



SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 27:18-41; 32:3-30

September 10, 2017

For starters:

As a young person, who blessed you by treating you special? How so?

What is a practical joke someone has played on you or vice versa? What do you remember about how you felt?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. What's the hardest thing to understand about this story (Gen 27:18-41)? How Jacob could lie to his father and cheat his brother? Why Isaac couldn't revoke Jacob's ill-gotten blessing? Why Esau couldn't have received a blessing also? Discuss.
2. How do God's prophecy in 25:23 and Esau's actions in 25:29-34 relate to the events of chapter 27 (see also Hebrews 12:16-17)?
3. Suppose God's covenant was dependent on cultural custom (favoring the firstborn) or human virtue for its fulfillment. How would that affect Isaac and Jacob? How would that affect you and all other potential heirs of the covenant who have no custom or virtue favoring them? What problems may arise with such an arrangement?
4. How could this story (Gen 27) be reset in today's world: What would take the place of the birthright? The blessing? What legal consequences could Jacob face for his actions?
5. After Jacob receives the ominous report brought back by the servants (32:6), he alternately plans and prays. How does this prayer in 32:9-12 reflect his relationship with God at this point?
6. Who's blessing or approval means the most to you: Dad's? Mom's? Friend's? Spouse's? Kid's? Boss's? Colleague's? Pastor's? Other relationship? How might you still be working for his or her blessing? Has the lack of your desired blessing from this person affected you and if yes, how so?
7. When there is conflict in your family or in another important relationship, what do you do? Try to be on the winning side? Try to make peace? Take responsibility for your part? Leave the situation? Accept it as normal? Ask God for his perspective? Try to help the others work through the problem? Other?
8. Who can you impact with a blessing this upcoming week? What's your plan for how to do it?
9. What prayer requests can you share with your group? Boldly pray these requests with each other.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).