

WRESTLING WITH GOD - STUDY #1 - GENESIS 25:18-28

Wrestling with *God's sovereign choice*

Share

1. Have you ever felt like life wasn't fair—like someone else was chosen or favoured ahead of you? How did you process that? What about when it comes to God's choice?

Observe & Reflect

Read Genesis 25:19–28

2. What do we learn about Isaac and Rebekah's situation, and how does Isaac respond to it? What might this teach us about prayer and waiting on God?
3. Rebekah experiences a painful pregnancy (v22). What does her reaction teach us about how people in the Bible wrestle with suffering and confusion? How does God respond?
4. In verse 23, God gives a surprising message: the older will serve the younger. What stands out to you about God's statement? What does it say about God's plans and how He works?
5. How do verses 24–26 (the birth of Esau and Jacob) reflect or reinforce what God had already said in verse 23? What details are highlighted about each child?
6. Look at verses 27–28. What differences are drawn between Esau and Jacob in character, lifestyle, and parental affection? What tensions or problems might these details set up for the future?
7. Before the twins are born, God chooses one over the other (v23). What questions or tensions does this raise for you about God's justice, fairness, or freedom? God's choice happens before the children have done anything good or bad. How might this challenge the way we usually think about blessing or worthiness?
8. God's choice of Jacob shows that He works through weakness and reverses human expectations. How does that shape the way we think about who God uses today?

Next Steps

9. When you wrestle with God's ways—especially when life feels unfair or confusing—what helps you keep trusting Him? How can this passage shape your prayers?
10. How might knowing what Jesus has done help us in our day to day wrestling with God?

Extra thinking: God's sovereign choice & our responsibility

1. What do the following verses teach about God's purposes in election, predestination and choosing people for Himself?

(Choose as many as you want)

Deuteronomy 7:6–7, Malachi 1:2–3, Romans 8:29–30, Romans 9:10–13, Romans 9:15–16, Romans 9:18, Romans 11:5–7, Ephesians 1:4–5, Ephesians 1:11, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 1:9, Acts 13:48, John 6:37, John 6:44, John 15:16, 1 Peter 1:1–2

2. What do the following verses teach about how we are called to respond, choose and trust God?

(Choose as many as you want)

Deuteronomy 30:19, Joshua 24:15, Isaiah 55:6–7, Ezekiel 18:30–32, Matthew 7:13–14, Matthew 23:37, Mark 1:15, Luke 13:3, John 1:12, John 3:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 16:31, Romans 10:9–10, 2 Corinthians 5:20, Hebrews 3:15, Revelation 3:20

3. How do we as Christians hold both these truths together, without downplaying one at the expense of the other?