

Praying Through Genesis 27:5-10, 18-29

International Bible Lesson

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Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for keeping Your promises to the world and to us despite our sins and the sins of those You chose to work through as we read about them in the Bible. We thank You for working through Jacob as You promised despite the path of deception that his mother, Rebekah, and he chose to take when tricking Isaac. Indeed, by continuing to work through Jacob, You kept Your promises to Abraham and Isaac, and all three remained in the lineage to Jesus the Messiah, our Lord and Savior. Father, we praise You and thank You and acknowledge the fact that Jesus Christ came into the world precisely to save us and all Your people from sin. When Rebekah and Jacob chose to deceive Isaac, You were not surprised; instead, You brought good out of evil by not allowing their sinful interference in Your plans thwart Your plans. And yet, much unexpected suffering did result from their decisions. Esau came to hate his brother and wanted to murder him. Jacob left for Haran to find a wife, and Laban deceived him in the process, in a process that brought suffering to him and his wives. And Rebekah never saw her son again. Oh Lord, their experiences show once again some of the consequences of sin, and if it were not for Your grace, the consequences of our sins and their sins would have been much worse.

We pray that Your Holy Spirit would prevent us from using deceptive speech or acting deceptively. Help us avoid doing anything that is contrary to Your clear teachings in the Bible, especially since Jesus has spoken to us and has told us to love one another. Help us recognize all deceptions so we will not be misled by others. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about "Praying Through the Bible" from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own "Prayer Through the Bible" using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [How God Teaches Us to Pray](#): Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.