

# Season 1 Study 4: Jacob the Deceiver

# THE BIG YEAR

*A Journey through God's Word*

*What did you read about this week? Anything confusing or encouraging?*

1. What would you find difficult to part with if God asked you to sacrifice it to Him?
2. Isaac was the long-awaited son of Abraham and heir to his estate. What else did Isaac inherit from Abraham?

## READ GENESIS 27:1-41 TOGETHER

3. Usually the elder son would receive the blessing of the father and become the outright heir of his estate. In this story, the younger son receives the blessing through deceit. This was, however, prophesied (see **Genesis 25:21-23**). Discuss whether God used the deceit of Rebekah and Jacob to fulfil His Word.
4. In receiving this blessing Jacob becomes heir to the promises and covenant passed down from his grandfather Abraham. Esau is excluded from these. Why did God choose Jacob over Esau (see **Malachi 1:2-3**)?
5. Read **Genesis 25:27-34**. Knowing that Esau had in fact despised his birthright in this way, how does this change the way you see the outcome of the story? Do we forsake or despise our own 'spiritual inheritance'?
6. Look carefully at the specifics of Isaac's blessing over Jacob in **Genesis 27:28-29**. What clues are in this text that the blessing does not extend only to Jacob, but to his descendants? How was this prophecy fulfilled?
7. In **Genesis 27:27**, Jacob begins his betrayal with a kiss. Sound familiar? Who else was betrayed with a kiss?
8. Knowing that what he had done to Esau would put Jacob in danger, his mother and father send him away to his uncle Laban. But first, Isaac blesses Jacob again (**Genesis 28:1-5**). Why did Isaac not simply revoke his blessing, or 'take it back' and bless Esau as he had intended? Why is the blessing renewed?
9. Read **Romans 8:28-31**. Those who know Christ have been chosen, like Jacob was, to receive the inheritance of the firstborn. Who, according to this Scripture, is the firstborn? What is His inheritance? What inheritance can we then hope for?
10. Read **Galatians 3:29**. In what way are we, 21st Century South African Christians, the fulfilment of God's promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named..."  
By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. (Heb 11:17, 18 & 20)*