the significance of the blessing.
4. What happens in a family when father and mother send mixed messages to their children?
5. Have you ever (as Isaac did with Esau) placed your trust in others rather than God?
6. How did Esau go wrong? Why did he blame Jacob?
7. In this story, we learn that Esau has purposely rebelled against his father's wishes and against the wishes of God just to spite them. Are there small ways that we do this in our day in age? List some of them now.
8. Do you agree with Pastor John that there are only "bad guys" in the world?

9. Lately, there have been a great number of movies involving heroes and superheroes. We love the idea of an evil side and a good side that are clearly marked. In this story, there are no true heroes and this is much more true to life.
  - a. Why do we love stories with clearly marked heroes and villains?
  - b. It is disturbing for us to think that everyone is a villain in this story. Why is this uncomfortable for us as readers?
  - c. Pastor John pointed out that in the story of Jacob and Esau, only God is the hero. How is this true and why?
  
10. What consequences of sin do you see around you?
  
11. In the story of Jacob and Esau, all of the characters try to manipulate each other in order to get what they want. They try to thwart or modify God's larger plan and in the end, they end up fulfilling it anyway. This happens throughout the Bible, from Herod's killing of the Israelite children in Matthew 2, to when Saul of Tarsus tries to arrest all of the Christians in Acts 9. Read the latter story now, found in Acts 9:1-19.
  - a. How does Saul intend to act, in order to destroy the plans of the people of God?
  - b. What is required of Ananias in order for this plan to be fulfilled?
  - c. How does God use Saul's original plan to fulfill his own purpose?
  - d. What is the result of Saul's conversion?
  
12. Where and when have you observed the triumph of grace?
  
13. What does this story tell you about God and His grace?
  
14. Why is "kneeling" so necessary?
  
15. Pastor John discussed that Isaac was seeking God's blessings without kneeling and submitting to His will. However if God is Faithful in spite of our unfaithfulness, then doesn't it stand to reason that we really don't need to submit to God's will since He will fulfill it anyway? What is wrong with this line of reasoning? Consider Romans 6:1-14