

LESSON 16

Jacob & Esau

GENESIS 25:19-34



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD DIRECTS ALL THINGS FROM BABIES TO BIRTHRIGHTS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Hunting/cooking items: soup pot and ladle; deerskin or fake fur; salt and pepper shakers; pictures of hunting weapons—a hunting knife or bow and arrow or spear.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 16)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 16

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

A Taste of Stew

SUPPLIES: lentil soup or stew in a crock-pot; insulated cups; spoons

How High Can You Jump?

SUPPLIES: small prizes for contest winners

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God gave Jacob twins but predetermined that the one who was second in line would lead.

Bring in some items that hunters/cooks might use: soup pot and ladle, deerskin or fake fur, salt and pepper shakers. Include pictures of hunting weapons—a hunting knife or bow and arrow or spear.

Ask how many children in the class have brothers and/or sisters. Invite the children to share some of the differences between them and their siblings. Then tell them that there are brothers and sisters in the Bible too.

Tell the children that today’s lesson will be about two brothers: Esau and Jacob. They were very different. Esau was a very tough man who loved the outdoors. He loved to hunt. Jacob, on the other hand, enjoyed the home more. He loved to cook the food.

Have the children guess which brother would likely own each item. If you cannot find an item on the list, draw the item on a piece of paper or card stock.

- Hunting knife picture (*Esau*)
- Large ladle (*Jacob*)
- Deerskin or fake fur (*Esau*)
- Soup pot (*Jacob*)
- Picture of bow and arrow or spear (*Esau*)
- Salt and pepper shakers (*Jacob*)

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 16, “Jacob and Esau,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What problem did Rebekah have for many years after she married Isaac?
(Rebekah did not have any children. The Bible uses the word barren to describe a woman who is not able to have children. The word barren means childless.)

- What happened after Isaac prayed to God about Rebekah’s barrenness?
(She became pregnant with twins.)

- How were her two children different?
(Esau was red and hairy. Jacob came out grabbing his brother’s heel. Esau became a hunter while Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- Who would you rather be, Jacob or Esau, and why?

- Why did Esau sell his birthright?
(He was hungry.)

- What did he sell his birthright for?
(some stew or soup)

- Raise your hand if you have ever eaten stew?
(Have several children describe stew for the rest of the class.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Romans 9:8–15

Have you been wondering why God told Rebekah that her older son would serve the younger? Here, in the book of Romans, God gives us the answer. God wanted to show that he controls everything. By choosing the meeker, younger son over the firstborn, stronger son, God was showing us that he didn't need man's strength to accomplish his plans. In the end, God wanted everyone to see that his people are saved by our faith in God alone, not because of when we were born or because of anything we do.

God does not save us because we are strong or because we were born first. We are saved by faith (trusting in God's plan), and even our faith is a gift God gives to us. The most important part of God's plan to save us was the death of his Son Jesus upon the cross, who died to take our sins away.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 16—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What color was Esau's hair?
(It was red. Have the children color Esau's hair red.)
- What color was the stew?
(It was red. Have them color the stew red.)
- What kind of weapons do you think Esau used to hunt with?
(They were likely bow and arrow, spear, sling. Show the children how to draw simple arrows at the bottom of the picture.)

A Taste of Stew

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ lentil soup or stew in a crock-pot
- ✓ insulated cups
- ✓ spoons

Act out the story. Have the stew cooking on warm so that when the kids come into the classroom they can smell the stew just like Esau would have. Offer a taste of the stew to the class when the drama is complete.

Ask the children the following questions:

- What is a birthright?
(The birthright is the honor given to the first son born. In Abraham's time, the family name, titles, and inheritance were passed on to the oldest son.)
- Did Esau make a wise decision?
(No, he traded something very valuable for something that was gone as soon as he ate it.)
- Why do you think Esau traded away his birthright for some stew?
(He wanted what would make him happy right away. Often people will make foolish decisions to get something they want quickly.)
- Can you think of any ways children make foolish decisions to get something they want quickly?
(They can whine instead of waiting patiently. They can grab a toy they want rather than wait until another child is through playing with it.)

How High Can You Jump?

Talk about how God told Rebekah that she would have twins and that the younger would serve the older. Explain that normally the oldest son would be in charge of the younger son. Tell the class that what God told Rebekah was very different from how families worked back then. But God wanted to show that he is in control and makes whatever choices he wants to make.

Announce to the class that you want to have a contest. Invite four eager volunteers to gather at the front of the class to participate in a jumping contest. Then tell the

class you want them to judge which children jump the highest. You will make your selection based on their judging. Once the class gives you their determination, tell the two children who jumped the highest to sit down and declare the remaining children the winners. (Award them a small prize.) Point out to the class that you never said you were going to award prizes to the two who jumped the highest. You only said you wanted them to tell you who jumped the highest.

Draw out the class about your selection, and help them to see that it is much like God selecting the second born to carry on his mission after Isaac.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 16 - JACOB AND ESAU

