



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 3: A Deceiver

Suggested Week of Use: March 17, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 27:18-30

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### News Story Summary

Recently, panic over a bed bug infestation in France resulted in a series of drastic counter measures. However, the social media posts that helped sound the alarm turned out to be deceptive. The bed bug panic erupted after social media users published pictures of bugs supposedly found in France's high-speed trains and Metro stations. The French, making herculean efforts to deal with the issue ahead of this summer's Paris Olympics, responded with steps such as closing schools temporarily and conducting deep inspections of stations and trains.

Earlier this month, government reports revealed good news and bad news about the situation. Positively, the truth was that the infestation rate of bed bugs was not higher than normal. Negatively, though, the alarm these rumors created was very real. The French soon blamed a Russian disinformation campaign aimed at Ukrainian refugees as the source of this costly hoax.

For more about this story, search "France bedbug scare."

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, encourage adults to share their experiences with bed bugs or another invasive pest. Say: *Now, imagine a single instance multiplied over an entire city—or even a nation.* Summarize the news story about the fake bed bug infestation in Paris and the alarm over those reports. Guide the group to share times when they have been the victim of a scam or unwittingly shared false information on a social media platform. Lead the group to share their feelings both as victims and unwitting perpetrators in helping circulate lies. Connect such experiences with the desire to recognize and understand truth. Share that this session emphasizes the devastating effects of deception by focusing on how it tore one family apart.

### Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, guide the group to mentally assign a value to truth on a scale of 1-5, with "5" having the most value. After a few minutes, allow volunteers to share their number and why they chose that number. Encourage the group to reflect again on a time when they have been duped and how it made them feel. Ask: *If we agree that truth is valuable, what measures can we take to protect it? If you've been guilty of practicing deception, what does Jacob's example tell you about whether God can still use you? In what areas of your life may you need to make a re-commitment to truth?*