

SERIES TITLE: Disguised

PART 1: GOD'S APPROVAL

TEXT: GENESIS 27:1-28:9

INTRODUCTION. Genesis follows the work of God, moving from creation, to the entrance of sin, to judgment, to the selection of a family through which the nations will be blessed. The promises of God to Abraham were passed to Isaac, and now to his son Jacob. His story takes up half of the book of Genesis. Jacob is not an admirable character, but God is gracious.

DISCUSSION. If you played dress-up as a child, who did you pretend to be and why?

EXAMINATION.

- The story is told through seven conversations, each between just two people. See if you can identify one key fact, motivation, or emotion in each conversation.

27:1-4 Isaac and Esau

27:5-17 Rebekah and Jacob

27:18-29 Jacob and Isaac

27:30-40 Esau and Isaac

27:41-45 Rebekah and Jacob

27:46 Rebekah and Isaac

28:1-5 Isaac and Jacob

- Note the information preceding the story in 26:34-35 and at the end of the story in 28:6-9. How is this significant to the narrative?

APPLICATION.

- How and why does God work through dysfunctional, deceptive people?
- Jacob and Esau were desperate for approval and blessing. Yet they went after it by pretending and performing. Which one of those wrong ways do you identify with most and why?

- Consider this statement: “Life driven by pretending or performing is empty and exhausting.” What is Jesus’ answer to that in Matthew 11:28-30?
- How is the need to “admit who you really are to the God who knows anyway” related to accepting the gospel?
- How easy or difficult do you find it to “accept who God declares you are in Christ”?
- How can you rest in the approval of God?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?