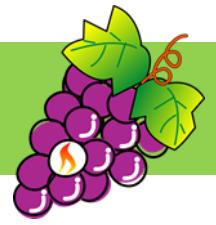




LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 28th July 2024



Genesis 27:1-28:5 Happy families

Warm Up

What are your favourite family occasions ? Why? Which ones do you try to avoid? Why? Why is it we can be so proud of our family and yet find them a challenge to be with at times?

Background and context

Today's passage, whilst long, is important in the development of Jacob's story. It is a series of seven conversations between different characters, in which we see some interesting family dynamics being revealed. It is fair to say that it isn't a picture of domestic harmony. Isaac seems to favour Esau whilst Rebekah favours Jacob. Also the Hebrew word for blessing (Berakah) occurs seven times. This seems to be significant.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Genesis 27:1-28:5. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?



1. Can you recall from the previous study, how God's plans do not proceed by nature but by the power of His Spirit?
2. In what ways does the story describe the damage sin has done to families?
3. How are the characteristics of this biblical family repeated in modern families? Do you have any personal experience of this?
4. Why did God choose this family to work through? How did Jesus do something similar in the Gospels?
5. What do you think about this quote:
(God) intends to restore you to the radiant resplendence for which you were created. And that is dependent not on you keeping yourself clean but on you taking your mess to Him. (Gentle and Lowly, p.160)
6. In what ways do modern people put on disguises in pursuit of a blessing?
7. In this story Jacob's blessing comes at the expense of Esau. How do we receive the blessing God intends to give us?

Discipleship and Application



8. **Read Col.1:15,22.** How does Jesus fulfil the promise that the older will serve the younger?
9. **Read Eph3:14ff.** How does the Holy Spirit enable us to experience the blessing that God the Father has bestowed on us through Jesus?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.