

## Family Faith Companion Reading Plan for Jacob & Esau (part 1)

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First United Methodist Church  
Ann Arbor, MI

| Read in<br>Genesis... | Talk about...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25:19-23              | Can your child draw out a family tree with the characters in our story?<br>What sort of questions would you like to ask God?                                                                                                                                    |
| 25:24-26              | Do you know what your name means? Read the footnotes in the Bible for the twins names. In Bible times names had great meaning. What do you think of Jacob's name meaning "deceiver?"                                                                            |
| 25:27-28              | Do you suppose that Isaac and Rebekah were wrong to have favorites?<br>What sort of trouble did this lead to?                                                                                                                                                   |
| 25:29-33              | Have you ever been so hungry that you would trade something valuable just to be able to eat?<br>Have you ever taken advantage of a family member who was vulnerable in some way?<br>Is forgiveness necessary?                                                   |
| 25:34                 | What were the rights of the firstborn son? (Ans: He would inherit a larger amount of property and would be leader of the family.) Why do you suppose Esau didn't seem to care about his birthright?                                                             |
| 27:1-4                | We typically equate "blessing" with approval (example: I approve of your choice of a university to attend). In Bible times a blessing was very important and held great promise. How do you suppose it would have felt to have been "blessed" in such a manner? |
| 27:5-13               | What is Rebekah suggesting? What do you think of Jacob's response? (Doesn't protest too hardily!)<br>Why do you suppose this story (about deceit!) is in the Bible?                                                                                             |
| 27:14-17              | Review what God told Rebekah about her sons – Genesis 25:23. Why do you suppose she felt as though she had to act in order for God's plan to happen? When have you felt it necessary to be in charge?                                                           |
| 27:18-24              | Do you get the feeling that Isaac knows he's being tricked?<br>Why do you suppose he plays along?                                                                                                                                                               |
| 27:25-29              | Do you suppose that God approves of these actions? What does this story teach us about the power of words? Whom can you bless with your words?                                                                                                                  |
| 27:30-38              | How would you feel if you were Esau? What have you learned from this story?                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 27:41-43<br>28:1-5    | Why did Jacob run away? What does this imply about what he has done?<br>Have you ever felt like running away?                                                                                                                                                   |
| 28:10-15              | How do you suppose it felt to use a stone as a pillow? What does the dream mean to you?                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 17:1-8<br>28:12-15    | Abram was the grandfather of Jacob. What does it mean that God repeats his promise to Jacob?<br>Review the promises God has made with you! (Ephesians 2:8 & Romans 5:2 are a couple.)                                                                           |
| 28:10-17              | As you re-read this passage, consider how amazing it is that, in spite of what Jacob has done, God still offers grace! What does this mean for you?                                                                                                             |
| 28:18-22              | Have you ever been surprised by God's presence?<br>How have you confirmed a meeting with God?                                                                                                                                                                   |

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