

The Cost of Rivalry

PASTOR MIKE YODER • GENESIS 25



WARM UP

What spring cleaning item is top on your list?

COMING UP

GRACEPOLARIS.ORG/CALENDAR

Parent Commissioning Class Sundays, April 22–May 6, 10:45 a.m., DC201. Learn more and register at GracePolaris.org/Parents.

Considering Church Membership Class Sunday, April 29, 4:00 p.m., Grace Bookstore & Café. Learn more and RSVP at GracePolaris.org/Membership.

Celebration Concert & Reception for Randy & Jane Kettering Sunday, May 6, 4:00 p.m., WC auditorium

WITNESS

- On your white board, list the names of people in your sphere of influence you're praying will come to know Jesus.
- Share any progress/updates. Pray together for God to use you and your Grace Group to influence these people for Jesus.

EXPLORE

- 1 With which family member have you had the most tension in life: a parent, a sibling, a child, or someone else? Describe the circumstances or reasons for that tension.
- 2 Isaac was promised to be the lineage through which God would keep His promise (Genesis 12:1–3, 22:18), but his wife Rebekah couldn't get pregnant, which seemed to block the promise. Have you ever been stuck and bewildered, wondering if God was going to "come through" for you? Do you find yourself in that situation now?
- 3 We like to think that life is a blank slate and we determine our circumstances and our destiny. But life undermines that idea as we see with God's pronouncement about Jacob and Esau: "the older will serve the younger" (25:23). God is sovereign and He determines how things will play out. How does that sit with you?
- 4 When parents play favorites, tragic things happen (25:28). When parents seek to live out their selfish dreams through their children, people are deeply wounded. Have you seen that play out in someone near to you? Have you (even subconsciously) attempted to do that with your children?
- 5 Humanly speaking, Esau didn't learn to value the right things. He failed to learn the blessing of delayed gratification (25:29–34). Why is that so crucial and yet so hard?
- 6 Already in the Genesis account, Jacob and Esau are making a mess of their lives. Dysfunction is everywhere, yet God's promise and its destined fulfillment are not negated. How does this give you hope and confidence?
- 7 **DIG DEEPER** Consider Isaiah 55:8,9. How does this inform us concerning how God operates and orchestrates the details of our lives?

PRAY

Pray that God would help you live each moment with wisdom in light of what He says about the future.