

## Morning Overview

### Lesson: *Patriarchs: Jacob's Deception*

#### Lesson Objective:

This week we continue in the Jacob-Esau saga and the incredibly dysfunctional home environment continues. Last week Esau sells his birthright to Jacob, a birthright that Esau despised. But this week we see deceitfulness in regard to all the characters involved (Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob & Esau). Jacob receives the totality of the blessing promised to Abraham, Isaac, and who should have been Esau. Esau however receives an anti-blessing, or curse. He gets the exact opposite of Jacob's promises. The lesson shows that when disobedience to God's promises and commands persists, sin continues, and the results are disastrous.

#### Teaching Points:

- God is faithful.
- God is sovereign (in control).
- Man is sinful.
- Isaac attempts to secretly bless Esau. Rebekah, along with Jacob, creates a plan for Jacob to get the blessing instead. God had promised Jacob the blessing before he and Esau were ever born.
- Jacob deceives his father by acting, smelling, and appearing to the touch like Esau.
- Isaac gives an abundant blessing to Jacob, but Esau receives only a curse.
- Rebekah devises the plan for Jacob to steal the blessing from Esau; Jacob willingly follows along.
- To receive the blessing from Isaac, who received it from his father Abraham, meant that Jacob received all the promises God gave to Abraham. Those promises included God's presence with Abraham's descendants, land, future royalty to be part of the family, a strong army, and to rule over others.

**Scripture:** Genesis 27:1-45

**Story:** *Vos Child's Story Bible*, Pages 33-34; *Gospel Story Book Bible*, Pages 34-35; *The Beginner's Bible*, Pages 60-63

**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:** Jacob and Esau

**Supplies:** Cardstock, fur, glue, crayons/markers

**Instructions:**

- Kinder** 1. Have children trace their hand on cardstock (help as needed).  
2. Glue fur to center of hand.
- 3s & 4s** 1. Trace children's hands on cardstock.  
2. Glue fur to center of hand.



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

# Story

## Review

Last week we talked about Jacob and Esau; what do you recall from our story? Do you remember that Esau sold his birthright to Jacob? The birthright was a big deal because lots of money, lots of cattle, and lots of possession came with it. Today we have another story about Jacob and Esau, and we see many lies are told and even stealing. We see all of this because Jacob, Rebekah and even Isaac do not trust God's word nor do they follow it. When we don't trust God and when we don't follow his commands, lots of bad things and trouble soon follow.

## Isaac's Plan

Eventually Isaac, Jacob and Esau's dad, grew old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see. When someone cannot see today, they may get glasses to help. But in the Bible, there were no glasses to help Isaac see.

One day, Isaac called Esau, "My son", Isaac said. "Here I am," Esau answered. "Now you know I'm getting old. Well I'm so old I may even die soon. Now, get your weapons – your bow and arrow – and go out to the field and hunt some wild animal, bring it home and cook it. I want you to fix the kind of tasty food I like, bring it to me, I'll eat it and then I will give you my blessing." Esau loved to be outdoors and hunt. So, he went quickly just as his father had instructed him. Although Esau had sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew, Isaac was determined to give the blessing to Esau and not Jacob. Isaac's plan was to give it all to Esau.

## Rebekah's Plan

Esau and Isaac did not know that Rebekah, Esau and Jacob's mother, was listening to Isaac and Esau talking. She had heard everything. But Rebekah didn't want Esau to get the blessing, Rebekah wanted Jacob to get it. She knew that it was God's plan all along that Jacob would be the leader of the family.

Rebekah should have trusted that God would keep His promise. But instead, Rebekah thought of a plan, a trick to play on her blind husband, Isaac, so that Jacob would get the blessing instead of Esau. This was a very bad thing to do. It is a sin to lie or trick people. To begin her plan Rebekah told Jacob, "Look, I heard your father say to your brother Esau, 'hunt for an animal and then cook some tasty food for me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.'"

Rebekah said to Jacob, "Listen carefully and do what I tell you: Go out to the flock of goats and bring me two of the very best. I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. Then take it to your father to eat, and he will give you his blessing before he dies. He will give it to you instead of Esau." Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, "But my brother Esau is a hairy man (remember Esau had hair all over his body), and I'm a man with smooth skin. What if my father touches me? I would appear to be tricking him and he won't bless me then!" But Rebekah answered him, "My son, just do as I say, go and find the goat for me."

## Deception

So, Jacob went and found the best goats he could find and brought them to his mother. She cooked them and prepared some very tasty food, just the way Isaac liked it. Then Rebekah looked around the house, found some of Esau's clothes and put them on Jacob. She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the hair from the goat. And then Rebekah handed Jacob the tasty food that she had made and some bread and Jacob went in to his father.

"My father," Jacob said. "Yes, my son," Isaac answered. "Who is it?" Jacob answered, "I am Esau, your oldest son. (Jacob was telling a lie!) I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of the good food I have cooked for you and then give me your blessing." Isaac thought it was Esau and he asked, "How did you find the goats so quickly and cook the food, my son." "The Lord your God helped me," Jacob was lying again.

Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not.” Jacob moved closer to his father Isaac, and Isaac touched him, “Your voice sounds like Jacob, but your hands are the hands of Esau. (They felt hairy from the goatskin, remember?) Are you really my son Esau?” “I am,” Jacob said, lying again.

Then Isaac said, “Bring me some good food so I can eat it and I will give you my blessing.” So Jacob brought it to him and he ate. Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come here, my son, and kiss me”. So Jacob went to him and kissed him. When Isaac smelled his clothes, Esau’s clothes that is, he gave him the special blessing. As soon as Isaac finished speaking Jacob left quickly.

### **Discovery**

Jacob had just left the room when Esau came home from hunting. He too had prepared some tasty food and brought it to his father. Then he said, “My father, sit up and eat some of my food, so that you may give me your blessing.” Isaac asked, “Who are you?” “I am your son,” he answered, “your oldest son, Esau.”

The Bible says when Isaac heard those words he started to tremble and said, “Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him – and now indeed he will be blessed. I have given him the blessing.”

When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me, me too, my father!” But Isaac said, “Your brother came and tricked me and took your blessing.”

Esau answered his father, “Jacob deceived me two times. He took my birthright, and now he’s taken my blessing?” Then he asked, “Haven’t you any blessing for me father?” And Esau started to cry. But he wasn’t crying because he loved God or because the birthright and the blessing meant so much to him. (Remember, he had traded it for stew!) Instead Esau was crying because he had been tricked and he didn’t like it.

Isaac did give Esau a blessing, but it was very different than the one he had given Jacob. Jacob had received the best blessing.

The story has a very sad ending. So much trickery, deception, and lying by the whole family. But it was not just of lying and deception, it was that Esau did not care about the special blessing, impatience by Jacob, and the parents (Isaac and Rebekah) playing favorites with their children.

Despite so much sin and hurt, God was in control. God’s plan was for Jacob to have the birthright and the blessing. Nothing can change God’s plan. God is completely in control and all-powerful. And God always keeps His promises.

### **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.

- Isaac was getting very old and could not hear very well. (No! He could not see very well.)
- Isaac wanted Esau to go hunt for some food and make him a tasty stew. (Yes)
- Jacob heard about Isaac’s plan for Esau. (No! It was Rebekah that heard the plan.)
- Rebekah told Jacob to go and get young goats for her to make a tasty stew. (Yes)
- Rebekah used fur to make Jacob’s skin feel hairy. (Yes)
- Isaac knew that it was Jacob and he did not eat the stew. (No! Jacob deceived his father.)
- Jacob got the special blessing from Isaac. (Yes)
- Esau also got a blessing, but it was not as special as Isaac’s blessing. (Yes)
- Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau all lied, deceived, and tried to trick one another. (Yes)
- God wanted Jacob to have the special blessing before he was born. Jacob did get the blessing. (Yes)
- The special blessing meant that Jacob would have lots of toys. (No! Lots of money, cattle, a large family, and for royalty to come through his family.)