

The Family Drama That Shapes Us: **Jacob & Esau**

June 6 & 7, 2026

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Genesis 25:22-23 | ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ The LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.”

Genesis 29:25-27 | ²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?” ²⁶ Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. ²⁷ Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.”

Genesis 33:3-4 | ³ He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. ⁴ But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.

MORAL OF THE STORY: God can restore the most difficult relationships.

1. **MANIPULATION** and **DECEIT** damage relationships.
2. Allow God’s **GRACE** to transform your heart.
3. Pursue **RECONCILIATION** after deep hurts.

CONSIDER THIS: In which relationship do you need to choose reconciliation over continued hurt?

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Further Study & Discussion Questions

My Story

1. Have you ever made a decision you regretted almost immediately?
2. Do you have any crazy family drama stories (that are appropriate to share)?

I Didn't Know That ...

1. Why was the birthright such a significant inheritance in ancient Israel?
2. What surprised you most about the family dynamics between Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau?
3. Why do you think Rebekah participated in the deception?

Main Characters

1. Which brother do you relate to more—Esau or Jacob? Why?
2. Is there a “lesser” character that stood out to you? Why?
3. Explain how you think God used Laban in the story?
4. How did God's encounter with Jacob change him?

Action Steps

1. In which relationships are you most tempted to be divisive or manipulative?
2. Are there strained relationships in your life where you now see your part in the tension?
3. Is there a relationship that needs reconciliation?