

DISCOVER

INSIDE ISSUE 3: GENESIS, MARK, ACTS, PHILIPPIANS

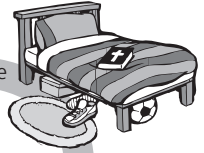
1

Find a time when you can read the Bible each day



2

Find a place where you can be quiet and think



4

Ask God to help you understand what you read



3

Grab your Bible and a pencil or pen



5

Read today's Discover page and Bible bit



6

Pray about what you have read and learned



We want to...

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

Discover stands for...

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

Team Discover

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How to use Discover

Here at Discover, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and New King James Version are best for doing the puzzles in Discover.



The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say...

Read Genesis 25 v 19-26

...turn to the contents page of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page Genesis begins on. Turn to that page.

"Genesis 25 v 19" means you need to go to chapter 25 of Genesis, and then find verse 19 of chapter 25 (the verse numbers are the tiny ones). Then jump in and start reading!



Here's some other stuff you might come across...

WEIRD WORDS

Quantoff

These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.



Think!

This bit usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.



Action!

Challenges you to put what you've read into action.



Wow!

This section contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what you've been reading about.



Pray!

Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you! Even if there isn't a Pray! symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.



Coming up in Issue 3...

Jacob: Changed cheat

We begin in Genesis to meet Jacob — a man who started fighting with his twin brother when they were babies in their mother's womb! And the family arguments certainly didn't stop when they both grew up...

Jacob cheated his brother and his dad, bickered with his wives, and even wrestled with God! But despite all that, God had chosen Jacob to be part of his special plan for his people — and God doesn't give up on his plans! He blessed Jacob with an amazing dream of heaven, a HUGE family, massive wealth... and even turned this cheater into a changed man. Read all about it in Genesis!

Mark: Jesus the King

We catch up with Jesus in Mark's Gospel for the week before he dies — but Jesus still has a whole lot left to teach his disciples (and us!).

We'll watch as Jesus goes on an unusual donkey ride, throws over tables in the temple, reveals what the MOST IMPORTANT commandment is and even gives us a sneak preview of the end of the world!

Through it all, Mark, the author, will be showing us that Jesus is King and is in total control!

Acts: Spread the news

The book of Acts is certainly ACTION-packed (get it?). It's all about how Jesus' disciples (now called apostles) began to spread the gospel. The GOSPEL is the good news that Jesus died for us and was raised back to life — it's a life-changing message! And it certainly didn't go unnoticed when the apostles started talking about it. Lots of unexpected people believed the good news, but the apostles also got loads of hassle for talking about Jesus too.

Prepare yourself for journeys, jailbreaks and jaw-dropping... sermons (yes, really!).

Philippians: Joy for Jesus

Philippians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to the Christians in Philippi — in this issue of Discover we pick it up halfway through. Paul has some surprising things to say!

Knowing Jesus is what makes Paul really really happy — and he wants us to know that joy too! In fact, Paul even says that in comparison to Jesus, everything else is like... dog poo!

**Don't believe it?
Read on and find out...**

Jacob: Changed cheat

Genesis
25 v 19-26



In the last two issues of Discover, we've been reading the Genesis story.

It's all about God and His special people, the Israelites.

Here are the highlights so far...

God created
EVERYTHING.
(Genesis chapter 1)

Adam and Eve disobeyed God, bringing sin into the world.
(Chapter 3)

People continued to sin against God, so He flooded the world to destroy His enemies. But God rescued Noah and his family.
(Chapters 6-9)

Noah's great, great, great (etc) grandson was Abraham. **God made three amazing promises to Abraham.** (Chapter 12)

1. LAND

God promised to give Abraham's family the country of Canaan.

2. CHILDREN

God would give Abraham loads of descendants. They became God's special people — the Israelites.

3. BLESSING

God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. He would do this by sending Jesus.

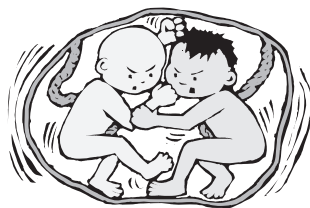
Read Genesis 25 v 19-26
and fill in the gaps.

I _____ was Abraham's son. His wife R _____ was unable to have children (v21). But God had promised that Abraham and Isaac would have loads of descendants!

So Isaac p _____ to the Lord for a child (v21). God answered his prayer and Rebekah had twins! But they were enemies even while they were still in the womb!

God said that E _____ and J _____ would grow up to lead separate n _____ and the older one would serve the y _____ one (v23).

More about that tomorrow...



Isaac and Rebekah had to wait 20 years before they could have a child. But God not only kept His promise, He gave them twins!

WEIRD WORDS

Aramean

Person from the country of Aram

Esau

Means "hairy"

Jacob

Means "grab the heel" and "deceiver"

Pray!



Thank God that He always keeps His promises. And that when we pray, He often gives us far more than we ask for.

Stewpid Esau

Genesis

25 v 27-34



Below, write the name of your brother or sister (if you haven't got any, scribble in a friend).

Now, in the larger box, describe how you're different from them.

WEIRD WORDS

Wild game

Animals that are hunted for food, like deer

Famished

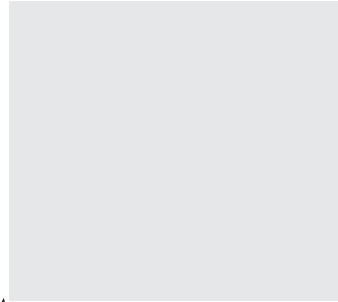
Starving

Edom

It means *red*

Despised

Thought it was worthless



Read Genesis 25 v 27-28

Esau and Jacob were twins but were totally different from each other. Esau was a great hunter, but Jacob was far more sly...

Read verses 29-34

Who did what? Write an *E* for Esau, and a *J* for Jacob.

Was cooking lentil stew

Came in, starving

Asked for some stew

Asked for his brother's birthright

Promised to hand over the birthright

Gave his bro some stew



So what's the big deal?

BIRTHRIGHT = BIG DEAL

In those days, the oldest son was given the birthright. This meant that he would...

- inherit loads more than his brothers
- become head of the family when his father died

EVEN BIGGER DEAL

The birthright in this family was extra special because the oldest son would...

- inherit God's great promises to Abraham (see yesterday's *Discover*)
- become head of God's special family (the Israelites)

This really was a big deal. But Esau handed over the birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew!



Think!

How do you treat what God has given you — family, friends, home, food, the Bible? Are you grateful to God, or do you take it all for granted?

Remember what God promised Rebekah yesterday? *"The older son will serve the younger"* (v23). With this birthright swap, God's promise was coming true!

Full of promise

Genesis 26 v 1-6



Isaac

We'll get back to Esau & Jacob in a few days.

But right now we're going to follow their dad, Isaac, around for a bit.

WEIRD WORDS

Famine

Serious lack of food

Philistines

People from the nearby area of Philistia

Oath

Promise

Offspring

Children and descendants

Decrees

Orders

Read Genesis 26 v 1-2

There was a famine and so there was hardly enough food for Isaac and his family. God told Isaac not to go to Egypt for food. God wanted Isaac to stay in the land that He'd promised to give to Isaac's family.

But why should Isaac listen to God?

Read verse 3

God was so good to Isaac! He promised to be with Isaac and to bless Him. And that's not all...

Read verses 4-6

God repeated to Isaac the promises He'd made to Abraham. *To remind yourself of them, go back 1 letter (B=A, C=B, D=C).*

1. Land (v3)

J X J M M

H J W F Z P V

B M M U I F T F

M B O E T



2. Children (v4)

J X J M M

N B L F Z P V S

P G G T Q S J O H

B T N B O Z B T

U I F T U B S T

3. Blessing (v4)

C Z Z P V S

P G G T Q S J O H

B M M O B U J P O T

X J M M C F

C M F T T F E

What an encouragement! No wonder Isaac obeyed God and stayed away from Egypt! And God is just as loving and faithful to all His children (Christians).

Pray!



Check out some of the promises God made to His people:
Matthew 7 v 7-11

Jeremiah 29 v 11-13

Thank God that He always keeps His promises. Ask Him to help you obey His commands in the Bible.

Genesis 26 v 6-22



There's a famine on, so Isaac and Rebekah have gone to the Philistines for food.

WEIRD WORDS

Caessing

Touching

Reaped a hundredfold

Gathered 100 times as many crops as he had planted

Herdsmen

Men who looked after the animals

Esek

Means *dispute*

Sitnah

Means *opposition*

Rehoboth

Means *room*

Philistine trouble

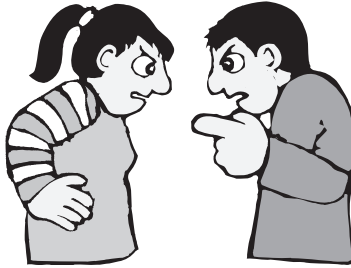


Read Genesis 26 v 6-11

Isaac was worried that the Philistines would kill him and steal his wife. So he lied, saying that Rebekah was his sister.

It was the same mistake Abraham had made (twice).

King Abimelek had to point out that Isaac was in the wrong.



Think!

How have you messed up recently? Lied to someone? Been cruel to your brother or sister? Something else?

Tell God about it and say sorry to Him.

Read verses 12-13

Despite Isaac messing up, God still blessed him and made him successful.

Wow!

If we say sorry to God, He'll forgive us. And even though we mess up, He still gives us far more than we deserve!

Speed read verses 14-22

The Philistines were jealous of Isaac's success, so they kept forcing him to move on. But Isaac refused to leave the land God had told him to stay in. So he kept moving around the country until he found the right place.

Read verse 22 again

What did Isaac say?



Pray!

Isaac recognised that God had given him a great place to live. What can YOU thank God for?

Go on then, thank Him!

Genesis 26 v 23-35



The Philistines were jealous of Isaac's success and kept forcing him to move on from place to place.

Peace of the action

Read Genesis 26 v 23-25

All of today's missing words are in the centre of the page.

The L_____ said to Isaac
"Don't be a _____ for I am
w_____ you.
I will b_____ you
and give you many
d_____." Isaac
built an a_____ to God
and worshipped Him.

Isaac had been having a tough time, but he'd be OK because **God was with him**. And when God is with you, awesome things start to happen...

Read verses 26-33

Isaac was visited by King
A_____ and his
a_____ and army
c_____. They had
seen that G_____ was with
I_____. They wanted to
make a p_____ agreement
with Isaac. Isaac made a
f_____ for them and
then they agreed their peace
treaty.

Think!

Do your friends recognise that God is in your life? Do they see something different about you?



Action!



Here's one way you can show your friends that God is an important part of your life. Slip into conversation that you've been to church / youth group recently. Or mention something exciting you've read in the Bible. Let God become a bigger part of your everyday life.



Read verses 34-35

Isaac's son E_____ made a double mistake.

- 1) He m_____ two women.
- 2) Both were H_____ not from God's people.

Both of these things were w_____. More about Esau tomorrow...

Pray!



Dear God, I pray that my friends will see that you're with me and that you're so important to me. May they want to get to know you too.

WEIRD WORDS

Altar

Table where gifts to God were put

Treaty

Peace agreement

Oath

Serious promise

Shibah

Means *oath*

Beersheba

Means *well of the oath*

Grief

Great sadness

Abimelek
feast
God
adviser
Hittites
Isaac
altar
Lord
bless
married
peace
commander
with
descendants
wrong
Esau

Genesis
27 v 1-17



Esau and Jacob are brothers but not friends.

Jacob tricked Esau into giving up his birthright (see day 2 for a reminder).

Now the story continues...

WEIRD WORDS

Quiver

Pouch for keeping arrows in

Wild game

Wild animals

Blessing

A special prayer. It promised important things for the future.

Disguise surprise

Read Genesis 27 v 1-4

And cross out the wrong answers.

Isaac was old/odd and could no longer sneeze/see. He told Ezra/Esau/See-saw to hunt some wild animals and prepare a tasty eel/meal/mule for his dad. Then Isaac would give Esau his blessing/dressing.

Isaac's favourite son was Esau. Rebekah's favourite was Jacob. It seems that Isaac wanted to bless Esau in secret so that Rebekah wouldn't find out.

Read verses 5-10

Rebekah overheard Isaac talking to Esau. So she told Jacob/Esau/Isaac to bring her two young coats/boats/goats. She would then cook the goats for Jacob to take to Isaac. Isaac would be fooled into giving his blessing/bee-sting to Jacob instead of Esau.

Read verses 11-13

Esau was a hairy/furry/fairy man. Jacob wasn't, and was worried that Isaac would touch him and find out the tooth/truth.



Jacob was more bothered about being caught than the fact that he was lying to his own dad! And Rebekah didn't seem bothered about this deception at all!

Read verses 14-17

Rebekah got Jacob to put on Esau's bow and arrow/clothes. She also covered his hands and nose/neck in goatskins/suncream. Then Jacob took the tasty food to his father.

Will Jacob and Rebekah get away with this nasty trick? We'll find out tomorrow...

Think & pray!

People can be quite persuasive at times. We have to be on our guard against being led into doing stuff that's wrong. Ask God to give you the strength and courage to stand up to friends who want you to do wrong.

Simply the blessed

Genesis 27 v 18-29



Rebekah has persuaded her son Jacob to disguise himself as Esau.

But will Isaac be fooled into blessing Jacob instead of Esau?

Read Genesis 27 v 18-24

How many times did Jacob lie to his father?

He even brought God into his lies (v20)! Shocking!

Have you ever set up a domino chain? You knock over one domino, which flattens the next one, and the next one, and the next one...



Lying can be like that. You tell one lie, and then you have to back it up with another and another...

Think!

Have you been dishonest recently? Spend time saying sorry to God.

Read verses 25-29

Isaac fell for the trick, and blessed Jacob instead of Esau.

Unjumble the anagrams to show how Jacob would be blessed.

1. Great land for growing
f_____ and w_____ (v28)
dofo newi

2. Other nations will
s_____ you and bow
v e r s e

down to you (v29).

3. You will be lord over your
b_____ and they
t r o b s h e r

will b_____ d _____
w o b n o w d

to you (v29).

4. Those who c_____ you
r e s c u

will be cursed and those who
b_____ you will be
s l e b s

blessed (v29).

(It's part of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12 v 3)

No wonder Jacob wanted this blessing! Imagine all of that happening to you.

Now read blessing 3 again. Before Esau and Jacob were born, God told Rebekah...

***"The older will serve the younger"* (Genesis 25 v 23)**

God's plans were coming true! Esau would serve Jacob.

WEIRD WORDS

Firstborn

Oldest son

Game

Wild animals. In this case, goats.

Richness

The land would be great for growing crops

Abundance of grain & wine

Loads of it!

Pray!

Thank God that His plans always work out even when things seem to be going wrong.



Esau is sore

Genesis 27 v 30-40



Jacob fooled Isaac into giving him Esau's blessing. Guess who's about to get home...

WEIRD WORDS

Yoke

Like chains imprisoning him as a slave to his brother

Your home will be far from this land where crops grow so well. You will stay alive by the power of your sword and be your brother's slave. But when you decide to be free, you will break loose.

Read Genesis 27 v 30-40

The game is up. Isaac found out too late that he'd been fooled into blessing his younger son. *How did he react (v33)?*

And how did Esau react when he found out (v34, 38)?

Esau asked Isaac to bless him too, but there was no blessing left for him. Here's what Isaac said to Esau:



Later on in Genesis, we'll read how all this came true.

No excuse for sin

God had always planned for Jacob to be more powerful than Esau. But that doesn't mean Rebekah and Jacob were right to lie and steal. It's never right to sin, whatever our excuse is.

Effects of sin

Look at the rotten effect Jacob's deception had on the rest of his family:

Isaac was furious

Esau was hugely upset

Esau lost everything

Esau wanted to kill Jacob (see v41)



Think!

When we live to please ourselves, we often don't notice how it affects other people. Is there anyone you need to apologise to for hurting them?

The most amazing thing is that God would still use this family in His great plans! He would keep His promises to Abraham, and one day, Jesus would be born into this family!

Pray!



Thank God that He's always in control, even when we mess things up.

Revenge is sour

Genesis
27 v 41-45



Jacob has cheated Esau out of the big blessing.

Esau is furious and very upset.

Any ideas what he'll do next?

WEIRD WORDS

Days of mourning

Sadness when Isaac died

Just you wait
till I get hold of
you...

I'll get my own
back on her

You'll be sorry!

What word springs to mind? Here's a clue. It starts with an R, has 3 Es in it, a V, N, G and rhymes with Stonehenge. Sort of.

R _ _ _ _ _

Got it?

Read Genesis 27 v 41-45

Any feelings of revenge are wrong, but Esau was so angry, that he said he'd k _ _ _ J _ _ _ _ when Isaac died.

Rebekah heard about this and took swift action:

Okay Jacob,
you've got to go to your
Uncle Laban's place in Harran.
Stay there until it's safe to
return.

That's a journey of hundreds of miles! All on his own.

Doing wrong always has bad results, as this family is discovering. Match up the boxes below by drawing lines between them.

PERSON	SIN	RESULT
Esau	deceived her husband	made Jacob run for his life
Jacob	wanted to kill his brother	wrecked his father's and brother's lives
Rebekah	deceived his father	lost her favourite son



Think & Pray!

Is there anyone you'd like to get revenge on?

Tell God about it, say sorry to Him, and ask Him to help you to forgive that person.

Run for it!

Genesis
27 v 46 –
28 v 5



Esau wants to kill Jacob. So it's time for Jacob to make a quick exit...

WEIRD WORDS

Hittite women

From Canaan, where Isaac and his family lived

Canaanite

Like Hittite

Fruitful

Have lots of children

Aramean

From Aram, an area hundreds of miles away

Ishmael

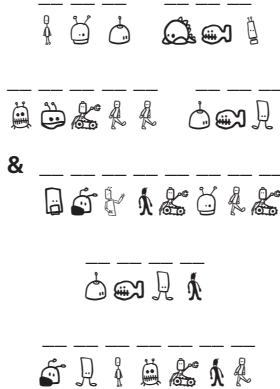
Esau's uncle

Read Genesis 27 v 46 – 28 v 2

Unbelievable. Rebekah is still deceiving her husband! By whining about Esau's Hittite wives, she persuades Isaac to send Jacob away, where he'll be safe from his murderous brother.

Read verses 3-5

Use the code to reveal what Isaac said to Jacob.



God promised Abraham loads of descendants and the land of Canaan for them to live in. These promises were passed on to Jacob!

Wow!

Jacob was leaving his parents and starting a new life. The future looked scary for him. But God was in control, and would keep His promises to Jacob. The same is true for all Christians.

Pray!

Thank God that He's in control. Ask Him to help you when life seems scary or difficult.

A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P R S T U V Y

