

# Lesson 1: The Life of Jacob –Jacob Gets Isaac’s Blessing

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 27: Jacob Gets Isaac’s blessing and the trouble it causes
- 2) Learn why it is never good to “pick favorites”.

**Supplies:** Coordinator will ensure these supplies are already in your room.

## Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Jacob takes Esau’s Blessing Color Page – one per student
- Words to Describe Jacob and Esau Template – one sheet for class - cut out before class
- Jacob and Esau Sheet – one sheet for class to share

## **Optional:**

- Colored Construction Paper – 2 different colors per child
- Glue or Tape and Scissors to share
- Storybook of this chapter in Genesis with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board and characters to show the story of this chapter. (if available)

## **Snack:**

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|--------------------------|------------------|
| - Bread or Bagel Pieces  | enough per child |
| - 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.

Write each student’s name on the attendance sheet and then take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Once children are seated introduce yourself and then say:

**This quarter we will continue to study about the Old Testament in the book of Genesis and 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!**

**Let’s sing a song about Abraham to the tune “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”. We will sing it twice so you can learn the words.**

**Twinkle Twinkle – Abraham’s family Song**  
– Sung to “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” Tune

Twinkle Twinkle little stars  
No one knows how many there are.  
God promised Abraham a son.  
Isaac was the promised one.  
Now Abraham’s family is like the stars.  
We can’t count how many there are.

**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) Jacob Steals Esau’s Blessing –Genesis 27:1-40**

**15-20 minutes**

**Optional:** if you have a book with pictures or visual aids showing this story use it while reading from the Bible.

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, Esau had no part in it, it was stolen from him and Jacob tricked his father as well.**

**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, 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.

\*Optional: Play the bum skootch game while asking questions below: Have students sit in a line against the wall. When you take turns asking a student question, if they get it right let them take one “bum skootch” towards you. The first student to reach you wins! \*\*Make sure the floor is clean if doing the bum skootch, otherwise you may choose standing with 1 step each correct answer.

\*If students have trouble remembering, reread the relevant verse again

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

**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 nor trick anyone to get what we want!**

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

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. 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.

**Let's sing the Abraham Song again to the tune "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star". We will sing it twice.**

**Twinkle Twinkle – Abraham's family Song**  
– Sung to "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" Tune

Twinkle Twinkle little stars  
No one knows how many there are.  
God promised Abraham a son.  
Isaac was the promised one.  
Now Abraham's family is like the stars.  
We can't count how many there are.

### **3) Jacob and Esau – What's Different 5-10 minutes**

\*Before class print out the word template and the Jacob and Esau sheet. Then cut out the words the students will use to determine how Esau and Jacob are different.

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. 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.

When finished check to make sure the right attributes are put with the right man and then move on to the next activity.

**Answers:**

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

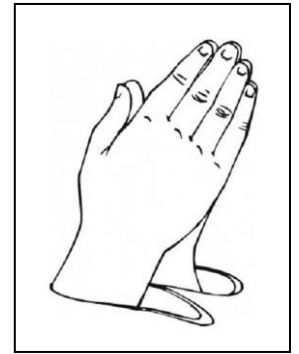
**Jacob:** Mother's favourite, smooth, youngest, liked tents, trickster, received blessing, took birthright, liar, scared

JACOB	ESAU
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**4) Optional: Jesus Can Help Me Make Good Choices****10-15 minutes**

Hand out one black sheet of construction paper along with one colored sheet of construction paper to each child along with scissors and markers. Have tape or glue to share on hand as well.

Children 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. \*If need be you can trace out hands and they cut them out. After each student cuts out their praying hands, glue or tape the praying hands onto another piece of construction paper and title with bright colored markers, JESUS WILL HELP ME MAKE GOOD CHOICES. (Show the students an example of the title so they can see what words are used and how they are spelled)



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. 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!** When students are finished, have them help clean up and then move on to next activity.

**5) Optional – Snack : Bread or Bagels****5 minutes**

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 questions while snacking. Ask students what they learned today about the event of Jacob and Esau.

**6) 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) Twinkle Twinkle – Abraham's family Song** – see lyrics above

**3) Father Abraham Song with Actions** – see lyrics below

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!

## **7) 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 all remember that it is never good to lie to others or to trick them and that we should not pick favorites because it causes problems. Remember to end the prayer with “in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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Thank you for serving Christ in this way!