



## DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE ARROW DISCIPLED READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

## GENESIS 25:19-24

Jacob and Esau were competing since before they were born. The struggle between the two brothers at birth would continue throughout their lives. Esau was stronger and older, but Jacob was strategic and cunning. Many lessons can be taken from these verses, but one thing stands out as an urgent warning: Don't sacrifice your future on the altar of your present desires. The draw of immediate gratification is so strong, but it will not be worth it. Think about the long-term effects of your choices and live in the wisdom of patient obedience.

HOW ARE YOU TEMPTED TO CHOOSE SHORT-TERM PLEASURE OVER LONG-TERM SUCCESS?

HOW CAN YOU OVERCOME THE PRESSURE TO CHOOSE SHORT-TERM PLEASURE?

WHAT IMPORTANT THINGS MIGHT YOU BE SACRIFICING FOR LESS IMPORTANT THINGS?

DAY 02

## GENESIS 27:1-45

HOW HAVE SINFUL CHOICES HAD BIGGER CONSEQUENCES THAN YOU FIRST ANTICIPATED?

ARE YOU BEING HONEST WITH YOUR PARENTS?

HOW CAN YOU SEEK UNITY AND PEACE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Sin always hurts relationships. Isaac and Rebekah's relationship was fractured. Jacob's relationships with Isaac and Esau were divided further. Jacob would never see his mother again or his father until Isaac was dying. Esau would go on to marry more unbelieving women to spite his parents (28:6-9). It's a tragic picture of what can happen when a family is not united under God's purposes. One of the best ways to love your family is to live in the truth. Don't lie, build trust, and unite. When you live with integrity, you bless your parents and build trust in your family.

DAY 03

## GENESIS 28:10-22

Jacob's commitment to God includes three "if" statements. His commitment was conditional. Unlike Noah and Abraham, Jacob wasn't ready to obey God no matter what. We are often like Jacob in this scene, saying, "God, if you do this, then I will follow you." But hasn't God already done enough to justify our simple obedience? What more does He have to prove? He has given us His Son, forgiven our sins, and promised eternal life. Take the "if" out of your prayers. Tell God today, "I will follow you no matter what."

HAVE YOU EVER SAID, "GOD, I WILL FOLLOW YOU IF...?"

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING ON GOD TO PROVE BEFORE YOU WILL GO ALL IN FOR HIM?

HOW SHOULD THE GOSPEL MOVE US AWAY FROM "IF" AND TOWARD A SIMPLE "YES"?

## GENESIS 29:1-35

HOW CAN THE HOPE OF FUTURE GOALS MOTIVATE YOU TO KEEP GOING IN THE PRESENT?

HOW HAS GOD USED UNFORTUNATE SITUATIONS TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE IN YOUR LIFE?

HOW DOES IT HELP KNOWING THAT GOD LOVES YOU DESPITE WHAT YOU CAN OR CANNOT DO?

The story of Jacob is characterized by a series of lies. Perhaps a shining light in the story is Jacob's undying love for Rachel. Seven long years of work seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. (29:20) Even in her barrenness, Jacob loved Rachel. Through Jacob, we can sense the love of Jesus for His bride. Jesus loves us not because of what we can offer Him, but because His heart is set on us. And in Jacob, we also get a sense of how we should love God—enduring our present struggles and difficulties by looking toward the hope of one day being with Jesus forever.

DAY 05

## GENESIS 32:24-32

Jacob held onto God through one of the longest and darkest nights of his life. Desperation ought to throw us upon God, but so often we run to other people and comfort us. Jacob left Canaan saying, "If you do this, then you will be my God," but as he returns, he is clinging to God as his refuge. We will not come to know God through laziness or apathy or comfort. We must seek Him. It's in the persistence, praying, the wrestling with tough questions, and the struggle to become who God wants us to be that we encounter His blessing. Don't give up, don't let go, don't lose heart. Keep seeking God, and He will change you and bless you.

WHERE DO YOU TURN WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TURN TO JESUS IN THE STRUGGLES?

HOW CAN YOU PUT MORE EFFORT INTO YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?