

# Lesson 13: The Life of Isaac – Isaac has Children

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 25: Abraham's Death and Family Tree
- 2) Study Genesis Chapter 25-26: Isaac – his sons, his acquaintances, and his relationship with God.
- 3) Make a Family Tree for Abraham.

## **Supplies:**

### **Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)**

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Jacob and Esau Color Page – one per child

### **Optional:**

- Abraham's Family Tree Sheet - one per child
- Lentil Stew – Prepare or buy lentil stew and serve it to students as you read Jacob and Esau.

Recipe and instructions in snack section below.

- Storybook or Visual Aids with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board and characters to show the story of this chapter.

### **Snack:**

- Lentil Stew (Recipe in Snack Section or use your own)      enough per child
- Crock Pot – to keep stew warm
- Styrofoam Cups      one per child for soup
- Plastic Spoon      one per child for soup
- Napkins for snack      one per child
- Juice or water and cup      one per child

## **Lesson:**

### **1) Introduction to Lesson**

**2-5 minutes**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance. Once children are seated say:

**Today we will learn the names of Abraham's family and see what happens to Isaac and Rebekah now that they are married.**

**What so far have we learned about Isaac?** Came from Sarah and Abraham, the promised son, Isaac was obedient because he went with his dad on the mountain to be sacrificed but God saved him, lost his mother Sarah and got married to Rebekah. **Good job, let's know move on to today's lesson.**

### **2) Death of Abraham and His Descendants**

**10 minutes**

**Optional:** if you have a book with pictures or visuals showing this story you can show the pictures as you read from the Bible.

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Genesis 25. Read the story from **Genesis 25:1-18** as there are a lot of hard names to pronounce. When done mention these descriptions of the two words in the text that might not be known by the students.

**\*Just a note:**

- 1)** the word “**concubine**” means someone who is like a wife in marriage, but is not the first wife and does not have the same rights as the first wife. We do not practice this today, but back in Abraham’s time it was done sometimes under their custom.
- 2)** “**gathered to his people**” used here for Abraham and Ishmael in Chapter 25 shows that after death, one is still alive spiritually. There is spiritual existence after death. “Gathered to his people” means reuniting with ancestors, a tribe, or people – it means being brought to a place where others were also brought after death.

**Ask the following questions:** (You may have to re-read some of the verses so they can remember and answer the questions)

**What happened after Sarah died?** Abraham married Keturah.

**How many children did Keturah have?** 6

**What happened to the children of Keturah before Abraham died?** They were given gifts and sent off to the east away from Isaac.

**How long did Abraham live?** 175 years.

**Who buried Abraham and where?** Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham in the cave where Sarah was buried.

**How many children did Ishmael have?** 12

**What does it say about Ishmael’s descendants?** Lived in the east and lived in hostility towards all their brothers.

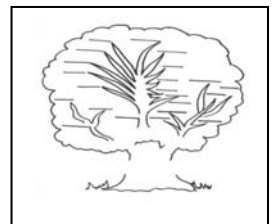
Allow for questions. Then, move on to the next activity.

**3) Optional - Abraham’s Family Tree Activity Sheet**

**10 minutes**

Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencil crayons and pencils. Tell the students

**Today we learned how many children Abraham had and with what women. We also learned about some of his grandchildren. Using Genesis Chapter 25 fill in the family tree provided with the names of the sons and grandsons of Abraham – we will fill in spots for Isaac’s children a little later!**



Help students fill in spots with the correct names of all of Abraham’s sons that he had with Sarah, Hagar and Keturah (see sheet for directions). Have them color tree if there is time. For the sons of Ishmael you can say the name but let them write the first letter of each son rather than the full name. Remember to leave Isaac’s children for later.

When finished, clean up and move on to the next activity.

**4) Jacob and Esau – Isaac’s Sons and Color Page**

**15-20 minutes**

**\*Optional:** Serve Lentil Stew to children while you read the story so they can truly get an idea of what Esau gave up all for a bowl of stew! Recipe and directions are below in the snack section. Check for allergies first.

Have students turn in their Bibles to **Genesis 25:19-34**. Have them listen as you read, if you are letting them eat the stew at the same time. Ask the following questions:

**Why did Isaac pray to the Lord?** Because Rebekah was barren and couldn't have children.

**How is this different than what was mentioned about Abraham?** Abraham was told by God he would have a child. It is not recorded that Abraham prayed to God. Also, when Sarah came to Abraham with the idea of using Hagar to have a child, it is not recorded that Abraham asked God about it first.

**What did God say about the twins Rebekah was going to have?** That they would be two separate nations, with the younger being stronger and being served by the older.

**What was unique about Esau?** He was red and hairy.

**What does Esau mean?** Hairy.

**What does Jacob mean?** He grasps the heel or he deceives.

**What did Esau like to do?** Hunt.

**What did Jacob like to do?** Stay around the tents.

**If someone asks you for food that you are eating – do you normally give them some and share?** Allow students to answer.

**Did Jacob give Esau stew?** Yes, but only after making him promise something severe – Jacob was a trickster.

**What did Jacob want?** Esau's birthright. \* a birthright is a particular right of possession or privilege one has from birth. In this case, since Esau was the oldest, he was the first born and would receive a double portion from his father's possessions when he died.

**What do you think it means that Esau despised his birthright?** Allow students to answer. But most likely he had no respect for the fact he was privileged and showed no respect for his family and his responsibility to carry on the family name.

**Let's turn to Hebrews 12:15-17 and read what it says about Esau and about us.**

### **Hebrews 12:15-17**

15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

**What do these verses say about Esau?** He was godless and he couldn't change what he had done.

**What does it say we need to be careful of?** We need to be careful not to be like Esau. We need to be godly and respectful. We need to also be careful that we don't do something foolish that we can't take back or change later!

Ask if there are any questions, refer to the Bible where you can for answers and then move on to the coloring page.

Hand out one color page to each child along with crayons or pencil crayons.

Allow children to color. (For children who have trouble staying focused, you can

Hand out the coloring sheet during the questions so that they can color while answering.

When finished move on to the next activity.



Tell the students: **This is the last lesson for this quarter. We will continue studying Genesis next week and start looking at the life of Jacob – Isaac’s youngest son.**

### 5) Memory Verse

1-2 minutes

Recite the Memory Verse **Genesis 15:6** as a group. You can choose from one of the following:  
Abraham believed God, and He (God) accounted it to him for righteousness. (NKJV)  
Abram believed the Lord, and He (God) credited it to him as righteousness. (NIV)

See how many students can recite the verse on their own and congratulate those who can and encourage those who can’t to continue practicing at home.

### 6) Optional: Abraham’s Family Tree Activity Sheet- Continued

2-5 minutes

Hand out each child’s sheet to them along with the required pencil crayons; have them fill in the remaining family tree – Isaac’s two children Jacob and Esau! When finished, clean up and move on to the next activity.

### 7) Optional – Read the story of Isaac and Abimelech

10-15 minutes

Have students turn to **Genesis 26**; read **verses 1-6**.

After reading discuss the following questions.

**Did Isaac obey God when God told him to stay in the land?** Yes.

**When the famine happened, where did Isaac go?** To Gerar, where king Abimelech lived.

Read **verses 7-11**

**Who else lied like this before?** Isaac’s mom and dad – Abraham and Sarah.

**What can we learn from this?** If you do something, your children are more likely too as well, but if you see your parents do something wrong, learn from it and don’t do it – this plan never worked for Abraham and it didn’t work for Isaac either!

**Who else lied to Abimelech before?** Isaac’s parents in Chapter 20.

Read **verses 12-22**

Then say: **\*The Philistines are mentioned, these are the descendants of Noah through Ham his middle son.**

**Why did Abimelech want Isaac to move away?** He had become too powerful for the Philistines.

**Why did Isaac finally stop moving after he found a well no one quarreled with?** It meant that there was no one around to argue with him so he found a place with water and no inhabitants where he could live and thrive with his family and herds and not be bothered.

Read **verses 23-25**

**How is Isaac like Abraham?** They both had God speak to them. They both sinned when it came to lying about their wives, they both built altars and worshiped God and they both obeyed God.

Isaac is another man who chose to call on the name of the Lord and like all the others, he would be blessed for it. Calling on the name of the Lord does not mean you are perfect – Abraham and Isaac lied when they thought there was no other way, they sinned and the lie never worked, but by calling on God, they believed in God and tried to make their lives better with God’s help!

Read **verses 26-33** to finish up the chapter for today, you will start with verse 34 next week.

## 8) Optional – Snack: Lentil Stew

5 minutes

\*Before class – make or purchase Lentil Stew. For sample recipe see below. Put the soup in a crock pot before services to keep warm. At church hand out one Styrofoam cup of lentil stew to each child along with a spoon. Check to make sure soup is not too hot! Hand out a drink as well.

Explain that, **“When Esau came back from hunting, he was very hungry –but not so hungry that he should have sold his birthright (or right to get a double portion of the inheritance because he was the first born). Esau did not respect what his family was trying to provide for him. Let’s eat this lentil stew like Esau did, but unlike Esau we will respect our family and our responsibilities.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking!

### Lentil with Barley Stew

Butter or Olive Oil	1 tbsp.
Chopped onion	1/3 cup
Celery	1/3 cup
Veggie broth	3 cups
Uncooked barley	1/3 cup
Canned tomatoes, chopped	2 1/2 cups
Red lentils	1/4 cup
Basil	1/4 tsp.
Salt and pepper	to taste
Bay leaf	1
Carrot, finely chopped	1

In medium pot sauté onion and celery with butter until tender. Add broth and barley and simmer for 45 minutes. Stir and add tomatoes, carrot, red lentils and spices and simmer for 30 minutes. Stir, remove bay leaf and serve.

## 9) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

- 1) **Old Testament Books of the Bible – Sung to the Alphabet song**
- 2) **Isaac and Rebekah** Tune: Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush

Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys,  
Had twin boys, had twin boys.  
Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys,  
And it made them very happy.

Isaac had to pray to God,  
Pray to God, pray to God.  
Isaac had to pray to God  
To help him start his family.

The boy's names were Jacob and Esau,  
Jacob and Esau, Jacob and Esau,  
The boy's names were Jacob and Esau,  
And they were twins.

Jacob liked to stay near the tents,  
Stay near the tents, stay near the tents.  
Jacob liked to stay near the tents,  
And be near his mom.

Esau liked to go out hunting,  
Go out hunting, go out hunting.  
Esau liked to go out hunting  
And he caught wild game.

Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys,  
Had twin boys, had twin boys.  
Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys,  
And it made them very happy.

## 10) Close in prayer

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Pray that we will follow God and try to please Him all the days of our life. Thanks for everyone who came this quarter to learn about the book of Genesis and God's will for our lives. Pray that everyone will be blessed for choosing to follow God.

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