## **April**

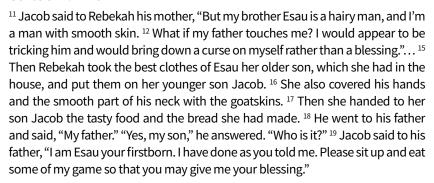
# **God's Grace**

#### 1. Welcome & Opening

"How has God blessed you?" Take turns sharing your stories.

- 2. Praise Still
- 3. Prayer
- 4. Scripture Reading

#### Genesis 27:11-19



#### Genesis 27:42-45

<sup>42</sup> When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is consoling himself with the thought of killing you. <sup>43</sup> Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran. <sup>44</sup> Stay with him for a while until your brother's fury subsides. <sup>45</sup> When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I'll send word for you to come back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"

#### 5. Video Viewing

#### 6. Reflection & Sharing

Stain glass appears as blurry fragments of glass when viewed in close proximity. Whereas when viewed from a distance, it appears as a beautifully designed and detailed piece of art.

God's design is also the same. His salvation may come across as a disorderly in everyday life. Disease, domestic feuds, termination for job, etc. make it seem like our path in God's plan is blurry and fragmented. But God paints a beautiful picture with our failures. How is God's plan accomplished?

### 1) God accomplishes this even through dysfunctional families.

- **Q** What problem does Jacob encounter in trying to receive his father's blessing? (Genesis 27:11-17)
- (S) Isaac favored his elder son Esau, whereas Rebekah favored the younger son Jacob. Rebekah and Jacob deceived others to obtain what they wanted. But even for people of such dysfunctional family, God's grace persists. Do you have a similar experience? Let's share how it became an impediment in your life or how his grace allowed you to overcome.

#### 2) God accomplishes his plan through those who deceive.

- **Q** How was Jacob dishonest? (Genesis 27:18-19)
- (S) To deceive is to unfairly gain what one wants. Jacob had many opportunities to tell his father the truth but deceived his father as he was blinded by his desire for the blessing. We're no different from Jacob. To gain what we want, we easily deceive. Why or what do people have to gain when they lie? How can you change someone who goes to the extent of deceiving to fulfill his/her desire?

#### 3) God accomplishes his plan through those who are discouraged.

- **Q** What resulted from Jacob's deceit? (Genesis 27:42-45)
- (S) Jacob found himself in a dire situation as a result of deceiving his father and brother. But God continues his plan of salvation through Jacob's deceit, wrongdoing, and discouragement. How can believing that God persists with his plan regardless of dire circumstances help me? Let's share personal experiences.

#### Wrap Up

As God provides mercy to those who are underserving, he shows his grace even while we struggle with our weaknesses. Although it may seem to us that God's plan is turbulent and inefficient, he is always faithful and committed to his plan. God's grace is the mainstay of our lives, not our dysfunction, deceit, and discouragement.

## **Pray Together**

- 1. Let us freely admit our weaknesses and rely more on God's grace to live our lives for the glory of God.
- 2. Please help our missionary supported by our community group.