

STUDY GUIDE
7

Jacob Is Chosen by God

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 7*.

❖ Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. As the firstborn, Esau was to receive his family's birthright. God had told Isaac's wife, Rebekah, that Jacob was his chosen one. Jacob would play a special role in the life of his people.

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❖ The birthright meant higher rank in the family and a larger inheritance. It also meant that God's Chosen People would come from that line.

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❖ Even though Jacob was the chosen one, he and Rebekah did not trust in God's choice. First, Jacob persuaded Esau to sell his birthright. Then Rebekah and Jacob fooled Isaac by having Jacob pretend to be Esau. God was not pleased with Jacob's deception. However, because Jacob was the chosen one, the special blessing could not be taken back.

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❖ Esau wanted to kill his brother for stealing his birthright. To save Jacob from his brother, Rebekah sent Jacob to live with his uncle Laban in Haran. This also allowed Jacob to choose a wife from among Laban's daughters.

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❖ On his way to Haran, Jacob had a dream. In the dream, God renewed the promises he had made to Abraham. The dream reassured Jacob of God's presence in his life.

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❖ Jacob fell in love with his uncle Laban's daughter Rachel. He agreed to work for his uncle for seven years in order to marry her. After the first seven years, Jacob was tricked into marrying Rachel's sister Leah. He worked another seven years in order to marry Rachel.

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❖ While traveling, Jacob stopped to pray and a stranger appeared. Jacob wrestled the stranger until dawn. As a result, he was hurt and he would always have a limp. The stranger gave Jacob the name Israel. The Chosen People would later be known as the Israelites—those who came from Israel.

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❖ The Sacrament of Baptism marked you as chosen by God to be his child and a member of his Church. Your baptismal name is the name by which God called you to be a member of his family. Baptism gives us new life in Jesus Christ.

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❖ The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens and confirms our relationship with God. It seals the grace that we receive in Baptism. We are better able to share in Jesus' mission.

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