**Week of November 4, 2018**

**Genesis 25:19-34**

**19**This *is* the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham’s son. Abraham begot Isaac. **20**Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian. **21**Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she *was* barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. **22**But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If *all is* well, why *am I like* this?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.

**23**And the Lord said to her:

“Two nations *are* in your womb,  
Two peoples shall be separated from your body;  
*One* people shall be stronger than the other,  
And the older shall serve the younger.”

**24**So when her days were fulfilled *for her* to give birth, indeed *there were* twins in her womb. **25**And the first came out red. *He was* like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2025%3A19%2D34#fen-NKJV-684a)]Esau. **26**Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau’s heel; so his name was called [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2025%3A19%2D34#fen-NKJV-685b)]Jacob. Isaac *was* sixty years old when she bore them.

**27**So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2025%3A19%2D34#fen-NKJV-686c)]mild man, dwelling in tents. **28**And Isaac loved Esau because he ate *of his* game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Esau Sells His Birthright

**29**Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he *was* weary. **30**And Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with that same red *stew,* for I *am* weary.” Therefore his name was called [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2025%3A19%2D34#fen-NKJV-689d)]Edom.

**31**But Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of this day.”

**32**And Esau said, “Look, I *am* about to die; so what *is* this birthright to me?”

**33**Then Jacob said, [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2025%3A19%2D34#fen-NKJV-692e)]“Swear to me as of this day.”

So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. **34**And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised *his* birthright.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

Today’s scripture begins with a brief account of the family tree of Isaac, the son of Abraham. Isaac was forty (40) years old when he married Rebekah. She was childless for many years. Isaac prayed on behalf of Rebekah that the Lord would grant her the opportunity to have children and the God heard and answered his prayers. Rebekah became pregnant and she was blessed with twins boys but it appeared as if there was unrest within her between the two. God told Rebekah that the two boys inside of her represented two nations and that the eldest would serve the youngest. The story of Jacob and Esau symbolizes the conflict between neighboring nations. Jacob represents Israel; Esau represent Edom. God said one would be stronger than the other. At the time the story was told, Edom was subject to Israel. Rebekah gave birth to twins named Esau and Jacob. It was evident that Isaac and Rebekah favored one the sons over the other. Isaac favored Esau, while Rebekah preferred Jacob. The favoritism of parents toward their children oftentimes leads to conflict and sibling rivalry. Famished after a long day in the fields, Esau asked his brother for something to eat. Jacob offered to share the soup under the condition that Esau sell his birthright to him; Esau agreed. Birthright “denotes the special privileges and advantages belonging to the first-born son among the Jews. The first-born son had also allotted to him a double portion of the paternal inheritance”. Jacob took advantage of his brother at a very vulnerable time for his own selfish gain. God achieved his divine purpose through the situation despite the flaws of all parties involved (to include dishonesty, selfishness, favoritism, and revenge). Human imperfection dos not hinder or override God’s purpose. (Excerpts for the Faith Series Youth Teacher’s Guide)

