



Week 1

Dethroning Destiny

Takeaway:

You don't have to sacrifice your integrity to find fulfillment in God.

Before You Begin:

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Genesis 25:19-23.** How would you have responded to God's words if you had been Rebekah? How might you feel if God told you that one of your children would be subject to the other?
2. **Read Genesis 25:24-28.** If you have multiple kids, describe how they are different. If you don't have kids, describe how you were different from your siblings (or cousins or parents). How are these differences good? How have these differences made you who you are today?
3. **Read Genesis 25:29-34.** What might Joseph be thinking here? Why do you think Esau is so dismissive of his birthright? Have you ever been dismissive of what God has given you? Explain. Have you ever used someone's weakness to your advantage? Where did that get you? How did that leave the other person feeling? How do you think this episode left Esau feeling?
4. **Read Genesis 27:1-13.** Has someone in authority asked you to do something less than honest? How did that make you feel? What did you do? What might Rebekah's motives be? Do motives matter?
5. **Read Genesis 27:14-29.** How do you feel when you read Jacob's lies? Is this really how he wants to get his father's blessing? Have you ever lied to get your way? How does that make you feel afterward? Is that really how you want to find fulfillment in your life?
6. **Read Genesis 27:30-40.** Have you ever had someone treat you in this way? Can you empathize with Esau? Have you ever treated someone in this way? How did you feel afterward?
7. **Read Genesis 27:41.** What were the results of Jacob's actions? Have you found yourself in estranged relationships because of someone sacrificing their integrity to achieve fulfillment?

Next Steps:

1. Think about people who have hurt you in the past by sacrificing their integrity. How can you reach out to them? What do you need to do to forgive them. Begin the healing process.
2. Identify some people you may have hurt by sacrificing your integrity. How can you rectify the situation? Begin that healing process.
3. Identify areas of your life where you are tempted to sacrifice your integrity in order to find some form of fulfillment. What safeguards can you put in place so that you tell a better story?