

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Beginnings, Blessings, and Battles

October 19 & 20, 2019

Whether we feel blessed or not by our parents has tremendous implications for our journey, and often sets a template for how we seek to meet our need for blessing throughout early adulthood. Like all of us, Jacob seeks the affirmation of his father, but does so in a way that breaks relationship. How did your family of origin shape you and your early faith?

SCRIPTURE TEXT: GENESIS 27: 1-41

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Jacob comes from a seriously dysfunctional family, and that bleeds over into conflict with his brother. His father Isaac resolves to entail all the honor and power that was wrapped up in the promise upon Esau, his eldest son. Rebekah is contriving to procure the blessing for Jacob, which was designed for Esau. God left her to herself to take this indirect course to bless the wrong son, that God might have the glory of bringing good out of evil.

Three things Jacob is blessed with: (1.) Plenty, (Genesis 27:28) Heaven and earth concurring to make him rich. (2.) Power, (Genesis 27:29) Particularly dominion over his brother, Esau and his posterity. (3.) Prevalence with God, and a great interest in heaven, Cursed be every one that curses him- Let God be a friend to all thy friends, and an enemy to all your enemies.

There are a few truths that come from this story:

- God's blessing is forever, no matter what the circumstances it comes through.
- God makes good out of our own evil thoughts or desires.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to have God's blessing in your life? How did you receive the blessing?
- Do you seek the blessing of others in your life?
- What happens when you get the blessing....and what happens when you don't?

APPLICATION: This week, reflect on the ways your family origin shaped your faith. Consider how you might be affecting those around you in their faith story. How can God further use your story to shape theirs?