

## **Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown**

### **October 4-10: Read Genesis 27 & Gospel of Mark 5**

#### **Genesis 27**

This chapter is a study in the harmful effects of favoritism in a family. It's certainly hard to avoid the accusation from our children, "You love her more than me!" but if not properly addressed, it can lead to irreparable harm. Like our story here. It's a story of the son's betrayal of his father. But Jacob would try to justify his actions by claiming his father has never loved him. In the end, the family is left broken.

#### **Further Study & Discussion**

- Talk about your own family life and how favoritism played a part in it, if it did. And talk about how you felt. This can lead to a great conversation for the whole family.
- Rebekah helped Jacob acquire the father's blessing. As both a wife and mother, why do you think she chose to help her son deceive her husband? What could be going on in that marriage? If you are married, can you relate to this situation?
- This story points to the importance of the Father's Blessing on their children. But in modern times, we can apply this for mothers as well. Fathers and mothers, go and pray for your children with laying your hand on their heads, all day this week.

#### **Gospel of Mark 5**

Three incredible miracles are recorded, back to back to back. Jesus' power is displayed in his authority over a legion of demons. And in the two healing stories that follow, we see that Jesus does not favor people because of their position in life – he healed a daughter of a man in high position, and he heals a woman who struggled with bleeding for twelve long years. Anyone and everyone can come to Jesus.

#### **Further Study & Discussion**

- We don't know what to do with stories of demon possession. We see them in the horror movies, but we don't see that in our normal lives. Satan is called the great deceiver for a reason. He is hidden but active. In what ways do you think the devil operates in our lives today?
- In the healing of the bleeding woman, Jesus felt the woman's desperation and long suffering. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well"? What is faith, and how did she have such great faith?
- In the last healing story, Jesus told most of the gathered people to go outside while he and his disciples, along with the parents stayed with the child. Why do you think he told the others to go out? And how does this apply to our living today?