

JACOB AND ESAU

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 25:20-34



The STORY

Read "Jacob's Bargain" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (page 36). In addition, read the account directly from the NIV Bible, Genesis 25:20-34.

***Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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 very hairy. Jacob came out grabbing his brother's heel. Esau became a hunter while Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Esau pleading for a bowl of Jacob's stew. Engage the children by asking:

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

JACOB AND ESAU

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 25:20-34

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children 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.)

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.

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.

