

## Scoring In the Wrong Endzone | Genesis 25:27-34 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To understand a way you are tempted to settle for something less rather than wait for the promises of God.

**Sermon Refresher:** Dave recounts the story of Esau selling his birthright to Joseph for a bowl of soup. It demonstrates a classic case of running to wrong endzone and shows us the folly of what exchanging what God promises for our immediate passing desires.

**Icebreaker:** Dave shared the story of Jim Marshall who scored a touchdown for the wrong team. Have you ever had a sports or activity blunder?

### **Discussion:**

1. In the background of all that unfolds with Jacob and Esau's relationship is their parents' favoritism. Read Genesis 25:27-28:

#### **Genesis 25:27-28**

<sup>27</sup> The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. <sup>28</sup> Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

What problems have you seen favoritism in families cause?

Read what unfolds in the rest of our passage:

#### **Genesis 25:29-34**

<sup>29</sup> Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. <sup>30</sup> He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) <sup>31</sup> Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." <sup>32</sup> "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup> But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

**Note:** A birthright meant that you would take over the leading of the broader family, the family business, and a larger portion of the inheritance. What was extra significant about this particular birthright was that it also included becoming heir to the promises God gave to Abraham (to bless him, grant descendants, give the promised land).

2. Why did Esau trade his birthright for a bowl of lentil soup and a piece of bread?
3. Esau asked for red stew (or as Dave pointed out in Hebrew is red red) which implied a rich meaty stew. Instead the stew was a lentil soup. How do our sinful desires often promise us more than they actually deliver?
4. Read how the author of Hebrews in the New Testament applies this story:

## **Hebrews 12:16**

<sup>16</sup> See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

How could sexual immorality (or other sins) repeat Esau's folly?

5. Esau is described in Hebrews 12:16 as godless. What does it practically mean to be godless?
6. How can we avoid being godless? How can allow God to infiltrate our thinking and choices more?
7. Dave also mentioned another time when a football player was running towards the other team's endzone. The difference this time is that his own teammates were able to tackle him. Why is it better to be tackled by each other than end up in the wrong endzone?
8. Why is it worth it to hold out for the birthright?

## **Sharing and Prayer:**

Share a way you need strength to resist settling for the red red and to hold out for the birthright and pray for each other.