

These questions are for the August 30, 2026, message, “Jacob, the Imposter.” Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 27:18-34) out loud.

Passage Outline

1. What is “the blessing”? (27:1-4)
 - a) The formal recognition of the faithfulness of God to the next generation.
 - b) The blessing makes the covenant promise of God clearly conferred.
2. Why we long for the blessing (27:5-10).
 - a) We long for the best and most respected people to confer honor on us.
 - b) If not from family, we will search for it in other arenas, (work, hobbies, money).
3. Jacob, the imposter (27:18-25).
 - a) Jacob deceives his aging father in order to steal the blessing from Esau.
 - b) He gains the blessing, but in doing so he knows that he lied—he is the imposter.
 - i. Imposters struggle with anger and fear (Jacob flees the scene).
 - ii. Imposters must learn how to trust God without scheming.
4. Undeserved blessing (27:26-29).
 - a) God confers the blessing on the son of promise, Jacob (25:23; 29:34; 26:34-35).
 - b) God is sovereign over the great challenges of family dysfunction.
 - c) The ultimate blessing is not to Jacob, but Jesus, who is the “Firstborn of all creation” (Col 1:15), God’s “only begotten Son” (John 3:16).
 - d) In the blessing of Jesus Christ, all imposters who receive Him are truly blessed.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Isaac, the father, makes a bad decision because he favors Esau, who can hunt (25:28). Isaac made a bad decision. However, to fix the situation, Rebekah cooks up a deceiving plan. Rebekah chose a wrong solution. How has your life been impacted by bad decisions and wrong solutions, especially in your family?
2. Based on #1, above: How have you seen God’s sovereign and faithful love rescue you from bad decisions and wrong solutions? From pride and deceit?
3. Based on #3, above. Imposters live in fear and on the run. They think everybody is an imposter. How has this cynicism poisoned some of your relationships?
4. Based on #3, above: Imposters scheme and lie to get standing and “save themselves.” All of us started out as imposters. Jacob spent years in fear of his brother’s anger, and living on the run. How have you been an imposter? How has God chased you down?
5. Based on #4, above: The blessing we long for cannot be gained by cheating and deceiving. It was gained through the ultimate Firstborn Son (Col 1:15), who won the perfect approval of God by dying in our place, and being raised to eternal life. How has God been teaching you that belonging to Him involves “trust without scheming”?