

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 23: ISAAC BLESSES JACOB
GENESIS 27:1-46

After Isaac had become old, his eyes were so dim that he was almost blind, so 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."

ISAAC BLESSES JACOB
GENESIS 27:1-46



"Esau cried loudly and begged, "Father, give me a blessing too!"
Isaac answered, "Your brother tricked me and stole your blessing."

GENESIS 27:34-35

23. ISAAC BLESSES JACOB

GENESIS 27:1-46

MEMORY VERSE:

"By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come."

HEBREWS 11:20

Review Questions

True or False

1. When Isaac was old, his eyes were so dim that he was almost blind.
2. Isaac told Esau, go get your brother Jacob and have him make me some of that delicious food that I love.
3. Rebekah their mother heard Isaac tell Esau to go hunting and make some of the food he loves, so she had Jacob go kill two of his goats and make the delicious food himself.
4. Rebekah said, "I guess your brother Esau will be blessed by your father Isaac instead of you."
5. Rebekah took some of Jacob's old clothes and made him wear them because Isaac was so blind he wouldn't be able to tell the difference anyway.
6. Jacob wore some of Esau's clothes, and he put animal skins on his neck and arms and so Isaac thought Jacob was Esau.
7. Isaac blessed Jacob instead of Esau, and when Jacob left, Esau came in and found out that Jacob had received his blessing, and he said, "Oh well, I guess I deserve that!"
8. Esau was happy that Jacob got his blessing.
9. Rebekah their mother told Jacob to go to her brother Laban's house until Esau stopped being angry and forgot about what happened.

Questions

1. Who did Isaac call to his bedside first?
2. What did Isaac tell Esau to go and do?
3. Who was listening to Isaac tell Esau to go hunting and to cook his favorite food so that he could bless him?
4. What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do?
5. Did Isaac think that Jacob was his brother Esau?
6. What kind of blessing did Isaac give to Jacob? Can you remember some of the things that he told Jacob would happen to and for him?
7. How did Esau feel when he found out that his father Isaac had blessed Jacob instead of him?
8. What kind of blessing did Isaac have for Esau? Can you remember some of the things he said would happen to and for Esau?
9. What did their mother Rebekah tell Jacob to do?

Lesson 23 Activity

"What If?"

On a large piece of paper write the following “what ifs”:

What if you saw your friend steal some candy, then later offered some to you? Is it okay to steal if you intend to share what’s stolen?

What if you were late getting home and nobody knew. Later your mother asked you if you had come home on time, and you told her you were on time? Is it okay to lie if seemingly no one is hurt by it?

What if your teacher gave you the honor of taking up the offering, but during the prayer you took a dollar out and put it in your pocket? Is it okay to steal if no one knows how much is there?

Come up with other questions to add to these examples. Roll the paper up like a scroll and put a rubber band around it with a red ribbon tied to it (or just use the rubber band or a piece of yarn from one of the supply cabinets). Using a music player with a CD or cassette of children’s music, have the children in your class pass around the scroll as long as music is playing (similar to musical chairs). If you don’t have music to play on your phone or a CD player, just sing “Jesus Loves Me” with the children. When the music stops, whoever is holding the scroll must open it and answer the next “what if” question. (younger children – you can read the questions to them). Have a class discussion about the “what ifs” and the answers given. Be sure to conclude that **sin is never right**. We looked today at some bad choices that were made by the people in our study, and the problems that resulted.

OPTIONAL CRAFT:

Bless You

Have your students make blessing cards with blessings similar to that found in Numbers 6:24-26, "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." (You can use the template below if you wish)

With construction paper folded in half, glue a 4"x7" piece of lined paper inside and have your class write an original blessing (if your children are smaller, you can have them trace their hands and write “God Bless You”).

Instruct your class to find someone in their home, school, or neighborhood who needs to be blessed and pass the card along to them.

From our lesson this week we can learn a few things:

1. We must not, like Isaac, allow our earthly passions to make us dull to God's plan and will for our lives.
2. We must not, like Rebekah, take matters into our own hands. We must trust in the Lord and "wait."
3. We must not, like Esau, give up our divine privileges (promised blessings) for the temporary satisfaction this world can offer.
4. We must not, like Jacob, deceive and sin against others in order to get what we want. **Sin is never right.**

Let us never forget Galatians 6:7-9, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart."

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to keep pure before the Lord and wait on Him for all of His promises. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

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