

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God, we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, May 29th – Genesis 25:19-34

This week we continue our journey with Isaac's life and family. What is the immediate problem that Isaac faces (vs. 21a)? Who does this remind you of that had the same problem? How does God answer Isaac's prayer (vs. 21b)? But as with some pregnancies, there seems to be a struggle and Rebekah can't seem to figure it out. So, what does she do (vs. 22)? Keep in mind, women did not know they were having twins back then. What does God tell her about these twins (vs. 23)? This prophecy sets us up for what is to come and who is going to be the child in whom the covenant continues. Notice this mirrors Ishmael and Isaac in that Isaac is the younger son. Read verses 24-26. Esau means "hair" or "hairy." Jacob means "heel-grabber" or "deceiver." That's another clue as to what we can expect in the future. Now let's see how the boys interact with each other. Read verses 27-34. What differences exist between the two boys? Where do you see deceit or trickery? Where do you see lack of self-control or common sense? Notice in verse 34, Esau despised or showed contempt for his birthright. God allows us to make foolish decisions like Esau did. The need for instant gratification, as well as the idea that what he gave away would not matter points to foolishness. Where have you allowed the need for instant gratification lead you to making foolish decisions? Where is the evil one deceiving you? Spend time in prayer today asking for God's wisdom.

Tuesday, May 30th – Genesis 26:1-14

We return to Isaac today and King Abimelech. As you read verses 1-6, what things do you see happen? Why do you think God instructs Isaac to not go to Egypt? Who lives next door to Egypt? Besides, Isaac is already living on the land promised to Abraham. So, Isaac goes to Gerar, where King Abimelech lives. Now read verses 7-11. Does this text seem familiar? What happens? How does Abimelech find out who Rebekah is? What is the solution to the problem? Now read verses 12-14. Where do you see God's providence in this text? Where does God's protectiveness shine through? What does this reveal to you about how God wants to lead and protect you? What gets in your way of trusting God to do so?

Wednesday, May 31st – Genesis 26:15-35

Even though things looked good yesterday, we see today that things can change. What is the first source of aggravation for Isaac (vs. 15)? What happens next (vs 16)? So, if you are not wanted, you leave. But this doesn't end the source of frustration and the challenges. What troubles does Isaac still have (vss.18-22)? For us, who turn a handle and have running water, digging wells is not something we think about very much. But there is a lot of labor in digging and shoring up wells. Additionally, water is critical for survival of people and flocks. When we think about it like that, we can understand the frustration and how Isaac might think that he just can't catch a break. How does God alleviate Isaac's frustrations (vss. 23-24)? How does Isaac respond (vs. 25)? Now read verses 26-31. Why does Abimelech come and bring his counselor and the commander of his army (vs. 28)? What does he want? How does Isaac respond (vss. 29-31)? Once peace is established, what happens (vss. 32-33)? How is this a blessing from God? We close out this chapter with a wrap-up on Esau. Whom does Esau marry (vs. 34)? If you recall from the genealogy of Noah, the Hittites are from the lineage of Canaan, the cursed grandson. He does not marry from Shem's lineage (or in the family, so to speak.) What is the result of this marriage (vs. 35)? How does this explain and further the understanding of why the covenant might go through Jacob instead of through Esau? Consider how you respond when things seem to keep going wrong and you can't catch a break? Do you turn to God? Are you patient? Are you willing to make peace with those creating the troubles? How can your patience be increased through the trials you face? How might these trials teach you trust and faith in God who cares for you? How does knowing that Abraham and Isaac have struggles just like you? What hope does this give you? What does this reveal about God to you?

Thursday, June 1st – Genesis 27:1-40

Today we observe the definitive moment between Esau and Jacob. Read verses 1-4. What business is Isaac taking care of today (vs. 4)? So off goes Esau but not all is well. Read verses 5-17. What is Rebekah doing? What does Rebekah know that Isaac may not (25:23)? What does Jacob know that Rebekah and Isaac may not know (25:31-33)? How do these two things tie into what Rebekah is doing in 5-17? What happens next (vss. 18-29)? What finally convinces Isaac that Jacob is Esau (vs. 27)? Look at the blessing in verses 28-29. How does this blessing fulfill what God said about the twins? Now look at verses 30-40. Who has returned? What does Isaac say has happened after he figures it out (vs. 35)? How does Esau react to the news (vss. 36)? Why is there such grief over this? What exactly is the problem regarding the blessing (vs. 37)? What blessing does Isaac finally give Esau, and how will it help him in the end (vss. 39-40)? Have you ever felt cheated, as if someone took what was rightfully yours? While things may occasionally look hopeless, we see that there is power in words that can bless you right out from under the troubles. How can you find this encouraging in times when life seems unfair? We must remember that God did say Jacob was going to be the one. So, things did work according to God's plan. What does this reveal to you about God? Is God in favor of deceitfulness? No, but God works through our mess-ups and struggles to bring about his salvation plan and to fulfill his promises. Consider what you have learned today. Pray thanking God for his wisdom and love.

Friday, June 2nd – Genesis 27:41- 28:9

We finish this week by looking at possible consequences of our actions. Jacob received Esau's blessing because of deception. How is Esau handling it (vs. 41)? Sounds pretty human, doesn't it? Who has overheard Esau's plotting (vs. 42)? What's the plan to prevent Esau's plot (vss. 42-45)? How does Rebekah put the plan into motion (vs. 46)? Knowing he cannot undo what was done, Isaac sends for Jacob and gives him these instructions (vss. 28:1-4). How does Jacob respond to Isaac's instructions (vs. 5)? Once Esau learns of Jacob's departure and why, what does he discern (vs. 8)? What does he do about it (vs. 9)? While Esau marries one of Ishmael's daughters, she is still not from the line of the covenant. Therefore, the line of the covenant will be through Jacob, the one who will marry from Abraham's family. Yet, unlike his father Isaac, Jacob will need to go himself to find his wife, thanks to his deception and the angering of his brother. The risk of not returning is a real risk. What have you learned from the brothers and their behaviors? What have you learned about yourself, because of them? What have you learned about God this week? And finally, how does this all point to your need for Jesus?

Saturday, June 3rd – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Acts 2.