



## Week 3: Sibling Rivalry and the Sovereignty of God

The stories in the Bible aren't just tales of ancient times, but reflections of our own lives, full of ups and downs, mistakes and redemption. Genesis 27 is a chapter rich with drama, deceit, and ultimately the sovereignty of God to accomplish his plans and purposes despite our own selfishness. The characters in this story help us uncover how we can strive to finish well, grounded in faith and trusting that God's plan is better than our own.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced a situation where you felt you started strong but didn't finish as well as you hoped?
2. **Read Genesis 27:1-4.** Why do you think Isaac desires to bless Esau when God had already told Rebekah that Jacob would be the chosen son to carry on the promise of God (Gen. 25:23)? Note: It's possible that Isaac was unaware of this, but not likely. Even so, what does Isaac fail to do in this situation? What does this tell us about his faith?
3. **Read Genesis 27:5-10.** How would you describe the family dynamics? Why is trust so important in a marriage? What would have been a more appropriate response on Rebekah's part? Rebekah's lack of trust in Isaac is ultimately a lack of trust in God to fulfill his promise. Describe a time when you failed to trust God's timing and plan. What did you learn? How can we learn to trust God where we feel impatient or out of control?
4. **Read Genesis 27:11-29.** Jacob pretended to be someone he wasn't to gain his father's blessing. In what ways do we sometimes put on masks or pretend to be someone we're not in our spiritual lives? How can we learn to be more authentic and transparent with God and with each other in our faith community?
5. What do we learn about the sovereignty of God in this story and how can it encourage us to stay faithful when we don't understand everything God is doing?