

**Word notes Sunday 27/10/13 Tony Hodge**  
**Living for God: Isaac & Jacob**

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

**Key Texts: Heb 11:20 & Gen chapter 27**

Heb 11:20 says that “By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future” – Isaac is commended by God for his faith but the story in Genesis 27 is not pretty and none of the family comes out well:

- Isaac, in wanting to give Esau the blessing of a first-born son, goes against God’s word to Rebekah.
- Esau, in agreeing to receive it, goes against his oath to Jacob.
- Jacob & Rebekah may be “in the right” but cheat and lie to get Jacob the blessing instead of relying on God.
- Isaac relies on his senses rather than God even ignoring the evidence of his ears.

The price – Esau is ready to murder Jacob, who goes into exile and although he was mum’s favourite and she never sees him again. Where is the great example of faith?

Isaac had received and had confirmed to him the promises of God to his father Abraham (Gen 26:3 & 26:4) and in blessing Jacob and Esau passes these on in faith that God will do as he says. His faith relies on God’s character not his own – even though he has messed up and Jacob employed trickery to gain what God had said he would receive.

It does seem that Isaac’s faith wavered – despite having seen The LORD intervene when his father Abraham was ready to sacrifice him. Personal favouritism means he set aside what God said about the boys during Rebekah’s pregnancy (Gen 25:23).

Even so Heb 11:16 says that “God is not ashamed to be called their God” because they continued to look forward to His promises, more than that The LORD says of himself: “I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (Ex 3:6, & 3:15), Jesus reminds us of this (Matt 12:26 & Mr 12:26) and Stephen testifies of faith to the High Priest at his trial (Acts 7:32).

This then is the reward God has for those who will continue in faith – that he will be their God and will not be ashamed to be identified with them.

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Thinking back over the example of Abraham and now Isaac and Jacob, how did all three mess up in regard to trusting God? In what ways are we all prone to make the same mistakes?

What lessons might we learn from this family in regard to raising our own children? – Read Prov 22:6 for a hint.

What does The LORD’s continued faithfulness to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob tell you about God’s character? How does that differ from the expectations people of those times had of pagan gods – even people today might have of the Christian God?

Read 1 John 1:9 to 2:2. How is God’s grace in the face of our failure available to us? How does that influence the way we live our day-to-day lives?

Considering together Prov 22:6 and 1 John 1:9 to 2:2 what are the important things to teach our children both in what we say and what we do?

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Jesus’ “Great Commission” to us is that we “Go into all the world”. What does that mean to you practically?