

LESSON 17

# Jacob's Lie

GENESIS 27



**BIBLE TRUTH**

THE PURPOSE OF GOD WILL STAND IN SPITE OF MAN'S SIN

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 27:5–35 from the Scriptures or read story 17, “Jacob’s Lie,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Chocolate Broccoli  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ milk chocolate—one large bar (8 oz. or larger)  
✓ broccoli stems
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION** . . . . . **10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **15 MIN**  
Liar, Liar  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ three to four odd objects (see description)
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** . . . . . **5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME** . . . . . **15 MIN**  
Jacob’s Disguise  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ paper  
✓ colored pencils
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
You Can’t Fool Me  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ blindfold  
✓ six to ten stuffed animal toys, some with smooth fur and others with thick hairy fur  
✓ extra scraps of thick hairy fur and felt to use as disguises for the stuffed animals  
✓ rubber bands

**TOTAL 85 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

## TEACHING POINTS

**Isaac desires to bless Esau**—Many years before this took place, God had told Rebekah that Esau would not get the birthright. Isaac must have known this. He probably also knew that Esau had sold his birthright to Jacob. But Isaac wants to bless Esau as the firstborn son anyway. In Genesis 25:28 we are told that Isaac loved Esau because Esau was a hunter and provided good food.

**Rebekah directs Jacob to deceive his father**—Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau. Here, Rebekah wants Jacob to get his father's blessing instead of Esau. So she plans for Jacob to deceive Isaac, and she helps him do it.

Rebekah could have chosen simply to trust God's promise. She missed an opportunity to watch God work out his plan. In the end, God worked out everything according to his plan, but he could have done that without Rebekah's deception. But God uses anything—even lies and deception—to accomplish his plan.

**Isaac's blessing is given to Jacob**—Jacob gets Esau's blessing from Isaac. When Esau then arrives for his blessing, both he and Isaac are very upset at what has happened. But even though Esau begs for another blessing, Isaac does not even try to give him one. Perhaps Isaac realizes that God's promise that “the older will serve the younger” has been fulfilled and that there is no use fighting against the purpose of God.

## A LITTLE BIT MORE

*Providence*

This term refers to God's ongoing relationship to all that he has created. God remains actively involved, controlling and directing everything in accordance with his purpose and will.

In providence, God preserves the qualities of the things he created and holds them together. If God were to stop his preserving power, things would cease to be.

In addition to his work of preservation, God is in cooperation with his creation in every action. Every grain of sand moved by the waves of the ocean is moved by the hand of God. Even the casting of lots by chance is directed by God (Proverbs 16:33).

Finally, God is governing all things to a particular conclusion. God wills everything to satisfy his ultimate purpose (see Ephesians 1:11).

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Read Acts 3:12–15.

Our Bible story in Acts takes place long after Jacob's day, after Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven. The apostle Peter was sharing the gospel story (the story about Jesus) with a group of people. In the middle of his sharing, he gave God an interesting name. He called him "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Did you notice that Peter didn't call him the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Esau? If you remember from our story, God chose Jacob rather than Esau to carry on the covenant promise he made to Abraham. In that covenant, or special promise, God said that Abraham's children would become a blessing to all nations. That promise was passed on to Isaac and then to Jacob.

Then one of Jacob's far-off grandchildren, Jesus, would become the blessing to all nations that God promised. When we trust in Jesus we are adopted into Abraham's family as one of God's children.

## 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 27:5–35 from the Scriptures or read story 17, "Jacob's Lie," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

#### Chocolate Broccoli

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ milk chocolate—one large bar (8 oz. or larger)
- ✓ broccoli stems

Before class, cut the broccoli stems up into small pieces and coat the pieces with melted chocolate. Make sure that no broccoli is showing and that the pieces do not look like broccoli. (Melt the chocolate carefully using a double boiler or microwave oven to avoid burning.) Place the chocolate broccoli on a piece of foil or wax paper and refrigerate until set.

Share the Bible memory verse for this week with your class and tell them that you are going to give them five minutes to memorize their verses and that you will give chocolate to those you call on for each verse they recite correctly. (Pick a verse to memorize if they're not using the Sword verses.)

Ask for volunteers, and after testing a number of them, offer them the chocolate. Once several of them have the chocolate in their mouths ask the rest of the class if there are any other volunteers to try for a piece of chocolate covered broccoli, revealing the true identity of the candy.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **What was deceptive about the way I ran the Bible memory activity?**  
*(You didn't tell us that it was chocolate broccoli.)*
  
- **Was there a greater purpose that I fulfilled by the exercise?**  
*(Yes, you got us excited about trying to memorize our verses.)*
  
- **How was my deception like Jacob's?**  
*(You disguised the broccoli to fool us into thinking it was something else. Jacob disguised himself using fur to make his father think he was someone else.)*
  
- **I worked out the activity in order to accomplish my plan. How did God work out the events of our story to accomplish his plan?**  
*(God used Jacob's deception to ensure that his purpose in election would stand; that is, the older would serve the younger.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

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

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Liar, Liar**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ three to four odd objects (see description)

The point of this game is to find objects that the children wouldn't recognize and then have them guess which of several panelists are telling the truth about a particular object.

For instance, you might pull an electronic part off of an old appliance such as the on/off switch from a vacuum cleaner. Show the object to the class and then pass it along to each of the three or four panelists. Each person describes what they believe the item to be.

They all know its true function, but only one of them is telling the truth. The others are trying to lie to convince the children to vote for them. After each panelist gives a basic explanation, allow the children to ask a few follow-up questions. Then give them the chance to vote for whom they believe is telling the truth.

Do this several times with different objects. (Useful gadgets for this game can be found at a local hardware store.)

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Was it okay to lie in this game or was it wrong?  
*(Gather their feedback. The lies, being part of the game, were not sinful.)*
- Was it wrong for Jacob to lie to his father even though God had promised his mother, Rebekah, that Jacob would be the leader and Esau had already sold his birthright to Jacob?  
*(Most commentators believe that it was wrong for Jacob to deceive his father. God, in his providence, used the circumstances to accomplish his plan. If Jacob had not deceived his father, God could have reversed Isaac's plan to bless Esau in any number of other ways.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 15 MIN**

Jacob's Disguise

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper
- ✓ colored pencils

Have the children draw a picture of Jacob with animal fur on his body to disguise himself as Esau.

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

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

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

You Can't Fool Me

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ blindfold
- ✓ six to ten stuffed animal toys, some with smooth fur and others with thick hairy fur
- ✓ extra scraps of thick hairy fur and felt to use as disguises for the stuffed animals
- ✓ rubber bands

After sharing the story, explain to the children that you are going to show them what it was like to be Isaac in his old age. Show the class the selection of stuffed animals and then blindfold a volunteer. Using the rubber bands, wrap one of the smooth-furred animals with the thick, hairy fur. Then ask your volunteer to identify the animal. He or she should guess the one with the hairy fur. Then do the opposite with one of the hairy animals, disguising it with the felt.

Have your volunteer remove the blindfold and talk about how difficult it is to recognize that you are being tricked without being able to see. As time allows, give other children a chance to play the game.