



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

Volume 2: Called & Chosen #7

FIRSTBORN BIRTHRIGHT BLESSING (Jacob & Esau)

Genesis 25



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

Reader #1 Repeat with Congregation 2X

Proverbs 4:23

*“Keep your heart with all diligence,
for out of it are the issues of life.”*

GOD’S PURPOSE FOR ME

I WON’T SELL OUT FOR A POT OF BEANS
BECAUSE I VALUE JESUS’ PROMISE TO ME

1. INTRODUCTION: Last week we left Isaac and Rebekah when they were married and went to live in Isaac's mother's tent. Isaac shared all the wealth of his father with his bride, Rebecca, like our Father God gives to us all the gifts of His Holy Spirit, to make us beautiful and ready to meet Him as His bride at His coming. The treasure of God’s Holy Spirit in our earthen vessels, is a deposit that guarantees our inheritance in Him at His coming. Today, we will study to see how easily we can be tempted to throw our inheritance away in exchange for instant gratification. God wants us to value the birthright of His inheritance and treasure His Holy Spirit, keeping ourselves pure until we see Him coming for His bride.

Objects to Bring: Smooth & Hairy Babies & Legal Document

2. LIFE PARABLE - THE LOST PRINCE



Once there was a wealthy king who was loved by all because he made certain that his people had everything they needed. The king and queen had a baby and brought the little prince home to live in the beautiful palace. The



prince would inherit the palace, the kingdom and all the riches and power that belonged to his father, and his parents loved him dearly.

While the prince was very small, his nurse wanted him for her own boy so she stole him away! The nurse raised the prince as her own little boy in a poor village. The prince had a tiny ring on his finger, and as he grew his new mother put the ring on a chain for him to wear around his neck. She told him that someday his father would know him because of the ring, so to always keep it close to his heart.



The king grieved for his son and sent soldiers to search for him far and wide. Five long years passed and the king could not find his son until one day, a soldier saw a boy working in a field. He went closer to see the small ring, and saw that it was the sign of the king - the lost child had been found! The people of the village rejoiced for the good king's son had been found! The nurse fell at the king's feet and begged his forgiveness. The father forgave the nurse who had loved the boy so much that she had taken him away. The boy was never hungry again, and now the king had a daughter too!

Jesus loves us so much that when we ask Him, He forgives even those things that are hard for us to forgive in ourselves! Sometimes you may get lost in the world, but Jesus wants you to come back to Him because He loves you! All He has is yours, and He is preparing a place for you to live with Him forever in beautiful heaven!

***John 14:3** "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

3. ABRAHAM LIVED A GOOD LONG LIFE AND LEFT BLESSINGS TO HIS CHILDREN.

Besides his son Ishmael born to his concubine Hagar, and his son Isaac born of his wife Sarah, Abraham had children born of concubines, and last he married Keturah, who had six more sons.



Genesis 25:1-6 *“Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah..⁵ And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac. ⁶ But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.”*

Anytime you might think that God cannot use you because you make mistakes, just consider Abraham. In the East it was customary to have concubines, and it was not considered adultery, but still, to have many sons just to send them away as unclaimed so that only Isaac would be his heir, was unkind if not cruel. Abraham was far from perfect but he loved God so much that God called Abraham His friend, so perhaps Abraham grieved for his weakness confessing his sins so that nothing would hinder his relationship with God.

1 John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

When we look at Abraham’s weakness we can see that God’s calling on our lives does not change because we have made a mistake, and He loves us because He is faithful even when we are not.

Genesis 25:7-11 *“And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years. ⁸ Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people. ⁹ And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, ... ¹¹ And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac dwelt by the well Lahairoi.*

What does it mean that Abraham, “was gathered to his people?”

4. THE PHRASE “GATHERED TO HIS FATHERS OR PEOPLE” IS A JEWISH IDIOM MEANING “TO DIE”.

From the Virtual Jewish Library – A Division of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

Decent burial was regarded to be of great importance in ancient Israel, as in the rest of the ancient Near East. Not only the Egyptians, whose extravagant provision for the dead is well known, but also the peoples of Mesopotamia dreaded above all else the



thought of lying unburied. One of the most frequently employed curses found in Mesopotamian texts is: "May the earth not receive your corpses," or the equivalent. In the same way one can measure the importance that Israelites attached to burial by the frequency with which the Bible refers to the fear of being left unburied. Thus, one of the curses for breach of the covenant is: "Thy carcasses shall be food unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth" (Deut. 28:26). Again and again the prophets use this threat, especially Jeremiah. He says, in judgment on King Jehoiakim, "He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem" (22:19).

There is also abundant positive evidence for the importance of burial. Abraham's purchase of the cave at Machpelah as a family tomb (Gen. 23) and the subsequent measures taken by later patriarchs to ensure that they would be buried there (Gen. 49:29–33; 50:25–26) occupy a prominent place in the patriarchal narratives. Biblical biographies ordinarily end with the statement that a man died, and an account of his burial... Tombs of the Israelite period in Palestine show that considerable, though not lavish, care was given by those who could afford it, to the hewing out of tombs and the provision of grave goods. ... The dead do not praise God, they are forgotten and cut off from His hand (Ps. 88:6, 10–12), and in consequence mourning and the burial of the dead are at most peripheral matters in Israelite religion.

5 LATER THE BONES WERE PLACED IN AN OSSUARY.



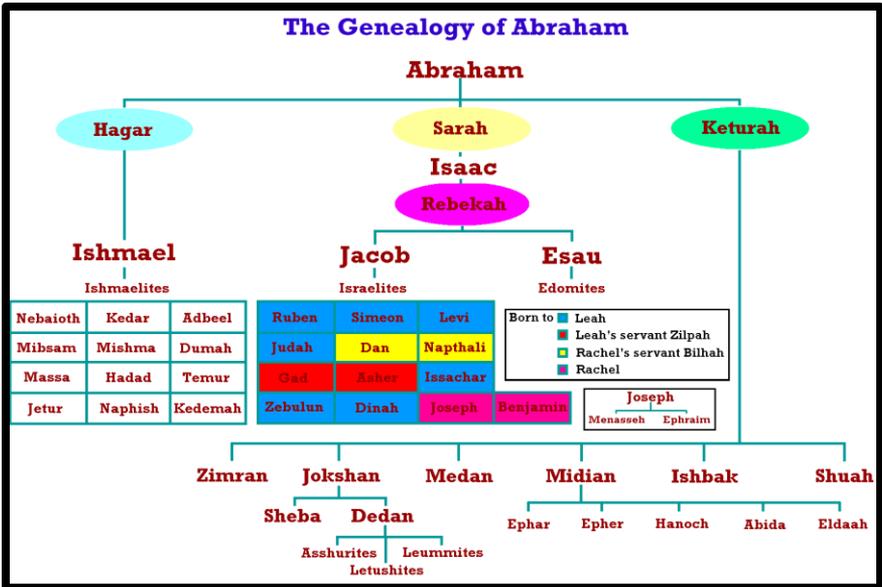
*The one thing expressed most clearly by Israelite burial practices is the ... burial in one's native land at least, and if possible with one's ancestors. "Bury me with my fathers," Jacob's request (Gen. 49:29), was the wish of every ancient Israelite. Thus, the aged Barzillai did not wish to go with David, "that I may die in mine own city, [and be buried] by the grave of my father and of my mother" (II Sam. 19:38); and Jerusalem was beloved to Nehemiah, in exile, as "the city of my fathers' sepulchers" (Neh. 2:5). In harmony with this desire, the tomb most typical of the Israelite period is a natural cave or a chamber cut into soft rock, near the city. Bodies would be laid on rock shelves provided on three sides of the chamber, or on the floor, and as generations of the same family used the tomb, skeletons and grave goods might be heaped up along the sides or put into a side chamber to make room for new burials. **This practice of family burial**, though not universal if only because not all could afford it (see references to the graves of the common people in II Kings 23:6; Jer. 26:23), was common enough to give rise to the Hebrew expressions "to sleep with one's fathers" (e.g., I Kings 11:23) and "to be gathered to one's kin" (Gen. 25:8; et al.) as synonyms for "to die."*

Ossuary boxes are quite small, but just large enough to hold the bones of a deceased person. The family of a person whom had not been buried in the family tomb, after the flesh had turned to dust, would go to place the bones of the deceased into an ossuary box, so the bones could be "gathered" to the literal tomb of his fathers, like as Joseph promised His father Israel that he would gather his bones, in *Genesis 49:29*.



6. ISHMAEL BECAME THE FATHER OF 12 NATIONS.

What ever became of Ishmael? The Bible tells us that God kept His promise to blessed Ishmael who fathered 12 princes who became the 12 Arab nations, and Ishmael died when he was 137 years old.



Genesis 25:12-18 “Now these are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's handmaid, bare unto Abraham: ¹³ And these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam, ¹⁴ And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa, ¹⁵ Hadar, and Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah: ¹⁶ These are the sons of Ishmael, and these are their names, by their towns, and by their castles; twelve princes according to their nations. ¹⁷ And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people....”

The Bible explains the meaning of being gathered to one's people. This expression never meant being gathered to heaven, but meant that the dead were either buried in the family tomb, or if they died away from the tomb of their fathers', at a later date their bones were to be gathered in an ossuary and taken to the family tomb. Their bones awaited the resurrection at the coming of the Lord!

7. WHENEVER ISAAC AND REBEKAH DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO, THEY PRAYED.

Like Abraham and Sarah, after Isaac and Rebekah had been married almost 20 years, they couldn't have any children. It must have seemed to Isaac that God had forgotten His promise, but Isaac trusted God.

Genesis 25:19-21 “And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac: ²⁰And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife.... ²¹And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.”

Isaac asked God to heal Rebekah - and He did! How often do we struggle with the cares of our lives because we forget to ask and believe that God will answer – don't forget to pray!

James 4:2 “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”



Isaac did pray, and Rebekah was pregnant with twins! But Rebekah felt something was terribly wrong because the babies were struggling inside her, so she went to the Lord and asked. We should always ask God whenever we don't know what to do because God always answers our prayers. The answer comes so easily if we but remember to ask! God knew. Did you know that God knew everything about you before you were ever born too! There was a good reason why those babies were struggling, there were two nations inside Rebekah!

Genesis 25:22-23 “And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. ²³And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.”

8. GOD KNEW ALL THINGS FROM BEFORE CREATION.

When it came time for the babies to be born, sure enough there were twins – the firstborn was red and hairy and his little brother trying to be born first, came out holding onto his brother’s heel!



Genesis 25:24-26 “And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. ²⁶ And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.”

Isaac had grown up knowing that he was a special child as firstborn of Abraham, and he saw many other sons sent away. He would have been taught that the Messiah would come through his bloodline so these sons were very important little people. How exciting to know that these babies were given a purpose from God, and so were you!

Romans 9:7-12 “Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. ⁸ That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.... ¹⁰ And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; ¹¹ (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) ¹² It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.”

1 Peter 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

By God’s foreknowledge before creation, before anyone had done anything good or bad, God knew the end from the beginning. God knew every heart, He knew who would choose Him and become elect for salvation, and He already had a plan for every life!

9. GOD KNEW THE HEART OF EVERY PERSON, AND ALL ABOUT YOUR FUTURE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

OBJECT LESSON: *Open the lid of a basket to show two babies!*

(SILENT NOTE: Before class, use glue to stick reddish curly craft hair, or fuzz onto the head and arms of one of the babies but leave the other baby smooth. Tell the children to come and see!

- *Look what I have in this basket - babies just like Jacob and Esau!*
- *When Esau and Jacob were born, Esau was born first; he was red and hairy all over, but Jacob grabbed hold of Esau's heel and was born right with him!*
- *Esau was the firstborn and had the firstborn birthright, but Jacob would take it from him just like God had shown Rebekah.*
- *But God already knew that Esau would choose to be selfish, and have no regard, neither for the precious gifts of God nor his own father, not even for the cherished birthright!*



Genesis 25:27-28 "And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents."²⁸ And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob."



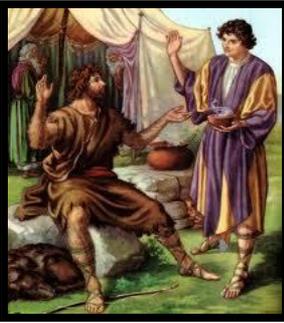
Esau became a good hunter and his dad like the meat he brought home, while Jacob liked to stay inside the tent with his mother. Isaac loved Esau best, but Rebekah favored Jacob. Sometimes we look only on the outside to decide who we like the best, don't we? We might choose the one who is best in sports or the one who is most beautiful, but God chooses His people because they love and honor Him.

10. ONE DAY ESAU MADE A VERY FOOLISH DECISION THAT CHANGED THEIR LIVES FOREVER.

Genesis 25:29-30 *“And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: ³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.”*



Jacob immediately thought of the birthright and what an honor it was to be firstborn, seeing this as the perfect opportunity to get Esau to trade him some stew for the firstborn birthright!



Genesis 25:31-34 *“And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. ³² And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? ³³ And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat...thus Esau despised his birthright.”*

Hebrews 12:14-17 *“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: ¹⁵ Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; ¹⁶ **Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.**”*

Jacob lost no time making Esau swear to sell him the birthright for a bowl of stew right then and there! Esau ate his stew and went along his way like nothing even happened - as though it meant nothing to him. Everybody knew how foolish Esau had been and as a joke called him “Red” after that!

1 Corinthians 2:14 *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

11. GOD’S KINGDOM BIRTHRIGHT IS OF HIGH VALUE.

“Esau was the eldest of the twin sons of Isaac and Rebecca. Jacob was the other twin, who later became Israel. Although Esau was the first of the twins born, Jacob grabbed his heel while he was still in the womb. **Symbolically, this meant he would always seek to have the rights that were traditionally given to his firstborn brother.**

The name Esau means “hairy.” His story reveals that he was a man of the world, a hunter. He might have been a very handsome man but it is never stated that he ever prayed. He was the original Marlboro macho man: one who had no room in his life for God. **Some men are like Esau today—they expect to receive benefits from God without serving Him.** Hebrews 12:16 describes Esau as a “profane” man. The term refers to “that which may be trodden down.” It is an ancient reference to the sacred ground around the temple that was public and commonly trampled down underfoot. It was not holy ground. “Profane” describes a person of bad character. When we read the story of Esau and how he sold his birthright, it should be a wake-up call. The birthright in Israel was determined by primogenitor, the right of the firstborn son to the father’s inheritance. The firstborn male was entitled to inherit twice as much as any sons born later. This patriarchal blessing included a plea to God to confer wealth, honor and respect (Gen. 27:28-29). **But to Esau, the only value of his birthright was what he could trade it for.** No one sells their birthright by accident. It must be done deliberately. **Esau sold cheap what should have been his special treasure: the promise of all the future blessings of God.**



For Believers, our spiritual birthright is our right to inherit the kingdom of God by accepting Christ.

Because our birthright is so precious, it must never be treated cheaply. When you sell out to Satan, you’ve sold everything. Many men feel their godly ancestry will save them. Esau had godly parents and godly grandparents, but relatives guarantee nothing spiritually. Knowing and serving God is an individual choice and cannot be passed down as an heirloom from generation to generation.”

NativeMarriage.com Dr, John Knowles

12. ISRAELITES & GENTILES AS AN ADOPTED PEOPLE.

“Along with the above instances of individuals being taken into human families, the Old Testament refers to Israel as having been brought into God’s family. In Scripture, Israel is referred to as the son of God (Hos. 11:1), by election and adoption (Deut. 14:2). In referring to this, we find the use of *verba solemnia* terminology that is reminiscent of Ancient Near East adoption tablets:

- “I will take you for my people, and I will be your God” (Ex. 6:7).
- “And I will be your God and you will be my people” (Lev. 26:12; Jer. 7:23).
- “And you will be my people and I will be your God” (Jer. 11:4; 30:22; Ezek. 36:28).

Hosea 1:9, is an example of this formula being negated, with God declaring that the Israelites are not His people, and that He is not their God. However, just a chapter later, God points to a restoration of Israel as His people: “You are my people, and he will say: My God!” (Hos. 2:23).

It is this last passage that Paul picks up on in Romans 9:25-26. There, Paul uses the restoration described in Hosea to illustrate the amazing mercy displayed by God in His choosing to bring Gentiles into His family.

Indeed, God’s choice to adopt both Jews and Gentiles never was about merit, but about mercy (Rom. 11:30-32). **This is what makes God’s adoptive love so spectacular – that He does not choose to adopt those who deserve inclusion in His family, but rather those who deserve to be excluded from it. By God’s mercy, wretched paupers are made royal heirs together with Christ. By God’s mercy, wayward sinners are embraced as righteous sons.** By God’s mercy, those whose birth father was the devil can now call God their Father.”



13. THE FATHER OFFERS HIS BIRTHRIGHT TO YOU!

OBJECT VISUAL: (Show a Legal Document in a Black Folder)

What was the meaning of the firstborn birthright? Today, a birthright would be a will. It is a contract that says everything that belonged to the father now belongs to the one named in the will – Esau did not care, but **Jacob wanted that birthright!**



Will you be like Esau and treat the precious birthright gifts of Heaven as though they are no more important than a pot of beans? Or will you **cherish the treasure** God gives to you like Jacob did?

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

Such a treasure we have so often neglected. May we truly grow to value the treasure of Himself that God has placed within our hearts and seek His face to know Him and love Him like He loves us!

1 John 5:20 “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

When you obey God’s command to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus, which is the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, He immerses you in His Holy Spirit just as He promised, and lives in you for always! As God’s very own child, you have the firstborn birthright with all the promises He gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!



Galatians 3:29 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

14. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME

1. We must value the treasure of God's Spirit He gives to us as a deposit in our earthen vessels.
2. Jesus loves us so much He forgives us even for things that are hard for us to forgive in ourselves.
3. God healed Rebekah so she could receive His promise, and God can heal me.
4. The Hebrew expression "gathered to my fathers" or to "sleep with my fathers", meant the person had 'fallen asleep' or died.
5. Always ask God when you don't know what to do because God always answers our prayers.
6. God knew the heart of each and every person and what each would choose, before you were even born.
7. Others may look only on the outside, but God sees your heart.
8. Choose carefully because at a time when you are stressed or too tired to care, one decision can change your life forever.
9. God's promises are important and God's promises are for me.
10. God doesn't want me to be in such a hurry that I forget the things that are the most important.

God left His last will and testament for us in the pages of the Holy Bible and all the blessings promised to Abraham belong to His heirs! Will you be like Jacob to always be watching and reach for all that God has for you? I hope so because God loves you so much and He wants to bless you!

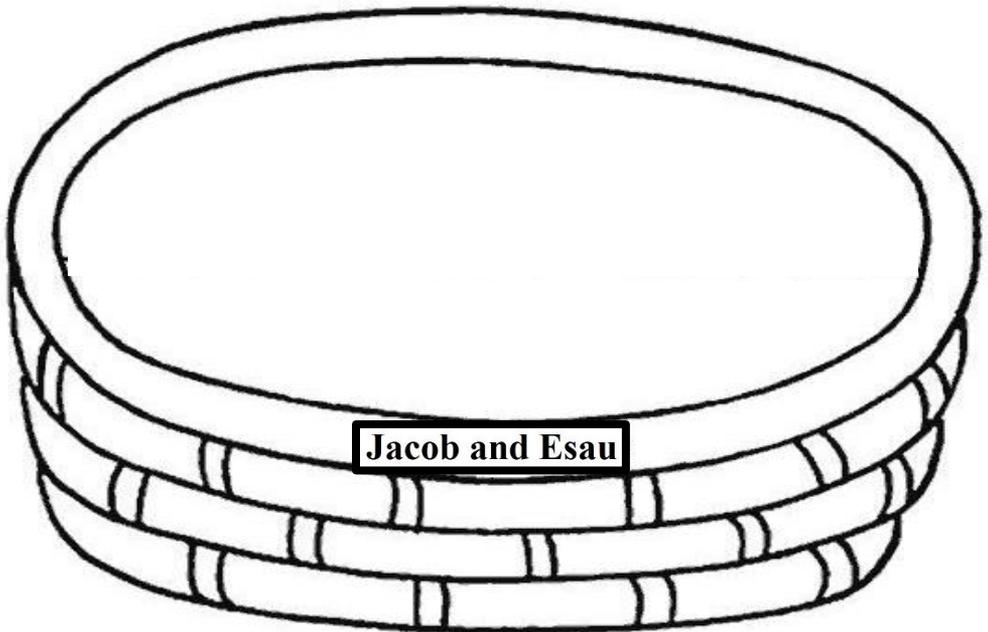
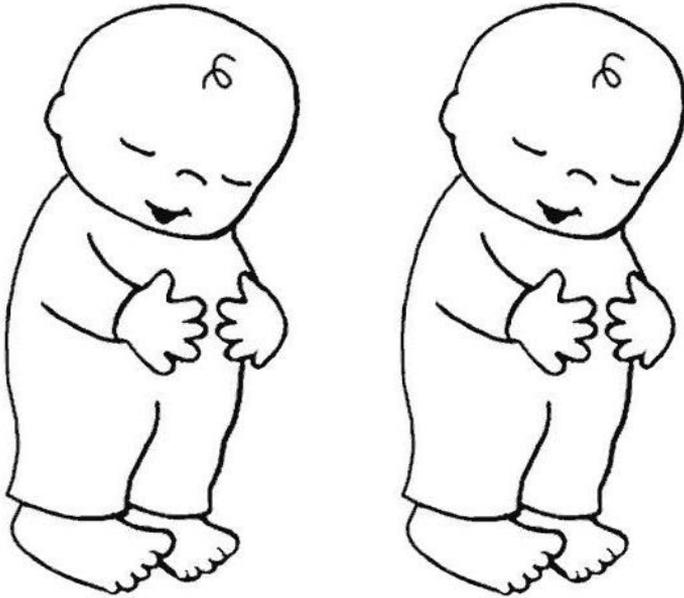


Dear Lord Jesus, I pray You forgive me for wanting everything so fast that I sometimes forget to ask You first. Help me to patiently listen so I will hear Your voice, and wait for Your very best. Thank you for loving me and always being near to show me the right choices to make when I ask You. Thank you for the blessings You have given and for the blessings You have waiting. Help me to listen and obey so I will find and follow the wonderful plan You have for my life. I commit my whole heart to You, in Jesus name, Amen.

15. GOSPEL CRAFT

Directions:

1. Enlarge babies and basket onto 8 ½ x 11 tan color cardstock.
2. Color babies and basket as desired and cut out.
3. Glue curly red craft hair or yarn to Esau's head, hands and feet.
4. Glue on google eyes.
5. Glue a soft flannel blankie and babies inside the basket!



Jacob and Esau

16. Timeline Coloring Page

Esau did not value the promise of his birthright so when he was hungry, he sold it to Jacob for a pot of beans. 1782 BC



Proverbs 4:23

*“Keep your heart with all diligence,
for out of it are the issues of life.”*

GOD’S PURPOSE FOR ME

I WON’T SELL OUT FOR A POT OF BEANS
BECAUSE I VALUE JESUS’ PROMISE TO ME