

A God-Shaped 2026 – A God-Shaped Character

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.

1 Timothy 1:15

Is there an aspect of your life which regularly fails to reflect the fullness of God's life to others?

Genesis 25:19–26

This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant.... When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.

1. Jacob's name means "heel-grabber" and "deceiver."

Genesis 27:1-4, 18–20

When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." "Here I am," he answered. Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. Now then, get your equipment—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die."

He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," he answered. "**Who is it?**" Jacob said to his father, "**I am Esau your firstborn.** I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing." Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The Lord your God gave me success," he replied.

2. Jacob is true to his name; he is prepared to deceive to succeed

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Genesis 28:13–15

There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

3. Even so, God promises to be with him, to prosper him, and that through him people will be blessed.

Genesis 32:22–28

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "**What is your name?**" "**Jacob**," he answered. Then the man said, "**Your name will no longer be Jacob**, but **Israel**, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

4. For God's life to shine through us, we must relinquish the shadow parts of us.

What part of your inner nature no longer fits into the life of Jesus?

What aspect of your character might Jesus be asking you to surrender to him so that his love might be more reflected through you?

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