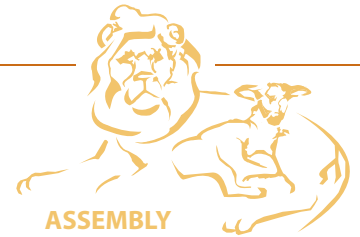


JACOB AND ESAU

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 25:20-34



*The story is short so you should re-read the entire story from Genesis 25:20-34 from the NIV.
The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

LESSON IDEAS

A TASTE OF STEW

Supplies:

- make a beef stew prior to class and bring the stew in a crock-pot
- insulated cups
- spoons

Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching.

Act out the story with kids from the class or some of the teachers. 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? (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.)

JACOB AND ESAU

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 25:20-34

GUESS WHICH BROTHER

If you know a hunter, borrow some of the following items and 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 poster board.

- Hunting knife – Esau
- Large ladle – Jacob
- Deerskin or fake fur – Esau
- Soup pot – Jacob
- Bow and arrow or spear – Esau
- Salt and pepper shaker – Jacob

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.

Rebekah called out to the Lord about the babies in her womb and God told her she was going to have twins. He also said that the older will serve the younger.

All this happened with the birth of the twins. Before they are born, God chose Jacob, the younger brother, to be the child of promise. Esau hated his birthright (the firstborn son normally inherited his father's wealth) while Jacob desired it. God's plan of faith is demonstrated by the picture of these two sons.

God's election of Jacob highlights that God's salvation comes not with strength, but through faith in Jesus. Jesus came not in worldly strength, but in meekness. In the lives of these two sons God gives us a picture of the struggle between works and grace, unbelief and faith, and His choice over ours.

