

**BIG TRUTH: WE PUT OURSELVES FIRST**

Romans 1:28-32; Galatians 5:20; Philippians 2:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:1-2; James 3:16

**BIBLE VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4**

*“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

**BIG IDEAS**

- Our sin makes us selfish.
- Our sin blinds us to the needs of others.
- Our sin causes us to love self more than our family.
- Only the gospel can make us selfless.

**BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 27**

Isaac made plans to give his oldest son, Esau a great blessing. Isaac’s wife, Rebekah, wanted their youngest son, Jacob to receive the blessing instead, so she helped Jacob deceive his father by pretending to be Esau. Jacob did receive Esau’s blessing, but he lost his family in the process. Our sin makes us selfish. It causes us to put ourselves first.

**STORY: FALL**

Everything was perfect in the world until we broke it. When humanity chose to sin, the world that was once perfect became messed up and broken. Sin is ultimately a rejection of God Himself. Because of sin bad things happen, we experience all types of pain, and death has come into the world. All of creation groans and wishes that the world be perfect and good like it was before.

**BIG AIMS**

**Every child should know that:**

- Sin has broken our families



**Every child should feel:**

- Burdened at how sin breaks our families



**Every child should:**

- Be aware of the ways their sin affects their family



**Every child should want:**

- Their family to be made new by Christ

**A LOVE OF SELF**

Create a matching game for your child. On index cards, write down selfish attitudes or behaviors. Make sure you create two cards for each attitude or behavior. As a family, play the matching game and talk about each attitude and behavior when a match is made. We are all selfish and self-centered because of our sinfulness. We love ourselves more than we love others, even our families.

**DISCOVER IT:** *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Genesis 27.

**THINK ABOUT IT:** *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Isaac, Abraham's son, had two sons, Jacob and Esau. As Isaac neared the end of his life, he desired to give a paternal, or fatherly blessing to his oldest son, Esau. Isaac asked Esau to go hunting in order to prepare Isaac a meal. Isaac planned to bless Esau after they shared the meal. Isaac's blessing would mean that Esau was the heir of the family. Isaac's wife, Rebekah wanted their youngest son, Jacob to receive the blessing instead. She convinced Jacob to deceive his father by pretending to be his brother Esau. Jacob wore his brother's clothes and put goat's skin on his hands so his father would think he was Esau. Esau was very hairy and Jacob was not. Jacob knew his father would know immediately that he wasn't Esau if he didn't cover his body. Jacob was successful in deceiving his father and Jacob received the blessing that Isaac intended for Esau. Jacob's actions showed that he loved himself more than he loved Esau. Rebekah showed that she loved herself and Jacob more than she loved Esau. Our sin leads us to love ourselves more than we love others. We even love ourselves more than we love our families. Only knowing God through His Son Jesus helps us love others like we should.

**TALK ABOUT IT:** *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- Why did Jacob deceive his father, Isaac? (Rebekah convinced Jacob to pretend to be Esau so Jacob would receive Isaac's blessing.)
- What caused Rebekah and Jacob to deceive Isaac? (Their sin led them to deceive Isaac.)
- How are we selfish in our love? (We love ourselves more than we love others.)

**KNOW**

As a family memorize Philippians 2:3-4 by dividing the verses into sections and writing them on pieces of paper. Give each family member a section of the verse and lead the family to say the verse in order.

**DO**

As a family, play a game of charades. Use index cards to write out different scenarios that show our selfishness. Remind your child that our sin leads us to be selfish and to love ourselves more than we love others.

**FEEL**

Help your child understand that sin makes us selfish by pointing out selfish behaviors this week, including your own. Remind your child that our sin leads us to love ourselves over others, but the gospel helps love like Jesus does.

**WANT**

Spend some time this week sharing with your child the many ways that knowing Jesus helps you love others as you love yourself. Remind your child that only through a relationship with Jesus can we truly love others as we should.

Spend time as a family praying and asking God to help your family love one another as He loves the world. Thank God for loving the world sacrificially.