

January 11

Genesis 21:1-5, 22:1-19

The first of these passages tells the story of the birth of a son to Abraham and Sarah. His name was Isaac. The second passage tells of Abraham's willingness to follow God's command to the extreme, to the point of being willing to sacrifice his son.

Question to Consider:

Would you be willing to obey God if He asked you to give up something that was precious to you? What would be the most challenging thing for you to give up?

Prayer:

Almighty God, you challenged Abraham and he obeyed you. I pray that I am always willing to obey you, even to the point of giving up something precious to me. I pray for the strength and courage to always do your will. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

January 12

Genesis 25:19-34

This passage tells the first part of the story of Isaac's twin sons, Jacob and Esau.

Question to Consider:

Jacob took advantage of Esau in order to gain Esau's birthright. Think of a time when someone took advantage of you. How did that make you feel?

Prayer:

Loving God, I pray that I will always treat people fairly, the way you would want me to treat them. Please help me to do that. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

January 13

Genesis 27:1-29

This passage tells the story of Jacob and his mother Rebekah tricking Isaac so that Isaac would give his blessing to Jacob, rather than Esau.

Question to Consider:

Before Jacob and Esau were born, God told their mother that "the older would serve the younger" (Genesis 19:23). Now that Jacob had Isaac's blessing, even though it was gained through deceit, God's plan was beginning to take shape. Sometimes things happen that seem wrong initially, but we later come

to understand that something very good was unfolding. Can you think of a time when something seemed to be wrong, but you realized later that it had actually turned out to be something quite good?

Prayer:

All knowing God, my knowledge is limited and too often I am unable to comprehend the work you are doing. Help me to be patient and to wait on you, even when I don't understand. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

January 14

Genesis 27:30-40

These verses tell of Esau's attempt to get his father Isaac's blessing, only to find that Jacob had already received it.

Question to Consider:

If you were in Esau's shoes, how would you respond to what Jacob had done? Is that what God would want you to do?

Prayer:

Merciful God, there will come a time when someone has treated me unfairly. Help me to deal with that person in the way you would want me to, beginning with forgiveness, just as you have forgiven me. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

January 15

Genesis 28:10-22

This passage tells the story of an incredible dream Jacob had, and it is from this passage that we get the familiar song "Jacob's Ladder."

Question to Consider:

After his dream Jacob said, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I was not aware of it." Have you ever been to a place where you felt the presence of God? Where was it?

Prayer:

All present God, I know that you are present wherever I may go. Help me to be open to your presence and to welcome your presence each day of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.