

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



Week Six - Jacob & Esau

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

God's rescue plan for the world continues through Abraham's family... even though the family keeps messing it up! This week we're praying to see that God is faithful even when we are not, and that we have a True and Better Brother in Jesus who secures our family inheritance for us.

- **Big Idea:** Don't trade God's goodness for something temporary!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Make A Trade**

Pass out snacks. Ask who wants to trade their snack for a secret surprise. They won't get to know what it is until they've agreed to the trade. If anyone takes you up on the offer, give them double the snacks. Use this illustration to talk about how we sometimes pass up on something good because of what's right before us. But if we wait, God has a plan that's better.

Sing Together

Story - from Genesis 25

This is the family tree of Isaac, son of Abraham: Abraham had Isaac. Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. She was the sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed hard to God for his wife because she could not have children. God answered his prayer and Rebekah became pregnant. But the children tumbled and kicked inside her so much that she said, "If this is the way it's going to be, why go on living?" She went to God to find out what was going on.

God told her, "Two nations are in your womb, two peoples butting heads while still in your body. One people will overpower the other, and the older will serve the younger."

When her time to give birth came, sure enough, there were twins in her womb. The first came out reddish, as if snugly wrapped in a hairy blanket; they named him Esau (Hairy). His brother followed, his fist clutched tight to Esau's heel; they named him Jacob (Heel-Grabber). Isaac was sixty years old when they were born.

The boys grew up. Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman. Jacob was a quiet man preferring life indoors among the tents. Isaac loved Esau because he loved the food he hunted, but Rebekah loved Jacob. One day Jacob was cooking a stew. Esau came in from the field, starved. Esau said to Jacob, "Give me some of that red stew—I'm starved!" That's how he came to be called Edom (Red).

Jacob said, "Make me a trade: my stew for your rights as the firstborn."

Esau said, "I'm starving! What good is a birthright if I'm dead?"

Jacob said, "First, swear to me." And he did it. On oath Esau traded away his rights as the firstborn. Jacob gave him bread and the stew of lentils. He ate and drank, got up and left. That's how Esau shrugged off his rights as the firstborn.

So Jacob's family became the family God would continue His rescue plan through. Jacob wasn't exactly a good guy all the time. But God was still faithful to provide for both Esau and Jacob's families. And one day, many many years later, a new Son was born out of the line of Jacob. His name was Jesus, and he was the true and better brother we all need. He had every right to His Father's inheritance - it was his birthright - but instead of grasping for it he gave it up so that you and I could be made brothers and sisters and share in the inheritance forever.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- What is a birthright? (in those days the firstborn son would get double an inheritance from the father, in order to continue the family name and take care of the rest of the family)
- Esau would have had a great honor and responsibility to carry on the role of the oldest son, but he traded it for a bowl of stew! What things do we often trade God's goodness for?
- When Jacob tricked Esau into getting his birthright, he wasn't just getting his stuff but also the responsibility - to bless others. Do you think Jacob did a good job with that?
- Why would God choose to use someone like Jacob? Why would He choose to use us?
- Jesus becomes the better brother who shares his inheritance from God with us. What is our inheritance? (see Ephesians 1:11-14 — eternal life, salvation, protection, blessing, to be in God's family, etc.)

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
God, help us to not trade what You offer (eternal life with You) for the temporary things this world offers. Help us to be satisfied in You! Amen.
- **Craft:**
Use the maze attached for reaching the pot of stew.
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Eat** rhythm. Esau was so hungry he passed up on what God had for him in order to eat some food. But he would become hungry again! Jesus is the Bread of Life, meaning he fully satisfies us forever.

How can you enjoy food this week in a way that it reminds you of what we have in God, which never runs out?

START

