

# Gathering

## PRIORITIES

If you have a sibling, you are familiar with the rivalry that is naturally developed. I have two boys and everything for them is competition, who can run the fastest, who can eat the fastest, who can shower the fastest, non-stop competing. They also compete for affection from Mommy and Daddy, they want to be the most loved and cared about, the favorite.

Genesis 25:27-28 says: *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. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

Esau and Jacob had a complicated relationship, and their parents' favoritism made the relationship even more complicated. The rivalry that was developed created a dysfunctional family dynamic that caused lying and deceit in later chapters. Dysfunctional dynamics come when we don't have our priorities right; when we are selfish and not aligned with God's standards.

Priorities affect the order of importance and value we give to life, people, and things. God wants us to have healthy relationships and the only way we can do that is when God is at the center of our relationships. It is hard to be the best parent we can be or the best spouse we can be or the best friend we can be when God is not our priority.

When our priorities are right, we will be able to reconcile our goals with God's will for our lives. As a result, we will have healthy and holy relationships, as God intended.

After reading the scripture consider these questions

- Have you experienced this kind of rivalry yourself or seen it with others?
- What are some red flags in our life that our priorities are not right?
- How can we cultivate God's priorities to bring about reconciliation between our priorities and God's?
- Are there relationships that you have seen improved when aligned with God's priorities?

*Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.*

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Genesis 25:27-28



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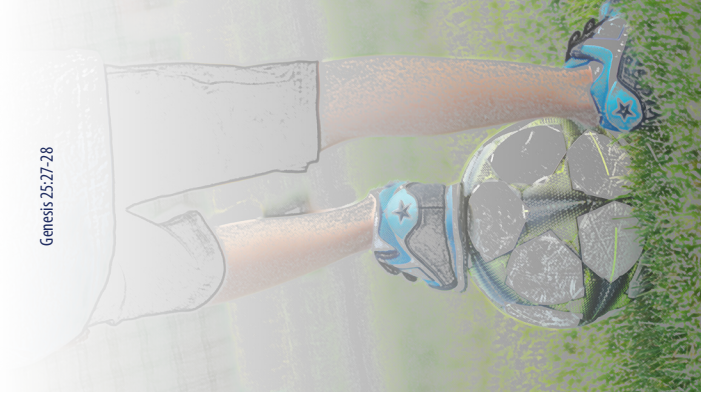
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Are there relationships that you have seen **improved** when aligned with God's **priorities**?



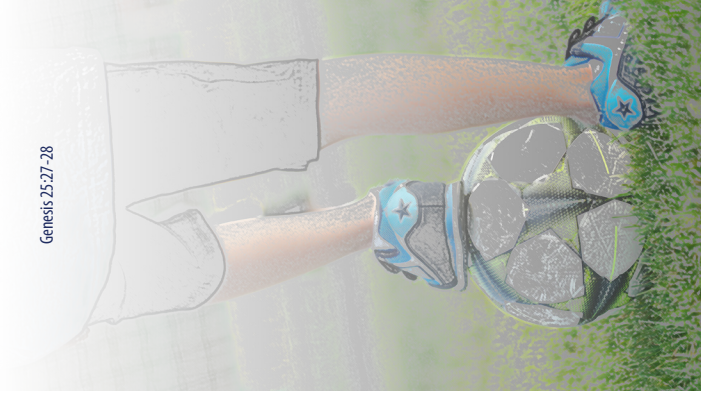
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Genesis 25:27-28



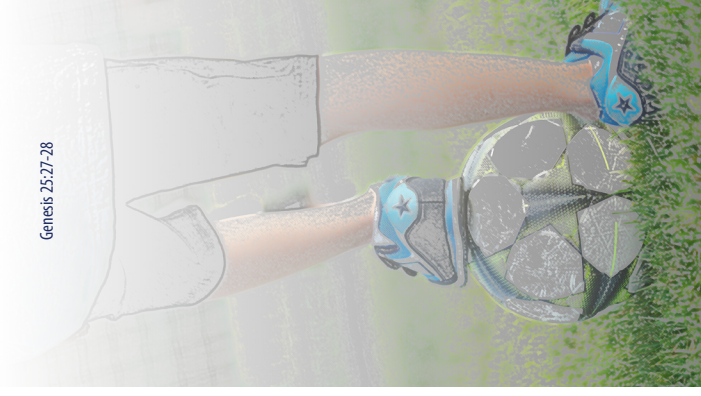
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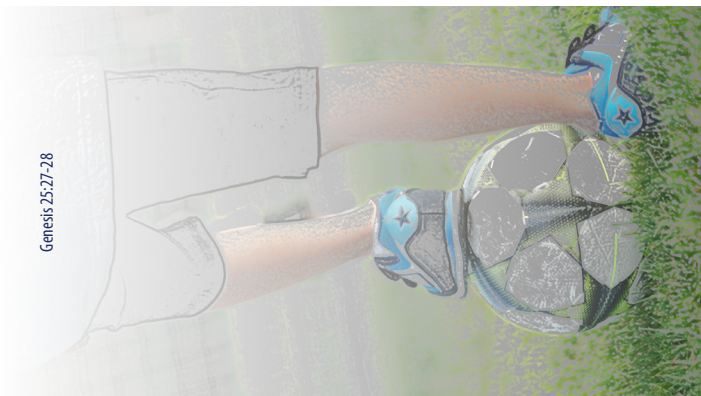
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Our culture affects our priorities. It can affect the way we live, act, and it can affect our relationships. Our culture is very selfish, telling us constantly to do what's best for "ME," but this does not

align with what God desires for us. If we look at the life of Christ, he exemplifies what is to live with God's priorities. He humbled himself to come to earth as a human and was willing to die in our place. If we look at Christ, we realize that God does not intend for us to be selfish, but selfless, even in our relationships. How can we realign our priorities to have the healthy, holy relationships God intended? Explore the following:

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#### **MATTHEW 22:34-40:**

Jesus is telling us what the greatest commandment is. If we apply this commandment to our relationships, what would our priorities look like?

#### **COLOSSIANS 5:22-23:**

What would our relationships look like if they had this kind of fruit?

#### **COLOSSIANS 5:22-23:**

What kind of love is this? Do you think it's possible to have this kind of love in our relationships? How?

*Written by Lt. Meghan Labrecque,  
Massachusetts Division*



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