Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I overheard your father speaking to your brother Esau, saying,

'Bring me some game and prepare a dish for me to eat, that I may bless you, with 's approval, before I die.'

Then she put in the hands of her son Jacob the dish and the bread that she had prepared.

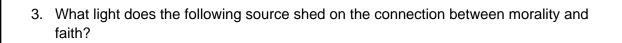
He went to his father and said, "Father." And he said, "Yes, which of my sons are you?"

Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau, your first-born; I have done as you told me. Pray sit up and eat of my game, that you may give me your innermost blessing."

Isaac said to his son, "How did you succeed so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because your God granted me good fortune."

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But the children struggled in her womb, and she said, "If so, why do I exist?"\* She went to inquire of ,

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and answered her,
"Two nations are in your womb,
Two separate peoples shall issue from your body;
One people shall be mightier than the other,
And the older shall serve the younger."

Rashi's commentary on these pesukim tries to help us understand how faith was the reason the immoral act was committed.

AND TWO RACES — The word always denotes a people that has all the characteristics of a kingdom (Avodah Zarah 2b)

SHALL BE PARTED FROM THY BOWELS —as soon as they leave thy body they will take each a different course — one to his wicked ways, the other to his plain life (Genesis 5:27)

SHALL BE STRONGER THAN THE OTHER RACE — They will never be equally great at the same time: when one rises the other will fall.

4. What does the added information help you understand?

5. What do you still wonder?

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Then they took Joseph's tunic, slaughtered a kid, and dipped the tunic in the blood.
They had the ornamented tunic taken to their father, and they said, "We found this. Please examine it; is it your son's tunic or not?"
He recognized it, and said, "My son's tunic! A savage beast devoured him! Joseph was torn by a beast!"
8. How is this lie an example of measure for measure?
9. The bible is not a history book. Why do we need to learn about the way Jacob, our nation's father, got his blessing?
10. Do you believe that the goal sanctifies the means?
11. What do you think Rabbi Sacks would say about it, based on the sources you read so far?

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