



Sermon Study Guide

January 13, 2019

Part 2: **Waiting on the Promise**

Gen. 25:19-34 - The Story of Jacob and Esau

Intro to 'Out of Socket'

Welcome to 2019 and to our brand-new sermon series called “Out of Socket: God’s Promise to Put Us Back Together”! This 7-week series is based on a study of the life of Jacob in the Old Testament book of Genesis, and **it will coincide with a new season of Discipleship Groups** at The Story! These groups are designed to deepen your knowledge of the Bible, and they’re starting THIS WEEK. There’s still time to sign up - visit www.bit.ly/tshgroups after the service today and choose the group that works best for you.

Genesis 25:19-26 This is the account of the family line of Abraham’s son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

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. The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.

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.”

When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. 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.

Prior to finally getting pregnant, Isaac and Rebekah struggled with infertility for many years. Have you or someone close to you ever faced that particular issue? If so, how have you seen infertility affect people, their relationships, and their faith in God?

Even when your faith is strong, waiting on God is hard to do. That’s especially true when God doesn’t seem to be coming through. How did Isaac and Rebekah deal with their adversity (see verses 21-22)?

How do you deal with adversity in your life?



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Why do you think God sometimes makes people wait?

Genesis 25:27-34 The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.)

Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”
“Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”
But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

What were some of the differences in personality between Esau and Jacob? Why do they matter in the context of this story?

What symptoms of family dysfunction do you see in this passage? How do you think that impacted the relationship between these two brothers?

Why do you think God chose to use Jacob instead of Esau to carry out His promises?

Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

What is the inheritance that awaits those who believe in Jesus? How do your daily interactions and priorities reflect your faithful anticipation of that inheritance?

How would your life change if you chose to fully believe in God’s faithfulness to deliver your inheritance?