

Faith-Builders Sunday Morning Workout
October 30, 2011
"Cheater"

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Class Goal: to discover that God calls broken people into special relationships with Him and to realize that God's chosen people are very similar to us.

Belong _____

NO FAIR!!

Can you identify a time in your life ...

1. When you weren't treated fairly by your parent(s)?
2. When you weren't treated fairly by a teacher?
3. When you weren't treated fairly by a coach?
4. When you weren't treated fairly by God?
5. When you didn't treat someone else fairly?



"It is always a good thing to treat other people fairly and to be treated fairly by them." Do you agree or disagree with that statement?

Believe

Guess Work!

Guess the correct answers to some of the key aspects of the story of Jacob.

- Abraham and Sarah named their son Isaac (Laughter) because:
 - He was pretty funny
 - He was pretty funny looking
 - He was pretty
 - He was an unexpected joy because they were waaaaay to old to have children
- When Isaac grew up, he got married to Rebekah, whose name means:
 - "Foxy lady"
 - "Trouble"
 - "Knot"
 - "California Gurl"
- Isaac and Rebekah had two sons, whom they named:
 - Jacob and Israel
 - Jacob and Esau
 - Cain and Able
 - Cain and Unable
- Esau was given his name because:
 - He was hairy when he was born
 - He was a macho-man who loved hunting
 - He though his brother was a pain in the neck
 - He liked it better than his nickname "Rusty"
- Jacob was given his name because:
 - He was a cheater and a con artist
 - He was a "mama's boy"
 - All the good names were already taken
 - His dad loved him best
- Which of the following is not true about Jacob and Esau:
 - They were fraternal twins
 - They fought a lot
 - Dad liked Esau more because he was manly man & Jacob liked to hang with Mom
 - They both loved French cuisine
- Esau wanted to kill his brother because:
 - Jacob stole his girlfriend
 - Jacob continually wore Esau's best coat without asking permission
 - Jacob was his mother's favorite
 - Jacob cheated Esau out of his birthright
- On the day his brother came to kill him, Jacob wrestled with:
 - His conscience
 - An angel of the Lord
 - An alligator
 - The Governorator
- In Genesis 32:26b, Jacob told the angel, "I will not let you go..."
 - "...unless you let me go first"
 - "...unless you change my name to Israel"
 - "...unless you teach me to fly"
 - "...unless you bless me"
- Jacob was
 - A cheater from the day he was born
 - Blessed even though he stole the blessing
 - Someone who held on the God's angel and would not let him go until he was blessed
 - All of the above and then some



Become

1) What's Cooking?

Read: Genesis 25:19-28. Then Read: It wasn't fair, but it was the law. In the ancient world, the first son inherited everything. It was seen as the right of his birth. But Jacob knew that his brother was strong physically, but weak emotionally. One day when Esau came in famished from the field, Jacob was cooking some stew. Esau begged his brother for some and Jacob, always thinking, said, "First sell me your birthright!" "I'm about to starve! What good is a birthright to me if I'm dead!" cried Esau. Jacob made him swear to the transaction and it was over. Jacob took advantage of him at a weak moment and stole something that couldn't be replaced. Taking advantage of others is stealing. It's as simple as that. Whether it happens over a card game or in the back seat of a car, taking advantage of someone in a weak moment may not be against the law, but it is against God's law. Exploiting another's weaknesses is never right. If you take it, you have sinned.



Then Think: How would you answer a person who says, "It's legal, so how can it be wrong?"

2) What a Rip-Off

Read: Genesis 27:1-30. Then Read: "Mom always liked you best!" Have you ever heard those words? Have you ever said those words? How terrible if they are true, if children grow up knowing that their parents play favorites. Such a family will always have problems. When it came to dysfunctional families, the family of Isaac took the prize. It wasn't enough for Jacob to simply steal his brother's physical inheritance for a bowl of stew. Now his mother was helping him steal his brother's spiritual inheritance. The blessing in the ancient world was seen as a transference of a special, mystical power from father to son. When Rebekah heard that Isaac was about to give the blessing, she hatched a plan to have her favorite boy blessed. She dressed Jacob up in animal skins so that he would smell and feel like his brother, then she cooked up her husband's favorite dinner and sent Jacob in to complete his thievery. It was more than just a blessing that Jacob stole that day. God had promised to bless the world through their grandfather, Abraham. The amazing thing about this story is that God didn't renege on the promise just because it was stolen. If Jacob had the blessing, God would keep the promise through Jacob. God is faithful. If God wills it, God can use even a cheating scoundrel to bring a blessing to the world.



Then Think: What are three things that parents could do to make sure that they aren't playing favorites?