

The Older Shall Serve the Younger
Jacob and Esau, two nations in Rebekah's womb.

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- How would you summarize the central idea of this week's message in one sentence? Was there anything significant that stood out to you from the message that you would share with the group? (Hint: What was your personal "aha" moment?)
- Let's re-read Genesis 25:19-23 again and make any initial reactions that may prime the pump on our discussion tonight. Let's make sure that everyone knows the back story. Who are Isaac, Rebekah, Jabob, and Esau?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- The Bible teaches that we are created by God, fearfully and wonderfully made. Pastor Tyler reminded us that we exist on purpose, and that we are not here by accident. By contrast, a non-Biblical worldview suggests that we are here by accident...the product of a chemical reaction in a sludge pool. What are some of the implications for worldview, personal hope, and purpose for those who believe that we are created on purpose, versus those who believe that we are here by accident? What is the impact of these worldviews on things like human worth, dignified treatment of the elderly, and the value of the unborn?
- Jacob was created with a purpose and a destiny. How might it change your life if you knew that this was also true of you? How would it change your life if you lived with awareness that you exist on purpose, and that God has a purpose for your life? What are some practical ways that a Christian can discover their God given purpose?
- Pastor Tyler identified five things that God has done for us on purpose. Let's review and discuss as God leads.
 - God handcrafted in our mother's womb. We were established by God. Look up and discuss Psalm 139:14.
 - God saved us on purpose...God has shown His grace to us and has redeemed us from sin. If a person is saved, it is because God initiates it, convicts of sin, and draws us to Himself.
 - God saves us for a destiny and a purpose. There is a divine purpose for us...a calling on our life. Let's study Ephesians 2:10 and discuss.
 - God has given us every gift that we need to fulfill our calling. We've been gifted on purpose to serve the Lord.

- God reveals the knowledge of His will for our lives, so that we can know why we exist, what we are here to do, and the wisdom to know why.

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- Ephesians 2:8-10 God's gift to us is salvation. We are CREATED in Christ Jesus for good works. We have a divine "to do" list.
- 1 Corinthians 7:17 Let's live the life that God has assigned/distributed to us.
- Psalm 139:16 My days were written in your book while we were just an embryo in our mother's womb.
- 1 Corinthians 12:7 To each of us is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the benefit of all.

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

- As we reflect on the Biblical reality that God has us here on purpose, that He has a purpose and a plan for our lives, how shall we ask God for the grace to believe this word, and to receive it as for ourselves...not just for other Christians?
- As we reflect on Biblical truth, can we allow these things to cultivate inexpressible joy? What did Pastor Tyler mean when he said "The despair of the 21st century has met its match in the grace of God."
- Have I accepted the responsibility that comes with understanding the love and redemption of God? Today we get to jump out of bed and stand on the earth with purpose! Do we need a shifting mindset to receive our purpose, and to walk in joy and purpose?