

# Choices

## Genesis 25:19-34 | July 5, 2020

**Context:** Genesis 12-50 focuses on God's plan to rescue humanity through Abraham's family, and this chapter is part of a section (chapters 25-36) that introduces us to the lives of Isaac and his sons.

### Choices:

- Jacob: chose to take advantage of brother's unfortunate situation
- Esau: chose to trade his birthright for a single meal
- God: sovereignly chose Jacob by his grace

**Although humans often make bad choices,**

### Lessons:

1. It is a huge mistake to choose to satisfy physical longings at the expense of more important spiritual realities (Hebrews 12:16-17).
2. Even when circumstances seem overwhelming, we can rest in a God who is sovereign and full of grace (Matthew 20:1-16; John 16:33; Ephesians 1:4-8; Revelation 17:14).

### Discussion Questions:

1. What do you learn about God from this story? About sin? About ourselves?
2. Can you think of additional Biblical evidence of the sinful choices of humanity, the sovereign choices of God, or a contrast between the two?
3. What is one practical way that you can apply God's Word from Genesis 25 to your life this week?



**Questions for Parents to use with their children:**

- 1. Begin your time by praying that God would open your eyes to who He is as you look at His Word.**
- 2. Next, read Genesis 25:19-34 out loud together.**

**3. What did you hear or see about God from the passage?**

*Answer: God answers prayer. He heard Isaac's prayer for Rebekah to have children. He also answered Rebekah's prayer as to what was going on in her womb. God also sovereignly chose Jacob over Esau. From Jacob would come the nation of Israel and it would be the stronger nation that Esau's descendants would serve. Read Romans 9:9-16.*

**4. What do you observe about humanity?**

*Answer: Since the fall of humanity, there has been strife in families. Conflict between brothers has been a theme throughout the book of Genesis. We will see this with Jacob and Esau in the next 11 chapters.*

**5. Names were significant in Biblical times. They sometimes revealed God's message and a person's identity, especially their family history and ties. What do you think the name Jacob means based on our passage for the week? Do you know why that might be important?**

*Answer: According to the ESV Study Bible, "Jacob" resembles the Hebrew term for heel and has undertones of a "deceiver." To grab someone by the heel in Hebrew culture was a figure of speech used to "deceive." Later on in the story Jacob deceives Esau in order to steal his birthright. The firstborn in those times received the family's inheritance.*

**6. As we will see in the coming weeks, God was in the process of changing Jacob. How has God been changing you or making you more like Jesus in your character? How might you apply today's passage and the sermon you heard to your lives as a family?**