

November 15, 2020

The Blessing-Genesis 27: 1-45

I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go. (Genesis 28:15)

Bible Lesson

Jacob now has his brother's birthright, but to receive the inheritance he must also receive the full blessing from his father, Isaac. To make this happen, Rebecca comes up with a plan to deceive Isaac. The plan involves Jacob dressing in such a way that he appears to be his brother Esau. Jacob makes himself very hairy and brings his father savory food. Isaac is very old and cannot see so he depends on smell and touch to assure himself the person before him is really Esau. Though Isaac still questions the identity of "Esau," he does bestow his blessing on Jacob. When Esau discovers that he has been robbed of his father's blessing, he wants to kill Jacob. Esau is very angry, upset, and confused. It seems that this complicated story only results in more chaos. Rebecca sends Jacob away, and Isaac finally does give Esau a blessing. However, the blessing is more like banishment. Isaac says that Esau will move far away and will serve his brother. Everyone in this story must have been feeling completely overwhelmed. It's easy to get overwhelmed when life gets hard. When there is chaos all around us, we sometimes lose our ability to see clearly, and we don't always respond in helpful and faithful ways. In fact, this story shows us what not to do. But this story also gives us the opportunity to act differently. We can feel, notice, and name our emotions in hard times, and then proceed by asking God to be with us. The mess of our lives might not go away. But when we go to God, we can pause even for just a moment and feel the stillness of God's presence and be reminded we do not have to face this life alone.

Today's faith word is *blessing*. A blessing is all the things God provides.

Wonder together:

- How do you know you are blessed?
- Who was blessed in today's Bible story?
- Does everyone deserved to be blessed?
- How do you feel when someone hurts you? How do you respond?

God is with us when things seem right and when things seem wrong; and God wants us to know we can ask God for help when we are upset, confused, or angry.

Activity

Use My Recipe printable or create your own.

Pray

Each of us is a blessing and is loved by God. Let's remember God's blessing on our lives.

Amen.