

Deception for a Blessing

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Part #13 in the "Genesis" Series of Matthew Rogers
Don Viers Preaching
07-05-26*

Opening Prayer

- Pray that God would expose any areas where our personal preferences or plans are overriding His clear Word.
- Ask the Lord to help us trust His timing instead of taking matters into our own hands.

Ice Breaker

When was the last time you had a plan that seemed perfect—only for it to go sideways? How did you respond?

Key Scripture

Genesis 27:19 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing."

Sermon Summary

In Genesis 27, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau all create their own plans involving favoritism, manipulation, deception, and regret. Instead of trusting God's earlier promise that the older would serve the younger, each family member tries to seize control—with painful consequences. The story reminds us that while human plans fail and cause brokenness, God's covenant promise continues forward by grace alone, ultimately pointing us to Jesus who secures the blessing we don't deserve.

Discussion Point 1: When Preference Overrides Promise

Scripture: Genesis 25:28 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Point Summary:

Isaac favored Esau and attempted to give him the covenant blessing in secret, ignoring God's earlier declaration and Esau's own choices. Personal preferences can cloud our spiritual judgment and lead us to override what God has already said.

Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where in your life might personal preferences (for people, comfort, or desires) be louder than God's Word right now?
2. How have you seen favoritism or bias create problems in families, workplaces, or even church?

Discussion Point 2: When Control Replaces Trust

Scripture: Genesis 27:6-7 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau..."

Point Summary:

Rebekah overhears Isaac and immediately launches a deceptive plan instead of praying or reminding her husband of God's promise. She tries to "help God" through manipulation. A good outcome never justifies sinful methods.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what areas (relationships, career, family, ministry) are you tempted to manipulate circumstances instead of trusting God's timing?
2. Why is it so easy to justify "small" compromises when we think the end result will honor God?

Discussion Point 3: When Compromise Replaces Conviction

Scripture: Genesis 27:24 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

"Are you really my son Esau?" he asked. "I am," he replied.

Point Summary:

Jacob's main concern was getting caught, not whether the deception was wrong. He even used God's name to support his lies. Fear can silence our convictions, but God's grace is greater than our failures and the cycle of sin.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where has fear of consequences kept you from standing up for what is right?
2. What's the difference between regret over consequences and true repentance over sin in your own life?

Wrap-Up

Genesis 27 shows a family where everyone's plans—rooted in favoritism, control, deception, and regret—led to broken relationships and pain. Yet through it all, God's covenant promise moved forward because His faithfulness never depends on our perfection. In the same way, Jesus took our curse so we could receive the blessing we never earned.

Challenge

This week, ask God to search your heart for any area where you are scheming, manipulating, or compromising instead of trusting Him. Take one specific step toward repentance and surrender—perhaps by confessing something to Him (or a trusted person) and choosing obedience. If your group is participating in a Prayer Journey or similar initiative, commit to praying daily for God's plan to prevail in your life and family.

Closing Prayer

- Confess areas of control, deception, or regret and ask for true repentance.
- Thank God that His grace is greater than our failures and that His plans always stand.
- Pray for restored relationships and renewed trust in His timing and faithfulness.

Handout

Life Group Handout: Deception for a Blessing (Genesis 27)

Key Verse to Memorize: Galatians 3:13-14 (NIV) – “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us... so that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus.”

Quick Reflection Questions:

1. Which character’s struggle (Isaac’s favoritism, Rebekah’s control, Jacob’s compromise, or Esau’s regret) hits closest to home for you?
2. Where do you need to stop striving and simply trust God’s plan this week?
3. Write out a short prayer releasing control to God.

Action Step: Identify one “plan” you’ve been holding onto. Surrender it to God in prayer and take a step of honest trust or repentance. Share with the group next time how God is at work.

“God’s plans have never depended on our ability to control the outcome. They have always depended on His faithfulness.”