

GROWING IN FAITH



Oklahoma

²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her; and she said, “If it is to be this way, why do I live?”^[c] So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you
shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than
the other,
the elder shall serve the
younger.”

²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob.^[d] Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

GOING DEEPER

Remember a time when you felt a rivalry with a sibling. How did it make you feel? What did you learn?

Does God root for the underdog in your opinion?

Give specific examples of where you see that in the Bible or in life today.

Why would God care about the underdogs?

Esau giving up his birthright for a bowl of stew is an example of wanting instantaneous gratification.

Where are you tempted in your life to seek that as well?

How can we focus on a vision that looks to the future and not give in to the bright shiny objects in front of us?

Death bed blessings in biblical times were considered powerful pronouncements about the future.

Why do words have power?

Who are you blessing in your life with your words or deeds?