

LIMPING with God STUDY GUIDE



Warm-Up

Share Highs/Lows since the last time you met.

What knowledge of Jacob do you bring into this series?

What expectations do you have for this series?

Work Out

²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

²³ The Lord said to her,
"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."

Genesis 25:21-23

1. God's response to Rebekah is brief but packed with promise and prophecy. List all the particulars in Gen. 25:23. How is this story similar or dissimilar to other biblical narratives about the Lord's promises regarding children still in utero or newly born? See Judges 13:1-5; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 1:11-17; Luke 1:26-38.
2. Talk about how God's choosing is not based on our moral, intellectual, or spiritual credentials. How is this fundamentally contrary to the way the world works? How does Paul use this story in Romans 9:6-13?
3. Describe how certain actions or sins make us feel "undesirable" to God, or one whom the Lord would not want. How do we disqualify ourselves from serving God or being used by Him? How does our Saviour respond to such feelings? See John 15:16

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

Genesis 25:21-23

4. As you reflect on the names that Isaac and Rebekah chose for their newborn twins, think also of the importance of names. Names are not just random words but usually

carry some meaning or significance. Why is that? Discuss the intimate connection between people and their names.

5. Up until modern times, ambition was understood to be a vice not a virtue. How has that changed and what has changed? What is the significance of the fact that, today, looking out for yourself, focusing on yourself, pursuing success at all costs, is considered healthy? Discuss 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12. What are the practical, real-life implications of these verses?
6. Talk about how, in faith, we exchange “grabbing heels” in pursuit of our own happiness and life, to holding fast to the “heel” of Jesus who crushed death and gives eternal life.

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau her older son, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins. ¹⁷ Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.

¹⁸ He went to his father and said, “My father.”

“Yes, my son,” he answered. “Who is it?”

¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing.”

²⁰ Isaac asked his son, “How did you find it so quickly, my son?”

“The Lord your God gave me success,” he replied.

²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not.”

²² Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” ²³ He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him. ²⁴ “Are you really my son Esau?” he asked.

“I am,” he replied.

²⁵ Then he said, “My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing.”

Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come here, my son, and kiss me.” When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him...

Genesis 27:15-26

7. How do you resolved the deception of Jacob to receive the blessing? Should God have held the moral high ground, and put right what was right – restore Esau to the place of blessing?
8. How do you identify with Jacob as the moralistically corrupt sinner that he is? Does it give you encouragement that God chooses to bless rather than curse?
9. Read Romans 5:6-11. Talk about how we put on the clothes of our older brother ‘Jesus’ to receive the blessing of life and salvation. Does this shed new light on Jesus’ love for you?

Cool Down

Pray as a group for each other and for your study of God’s Word.
(If no one feels comfortable, pray the Lord’s Prayer together.)