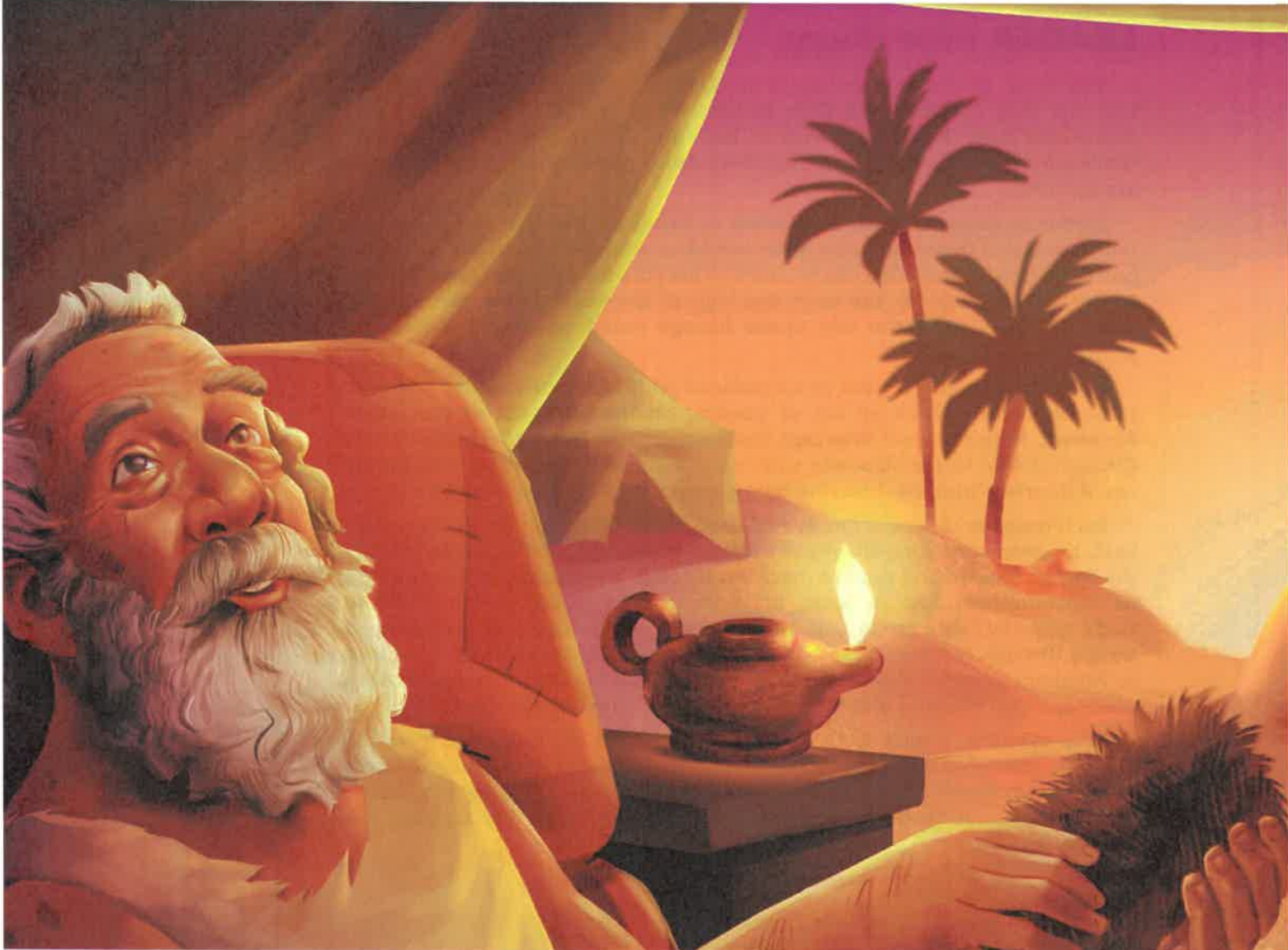


UNIT 3 | SESSION 1

Preschool-12/8/24

JACOB AND ESAU

GENESIS 25; 27



CHRIST CONNECTION: God's promise for Abraham was a promise for Jacob too. One day, God would send Jesus to earth through Jacob's family.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is in control? God is in control.

KEY PASSAGE: God can make bad things good. Genesis 50:20

STORY POINT: Jacob took Esau's blessing.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The story of God’s faithfulness to Abraham continues as we venture into the lives of Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25 and 27. Isaac prayed that God would bless their family with an heir, and God responded. We witness God’s sovereignty in the lives of brothers Jacob and Esau as God’s promises are fulfilled.

Earlier in Genesis 25, God revealed to Rebekah that she had conceived twins, and that in the end, the older would serve the younger. Before either had done good or bad, God chose Jacob to become the nation of Israel. (Rom. 9:10-11) In His kingdom, the ways and logic of the world do not prevail; God destined Jacob to be the one whose lineage would one day bring us the promised Savior, Jesus.

God’s ways came to pass in accordance with His own wisdom and will. Isaac blessed Jacob as an act of passing on the covenant of his father Abraham. Nothing could intercept God’s promise to bless Abraham’s family through Jacob; in the opposite way, no scheming on behalf of this family could interfere with this blessing being passed down to the younger son.

Each member of Isaac’s family had to trust, by faith, that God’s ways were best, however confusing His plans seemed. In the end, God’s plan to provide the way to redeem and restore mankind through the lineage of Jacob would be accomplished. Just as Isaac, Rebekah, and Jacob had to surrender to God’s plans by faith, so, too, do we surrender to God’s plan of restoring all things through His Son, Jesus. In Him, we receive the birthright promised to Abraham in its greatest and fullest measure, as God has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

True salvation comes to all who place their trust in Jesus. Pray that the children whose hearts have been entrusted to you today would hear of God’s sovereign goodness and surrender their lives to His will. May they place their trust in Him and receive the ultimate gift of everlasting life through His Son, Jesus.



PREPARE
THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

30–40 MINUTES


Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

30–40 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Guess the item

- Big Picture Question Poster
- small brown paper sack
- play food items



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- play food items, 1 per child
- large bowl

Tell the Bible story

- "Jacob and Esau" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- play food items, 1 per child
- large bowl

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Make a stew

- play food items
- large plastic bowl
- ladle
- bowls
- spoons

Play with a doll house

- doll house
- people figures



LIVE

Make a texture collage

- clear contact plastic
- assorted textured materials (lace, sandpaper, aluminum foil, fabrics, cotton balls, etc.)
- "Key Passage Phrase Label" printable

Missions activity

- "William and Crystal Enete" missions video (optional)
- craft sticks, 1 per preschooler

Snack and transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Make Stew" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Feel the fur

- faux animal fur

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Guess the items

- shoebox
- classroom items

In disguise

- dress up clothes
- mirror



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

GUESS THE ITEM

Post the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster near the entrance to the classroom. Place a piece of play food in a bag. Greet preschoolers as they enter the classroom and point out the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster. Shake the bag. Encourage boys and girls to feel what is inside the bag and guess what it is. Give clues as needed.

SAY *I am so glad that you are at church today. You did a great job guessing the food items in the bag. Jacob used food to cook a yummy stew. Jacob's brother, Esau, wanted the stew so badly that he agreed to give Jacob his special gift. **JACOB TOOK ESAU'S BLESSING.***

Worship

* Joy

* God is so Good

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Place play food items around the classroom. Encourage preschoolers to find a piece of food and bring it to group time. Assist preschoolers as needed so that everyone is able to bring something to the group. Invite preschoolers to place the food in the bowl to make a stew.

SAY “ In today’s Bible story, we will learn about brothers named Jacob and Esau. Jacob and Esau are the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah. Listen carefully to learn how Esau traded his special gift for Jacob’s stew. ”



2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY *video*

Open your Bible to Genesis 25; 27. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

JACOB AND ESAU

SAY “ After Isaac and Rebekah were married, Isaac prayed that Rebekah would have a baby. After many years, Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons: Jacob and Esau. When the boys grew up, Esau became a hunter. Jacob was quiet and liked to stay at home.

One day, Esau came home. He was very hungry. Jacob was cooking a yummy stew, and Esau wanted some. Jacob said, “First, sell me your birthright.” The birthright was a special gift that meant Esau would get a larger part of all the family had. Esau really wanted that stew, so he agreed to give Jacob his gift.

Many years later, Isaac asked Esau to go and hunt an animal for him to eat. Isaac was old and could not see very well. When Esau got back, his father Isaac would give him his blessing. This meant he would make Esau the future leader of the family.

But Rebekah wanted Jacob to get the blessing. She made a plan to trick Isaac. She made a meal for Jacob to take to his father. Then she put fur on Jacob’s neck and hands so he would be hairy like Esau.

When Jacob took the food to Isaac, he pretended to be Esau. The trick worked! Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob instead of Esau.

When Esau got home from hunting, he found out that Jacob took the blessing. Esau was very angry. ”

Christ Connection: God’s promise for Abraham was a promise for Jacob too. One day, God would send Jesus to earth through Jacob’s family.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

* Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Encourage children to take a piece of food from the bowl as they answer a question about the story. Questions may include: What did Jacob cook? (stew) Who wanted the stew and gave up his special gift? (Esau) What did Rebekah put on Jacob's neck and hands so he would be hairy like his brother? (animal fur) Did Rebekah and Jacob's trick work? (yes) How did Esau feel when he realized that Jacob took the blessing? (very angry)

SAY 🗨️ Jacob tricked Esau and his father, Isaac. **JACOB TOOK ESAU'S BLESSING** but **God is in control.** God would send Jesus to earth through Jacob's family. God's promise for Abraham was a promise for Jacob too. 🗨️

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow":

God can make bad things good.
God can make bad things good.
God can make bad things good.

Genesis 50:20

* "FOR GOOD" worship song

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

* Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Genesis 50:20. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase. Encourage preschoolers to do the following motions when saying the key passage: "God" (point upward) "can make bad" (frown) "things good" (smile). "Genesis 50:20."

SAY 🗨️ **God is in control.** He can make good out of bad things. Even though Jacob tricked his brother and father, God would keep His promise and send Jesus to earth through Jacob's family. 🗨️

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for loving us and always keeping His promises.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 GUESS WHO

Invite preschoolers to play a guessing game with you. Turn your back to the group of preschoolers. Encourage children to take turns talking while you try to guess who it is, without looking. Once you have guessed who it is, invite preschoolers to take turns trying to guess their friends' voices. Make the game more difficult by encouraging preschoolers to try and disguise their voices.

SAY You could not see who was speaking to you. You had to listen closely to your friend's voice to know who it was. It was even more difficult when your friends tried to trick you, wasn't it? Isaac was old and could not see very well. Rebekah and Jacob made a plan to trick Isaac. Rebekah put fur on Jacob's neck and hands so he would be hairy like Esau. Jacob pretended to be Esau. Their trick worked and Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob instead of Esau. **JACOB TOOK ESAU'S BLESSING.** Esau was very angry.

2 MAKE A STEW

Encourage preschoolers to make a stew with play food. Talk about each food as you place it in a bowl. Some preschoolers may want to make a traditional stew with meats and vegetables, while others may want to make one with a variety of other play foods. Invite preschoolers to serve the stew to friends using a ladle and bowls.

SAY Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. Esau was born first, so he had a special gift called a birthright. Jacob wanted that special gift. One day Esau came home from hunting. He was very hungry. Jacob was cooking a yummy stew and Esau wanted some. Esau agreed to trade his gift for some stew. **JACOB TOOK ESUA'S BLESSING** but **God is in control.**

3 PLAY WITH A DOLLHOUSE

Place the dollhouse and people figures on the floor or on a low table. Invite preschoolers to play out family scenes with the people figures. Preschoolers may want to pretend the people figures are their family members. Suggest that preschoolers pretend the people figures are Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau as well. Demonstrate how to reenact parts of the Bible story.

SAY After Isaac and Rebekah were married, they had twin sons named Esau and Jacob. Jacob and Esau were brothers. Jacob tricked his brother into selling his special gift for some stew. He also tricked his father by pretending to be Esau to get his blessing. Many years before, God had made a promise to another family. God's promise for Abraham was a promise for Jacob too. God keeps His promises. One day, God would send Jesus to earth through Jacob's family.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 MAKE A TEXTURE COLLAGE

Cut a piece of clear contact plastic for each child. Remove the backing from the clear contact plastic and place sticky-side up on the table. Place various textured materials within reach of the preschoolers. Invite preschoolers to make a texture collage with the materials. Assist preschoolers in placing a label from the “Key Passage Phrase Label” printable onto their collage.

SAY “Jacob tricked his father by putting fur on his hands and neck so that he would be hairy like Esau. His father could not see very well. He could only feel. What did the items in your collage feel like? Were they smooth or rough? Would you know what they were if you could not see? Our key passage says, ‘God can make bad things good.’ Even though Jacob tricked his father, **God is in control** and would still keep His promise.”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Instruct preschoolers to glue a rectangle or triangle near the top of a craft stick as the body of a puppet. Then add a circle to the top of the other shape and draw facial features on the head. Let preschoolers decorate the colored paper “clothing” on the puppets. Allow preschoolers to use their puppets as you tell them about the missionaries. You may preview or show the “William and Crystal Enete” missions video.

SAY “William and Crystal Enete were missionaries in Brazil who used movies, illusion, and puppets named Johnny and Sammy to tell people in Brazil about Jesus. [Lead a prayer.]”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “God’s promise for Abraham was a promise for Jacob too. One day, God would send Jesus to earth through Jacob’s family.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 FEEL THE FUR

Before the session, post an Allergy Alert. Pass around a piece of faux animal fur as you gather for group time. Encourage preschoolers to touch and feel the fur. Talk about how it feels. Tell preschoolers that Jacob covered his neck and hands with fur to trick his father.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Genesis 25; 27. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

JACOB AND ESAU

- Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau was born first, so he had a special gift called a birthright. Jacob wanted that special gift. One day, Esau traded his gift for a bowl of soup!
- When Isaac was old, Isaac wanted to bless Esau. Rebekah told Jacob to wear Esau's clothes. Jacob covered his arms with goatskin to be hairy like Esau.
- Rebekah made a tasty meal, and Jacob took the meal to his father. Isaac could not see well, so he said, "Are you Esau?" Jacob said, "I am Esau."
- Jacob tricked his father, and Isaac blessed Jacob. Esau was very angry with Jacob.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow":

God can make bad things good.
God can make bad things good.
God can make bad things good.
Genesis 50:20

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 50:20. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Invite preschoolers to clap out the syllables of the key passage as you say it together several times.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God or sending Jesus to earth through Jacob's family.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 TOSS THE BEANBAG

Write Jacob on five pieces of construction paper. Write Esau on four other pieces of construction paper. Tape the papers together into a three-by-three grid with a checkerboard pattern, alternating the names. Invite a preschooler to toss the beanbag onto the checkerboard mat. Say a detail from the story about the brother whose name the beanbag lands on.

SAY “ The Bible tells us many things about Jacob and Esau and how they treated one another. Jacob and Esau were brothers, but they were very different. Jacob tricked his brother, Esau, to get his birthright and his blessing. Esau was very angry at Jacob for what he had done. **JACOB TOOK ESAU’S BLESSING**, but **God is in control**. ”

7 GUESS THE ITEMS

Cut two holes on opposite sides of a shoebox, large enough for a child’s hand to fit through. Place one of the items in the box. Close the lid so that preschoolers cannot see what is in the box. Invite a child to place her hands through the holes to feel the item and guess what it is.

SAY “ Was it difficult to guess what was in the box without being able to see it? You had to use your hands to feel what was in the box. Isaac had to use his hands to figure out which of his sons was Jacob and which was Esau. ”

8 IN DISGUISE

Invite preschoolers to examine a dress-up clothes and choose something to wear. Encourage preschoolers to look at themselves in the mirror. Talk about what they are wearing and if they still look like themselves or if they could trick someone into thinking they were someone different.

SAY “ You did not look like yourself when you had the dress-up clothes on. You were pretending to be someone else. Jacob and his mother, Rebekah, made a plan to trick his father, Isaac. Rebekah told Jacob to wear Esau’s clothes. The trick worked. Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob instead of Esau. **JACOB TOOK ESAU’S BLESSING**. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.