

MARINERS CHURCH



Manipulative People

June 8-9, 2019

One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. Esau said to Jacob, "I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew!"

"All right," Jacob replied, "but trade me your rights as the firstborn son."

"Look, I'm dying of starvation!" said Esau. "What good is my birthright to me now?"

But Jacob said, "First you must swear that your birthright is mine." So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob. Genesis 25:29-33

She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it. Judges 16:16

Manipulation:

- **Being unfairly controlled or influenced to another's advantage.**
- **Surrendering the direction or choices of our lives to someone besides God.**

Three prayers...

"God, help me recognize when someone is trying to manipulate me."

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Matthew 16:21-22

How do I know when someone is trying to manipulate or control me?

- **They'll lead me to feel guilty**
- **I begin to compromise my values to please others.**



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"God, help me to put healthy boundaries in place."

Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's." Matthew 16:23

"God, help me to see my need for control and surrender everything to You."

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." -Jesus, Matthew 16:24

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." -Jesus, Matthew 11:28-30

Talk it Over! Questions for your LifeGroup or Accountability Partner

Why do people manipulate us?

What is your normal response? Do you ever cave in? How do you feel when you do?

The life of Jacob in the Bible is one of constant manipulation. Check out these passages and talk about what was going on and what insights into Jacob (or yourself) that you find

Genesis 25:29-34

Genesis 28:20-22

How is manipulation related to control?

Talk about how it can be difficult in giving control to God.