

Quarter #: 1	Class Age: 1st-3rd graders	Lesson Title: Jacob and Esau
Lesson #: 8	Prepared By: Emily Sorrells	Lesson Scripture: Genesis 24-27

Visuals / Resources:

- Abeka cards, Flannelgraph, or good story-telling skills, depending on preference.

Pre-class activity:

- Sunday - Find the verse in a Bible. Fill in the blanks with the missing words from the verse.
- Wednesday - Jacob and Esau Word Search

Welcome Activity: Attendance activity

Prayer: Before the prayer, ask the students what they are thankful for. Ask the students who we can pray for. Ask the students how we can praise God. Give examples of these the first few classes. If there is a white board available, you could even keep a prayer request list. Soon they will volunteer plenty of ideas for prayer. Pray.

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

Review: Review previous lesson.

Other Review: Other memorization work like saying or singing the books of the Bible, the 12 sons of Jacob, Abraham's family tree, etc.

Lesson Facts: *(Main points to cover...)*

Isaac married a woman named Rebekah. Isaac prayed for Rebekah to have children. God granted his prayer. Rebekah could feel the babies within her, and she asked God about it. God told her four important things: 1. There were two nations inside of her. 2. The nations would be divided. 3. One nation would be stronger than the other. 4. The older will serve the younger.

This meant that it was twins! There was not an entire nation inside of her body, but the twins would grow to have families that would be separate nations. It was the custom for the older child to be honored, but God said the older would serve the younger. This was unusual.

When they were born, the first baby came out red and hairy. He was named Esau. The second twin came out holding Esau's heel. His name was Jacob. When they grew up, Esau became a good hunter and a man of the field, but Jacob was a quiet man who stayed in the tents. (This meant he was indoorsy). Isaac and Rebekah each had a favorite child. Isaac loved Esau because he ate the food he hunted, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

One day when Jacob had been cooking stew, Esau returned from the field, and he was hungry and tired. Esau asked Jacob to let him eat some of his stew because he was so exhausted. Jacob told Esau to sell him his birthright for the stew. Esau thought that he was about to die because he was so tired, so his birthright would do him any good if he was dead. Esau sold the birthright to Jacob, and Jacob gave Esau bread and stew. Esau ate and drank and left. He did not respect his birthright.

Many years later after Jacob and Esau were married men, and Isaac was old and going blind, Isaac called Esau to him and gave him instructions. He told him to go hunting and prepare a delicious meal for him so that he could bless him before he died. Rebekah heard the instructions and she told Jacob. So Jacob and his mother, Rebekah, worked together to trick Isaac. She prepared a delicious meal and put the animal fur on Jacob's hands and neck. He wore some of Esau's clothes. Jacob went to his Father and lied. He told Isaac that he was his firstborn son, Esau. Isaac thought his voice sounded like Jacob, but he felt his hands

and smelled his clothes and believed it must be Esau. Isaac blessed Jacob instead of Esau. Later, Esau came in to Isaac with his meal for his blessing. When Isaac realized what happened, he began trembling violently. When Esau heard what happened he cried out with a great and bitter cry and asked Isaac to bless him also. Isaac told Esau that Jacob was deceitful and had taken away Esau's blessing. Esau felt cheated by his brother and continued asking for another blessing from his father. Esau wept and hated his brother Jacob. Esau started making plans to kill Jacob after Isaac died. When Rebekah heard of Esau's plan, she told Jacob to flee to Laban to her brother's house in Haran until Esau's anger was calmed.

Illustration1 - There were two friends named Jane and Joan. Joan has a valuable coin with special meaning because it was from her grandfather who recently died. The coin is valuable, but it is not useful to Joan. Jane has a pretty ring on her finger, and Joan notices it and likes it. Joan wants the ring so much that she trades her coin for it. After Jane leaves, Joan's new ring breaks because it was a cheap gum machine ring with no value. Now Joan has neither the ring or the special coin. She wants the coin back, but the trade is done. Joan cries over losing the coin, but crying does not get it back. Just like Esau, Joan traded something special. Esau did not realize how special his birthright was, and he should have valued it more.

Illustration 2 - Your family adopts two new puppies. Your parents like one puppy more than the other. They give the favorite puppy and a nice new, warm bed. It has fresh food and a clean water bowl. They love that puppy. However, the other puppy has to sleep on the cold floor. They never take time to give it fresh water, and they just throw some food on the ground for it. Is anything wrong with this? How would the least favorite puppy feel? This treatment might cause the puppy to act in an inappropriate way. This is similar to the favoritism of Isaac to Esau and Rebekah to Jacob. How did that favoritism cause problems in this story?

Principle: *(Concept / Key truth to be gained...)*

- God makes difficult things work out according to his plan. No matter what we do, God is still in control. God knew the younger would serve the older and that the nations would be divided.
- God wants us to know that He keeps His promises. He passed his promise from Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob.
- God shows us that showing favoritism does not end well. Isaac favored Esau, and Rebekah favored Jacob. The favoritism caused division.
- God wants us to love our brothers and sisters. Esau hated Jacob and plotted to kill him.
- God wants us to have awareness of and respect for the blessings he gives us. Esau did not have regard for his birthright.

Application: *(How students can apply...)*

- Don't tell a lie or be deceitful, even if you think it is for a good reason. Example: If your friend asks you if you like her haircut, but you don't, don't lie to keep from hurting their feelings.
- Because we see that God kept his promises in the O.T., we know he will keep his promises to us. If God says he will reward the faithful, we can know that he will. Do we believe God when we read his word? We should. Do you believe God will reward us with eternal life in heaven if we obey him?
- Don't show favoritism. You might have some more things in common with one of your brothers or sisters (or parents or children) than another, but you should love them the same. We would never want to do something that would hurt someone else just because we have more things in common with another.
- Don't fight with, tease, hit, call names, or have any other hateful attitude toward your siblings. Love your brothers and sisters.
- We should ask ourselves about the blessings God has given us. Make a list and count your blessings. Do you take for granted the blessings that you have?

Activities:

Activities for Sunday & Wednesday - choose which activity to do on which day according to time, attendance, student energy level, etc.

- Have the students act out the story of this lesson. Use cloth robes (found in the resource room) for Esau's clothes. Use real animal fur for his hairy hands and arms. (I brought in a squirrel pelt and used a hair band to attach it to the arm.) Let the children take turns being Issac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau.
- Jacob & Esau Worksheet - Circle the correct picture
- Worksheet: Fill in the list of lessons we can learn from Jacob & Esau

Songs:

- The 12 sons of Jacob song
- Trust and Obey
- Love One Another
- Obedience

Other Notes: If other people have lost items from the master file, I may have copies at home. Let me know; I usually try to keep a copy as well.

Note to teachers – please leave this master copy in file folder & add info as it becomes available.