

## Small group notes – 13 Jan 2019

**Welcome** – What does your name mean? Does the meaning match your character?

### **Word – Jacob the deceiver – Genesis 25:27-34 & Genesis 27**

Genesis 25:27-34 – Jacob manipulates Esau into selling his birthright. Jacob manipulates the situation but Esau allows it. Esau doesn't take responsibility for his attitude towards his birthright.

**Genesis 27** – We have a dying father, a deceiving mother and Son and a despairing Brother.

#### **The Decision** – verse 1-4

Esau is Isaac's favourite and he wants him to have the blessing. In secret, without talking to Rebekah or Jacob he plans to give his Blessing to Esau. This is a decision that is made in the dark and a decision that is ultimately trying to overturn what God has already ordained.

#### **The Deception** – verse 5-29

The deception starts with Rebekah, she is the instigator of the plan and Jacob goes along with the plan. It is a deliberate attempt to deceive. Jacob deliberately misleads Isaac with the goat's hair and by wearing his brother's clothes and worst of all he brings God into the deception when he states that it is the Lord who has given him success.

The Blessing from his father included: • Personal prosperity v28. • Pre-eminence v29 • Protection by God v29

In essence, Jacob now receives the blessing revealed in the Abrahamic covenant. The most amazing thing we see is that through this act of deception God's will is done.

#### **The Disintegration** – verse 41-45

Jacob gets what he wanted but he and the family are going to pay a heavy price. Esau is distraught the blessing has gone and there is nothing for him. He is angry and plans to kill his brother when his father dies. Rebekah hears of Esau plans and has Jacob sent away to his Uncle.

Jacob got what he wanted but because it came through fraudulent means it cost him his own family. He humiliated his father who he never sees again and cannot put it right with him. He also never sees his much-beloved mother again. He is estranged from his only brother for many years. He is homeless and because he left the family he forfeits all the material prosperity that would have been his through his inheritance from Isaac.

What do we learn about Jacob? He wasn't willing to wait for God to give him the blessing and took it himself by deception. Lying and deception are never honouring to God.

What do we learn about God? He is able to fulfil his plans and purposes through the weak and the wicked.

### **Questions**

- What are some of the signs of a dysfunctional family? Which of these signs do you see in Jacob's family?
- How did Jacob manipulate Esau into selling his birthright? Why was Esau as much to blame as Jacob?
- Consider and discuss ways in which we can manipulate one another?
- Why did Isaac desire to give Esau his blessing despite the fact he knew God had chosen Jacob?
- Can it ever be right to lie and deceive others?
- How is it that our words can be so powerful? Do you believe in the power of Blessing?
- What do you think is our spiritual birthright? How might we be robbed of our spiritual birthright?
- What do you think about the way God seems to fulfil his plans and purposes through the weak & wicked?

### **Prayers & reminders**

- For relationships in families, Church family, neighbours and local community.
- UK Government with Brexit negotiations over the next few months.
- Third Sunday lunch – 20 Jan
- Roger Pearce teaching in Serbia
- Scott, Anjanette, Jess & Sam Williamson