

FAITH LESSONS

Genesis 25:19—27:40

The LORD said to [Rebekah], “Two nations are in your womb...one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.” Genesis 25:23

1. Read Genesis 25:19–28. What “condition” does Isaac’s wife, Rebekah (like Abraham’s Sarah), have that threatens the fulfillment of God’s promises? Why do you think God includes this condition in his plan to make a great nation and people? (Genesis 18:14; 26:4)
2. What does Rebekah do when she experiences problems in her pregnancy? How does God tell us to respond when we experience difficulties? (Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Peter 5:7)
3. What kind of relationship does the Lord say will exist between Isaac and Rebekah’s twins and their descendants? How is this played out even in their birth?
4. Describe the differences between the twins, Esau and Jacob. (Look ahead to Genesis 27:11.)
5. Read Genesis 25:29–34. Esau’s birthright included a double share of the estate, which meant that Jacob would receive nothing. This birthright also included the inheritance of the promises of God.
 - a. Describe the circumstances that bring Esau to sell his birthright to Jacob.
 - b. What does his reason for selling his birthright reveal about his heart and mind? (See Philippians 3:19; Hebrews 12:16–17.)
6. Read Genesis 26:1–35. God directly and indirectly reveals himself numerous times during Isaac’s time in Gerar. List all the ways you can see God at work.
7. How does Esau show contempt for the Lord and his family’s values by his marriage to the Hittite women (verses 34–35)? (Recall God’s words in Genesis 2:23–24, and Abraham’s concern in Genesis 24:3–4.)

8. Read Genesis 27:1–40. What should have been a joyous and public occasion, the giving of the blessing, becomes instead an occasion for deception and intrigue. How is each character committed to his or her own agenda, and what does each do to accomplish it?

Character	Personal agenda	Action to accomplish it
Isaac		
Rebekah		
Jacob		
Esau		

9. Rebekah loves Jacob, but how does all her scheming to get what she wants actually work out for her in the end? (verses 42–45)

10. Recall God’s plan for Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25:23. In spite of the sinful attitudes and actions of the characters on stage in this drama, how is God’s plan accomplished? (Genesis 25:23; 26:2–5; 27:27–29)

11. Think about a difficult relationship in your life. Consider how you might be hampering reconciliation by stubbornly clinging to your own agenda. In the form of a specific prayer request, state what you need from God. Offer your request to God with thanksgiving.