

THE THREAD | BEGINNINGS

Lesson 7: Jacob And Esau

Dear Parents,

Hello again! We just wrapped up the seventh of our 13 lessons, looking at *Beginnings* in our study of the big-picture story of the Bible called *The Thread: Discovering the Thread of the Gospel Through the Big-Picture Story of the Bible*. This lesson was entitled “Jacob and Esau.” The temptation Rebekah and Jacob faced is actually very common. Basically, we all want to get life’s good stuff. But we don’t trust God to provide it in His time, by His power, and in His way. Sometimes the “good stuff” isn’t really good, and we want it anyway. Other times, the “good stuff” is truly good. But if we get it by acting outside God’s will, we corrupt it. whether or not God answers our prayers the way we think He should, we know that God keeps His promises regardless of our sinful nature. And we know that God has promised He will work out all the details (awesome or awful) to benefit us and glorify Himself.

Lesson Overview: God has a plan, and that plan is bigger than we can imagine. His plan includes us, personally. Unfortunately, our sinful nature makes us desire to be our own god. As new Christians, we often struggle between wanting to have the good stuff God wants for us and still wanting all the worldly stuff we think will make us happy. We want to realize God’s blessings for our lives and do His will in the world—but we strive to achieve these on our own. The lesson of Jacob and Esau is simple to grasp intellectually but much harder to actualize in our everyday lives. Simply stated: God is God, and we are not.

What We Want Your Teenager To Learn: See how God is faithful to His plan of redemption and grace in spite of our sinfulness and rebellion. Realize that they can have faith in the plans of God, who acts out of His great grace for our good and His glory.

What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They’ve Learned: Define what it means to them to surrender their life to God’s leading and live a life trusting that God will keep His promises even when it seems that He won’t.

Scripture Passages We Studied: Genesis 25:19-28; Genesis 27:1-45; Romans 8:26-28

Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.

NEXT STEPS...

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- You talked in youth group about how badly Jacob wanted his father’s “blessing.” What do you want so much that it seems impossible for you to wait for God to give it to you?
- How does it make you feel when you read in Romans that God works all things for your good and His glory? (Allow your teenager to express whatever emotion they are feeling.)
- What experiences have you had that help you trust that God will keep His promises?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I’m praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don’t hesitate to let me know.