

Lesson: Genesis 25-27

The story of Jacob and Esau is very thought provoking. Twin brothers, born to Isaac (Abraham's son) and Isaac's wife Rebekah, who were at odds with each other from the womb into adulthood. Jacob and Esau were significantly different from each other in character as well as in appearance, “when the time came to give birth, Rebekah discovered that she did indeed have twins! The first one was very red at birth and covered with thick hair like a fur coat. So they named him Esau. Then the other twin was born with his hand grasping Esau's heel. So they named him Jacob” (Genesis 25: 24-26). “As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home” (Genesis 25: 27). The stark differences between them allowed for two very different life paths based on the choices they made, and each of their choices/decisions and actions were made based on their nature or their inherent tendencies that direct conduct.

Each day we are faced with choices and decisions, and our actions have lasting effects. We make decisions based on our feelings, and out of wisdom or ignorance. The type of person we are also determines the choices we make and the actions we take. Are you kind, fair, thoughtful, or selfish, manipulative, stubborn? Analytical and tactful? A planner, or more spontaneous and impulsive?

Bible Study

Are you someone who would choose instant gratification without thoughts of how it impacts the future?

When Esau sells his birthright to Jacob for some stew, we see that Esau was only thinking about feeding his hunger in that moment and not about all the privilege that came with being a first-born son or how giving up his birthright may affect his future. Jacob however seemed to be more of a planner, and very deliberate and calculated, “One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. Esau said to Jacob, I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew! All right, Jacob replied, but trade me your rights as the first-born son” (Genesis 25: 29-31). So, Esau gave up his birthright to Jacob. Esau did not care about this precious right in the moment he was faced with the choice of instant gratification over future consequences.

Later, we again see Jacob plan and scheme against his brother Esau to get a blessing from his father Isaac. With Jacob's calculated deception he received the blessing that was meant for Esau (Genesis 27: 1-40).

We don't have a complete understanding of how God uses our different characteristics to fulfill His greater purpose and how He uses our strengths and weaknesses. We do however know that God is all seeing and all-knowing and that He can turn our wrongs into rights. The story allows us to consider how God uses our strengths, weaknesses, faults, and flaws and connects it all for good.

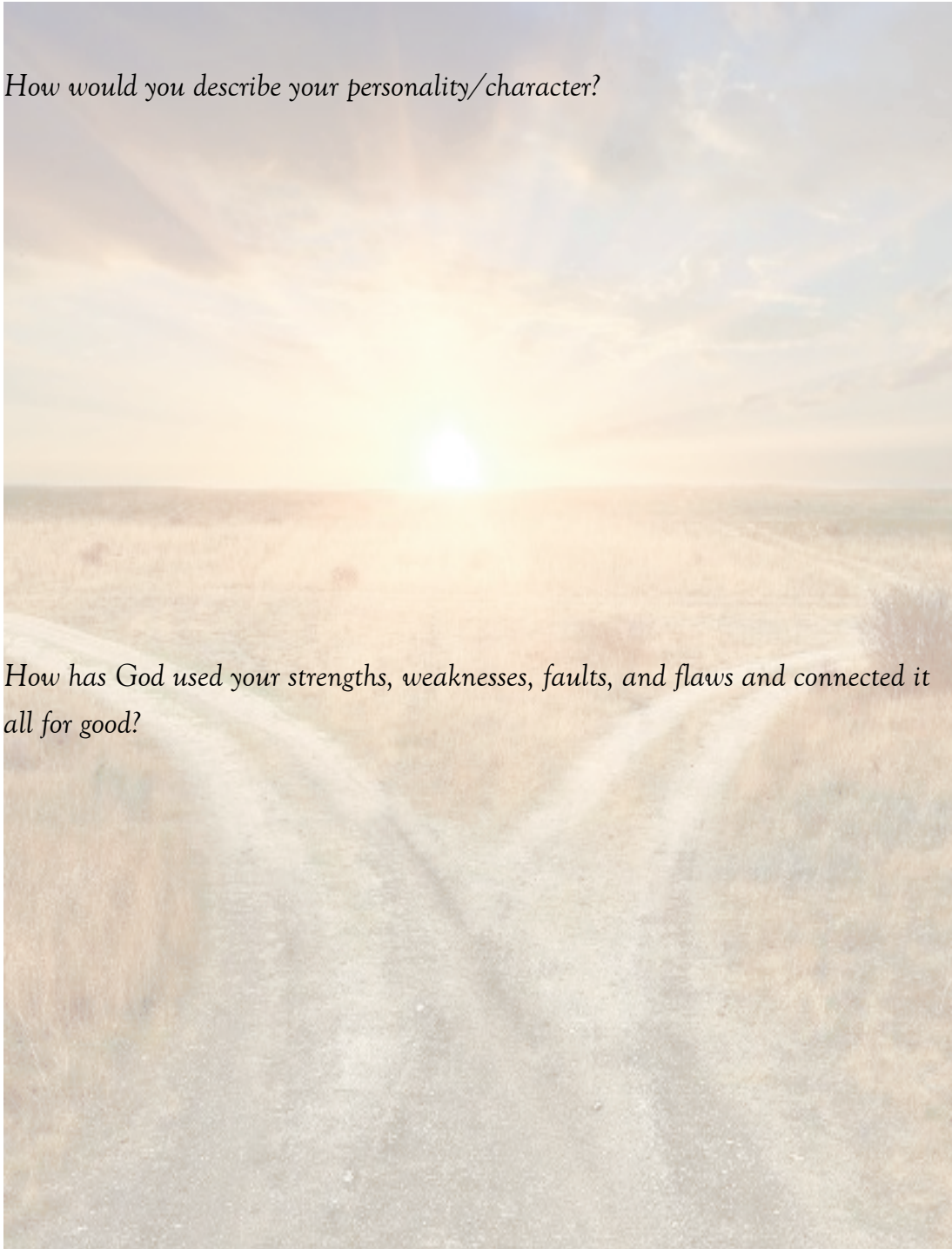
Take-away: Who we inherently are determines the choices we make and actions we take/ Our choices and actions, whether negative or positive, have lasting effects that God has already prepared for and He has already connected it all for good.

Devotional

Genesis 25-27

How would you describe your personality/character?

How has God used your strengths, weaknesses, faults, and flaws and connected it all for good?



Devotional

How has your personality influenced major decisions and actions taken in your life?

What wrong have you done, in which the lesson from it humbled you the most?