

LESSON 16

Jacob & Esau

GENESIS 25:19-34



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD DIRECTS ALL THINGS FROM BABIES TO BIRTHRIGHTS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Genesis 25:19–34 from the Scriptures or read story 16, “Jacob and Esau,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Directing and Predicting
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ one quarter
 - ✓ enough pennies for the entire class
 - ✓ a sheet of colored paper
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
The Big Trade
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ one die
 - ✓ six boxes of various sizes
 - ✓ wrapping paper
 - ✓ wrapped chocolate candy
 - ✓ a rock, a pine cone, and/or some nonoffensive gag items
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 16—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Trade Your Birthright
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ twenty-inch length of yarn
 - ✓ three-by-five card
 - ✓ hole punch
 - ✓ candy gift

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God knew the older son would serve the younger son—Rebekah felt the children struggling inside her and was concerned. She wanted to know why this was happening. She prayed to the Lord, and God told her something very interesting. God said she was carrying twins who would grow up to become two nations and that the older twin would serve the younger.

Rebekah came to God in faith, believing that he knows all things and controls all things. God does not always answer our “why” questions this directly, but he did here for Rebekah. In doing this, he made her faith grow stronger. Rebekah’s sons continued the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham, Rebekah’s father-in-law.

God blessed Isaac with twin boys—Just as God had said, Rebekah had twin boys. She would have known they were boys because God had said they would be “two nations,” and in her day only men could lead a nation. Also, normally the son who was born first would be the leading son, but God said the younger son would be the leader. So Rebekah probably also knew her sons would be very different from each other.

Esau sold his birthright in fulfillment of the prophecy—When Isaac and Rebekah lived, the firstborn son had the “birthright.” This meant that when the father died, the first son would inherit the family’s wealth and power. All the other members of the family would have to serve and obey the oldest son. But God told Rebekah that her older son would serve the younger. In this passage we see how God allowed that to come to pass.

Jacob probably knew about God’s promise to his mother; i.e., that he would get the family birthright. So one day when Esau came in hungry from hunting, Jacob took advantage of the situation and offered to give Esau a bowl of stew in exchange for his birthright, which was still Esau’s to give away or to keep. Esau, for the price of a bowl of stew, willingly and foolishly gave his birthright away. By doing so, he was agreeing to serve his brother.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Genesis 25:19–34 from the Scriptures or read story 16, "Jacob and Esau," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Directing and Predicting

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one quarter
- ✓ enough pennies for the entire class
- ✓ a sheet of colored paper

This activity will help the children grasp the fact that God not only predicts what will happen but also directs what will happen.

Ask the children what it means to make a prediction. Explain to them that a prediction is the same as a guess. Ask the class to predict heads or tails for the flip of a quarter. Have everyone stand to start. Ask kids who predict “heads” to raise their hands. Kids who predict incorrectly sit down with each flip. Keep doing this until you are down to two children and then a final winner.

Explain to the class that it is easy to predict a coin toss since there are only two options and you have a fifty-fifty chance of guessing correctly. Tell them that it is much harder to direct what will happen.

To illustrate this, place a sheet of colored paper on the floor and line up the children. Tell them to flip their penny up in the air and direct it to land heads up in the middle of the sheet of paper. Give them each a try. Ask them if it was easy to direct the path of the pennies.

Ask them to tell you what God predicted and directed. God predicted that Rebekah would have two children and she did. God directed that the older would serve the younger; and in selling his birthright, Esau ensured that he would serve Jacob. God’s plan always comes to pass!

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

The Big Trade

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one die
- ✓ six boxes of various sizes
- ✓ wrapping paper
- ✓ wrapped chocolate candy
- ✓ a rock, a pine cone, and/or some nonoffensive gag items

Prior to class, take the six boxes and wrap up candy in three of them and a rock, pinecone, or some nonoffensive gag items in the others. Number the boxes from one to six. Have several pieces of wrapped chocolate candy available for use during the exercise.

Ask for a volunteer from the class. Give him a small wrapped piece of chocolate and explain that he can keep it or trade it for a wrapped gift. If he chooses to keep the chocolate, have him sit down and start the process over again with another volunteer. If he chooses to trade

the chocolate candy for a wrapped box, have him roll the die to determine which box he will get. Continue this until all six prizes are taken. Have the children unwrap their boxes one at a time. After each, announce that he or she “traded a wonderful chocolate for a {whatever is in the box}.” When they get a more valuable prize, they will be excited and when they get a gag they will be disappointed.

Use the following questions to connect this exercise with Esau’s decision to trade his birthright for a bowl of stew:

- Do you think Esau made a wise trade? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jacob asked his brother for his birthright?
(Perhaps his mother told him that God’s plan was for his older brother to serve him.)

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

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

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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?
(His hair was red. Have the children color Esau’s hair red.)
- What color was the stew?
(The stew was red. Have them color the stew red.)
- What kind of weapons do you think Esau used to hunt with?
(He used a bow and arrow, spear, and sling. Show the children how to draw simple arrows at the bottom of the picture.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Trade Your Birthright

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ twenty-inch length of yarn
- ✓ three-by-five card
- ✓ hole punch
- ✓ candy gift

Prior to class write the word **CLASSRIGHT** in bold letters on the front of the card, punch two holes in the card, and attach the string so that it hangs like a necklace. When the children come in, wear the sign around your neck. Tell the class that anyone who has this sign around their neck will get special treatment. They will get to be picked as a volunteer in the class, qualify for special gifts, and be declared the most special person in the class.

Ask the class who would like to have the sign. They should all want to have it. Then ask them what they are willing to trade for it. Tell them that you will give it to the person who is willing to trade the best item. Give the sign to the person who offers the best trade.

Now talk about Esau who sold his birthright for a bowl of stew. Explain how Esau's birthright was very valuable and how he was willing to trade it for one meal. Lead a discussion with the children about those of them who tried to trade something for the classright sign. Ask them why they wanted the sign.

Give the candy gift to the student you bargained with who wears the **CLASSRIGHT** sign. Then pretend that you are a bit disappointed with the trade and wish you didn't trade after all. From there talk about how Esau must have felt very bad after he traded away his birthright. Explain the benefits of the birthright (see the third teaching point).

Treat the student with the **CLASSRIGHT** sign in a special way throughout the class session, continuing to use her to illustrate what happened in the story.

LESSON 16 - JACOB AND ESAU

