

Old Testament

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:21-34; 27:1-45

Younger Verse

Change your ways and be baptized. Acts 2:38a

Older Verse

Change your ways and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38a

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God’s ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Has your brother or sister ever taken something from you? How did you feel? Let’s see what happens to two brothers, Jacob and Esau.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Abraham’s son, Isaac, grew up and married a woman named Rebekah. When it came time, Rebekah had twins. The first baby was reddish in color. He was very hairy too. They named him Esau (E-saw). The second baby was born holding onto Esau’s foot. So they named him Jacob (which means grabber). Esau loved to hunt and work outside in the fields. Jacob stayed inside the tents and cooked.

One day Esau came into the tent. He was very hungry. Jacob was cooking a delicious vegetable soup. Jacob decided to do something sneaky. He told Esau that he could have some soup if he gave Jacob his rights as the firstborn son. Esau was so hungry that he did it!

Years later their dad, Isaac, was very old. It was the custom to “bless” the oldest child before the father died. So, Isaac called Esau and asked him to prepare a special meal. Their mom, Rebekah, was listening in the other room. She thought to herself, “I have a plan. I must find Jacob.”

So Esau went off into the fields to find an animal and prepare a meal. Rebekah rushed to Jacob and gave him some special instructions so that he could get the blessing instead of Esau. Rebekah was going to deceive Isaac. That means she was going to trick him.

They quickly cooked the meal for Isaac. Jacob told Rebekah that he couldn’t fool his dad because Esau was very hairy and he wasn’t.

Lesson Goals

To see how we should act towards our brothers and sisters
To learn how we should not deceive others
To forgive others

Rebekah had an idea. She told him to put on his brother's clothes and put a piece of goat skin on Jacob's arms and chest because goat's hair was long, like his brother's hair.

Jacob went into his father. His father was almost blind so he couldn't tell if it was Jacob or Esau. When he listened, he thought that it was Jacob so he asked him to come close. He felt his hands (which were covered with goat hair) and smelled his clothes (which were Esau's clothes) so he thought that it was Esau. Jacob fooled his father.

Isaac ate the tasty food and blessed Jacob—thinking it was Esau. Just as Isaac finished blessing him, Esau walked in. He was so upset!

A blessing was so important for a child. It showed how special they were and that their family loved them very much. It was so crushing that Jacob stole Esau's blessing. And remember—Jacob also stole Esau's birthright.

Esau was very mad. In fact he was plotting to kill Jacob. Rebekah heard what was going on and told Jacob to leave and live with his uncle.

Years passed without Jacob seeing Esau. During that time Jacob changed his ways. He stopped being tricky and started following God.

One day it came time for the brothers to meet. Jacob was very nervous about it. He wasn't sure what his brother would do. In fact he sent his wife and children ahead of him to make peace.

Finally Esau saw Jacob. He rushed to him and hugged him. He totally forgave Jacob for everything that had happened.

What can we learn from this story? Forgiveness is so important. How can we forgive others? How has God forgiven us?

Sometimes it is very hard to forgive someone, especially when they have done mean or sneaky things to us. God wants us to forgive and even gives us an example. You see, all of us have done wrong things that have hurt God. God loves us so much that He made a way for us to be clean of all our wrongs. Jesus died and came back to life so that if we believe in Him, He will wash away all our sin and make us clean on the inside. God forgives us! Then, He helps us to start doing things His way and forgive others. If you want to know more, talk to us about how God can forgive you.

Learning Activities

Pick the activity sheets that will help the kids apply the lesson to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

Use markers that can change colors and write out the verse. Talk about what it means to really "change" your ways.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us forgive others this week and help us do things God's way.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Yumm! Enjoy your time with the kids. Plan special events with them soon.

Planning for Lesson 17
Jacob marries Leah and Rachel
Genesis 29:14-30

Preschool Lesson For Jacob and Esau

Make little twin puppets so that the kids can see the difference between the two boys.

Abraham's son, Isaac, grew up and married a woman named Rebekah. When it came time, Rebekah had twins. Do you know what twins are? They are two babies that are born at the same time. Sometimes they look alike, but not always. These babies looked different. The first baby was reddish in color. He was very hairy too. They named him Esau (E-saw). The second baby was born holding onto Esau's foot. So they named him Jacob (which means grabber). Esau loved to hunt and work outside in the fields. Jacob stayed inside the tents and cooked.

One day Esau came into the tent. He was very hungry. Jacob was cooking a delicious vegetable soup. Jacob decided to do something sneaky. He told Esau that he could have some soup if he gave Jacob his rights as the firstborn son. Esau was so hungry that he did it!

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So Esau went off into the fields to find an animal and prepare a meal. Rebekah rushed to Jacob and gave him some special instructions so that he could get the blessing instead of Esau. Rebekah was going to deceive Isaac. That means she was going to trick him.

They quickly cooked the meal for Isaac. (Pretend like you are stirring food in a bowl) Jacob told Rebekah that he couldn't fool his dad because Esau was very hairy and he wasn't.

Rebekah had an idea. She told him to put on his brother's clothes and put a piece of goat skin on Jacob's arms and chest because goat's hair was long, like his brother's hair.

Jacob went into his father. His father was almost blind so he couldn't tell if it was Jacob or Esau. When he listened, he thought that it was Jacob so he asked him to come close. He felt his hands (which were covered with goat hair) and smelled his clothes (which were Esau's clothes) so he thought that it was Esau. Jacob fooled his father.

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Finally Esau saw Jacob. He rushed to him and hugged him. He totally forgave Jacob for everything wrong that had happened.

God wants us to forgive others like Esau forgave Jacob. Let's ask God to help us forgive others this week.

Hands-On Activities
For
Jacob and Esau

Make “Hairy” arms by gluing strips of yarn on a piece of paper. Let them pretend to put it on their arms like Jacob did.

Make Esau’s clothes by cutting a paper sack. See picture. Make pretend bow and arrows out of straws.

Back in Bible times, a blessing was very important. It was something that people remembered all their lives. It was a special word that told each child how special they were and helped them see that their parents loved them. Teachers, take time today to “bless” each child and tell them that you love them.

Jacob loved to cook. If you have an oven in your Bible study, try to cook something today and let the kids help. If you do not have an oven, see if you can bring an electric skillet, toaster oven or even a hot plate. Kids love to cook, but be careful and be safe.

Jacob was very sneaky. His name meant “grabber.” How would you like a name like that? Anyone that said his name knew that he tried to grab or take things from others. God changed his name later in his life. God helped him change. Our verse talks about change too. What are some ways that God wants us to change?

Forgiveness is so important. Bring a chalkboard and talk about forgiveness as a way to erase the wrongs that a person has done. Contact brand adhesive has a kind of paper that is like a chalkboard (we have some available). Cut a square for each person and stick it to a piece of paper. Bring chalk and let the kids mark on the square and erase it. Talk about how God erases our sins when we trust in Him.

Bring a can of vegetable soup today or make it yourself with mixed vegetables and tomato juice. Cook and add seasonings like pepper and salt.
