**Week of November 11, 2018**

**Genesis 27:5-10, 18-19, 21-29**

**5**Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back, **6**Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, **7**‘Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.’ **8**Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: **9**Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. **10**Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies.”

**18**He went to his father and said, “My father.”

“Yes, my son,” he answered. “Who is it?”

**19**Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing.”

**21**Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not.”

**22**Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” **23**He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him. **24**“Are you really my son Esau?” he asked.

“I am,” he replied.

**25**Then he said, “My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing.”

Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank. **26**Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come here, my son, and kiss me.”

**27**So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said,

“Ah, the smell of my son
    is like the smell of a field
    that the Lord has blessed.
**28**May God give you heaven’s dew
    and earth’s richness—
    an abundance of grain and new wine.
**29**May nations serve you
    and peoples bow down to you.
Be lord over your brothers,
    and may the sons of your mother bow down to you.
May those who curse you be cursed
    and those who bless you be blessed.”

**Understanding the Scriptures**

The Bible lesson continues its focus on the family life of Isaac and Rebekah, and Abraham’s grandsons, Jacob and Esau. Isaac realized it was time to pass on the blessing to his firstborn son. Isaac called Esau and gave him specific instruction to hunt for some food and bring back, so Isaac could eat then give Esau the blessing before he died. The “blessing” discussed in this passage is to be distinguishes from the birthright in Genesis 25:29-34. The birthright deals with inheritance, while the blessing deals with spiritual destiny.

When Esau went out to hunt for the food, Rebekah (who had overheard the conversations) called Jacob and led him in a game of deception. Jacob slowness to follow Rebekah’s direction is because he was concerned with the feasibility of her plan, not with its injustice or ethical problems. Rebekah, however, insisted. Rebekah’s addition of the words “before the Lord” in verse 7 indicates she believes she is doing as the oracle prescribed, helping Jacob take the birthright, which she understands to be God’s will.

Romans 9:10-16 mentions God’s sovereign will of giving Jacob the blessing over his older brother. The deception was sealed with a kiss and the covenant blessing was bestowed upon Jacob. Isaac’s blessing echoes God’s promise to his father, Abraham, in Genesis 12:3, developing a theme in Genesis whereby God’s blessing is mediated to others through members of the unique line. When Esau returned to his father, Isaac realized he had been tricked. Esau begged for a blessing and he received it, but he realized he would be a servant to his brothr. Esau despised his brother. (Excerpts for the Faith Series Youth Teacher’s Guide)

