

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 28-September 3, 2022

“BIRTHRIGHT AND A BOWL OF STEW”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is one thing that you couldn't live without (that's not technology)?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read **GENESIS 25:19-34**

1. In verse 21 we learn that Rebekah has been barren and that Isaac specifically prays for her. Why would barrenness be an issue for the couple especially in the context of God's promise to Abraham of many future descendants? Does it mean something, or does it have a purpose?
2. In the passage, we read a description of the differences between Esau and Jacob. What impressions do you get from these? What kinds of expectations and/or stereotypes come to mind? What would your expectations be from Esau and Jacob (if you didn't know the rest of the story)?
3. How has growing up in your own particular family affected you? How has it helped you grow closer to God? How has it gotten in the way of that relationship? How has it shaped your understanding of God?
4. The story about Jacob getting Esau's birthright reminds us to be circumspect about the future and not just the present. In what area would you consider yourself impulsive? When was the last time you've done something on impulse? How does this story help us gain perspective?
5. What mundane things do you do that is seemingly insignificant? How does knowing that God is behind all of life give us the assurance that we are not to take for granted even the “ordinary”?
6. Paul told us that Christ himself is our inheritance (Colossians 1:12; Ephesians 1:14), that we are heirs of God (Romans 8:17), and that we have been blessed “in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). In what

ways do we treasure and despise our inheritance as Christians? What practical ways can you take hold of the “birthright” that Jesus has for you?

7. How do we differentiate essential from non-essentials in life? What are ways we can make sure we prioritize that which counts as eternal?

8. NEXT STEPS

Each day we make hundreds of decisions and each one leads to one of two directions – either towards God or away from him.

- I am a recipient of God's inheritance and I will make sure I do not sell that birthright for a bowl of stew.
- I will be circumspect of the present and the future and seek to invest in the eternal rather than the temporal.
- I will pray, I will inquire of the Lord, I will wait, and I will trust the Lord.
- I will share Jesus and his love with others, and reach out to my friends and loved ones.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that as we run the race of life, we make sure that we're not wasting it by running in the wrong race.
- Pray for a discerning heart in the choices that you make.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

August 29	Galatians 3:26-29
August 30	Psalms 37:1-29
August 31	Genesis 12:1-7
September 1	1 Corinthians 6:15-20
September 2	Colossians 3:1-4
September 3	Psalms 139
September 4	Genesis 27