

**Session 1 (December 2, 2018)**  
**Genesis 27:18-29 – The Deceiver**

**Theme:** God's promise carried through Jacob.

**Introduction**

One of the most interesting stories in the book of Genesis is found in Genesis 27. It is the account of Jacob deceiving his father, Isaac, and receiving a blessing that was not rightfully his. Many questions arise when we read this story. For instance, we wonder how could Jacob trick his father that way?; how could Rebekah, Isaac's wife, conceive of this type of plan?; how could any good come from this?; other questions surface as well.

While some of our questions may not be answered, there are certain facets of this account that do instruct us as we walk with the Lord. In today's lesson, we will examine this passage to see what concepts stand out. Next, we will think about how those concepts apply in our lives today.

**A Deceitful Son** (Gen. 27:18-23). As the curtain lifts at this point in the narrative, we see Jacob coming in to where his father, Isaac, is staying. The plot to deceive Isaac now begins to unfold (Gen. 27:5-17). The depth of Jacob's deceit is manifested in at least two ways. First, Jacob blatantly lies about who he is when questioned specifically by his father (vv. 18-19). He claimed to be his brother, Esau. Second, Jacob attributes his success in hunting to God (v. 20). In his commentary on Genesis, Kenneth Mathews claimed that this response was blasphemous! How was this blasphemous? Jacob gives credit to God for work that his mother, Rebekah, had done.

**A Deceived Father** (Gen. 27:24-27). Perhaps Jacob thought that deceiving his father would not be too difficult considering his father's physical limitations (Gen. 27:1). One of the issues that Isaac faced as he grew older was poor eyesight. Due to his limited ability to see, Isaac sought to verify which son was standing before him. First, as already discussed, he asked about the identity of this son. Jacob lied. Apparently, Isaac suspected that something was not right. The voice sounded like Jacob's! To confirm if this was truly Esau or not, Isaac asked for Jacob to come closer so that he could feel his skin (v. 21). When he felt Jacob's hands, he was convinced it really was Esau (vv. 22-23). The touch of Jacob's hands was enough to trick Isaac.

**A Stolen Blessing** (Gen. 27:28-29). Based on the information presented to Isaac, he determined that Esau, in fact, was there with him. Isaac ate some of the meal that had been prepared by Rebekah. After he ate, he blessed Jacob. To understand fully why Jacob desired the blessing and why Esau was so upset he was not blessed, one has to consider the significance of the concept of blessing in biblical times. In Old Testament times, a blessing was a significant event. On this occasion, a father would pass down to his oldest son authority and property and other benefits. The contents of Isaac's blessing for Jacob are listed in Gen. 27:28-29. Isaac's blessing included land that would be fruitful and people that would serve Jacob.

## **Conclusion**

Jacob tricked his father, Isaac, and received the blessing which belonged to Esau. Even in this, though, God's plan continued on. In fact, one of the truths this story teaches is exactly that: God accomplishes His purposed in spite of our sin.