

03 A SON'S DECEIT

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 27:18-30

CENTRAL truth

For many of us, our families are marked by brokenness and dysfunction. Isaac and Rebekah's family was no different, and the dysfunction in their family took the form of deceit and favoritism. While sin can be a crushing weight that divides families, God is always faithful. We can trust that **God accomplishes His purposes, even through flawed people.**

key question

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

Each of the members of Isaac's family lost sight of God and His covenant promises, and the result of their actions was familial rivalry and division. At times our wants and desires can take center stage in our lives. Like Jacob, we'll stop at nothing to get what we want and delight in the created more than the Creator. However, even though our faith will be unsteady at times, the Lord will always remain faithful.

keep in mind

- Although Jacob obtained Esau's birthright and their father's blessing by deceit, God chose to bless him. Students might find this confusing and upside-down. Remind them that despite our rebellious choices, God can still choose to work and extend His grace. God will always be faithful to His plan and promises.
- Be sensitive to the reality that students are coming from various family situations. Deceit and favoritism were the marks of Jacob's family, but students' families may be marked by other sin patterns. Encourage students that regardless of our families of origin, we are all given the gift of a new eternal family through faith in Jesus. That is a reality that we can take comfort in.

application

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

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students have the opportunity to trust that because of the Lord's kindness and faithfulness, He is able to accomplish His purposes through us.

FOR THE LEADER: Challenge students to look for the Lord's kindness toward each of them despite their own personal sin or the family dysfunction they've experienced. Invite the group to reflect on how God can accomplish His purposes through each of them as they place their trust in Him.

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