

Lesson 8: The Life of Jacob –Jacob Meets Esau

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 33: Jacob meets his brother Esau
- 2) Learn that God will be with us if we follow him.
- 3) Remember that Jacob becomes Israel.
- 4) Learn the importance of forgiving – like Esau.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Large writing surface – like easel with paper or chalkboard (to play hangman) or piece of paper to show children as you play hangman.

Optional:

- Match the Name Card Set – printed and cut out on cardstock paper before class – one set per 2-4 students or you can give one set to each student to take home and practice
- 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:

- Animal Crackers 6 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. Take attendance.

What did we study last week about Jacob and his family? Jacob prepared to meet his brother Esau but he was scared that Esau would hurt his family. So, Jacob prayed to God and then later in the night God wrestled with Jacob to show Jacob – that he could overcome any obstacle if he trusted in the Lord.

This week we will study about Jacob and his return to Esau. We will see how Esau reacted and learn how we should react when someone we have had problems with returns to us.

2) Jacob Meets Esau

10-15 minutes

Have students turn to **Genesis 33:1-18**. Have students take turns reading the verses. Once done thank them for reading.

Discussion Questions:

How did Esau respond when he saw Jacob? He ran to Jacob, hugged and kissed him -verse 4.

Was that the response Jacob expected? No

Why did Jacob not want to travel with Esau? Because he had young animals and children and needed to go slowly.

Where were they to meet up in verse 16? Seir

Where did Jacob set up camp first? Succoth

Then where did he buy land? Shechem

What was the name of the altar? El Elohe Israel which means either – the God of Israel or mighty is the God of Israel.

How did Esau behave when he saw his brother? He was happy and forgiving

Esau had sold his birthright and Jacob stole his blessing – last time Jacob and Esau were together Esau wanted to kill Jacob. Now Esau was showing forgiveness. Let's turn to Matthew 6:13-15 and read from there.

Matthew 6:13-15

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

What does this verse say about the importance of forgiving? Without it you won't be forgiven by God.

God forgives us of ALL our sins when we are baptized and if we continue in the faith He continually forgives us. Because of that, God expects us to forgive people when they sin against us.

How does this verse apply to us today? Allow students to answer.

What can we learn from Esau? Allow students to answer.

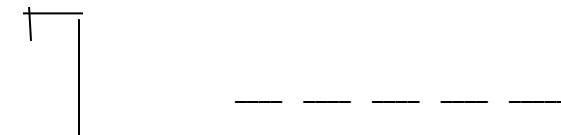
3) Hangman

10-15 minutes

Before class get a large easel or chalkboard with marker or chalk to show kids while playing the game of hangman. If neither are available sit around a table and hold up a page with the gallows and slots for the words underneath so all children can see – use a marker to fill in each letter as they say them. Play hangman with key words from the bible story – when kids discover the word – ask them to explain why that word was important if they can, or you explain if they can't.

Game instructions: Ask students if they know the game, if not explain to them as well.

1. Start the game by choosing a word from the list below –don't let the children know what word you have chosen and don't let them see your list of words.
2. Place one dash on the bottom of a piece of paper for each letter of the word or words chosen. Leave a space between words. Example: Jacob – you would write ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ at the bottom of the page you are using to show the students.
3. Draw a "gallows" at the top of the paper - draw a horizontal line at the bottom, a vertical line coming up out of its center, and then a short line off to the right at the top (so that you now have an upside-down "L" on the horizontal line). Draw a short vertical line off the end of the top line - this is your "noose." Example:



4. Have one of the students guess one letter at a time - or he or she can use a turn to guess the entire word or words. If they get the letter write – fill it in where it belongs – example: J would go at the first slot above for J ___ ___ ___ ___.

- If they get the letter wrong – write the letter on the top of the page – so other students know it was already chosen and then fill in a part of the body on the hangman’s noose. Begin by drawing a head attached to the short vertical line (the "noose"). Add body, right leg, left leg, right arm, and then left arm.
- Know that if the drawing of the person is completed before the word or words are guessed, the guessing player and all the other students lose. If the player figures out the word or words first, he or she wins.
- When a student guesses the word ask them to explain something that they know about the word.

List of Words to Use

(and possible suggestions for things they might know about that word):

Jacob – son of Isaac, stole his brother’s blessing, had 12 sons

Rachel – woman he loved and worked seven years for. Mother of Joseph and Jacob’s favorite wife.

Leah – Jacob’s first wife – was married to Jacob through the trickery of her father, mother of 6 of Jacob’s sons and had one daughter.

Twelve – Total number of Jacob’s sons

Israel- the name Jacob received from God meaning – One who overcomes or struggles with God

Esau- Jacob’s brother who forgave him for stealing his blessing. Sold his birthright for lentil stew.

4) Optional: Matching Learn the Names of Jacob’s Sons Game 10-15 minutes

Before Class:

Print and bring the list of “Jacob’s 12 Sons” sheet – one for every 2-4 students.

Print and cut out the Match the Name Cards – one set for every 2-4 students

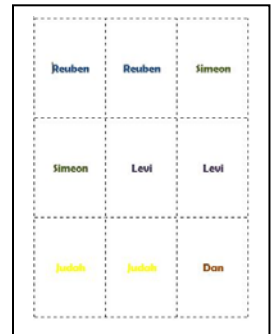
(or if you want them to take a set home each to practice – one set per student)

Put students into groups and hand out the appropriate amount of card sets to each group. Each card set has one blank card – remove that.

Explain to students to take their cards, shuffle and mix them up and place them face down so no one can see. Each student gets a turn to flip over two

cards, read out the name and if the name matches, they can keep the two cards. If they don’t match have them flip the cards back down and let the next student have a turn. If someone matches a set, they get another turn until they no longer find a matched set. The student with the most matched sets wins.

*To make it more interesting have the student that finds a match try and guess who the mother was. Use the “Jacob’s 12 Sons Sheet” to help.



5) Optional – Snack: Animal Crackers 5 minutes

Hand out animal crackers enough for each child. Also give each child a glass of water or juice.

Explain that, “**When Jacob came to meet his brother he gave him many gifts. Let’s see if we can find any of those gifts in our animal crackers today! Examples: rams, camels, cows, goats, sheep, and donkeys.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

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) **Father Abraham Song with Actions** – see lyrics from Lesson 1
- 3) **Sons of Jacob** (to the tune of "Ten Little Ladybugs")

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,
Issachar, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali,
Gad and Asher, Joseph, Benjamin - These are the sons of Jacob.

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 can remember to forgive like Esau did and remember how important it is to forgive others – so You God, will forgive us when we sin! We also pray that You will help us with our families to make wise decisions in how we deal with our siblings and parents. Help us to learn from Jacob and Esau and learn that we need to be kind, forgive and not cause our siblings any harm. Help us to love all our family members and forgive them when needed.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!