prayer requests

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.

study notes

eastview
christian church

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July 23, 2017

Sermon Study

Salvation People
Genesis 25:19-34

vision

Eastview Christian Church is a fearless church of Christ followers whose ridiculous love and dangerous witness are irresistible.

AUTHOR'S NOTE (summary of key points for this study)

This passage is a story of how God's chosen Abrahamic line advanced through Jacob, though he was not the first-born son of Isaac. The following questions will help you frame this study. How does God move in our lives by selecting us for His will and purpose? Do we accept God's individual purpose for each of us, and for our family members and children, or are we rebellious and contrary?

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

We are not conditioned to think of inheritance patterns the way the Israelites did, but in Isaac's day, the first-born was to receive a double portion, and a primary blessing. God turned that tradition on its ear in this family!

1. Where are you in the birth order of your family? Did you grow up in a family where the first-born, or the first-born son received preferential treatment? How do you feel about special treatment for the oldest?

2. Do you know any twins quite well? Are they very alike or very different in temperament? In looks?

Go
(your group on mission)

Make it your mission, this week, to find someone to encourage as that person struggles with belief in Christ, or with his or her perceived lack of gifting. Make a phone call, write a note or send an e-mail. Tell a friend or family member how his or her "quirky" personality trait is a gift from the Lord and can be offered to the Lord for His glory and purposes. Allow the same grace to yourself as you evaluate your service and gifts.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Key Scripture
Genesis 25:23: "Two nations are in your womb and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

The words "great" and "insignificant," (as in the Hebrew translation of this verse above) must be considered from God's perspective. Esau, in God's plan, was not the greater, and Jacob was not insignificant.

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading prayer.

2. Read Genesis 25:19-34 as a group.

(Genesis 25:19-23)

3. Once again, the chosen line of Abraham hits a snag with Isaac and Rebekah having trouble conceiving a child. What pitfall did Isaac avoid that his father Abraham had fallen into trying to have a family?

4. How did Isaac handle this problem of not having children when he and Rebekah had been married nearly 20 years?

5. Similarly, how did Rebekah handle her concerns about her pregnancy?

6. What lesson can we take from the way this Biblical couple deals with stress and disappointment? Is this our first response? How can we change our patterns of reaction to life's problems?

7. How would you have received God's answer to Rebekah's inquiry of the Lord? (see verse 23). We know "the rest of the story" but imagine how confusing these pronouncements must have been at the time!

(Genesis 25:24-28)

8. What was unusual about the actual birth of the twins? What do you make of this?

9. Compare these two sons of Isaac and Rebekah. Mention physical and personality differences. Can such differences work for us and for God's Kingdom?

10. Note that each parent had a "favorite." How is this harmful to the parents' relationship to each other and to the children to have such obvious preferences?

(Genesis 25:29-34)

11. How do you explain Esau's indifference to his birthright; trading it away for a meal? Are we sometimes capricious about the gifts God gives us? Give examples.

Give
(your group serving each other)

Do we accept the reality that God has chosen us and has a purpose for each of us?

Turn to the person next to you (pair off) and tell that person one trait of his/hers that you admire and would love to see them use, or use in greater measure for the Kingdom.