

JACOB'S LIE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 27



The purpose of God will stand in spite of man's of sin.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

Isaac planned to bless Esau even though the Lord said the older would serve the younger – It is safe to assume that Rebekah would have told her husband about the word the Lord spoke to her about their sons. Isaac would have likely known that the Lord said that she would have twins and that the older would serve the younger. Isaac disregarded this preference and moved to confer the blessing on his older son.

Rebekah directed Jacob to deceive his father – Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau (Genesis 25:28) and made a plan to deceive her husband. God used even this deception to accomplish His plan. Rebekah missed an opportunity to trust in the Lord and watch Him 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.

Isaac's blessing is bestowed on Jacob – Isaac blessed Jacob, and Esau tried to convince him to change his mind. But Isaac did not try to bless Esau at that time. Perhaps Isaac realized that the purpose of God, that the older would serve the younger, had been fulfilled and that there was no use fighting against the purpose of God.

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.

Jacob, not Esau, was to carry on the promise which would lead to the "coming of the righteous one," see Acts 7:8 and 7:52 for the connection. The plan was set even before either of the twins were born. God would be known as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Esau's name would not be chosen to represent the promise of God.

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ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Jeremiah 23:5

Connecting the passage to Christ:

The righteous branch spoken of in this passage is Jesus. Jeremiah tells us that this righteous branch will come from the line of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David, and Jesus was born into the lineage of David.

Questions for reflection:

- Who is the righteous branch Jeremiah tells us will come? (Jesus is the righteous branch.)
- What does the Bible mean when it uses the metaphors and pictures of branch, stock, or root? (Jeremiah is saying that down the line in the family tree there will be a descendant of Jesse recognized by God as righteous. Jesus is the only one who is righteous. The rest of us are inherently unrighteous.)
- How is Jesse connected with Jesus? (Jesse was David's father. We learn from Matthew 1:6 that it is into the family line of Jesse, through the line of David, that Jesus was born.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

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.



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ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

LIAR, LIAR

Supplies

three to four odd objects
(see description)

The object 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.

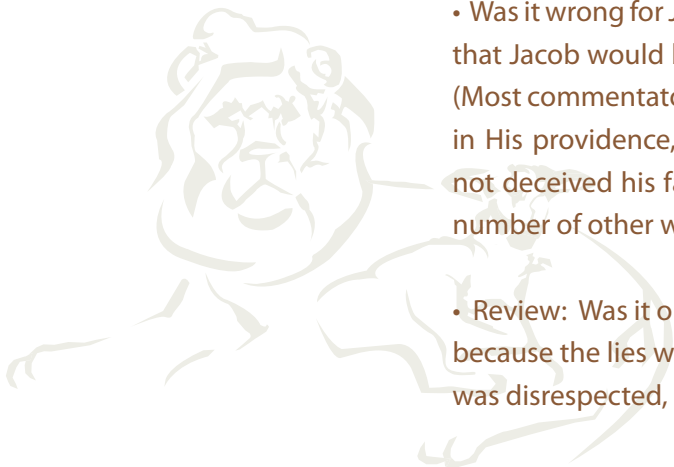
For instance, you might pull an electronic part off of an old appliance such as the on/off switch from a vacuum cleaner. Show the object to the class and then pass it along to each of the three or four panelists. Each person describes what they believe the item is.

They all know its true function, but only one of them is telling the true purpose. 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 who they believe is telling the truth.

Do this several times with different objects. (A trip to a local hardware store can net quite a few gadgets to use in this exercise.)

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Was it okay to lie in this game or was it wrong? (Gather their feedback.)
- Was it wrong for Jacob to lie to his father even though God had promised 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.)
- Review: Was it okay to lie in this game or was it wrong? (The game was not sinful because the lies were declared and everyone was trying to discover them. No one was disrespected, only fooled.)



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CHOCOLATE BROCCOLI**Supplies**

- one large bar (8 oz. or larger) of milk chocolate
- one head of broccoli

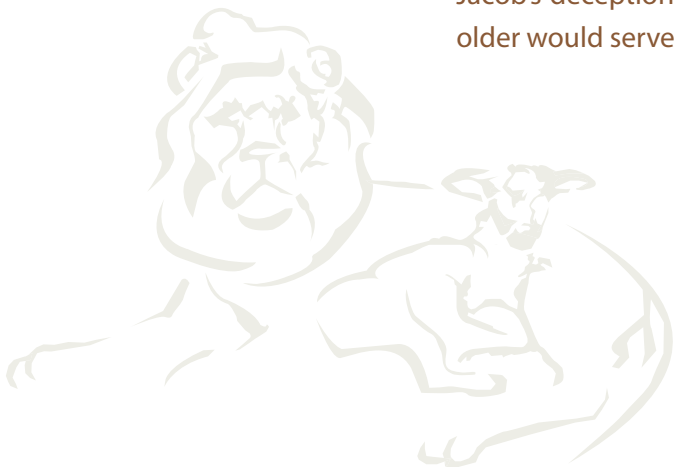
Cut the broccoli up into small pieces and coat the pieces with melted chocolate. Make sure that no broccoli is showing and that the pieces do not look like broccoli. (Heat the chocolate up in a double boiler to avoid burning.) Place the chocolate broccoli on a piece of foil or wax paper and refrigerate until class.

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 those you call on chocolate for each verse they recite correctly.

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? (You covered your broccoli to fool us into thinking it was something else. Jacob covered himself with fur to make his father think he was someone else.)
- I worked out the activity in order to accomplish my plan. How did God in his providence 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.)



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LIST THE SINS

Have the children list the sins of the individuals in the story.

Jacob deceived his father and then lied to him.

Rebekah conspired to deceive her husband and led her son to do evil.

Isaac loved his son Esau more than his son Jacob because he loved the taste of wild game (see Genesis 25:28). This favoritism led Isaac to try to secretly confirm the blessing on his oldest son when God had told his wife the older would serve the younger.

- What should they each have done differently? (They each should have trusted the Lord to work all things out for good.)

PRAYER

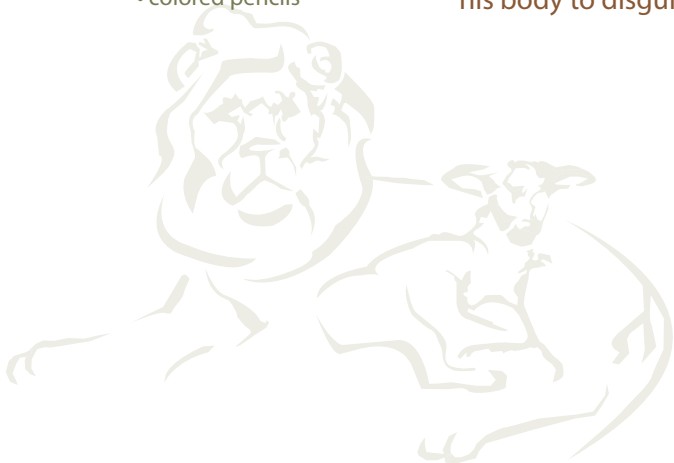
Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

IN CLASS PROJECT

Supplies

- paper
- colored pencils

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of Jacob with an animal fur over his body to disguise himself as Esau.



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FOR OLDER GRADES

Read 1 Kings 22:23 which is an account of the Lord putting a lying spirit in the mouth of a group of the king's prophets. In Ezekiel 14:9, the Lord takes responsibility for the deceptive words of a false prophet and yet says He will destroy him for his mistake.

We learn from passages like this that God uses sin and evil to fulfill His plans. But, God cannot do evil or be blamed for evil. All men are sinners and have fallen short of God's glory. Though God uses man's sinful ways to accomplish His will, He never does evil and cannot be blamed for it.

- How does God use evil to bring about His purpose in the blessing of Jacob instead of Esau? (God's sovereignty allowed Jacob to buy Esau's birthright and then deceive Isaac into giving him the blessing of the firstborn.)

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.

