

Lesson 1

Jacob – Isaac’s Blessing

Objective

Study Genesis 27: Jacob steals Isaac’s blessing and the trouble it causes. Learn why it is wise to pick a Godly spouse but not to pick favorite children.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Attendance Chart
- Isaac’s Blessing Visual Aid – one for class
- Jacob and Esau Sheet – one for class to share
- Words to Describe Jacob & Esau – one for class (cut out before)
- Bibles – enough for everyone to have one
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Stickers (for attendance)

Optional Supplies

Print From the Site:

- Isaac’s Blessing Coloring Sheet – one per student
- Colored Construction Paper – 2 different colors per student for craft
- Glue Sticks and Scissors to share
- Snack: Bread or Bagel Pieces – enough to share

Teacher Tips

- ★ Use lots of visuals and actions to keep student’s attention.
- ★ Allow them to color while you read the story to keep them focused if needed
- ★ Sit beside children who can be fidgety or who might distract others
- ★ Learn their names - calling a student by name, gets them back on track
- ★ Break up the lesson if needed with a different activity to keep their attention
- ★ Remember to promote “please and thank you”

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using the supplied chart or your own). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Share with students: **This quarter we will continue to study the Old Testament in the book of Genesis, about the life of Isaac and his two sons – Jacob and Esau. If you remember last quarter you studied about Abraham the first patriarch – or head of the household. You learned that he was faithful to God and so God promised Abraham that he would have all the land of Canaan for his descendants one day. God also said Abraham would have so many descendants or offspring that they would be too numerous to count and that all the world would be blessed. That came true because of Jesus. Abraham had a son named Isaac who was also faithful to God and he married Rebekah. Together they had two twin sons – Jacob and Esau. Today we will learn about how Jacob stole Esau’s blessing! Let’s get started!**

2) Esau Gets Married

5-10 minutes

Ask students to turn to **Genesis 26:34-35**. Then read it yourself as the names may be difficult for the students.

Genesis 26:34-35

When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, ³⁵ and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

***The Hittites were from Canaan, the area Abraham’s family would one day inherit from God. Canaan was the name of Noah’s grandson. Noah had Ham and Ham had Canaan. The Hittites were the ones that lived around the area Abraham and Isaac had lived and wandered. They did not follow God. So that meant Judith and Basemath also did not follow God.**

Why would these women be a source of grief for Isaac and Rebekah? They were not believers or followers of God and so wouldn’t have the same values as they did.

Did it say Esau talked to his parents about whom to marry? No, it says he married two women but not that he consulted with his parents.

Why do you think it might be a good idea to talk with your parents about who you are thinking of marrying? Parents can give wise advice, they will be a part of your lives along with your spouse, they may think of something you may not, they could help you think of things about the person you might not have thought of.

Because Esau did not marry Godly women, it caused problems for him and his family.

3) Class Time

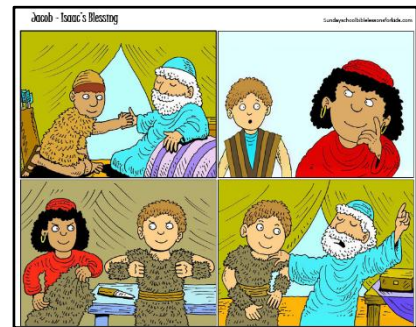
15-20 minutes

Prep

Have visual aid and if you have students who need an activity to do while listening, provide the coloring page as well.

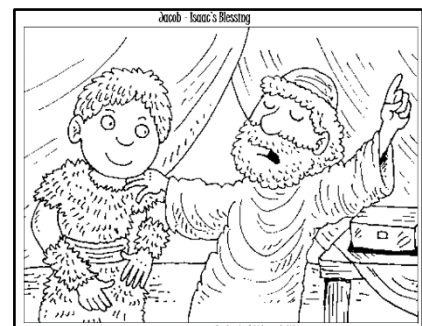
Activity

Ask the students: **What happened last time we studied Jacob and Esau?** Jacob gave Esau some lentil stew in exchange for Esau's birthright.



Remember a birthright was the amount of inheritance one would receive along with the privilege of being the first born. Esau gave that to Jacob and so despised his birthright. Now we will read of how Jacob also takes Esau's blessing from his father! In this case, Jacob tricked his father and took Esau's blessing without Esau knowing. Esau's blessing was stolen from him.

Follow along as I read the story. Read **Genesis 27:1-40**. Hand out one coloring page to each child with pencil crayons and allow students to color the page while they listen to you read the story of Jacob stealing Esau's blessing, have them look at the visual's as well. Tell them to listen because you will ask questions when you are done reading. When finished, have students put the color page and crayons away and then ask the following questions.



How was Jacob able to trick Isaac? Isaac could no longer see.

Isaac was 40 years old when he and Rebekah married (Genesis 25:20) **and it took 20 years for them to have the twins – Jacob and Esau** (Genesis 25:26). **Isaac was already an older man when he had children, he was 60! These children grew up and by the time they were young men, he was already blind. Isaac lived to be 180 years old** (Genesis 35:28-29) **and sometime after the age of 60, he was blind. So for approximately 100 years or more, Isaac lived blind.**

Who did Isaac want to give the blessing to? Esau the first born.

Who overheard Isaac’s conversation with Esau? Rebekah.

Who told Jacob to trick his father? Rebekah.

How did Jacob and Rebekah trick Isaac? Jacob wore goat skins, his brother’s clothes to smell like him, and brought him the food he requested sooner than Esau did.

Was Isaac certain or sure it was Esau? Not at first, he was suspicious because he asked “Are you really my son Esau?” and he also had to smell and touch Jacob to test first.

Was Esau able to get the blessing back? No.

Was Isaac and Esau upset with Jacob? Yes.

Why were they upset? Because Jacob and his mother tricked Isaac and stole what should have been Esau’s. They were liars, tricksters, and sinned.

Did Jacob lie to his father? Yes.

If Jacob and Rebekah trusted in God – they would know that God’s will and plan would work out too – they didn’t need to jump in a trick Isaac and Esau. This only created problems. We need to remember to trust God and never lie or trick anyone to get what we want!

What do you think about how Jacob behaved? Allow students to answer.

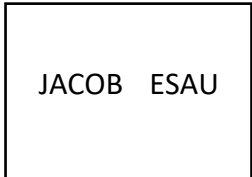
What should Jacob have done instead? Not listened to his mother because she wanted him to lie. He didn't need Isaac's blessing. He should have followed God and trusted God to take care of the issue.

Allow for questions, state that you will come back next week with answers if the questions are too big for you to deal with this week and address the person next week if appropriate. You can contact me Sundayschoolbiblelessonsforkids@protonmail.com if you need help with any questions. Then, move on to the next activity. Always have the children look to the Bible for their answers and help them find the verses they need.

4) Activity Time – What's Different 5-10 minutes

Prep

*Before class print out the Words to Describe sheet and cut them out.
Print the Jacob and Esau Sheet.



Activity

At class, put the JACOB AND ESAU sheet of paper in the middle of the table and dump out all the words that describe each man in a pile. Have students take turns finding a word and putting it with the right man – Jacob or Esau. You may have to read each word chosen aloud for students who can't read and define the word or phrase.

Words to Describe Jacob and Esau
*Print and cut out before class for students to use as descriptors for Jacob and Esau.

Mother's Favorite	Father's Favorite	Hairy
Smooth	Youngest	Oldest
Hunter	Liked Tents	Trickster
Received Blessing	Had Blessing Stolen	Despised Birthright
Sold Birthright	Took Birthright	Liar
Angry	Scared	Red

When finished check to make sure the right attributes are put with the right man.

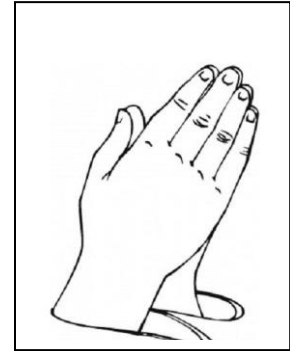
Answers:

Esau: Father's favorite, hairy, oldest, hunter, had blessing stolen, despised birthright, sold birthright, angry, red

Jacob: Mother's favorite, smooth, youngest, liked tents, trickster, received blessing, took birthright, liar, scared

5) Optional Activity – Jesus Can Help Me Make Good Choices 10-15 minutes

Hand out two different colored pieces of construction paper along with scissors and markers to each student. Have tape or glue to share on hand as well.



Students can be given one colored construction paper to trace their "praying" hands and then they can cut them out. Ask for children to take turns helping each other draw while the other puts their hands together in praying position to trace out. After each student cuts out their praying hands, glue or tape the praying hands onto the other piece of construction paper and title with bright colored markers, JESUS WILL HELP ME MAKE GOOD CHOICES.

Say to students: **Unlike Jacob and Esau when they were younger, you can make better choices by praying to Jesus for help. They did not pray to God and that got them into trouble. Esau did not ask God or his parents for advice and help on who to marry. Jacob did not ask for God's help when his mom told him to lie. Only later we will read that Jacob became a godly man. When Esau and Jacob were young, they lied, deceived, and despised their privileges. Let's remember not to do that, but instead ask God for help in our lives knowing God will!** When students are finished, have them help clean up and then move on to next activity.

6) Optional Activity – Doing Right 5 minutes

Tell these stories to students to help them understand the importance of doing right and seeking God's help.

1. **Jill's friend asks her to lie to the teacher and say they were together at lunch time even though they were not together. What should Jill do?** Pray to God and tell her friend that she won't lie and whatever her friend did, she should tell the teacher herself before getting caught.
2. **Akhil is mad at his brother who always get more attention than him. So when Akhil's brother gets sick, Akhil debates whether he should steal something of his brother's while he is asleep. What should Akhil do?** Akhil

should pray to God, help his brother and remember that attention from a parent is not as important as doing what is right before God our Father! God will take care of Akhil and give him the attention he needs, even if his family doesn't. God is our heavenly Father and will always do what's best for us, so we should do what's best as well.

7) Optional Snack: Bread

5 minutes

You've all done a great job this morning learning about why it is wise not to lie, pick favorites, disobey God, and not ask Godly people in our lives for advice. To help us remember, we are going to have a snack. Hand out pieces of fresh bread or bagels to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **When Jacob deceived his father and stole his brother's blessing he provided a meal of goat meat, bread and wine for his father. We will eat some bread as a reminder of how Jacob stole his brother's blessing. And to remind us of what we should not do to our family – deceive or lie to them!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss and review questions while snacking. Ask students what they learned today about the event of Jacob and Esau.

Any questions about today's story? Answer the ones you can, tell them you will get back to them next week with the ones you can't. Make sure to write them down so you can ask someone else for help in getting the answers.

What was the favorite thing you learned or did today? Why?

What should we do when someone asks us to do wrong?

What should we do when choosing someone to marry or choosing friends?

Talk about the importance of praying to God and being honest, fair, and listening to God and wise people over those who are wanting us to sin.

8) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities/snacks have been cleaned up. Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share and if so write them down.

Dear God we pray that we will all remember that it is never good to lie to others or to trick them. That we should not pick favorites because it causes problems. Help us to pray to you when we are faced with decisions. Help us to make wise choices and to look for people in our lives who are wise and Godly that we can talk to about our problems and get help from. May we do the right thing and remember that hurting others never helps and that we need to be fair, honest, and kind. Thank You for Your help, Your love and for being our Father. In Jesus' name, Amen.

9) Optional Songs

5 minutes

Father Abraham Song with Actions

Father Abraham had many sons
 Many sons had Father Abraham
 I am one of them and so are you
 So let's all praise the Lord.
 Right arm! (Wiggle right arm)

Father Abraham had many sons
 Many sons had Father Abraham
 I am one of them and so are you
 So let's all praise the Lord.
 Right arm, left arm! (Wiggle right and left arms)

Continue singing song and add right leg, then left leg, turn around, and finally sit down!

10) Things to Remember

Thank the children for coming.

Take their activity sheets home.

Make sure students leave with a responsible person.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!