



Beginnings 12

3/27/22

Genesis 25, 27, 33, 35

1. The names of Jacob and Esau become significant. In the story of their birth in Genesis 25:24-26, Esau is described as red. The Hebrew word for red is *edom*, and Esau becomes the father of the nation of Edom. Jacob means, “heel” because he was grasping his brother’s heel as he was born. This name would come to mean “deceiver” because of his actions.

**Do you know what your name means? If not, do a quick Google search!

**Does your name or the names of your children (if you have any) or relatives mean anything to you?

2. Jacob’s actions at his birth foreshadowed his actions as an adult. Right from the get-go it seems as if he was grasping for something that wasn’t his.

**What natural tendencies like Jacob’s do you have that God has shown you to be unhealthy?

3. In Genesis 27, we read how Jacob had to tell more lies in order for the first lie to hold up.

**If you are willing to share, what similar experiences with telling lies have you had?

**If you pulled your grand scheme, how did you feel about it then? And how do you feel about it now?

4. After the events of chapter 27, Jacob flees Esau because he wants to kill him. In chapter 33, the two meet again. Ron described how Esau’s heart had changed and he no longer held a grudge against his brother. Ron mentioned that “just because Jacob was chosen doesn’t mean Esau is rejected.”

**Do you feel as though you have been rejected because others seem to be “blessed” more than you?

**How do you define blessing?

For more discussion: When God describes his blessing to the patriarchs of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, he says “be fruitful and multiply” many times (Genesis 35:11 is one of them, which applies to Jacob). Remember that this blessing is tied to the Image of God, described in Genesis 1:26-28. To be made in the Image of God means that we are to reflect God in this world so that people can see who He is.

**How do these blessings apply to us today?

**Is the only way to be fruitful to have children?

**How have you been working to reflect God to the people you meet every day?