

## Story Time - Read the story to the children

### Lesson 22: JACOB & ESAU

#### GENESIS 25:19-34; 27:1-46; 33

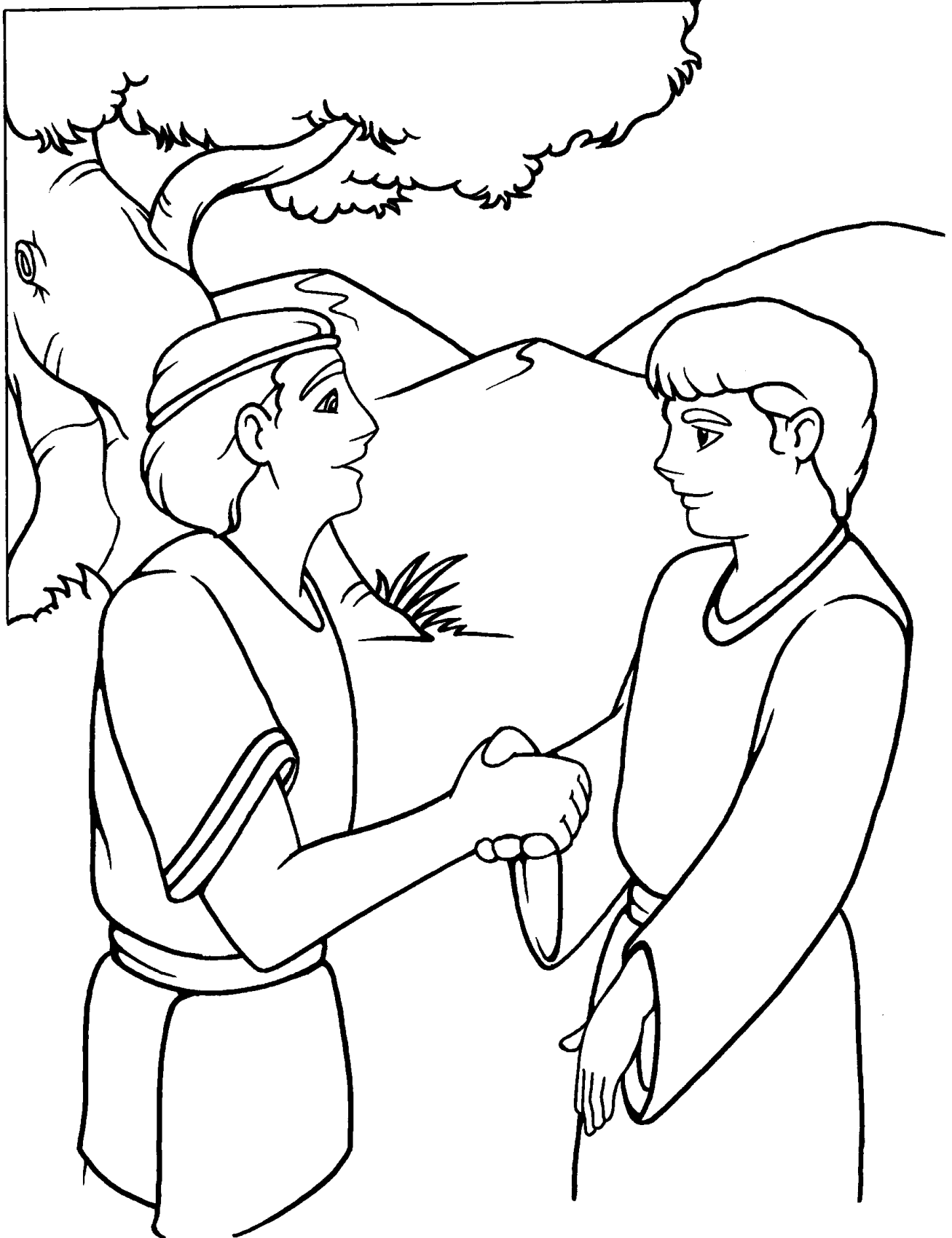
Isaac was the son of Abraham, and he was forty years old when he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel. She was also the sister of Laban, the Aramean from northern Syria. Almost twenty years later, Rebekah still had no children. So Isaac asked the LORD to let her have a child, and the LORD answered his prayer. Before Rebekah gave birth, she knew she was going to have twins, because she could feel them inside her, fighting each other. She thought, "Why is this happening to me?" Finally, she asked the LORD why her twins were fighting, and he told her: "Your two sons will become two separate nations. The younger of the two will be stronger, and the older son will be his servant." When Rebekah gave birth, the first baby was covered with red hair, like a hair suit, so he was named Esau. When Esau was born, the second baby grabbed on to his brother's heel, so they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when they were born. As Jacob and Esau grew older, Esau liked the outdoors and became a good hunter, while Jacob was a meek and mild man and lived in tents. Esau would take the meat of wild animals to his father Isaac, and so Isaac loved him more, but Jacob was his mother's favorite son. One day, Jacob was cooking some stew, when Esau came home hungry and said, "I'm starving to death! Give me some of that red stew right now!" That's how Esau got the name "Edom." Jacob replied, "Sell me your birthright (which are the rights as the first-born son)." "I'm about to die," Esau answered. "What good will those rights do me?" But Jacob said, "Swear to me and give me your birthrights, here and now!" And that's what Esau did. Jacob then gave Esau some bread and some of the bean stew, and when Esau had finished eating and drinking, he just got up and left, showing how little he thought of his rights as the first-born. After Isaac had become old and almost blind, he called in his first-born son Esau, who asked him, "Father, what can I do for you?" Isaac replied, "I am old and might die at any time. So take your bow and arrows, then go out in the fields, and kill a wild animal. Cook some of that tasty food that I love so much and bring it to me. I want to eat it once more and give you my blessing before I die." Rebekah had been listening, and as soon as Esau left to go hunting, she said to Jacob, "I heard your father tell Esau to kill a wild animal and cook some tasty food for your father before he dies. Your father said this because he wants to bless your brother with the LORD as his witness. Now, my

son, listen carefully to what I want you to do. Go and kill two of your best young goats and bring them to me. I'll cook the tasty food that your father loves so much. Then you can take it to him, so he can eat it and give you his blessing before he dies." "My brother Esau is a hairy man," Jacob reminded her. "And I am not. If my father touches me and realizes I am trying to trick him, he will put a curse on me instead of giving me a blessing." Rebekah insisted, "Let his curse fall on me! Just do what I say and bring me the meat." So Jacob brought the meat to his mother, and she cooked the tasty food that his father liked. Then she took Esau's best clothes and put them on Jacob. She also covered the smooth part of his arms, hands and neck with goatskins and gave him some bread and the tasty food she had cooked. Jacob went to his father and said, "Father, here I am." "Which one of my sons are you?" his father asked. Jacob replied, "I am Esau, your first-born, and I have done what you told me. Please sit up and eat the meat I have brought. Then you can give me your blessing." Isaac asked, "My son, how did you find an animal so quickly?" "The LORD your God was kind to me," Jacob answered. "My son," Isaac said, "come closer, where I can touch you and find out if you really are Esau." Jacob went closer. His father touched him and said, "You sound like Jacob, but your hands feel hairy like Esau's." And so Isaac blessed Jacob, thinking he was Esau. Isaac asked, "Are you really my son Esau?" "Yes, I am," Jacob answered. So Isaac told him, "Serve me the wild meat, and I can give you my blessing." Jacob gave him some meat, and he ate it. He also gave him some wine, and he drank it. Then Isaac said, "Son, come over here and kiss me." While Jacob was kissing him, Isaac caught the smell of his clothes and said: "The smell of my son is like a field the LORD has blessed. God will bless you, my son, with dew from heaven and with fertile fields, rich with grain and grapes. Nations will be your servants and bow down to you. You will rule over your brothers, and they will kneel at your feet. Anyone who curses you will be cursed; anyone who blesses you will be blessed." Right after Isaac had given Jacob his blessing and Jacob had gone, Esau came back from hunting. He cooked the tasty food, brought it to his father, and said, "Father, please sit up and eat the meat I have brought you, so you can give me your blessing." "Who are you?" Isaac asked. "I am Esau, your first-born son." Isaac started trembling and said, "Then who brought me some wild meat right before you came in? I ate it and gave him a blessing that cannot be taken back." Esau cried loudly and begged, "Father, give me a blessing too!" Isaac answered, "Your brother tricked me and stole your blessing." Esau replied, "My brother

deserves the name Jacob, because he has already cheated me twice. The first time he cheated me out of my rights as the first-born son, and now he has cheated me out of my blessing." Then Esau asked his father, "Don't you still have any blessing left for me?" "My son," Isaac answered, "I have made Jacob the ruler over you and your brothers, and all of you will be his servants. I have also promised him all the grain and grapes that he needs. There's nothing left that I can do for you." "Father," Esau asked, "don't you have more than one blessing? You can surely give me a blessing too!" Then Esau started crying again. So his father said: "Your home will be far from that fertile land, where dew comes down from the heavens. You will live by the power of your sword and be your brother's slave. But when you decide to be free, you will break loose." Esau hated his brother Jacob because he had stolen the blessing that was supposed to be his. So he said to himself, "Just as soon as my father dies, I'll kill Jacob." When Rebekah found out what Esau planned to do, she sent for Jacob and told him, "Son, your brother Esau is just waiting for the time when he can kill you. Now listen carefully and do what I say. Go to the home of my brother Laban in Haran and stay with him for a while. Laban was the son of Bethuel. When Esau stops being angry and forgets what you have done to him, I'll send for you to come home. Why should I lose both of my sons on the same day?" Rebekah later told Isaac, "Those Hittite wives of Esau are making my life miserable! If Jacob marries a Hittite woman, I'd be better off dead." Jacob stayed with Laban for many years, and married some wives, and had many children - then he sent messengers to find out if Esau was still angry. The messengers told Jacob that they saw Esau heading their way with four hundred men! Later that day Jacob met Esau coming with his four hundred men. So Jacob had his children walk with their mothers. The two servant women, Zilpah and Bilhah, together with their children went first, followed by Leah and her children, then by Rachel and Joseph. Jacob himself walked in front of them all, bowing to the ground seven times as he came near his brother. But Esau ran toward Jacob and hugged and kissed him. Then the two brothers started crying. When Esau noticed the women and children he asked, "Whose children are these?" Jacob answered, "These are the ones the LORD has been kind enough to give to me, your servant." Then the two servant women and their children came and bowed down to Esau. Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down; finally, Joseph and Rachel also came and bowed down. Esau asked Jacob, "What did you mean by these herds I met along the road?" "Master," Jacob answered, "I sent them so

that you would be friendly to me." "But, brother, I already have plenty," Esau replied. "Keep them for yourself." "No!" Jacob said. "Please accept these gifts as a sign of your friendship for me. When you welcomed me and I saw your face, it was like seeing the face of God. Please accept these gifts I brought to you. God has been good to me, and I have everything I need." Jacob kept insisting until Esau accepted the gifts. "Let's get ready to travel," Esau said. "I'll go along with you." But Jacob answered, "Master, you know traveling is hard on children, and I have to look after the sheep and goats that are nursing their young. If my animals travel too much in one day, they will all die. Why don't you go on ahead and let me travel along slowly with the children, the herds, and the flocks. We can meet again in the country of Edom." Esau replied, "Let me leave some of my men with you." "You don't have to do that," Jacob answered. "I am happy, simply knowing that you are friendly to me." So Esau left for Edom. But Jacob went to Succoth, where he built a house for himself and set up shelters for his animals. That's why the place is called Succoth. After leaving northern Syria, Jacob arrived safely at Shechem in Canaan and set up camp outside the city. The land where he camped was owned by the descendants of Hamor, the father of Shechem. So Jacob paid them one hundred pieces of silver for the property, then he set up his tents and built an altar there to honor the God of Israel.

**JACOB & ESAU**  
**GENESIS 25:19-34; 27:1-46; 33**



"And Esau ran to meet him, and hugged him around his neck, and kissed him: and they both cried."

**GENESIS 33:4**

## 22. JACOB & ESAU

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#### MEMORY VERSE:

*"Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."*  
**HEBREWS 12:14**

#### **Review Questions** True or False

1. When the first baby was born, he was smooth all over, so they called his name Esau.
2. When his brother was born, his hand grabbed onto Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob.
3. So the boys grew, and Esau was a good hunter, and loved the outdoors; but Jacob was a meek man, living in tents.
4. One day Jacob cooked a burger; and Esau came in from the field and he was very tired and he said to Jacob, "Give me some of that burger, because I'm starving to death!"
5. But Jacob said, "Sell me your shoes today."
6. Esau gave Jacob his birthright and Jacob gave Esau some bread and the stew. Esau really didn't care that much about his birthright.
7. Rebekah helped Jacob trick his father Isaac into giving him Esau's blessing by dressing him in a king's robe.
8. After Isaac blessed Jacob, he sent him away to Laban, his mother Rebekah's brother, until Esau forgot about being angry with Jacob.
9. After many years, Jacob was coming back to meet up with Esau, and when Esau saw his brother Jacob, he was so angry he tried to fight him.

#### Questions

1. Which brother was born first? What did he look like?
2. What did Jacob do when Esau was being born?
3. What kind of things did Esau like? What was Jacob like?
4. Which son was Isaac's favorite? Which son was Rebekah's favorite?
5. When Jacob was cooking stew and Esau came in from being outside, what did Esau want? What did Jacob make Esau promise for some stew?
6. How did Jacob trick his father Isaac into giving him Esau's blessing?
7. Where did Rebekah send Jacob after he tricked Esau into getting his blessing?
8. When Jacob stayed with Laban he sent some servants back to where Esau was – what did they say they saw?
9. When Esau saw Jacob and all his wives and children coming, what did Esau do?

## Lesson 22 Activity

### God wants us to treat each other with kindness

Give the children some situations where people can be mean. When you give them an example of meanness, they must try to think up a response that would be kind and pleasing to God.

For example:

Someone takes the seat you saved for your friend.

You see someone taking cuts in line in front of you.

Your brother or sister gets to watch their favorite show and you don't.

Someone breaks your new toy.

Your sister destroys your favorite Lego creation.

Your brother or sister loses your favorite toy.

Someone calls you a mean name.

Give them some time to think up ways they can react that would please God. (For example, they can try to be nice to the mean person, give them a gift, say something nice to them, etc.)

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITY-ACT IT OUT!

Have the children act out the part of the story where Jacob is cooking, and Esau comes in and is starving, and sells his birthright for some stew... Then have them act out the part where Isaac tells Esau to go hunting and to make him his tasty food he likes, and their mother Rebekah hears them talking, then she tells Jacob to go kill two goats and put on a hairy skin on his arms and neck, and to wear Esau's clothes, then act out the part where Isaac blesses him. Then Esau comes back to Isaac after Jacob leaves, and is upset that he did not get the blessing, and says that he will kill Jacob when he sees him again, then have their mother Rebekah tell Jacob to leave and go stay with her brother Laban (Jacob's uncle) until Esau calms down and forgets about being angry.

Let them act out the parts as many times as time allows. Help them with their lines if needed.

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to show kindness to others. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.