

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 4-10, 2022

## “THE BLESSING OF GOD”

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### 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.

Recall a situation when you played a trick on someone. How did it go? Did it have a positive or negative impact?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

**Read ahead GENESIS 27:1-40**

1. Reading from the text, what are our impressions of the four characters involved in this story, and what gives us those impressions? For instance, how do we picture Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob in our minds? Do we judge any of the characters as morally praiseworthy or blameworthy?
2. Compare Isaac's speech in Genesis 27:2-4 to Rebekah's report of it in verse 6. What does Rebekah leave out, and what does she add? What does this tell us about the relationship between Isaac and Rebekah? What are your thoughts and/or experiences about favoritism in the home?
3. How in the world do you think Jacob thought he could get away with what he did? How might he have justified in his mind that this was all okay to do? What evidence(s) do you see of his desperation and his desire to go through any lengths to secure the blessing?
4. The sermon reminds us this, "Be careful what you choose to overlook, lest you go blind to God." When was the last time you lost sight of or overlooked God's blessing in your life? What were the consequences?
5. What role does truth play in this story? (For instance, who knows the truth, who tells the truth, who seeks the truth, who acts in accordance with truth, how is truth known and told and sought and honored?) What are the lessons for us in this?

6. Rather than take the honest, uphill and longer path, Jacob took the downhill, dishonest and shorter route by deceiving his father. When do we usually take shortcuts in life? What role does waiting and patience play in this area of life?

7. Does it bother you that God allows people to sin and make sinful choices? What does that mean for you? What point is St. Paul writing about in Romans 6:1-4?

### 8. NEXT STEPS

*The greatest blessing is God himself!*

- I will remember that there are no shortcuts with God.
- I will seek the Lord's will for my life no matter how long the route is.
- I will trust the Lord's ways and instead of my own understanding.
- God is my greatest blessing and I will share him to those in need of his grace.

*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 for patience, guidance and strength to follow God's path instead of your own.
- Pray for a life of integrity and a heart that values honesty.
- 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.

September 5	Genesis 26:18-25
September 6	2 Corinthians 4:17-18
September 7	John 8:42-47
September 8	Genesis 27:1-29
September 9	Genesis 27:30-46
September 10	Psalms 121
September 11	Genesis 28:10-22