



## Welcome + Opening Prayer

### THEMATIC OVERVIEW

*The universal desire of all humankind— blessing.*

### Genesis 27:18–35

*See passage printed on the back of this page.*

## Explore + Apply

1. How do you find Jacob, particularly in his anxiety and drivenness to attain blessing, familiar or relate-able to you? What are you doing to get the world to bless you? Some suggestions to prompt reflection: It could be a job you took, a conflict you are avoiding, a financial debt that is growing, the way you hide your faith, or disguise yourself because you are seeking to hear and known that you are OK. Another way to think about this question: who is a person in your life that would make you feel like you matter if they declared you “worthy of knowing.”
2. What is the result of Jacob’s way of pursuing blessing? Do you think he was satisfied? If not, why not? How would receiving God’s blessing by honest means be different? How does this week’s “Assurance of Grace” in the Order of Worship, give us hope for receiving God’s blessing: Romans 5:8— “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”?
3. What in your life would look different if you more fully appropriated *God’s* blessing? How might you be resisting God’s blessing? What effect is that having on you, your relationships?

### PRAYER GUIDELINES

*In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace.*

*This means we avoid advice-giving and fixing one another and instead, embrace mutual dependance on our loving Father through Christ in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.*

*Of course there is room for advice and processing something together but wait for that invitation from the person sharing.*

## Pray

- Reflect on God’s willingness to take on our clothes in order to clothe us in his righteousness.
- Pray and listen: What are you trying to do to get the world to bless you? Is it satisfying?
- Pray “Thy Kingdom come” here in West Seattle, in the U.S. and around the world, as the Church more deeply receives the blessing of God right now as we are, without the pretending and posturing, and boldly extends his blessing to others.

*Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.*

### GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*Next HG - Apr 7*

## Genesis 27:18–35

18 So he went in to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” 19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” 20 But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” 21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” 22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. 24 He said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He answered, “I am.” 25 Then he said, “Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” 27 So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

“See, the smell of my son  
is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed!  
28 May God give you of the dew of heaven  
and of the fatness of the earth  
and plenty of grain and wine.  
29 Let peoples serve you,  
and nations bow down to you.  
Be lord over your brothers,  
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.  
Cursed be everyone who curses you,  
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!”

30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me.” 32 His father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” He answered, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.” 33 Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, “Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.” 34 As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me, even me also, O my father!” 35 But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.”