

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Patriarchs: Jacob Buys the Birthright*

### Lesson Objective:

This week's lesson briefly introduces Isaac and Rebekah's story with the main focus on the birth of Jacob and Esau. The story of sibling rivalry is perhaps a familiar story to many young preschoolers. The concept to point out is God's purposes are built on his timing and not our own. Jacob had been promised the blessing, thus the birthright too (v. 23), but went about claiming it in such a dishonest way. God's plans, timing, and will can never be thwarted by finite humans. His sovereignty over all creation ensures that His will is accomplished in due time.

### Teaching Points:

- God is faithful. God always keeps His promises.
- God is sovereign. God plans things according to His will and it cannot be disrupted by us.
- God hears our prayers. God answers those prayers in a timing that He thinks is best for us.
- The birthright was the firstborn's by right; the birthright included a lot of material and spiritual blessings for the firstborn. He would receive twice as much as the other, younger sons.
- God determines that Esau will serve Jacob.
- God is the master of details; He provides the way in each circumstance. He shows that not only does He provide the heirs to Abraham's promise (Isaac, Jacob), but how He will care for them.
- God's children must totally depend on Him and not themselves or others for provisions and promise.

**Scripture:** Genesis 24; 25:19-34

**Story:** *Vos Child's Story Bible*, Pages 32-33; *Gospel Story Book Bible*, Pages 32-33;  
*The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible*, Pages 30-33.

**Scripture Memory for November:** Genesis 28:15b (ESV)

**For I will not leave you** (*shake your finger and step sideways*)

**until I have done what I have promised you** (*hold open your hands like a Bible and then point to the palm of your hand*)

**Craft:** Camel

**Supplies:** Camel body, 2 clothespins, fabric piece, crayons/markers

**Instructions:**

1. Add face to camel and color if desired.
2. Glue fabric piece to camel hump.
3. Attach clothespins to bottom of camel for legs.
4. Add hooves to camel feet if desired.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

## Story

### Transition

Who remembers the story from last week? Do you remember Isaac and how Abraham offered Isaac back to God? The Bible tells us that after that, Isaac and Abraham went back home, and Isaac grew up! Isaac grew up to be a strong man and his father Abraham said he needed to be married. But Abraham did not want Isaac to marry just anyone. No Isaac needed to marry a woman who loved and followed God. So, Abraham sent a servant to find Isaac a wife. The servant searched, searched, and searched for a woman to marry Isaac. And as he searched, the servant prayed that God would show him who should be Isaac's wife. The Bible tells us that God showed the servant a beautiful lady named Rebekah.

Rebekah would leave her home, family and friends and travel back with the servant to meet Isaac. Isaac saw her from very far away and immediately fell in love. They were soon married. God had chosen Isaac for Rebekah and Rebekah for Isaac.

### Praying for a Baby

Isaac and Rebekah loved each other very much. And soon they wanted to have a baby. God had promised Abraham that he would have a son, and that son would have children, and those children would have children until Abraham's family would have more people in it than stars in the sky!

Isaac and Rebekah prayed for a baby. They prayed to God for a baby for a very long time. Isaac and Rebekah waited for God to hear their prayers. Waiting can be a very difficult thing for people to do. God is in control and all-powerful and He decides when things will happen, like when a baby will be born. So, while Isaac and Jacob waited, they also trusted God to keep His promises.

Sometimes we can pray and pray for things and it seems that God does not hear our prayers because He does not answer them quickly. But God always hears our prayers. He knows just what we need. God decides when it's time to give us what we ask, and while we pray and wait, God wants us to trust Him.

### Two Babies!

And 20 years after Isaac and Rebekah had married each other, God decided it was time to give them a baby. But God did not give them just one baby; He gave them two! Two baby boys!

Do you know what it's called when a lady has two babies at one time? It's called twins. Sometimes twins look alike. Sometimes they don't look alike. These twins were born on the same day. The one born first was named Esau. His skin was kind of a red color and he had lots of soft hair all over his body. And after Esau came the other baby boy. His name was Jacob.

### The Birthright

It's really important to remember that Esau was born first. Long ago, the first child was treated differently than the rest of the children in the family. The first son received something very special. He received what was called the "birthright." That means when the boy was all grown up and the father died, the first-born son would become the head of the family. It means that he would get more possessions than his other brothers and sisters. It means that the father would give him a special blessing. The oldest son who had the birthright would get special honor. The birthright belonged to Esau because he was born first.

Now of course God knew who was born first in Isaac's family. God had given Isaac and Rebekah their twins. God made Esau to be born first. But God's plan was for Jacob to be the leader of the family, and He told Rebekah that would happen. Even though Esau was born first and Jacob was born next, it was God's plan for Jacob to have the birthright.

## **Differences**

As the boys grew older, they looked and acted differently. Esau was a hunter. He liked being outside and hunting for animals. Esau would take his bow and arrow and find animals for dinner! But Jacob was different. The Bible says he was a quiet man. And he liked staying at home.

Isaac told his two sons Esau and Jacob about God. He told them about their good grandfather, Abraham. Jacob would listen as Isaac spoke about God. For Esau, those things were not important to him. Esau wanted to be outside hunting.

As Jacob got older and understood more, he might have been a little sad that he wasn't born first. Jacob wanted the birthright. He knew it was very important. But he wasn't born first. Esau was. That probably made Jacob very unhappy.

## **Stew for the Birthright**

The Bible says one day Jacob woke up and began cooking stew. He probably put the meat and the vegetables in a great big pot, stirred it up and cooked it slowly over the fire all day long. The dark red stew smelled so good. That would make a good dinner! As Jacob was cooking the delicious stew, Esau was out hunting. Early that morning he had gathered his bow and arrow and gone off into the fields to hunt.

When Esau had finished for the day, he headed home, tired and hungry. Hunting can be hard work. The Bible says Esau was really, really hungry. As Esau got closer to home, he began to smell a pleasant smell. It was the stew Jacob had been cooking all day. Once he entered the tent, Esau saw on the fire the big pot of delicious stew! He said to his brother Jacob, "Quick! Let me have some of that red stew! I'm hungry!"

Jacob knew Esau was very hungry, so Jacob decided he would trick Esau. He would trick him to get the birthright, the birthright he had wanted so much. "Sure Esau, you can have some of my stew...if you give me your birthright!" Remember, Esau had never really cared about the birthright. But Jacob had wanted it for a very long time. "Look," Esau said, "I am about to die, what good is the birthright to me?" Esau was not really about to die from being hungry. But he wanted to eat the stew more than having the birthright. Jacob said to Esau, "Promise me the birthright first." Esau replied, "Okay. The birthright is yours. Give me the soup!" The Bible says he sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew.

Once Esau finished his stew, he left the table happy with his belly full. Jacob was happy too. His plan had worked, and now Jacob had the birthright. Now it was like Jacob was the oldest, and Esau was the younger brother. God had told Isaac and Rebekah that Jacob would have God's blessing in due time, but Jacob wanted it immediately and got the birthright in a very sneaky way. Instead of trusting God, Jacob was sneaky and got what he wanted in a bad way. But this would not be the last time Jacob did something sneaky. Next week we find out another trick Jacob plays on his father.

## **Questions for Review with Younger Children**

Have the kids answer "Yes" if it is true, or "no" with the correct answer if it is false.

1. Abraham's son was Isaac. (Yes)
2. Isaac met and married a beautiful woman named Sally. (No! It was Rebekah.)
3. Isaac and Rebekah prayed for a long-time for a baby. (Yes)
4. God gave Isaac and Rebekah three baby boys. (No! Only two baby boys.)
5. The boy's names were Jacob and Esau. (Yes)
6. Esau was the oldest, and Jacob was the younger brother. (Yes)
7. Esau would have the birthright – all the possessions and blessings for being the oldest. (Yes)
8. God promised that Jacob would be the leader of the family even though he was younger. (Yes)
9. Esau liked to hunt, and Jacob liked staying indoors. (Yes)
10. Esau gave his birthright to Jacob for a big doughnut. (No! For a bowl of stew.)
11. Jacob got the birthright in a very sneaky way. (Yes)