

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**

**Primary Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 5**

**Birth of Jacob and Esau, Jacob Steal Esau's Blessing (Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-45)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. We cannot tell good from evil without truth from the Lord. This is why Jacob must supplant Esau in our lives. Jacob represents the understanding and Esau represents the natural will.
- B. Obedience to the Lord is rewarded; evil is punished.
- C. The Lord is merciful and forgives our evil actions if we repent. But our evil actions do have consequences.
- D. If we would go to heaven, we must love the Lord and the neighbor more than ourselves.

**II. Story Circle**

**A. Introduction**

- 1. Last time we heard the story of Abraham sending his servant to find a wife for Isaac. Do you remember how the Lord brought Isaac and Rebekah together?
- 2. Today we will learn about the twin boys born to Isaac and Rebekah.
  - a. Isaac loved Rebekah very much, but they didn't have any children. Isaac asked the Lord to give Rebekah children, and the Lord answered his prayers. Rebekah became pregnant.
  - b. Rebekah carried two babies inside her, and they struggled, or fought, together. She asked the Lord about this, and He told her that the older child would serve the younger.
  - c. When it was time for the babies to be born, the first boy was born red and hairy, and they called him Esau. The second baby's body was smooth, and they called him Jacob.
  - d. The two boys grew older, and they were very different from each other. Esau liked to hunt in the fields while Jacob was gentle and lived in tents. Their father, Isaac, felt very close to Esau because he loved to eat the meat Esau brought to him after hunting. But Rebekah loved Jacob, the younger brother.

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e. In those days, a father would give his oldest son his land and his wealth when he died. And he would give his oldest son a special blessing, which really came from the Lord. Who was the older of Isaac's two sons? (Esau) But Esau did not get these things. Let's read the story from the Word to find out why.

### B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Genesis 25:29-34 (Esau Sells His Birthright); and
2. Read Genesis 27:1-29 (Isaac Blesses Jacob); and
3. Summarize Genesis 27:30-45.

### C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Who was Isaac's father? (Abraham)
2. Who was Isaac's wife? (Rebekah)
3. Who were Isaac's sons? (Esau and Jacob)
4. Which of the twin boys was born first (and was older)? (Esau)
5. What was Esau like? (Red, hairy, a hunter, man of the fields)
6. What was Jacob like? (Smooth skinned, gentle, lived in tents)
7. Who did Isaac love best? (Esau)
8. Who did Rebekah love best? (Jacob)
9. How did Jacob buy Esau's birthright? (He gave Esau stew when he was very hungry in return for the birthright.)
10. To whom did Isaac want to give a special blessing, and why? (To Esau; because he was the oldest son)
11. Who told Jacob to pretend to be Esau so he could get the special blessing instead? (Rebekah)
12. Did Isaac think Jacob was Esau? (It was hard for him to tell, but finally he decided it must be Esau.)
13. Which four senses did Isaac use to make sure he was blessing Esau? (Touch, hearing, taste, and smell. His eyes couldn't see much any more.)
14. How did Esau feel when he found out that Jacob stole his blessing?
15. What did Isaac do for Esau? (He gave him a different blessing.)
16. Why did Jacob leave home? (His mother, Rebekah, sent him away so that Esau could not kill him as he planned to do.)

### D. Further Ideas: Obedience is Rewarded; Evil is Punished

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1. Both Jacob and Esau did things that were wrong. What did Jacob do that was wrong? (He got Esau to sell him his birthright, and he tricked Isaac into giving him the special blessing that was meant for Esau.) And what did Esau do that was wrong? (He gave Jacob his birthright to satisfy his hunger. And he planned to kill Jacob when their father, Isaac, died.)
2. When we obey the Lord, we are rewarded. But when we do evil things, punishment and unhappiness always follows. In our story, Jacob and Esau were both thinking about what was best for them, and they didn't seem to care about what was best for each other or about what the Lord wanted.
3. When we do something wrong, it always brings unhappiness, and that is exactly what happened in our story: Esau lost the privileges of the oldest son, and Jacob had to leave the home that he loved. Neither of these sad things would have happened if the brothers had been trying to do what was right.

### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

1. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," Hymnal #169
2. "All that the Lord hath spoken," Hymnal #245
3. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," Hymnal #246 (Hebrew version of #245)
4. "Heavenly Father, Thou art near," Hymnal #158

#### B. Activities

1. Serve lentil soup at snack time.

#### **Recipe for Potage Esau (Esau's Soup)**

1 cup red lentils

1 cup water + 5 cups water

1/2 cup to 1 cup onion

optional: 1 carrot and 1 potato, chopped

Seasonings: 1 t. salt, 2 bay leaves, thyme, fresh parsley, fresh mint leaves

Wash lentils and soak in 1 cup water overnight. Put the lentils (with the soaking water) and 4-5 cups additional water in pan. Bring to boil then simmer for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Carrot and potato may be added. Cook with salt, dried thyme, and 8 sprigs fresh parsley. Minutes before serving, 3 T. chopped parsley and a few fresh mint leaves may be added. Serve with pita bread or crackers. (Adapted from *Sunday School Activity Book* lesson 21 and internet websites)

#### C. Project

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1. Have each child illustrate an aspect of the story to be displayed as a mural when all are complete. The following list of subjects can be adapted to the size of the group.
  - a. Rebekah & Isaac
  - b. Isaac praying to the Lord
  - c. Esau and Jacob, as babies
  - d. Esau, hunting in the fields
  - e. Jacob in a tent or with Rebekah
  - f. Jacob giving Esau stew
  - g. Isaac telling Esau to go hunting
  - h. Rebekah dressing Jacob as Esau
  - i. Isaac feeling Jacob's "hairy" arms
  - j. Isaac blessing Jacob
  - k. Esau, sad and angry
  - l. Jacob going away from home
2. For continuity, agree on what color each of the four people will wear in everyone's pictures, (e.g. Esau - green or brown; Jacob - blue; Isaac - red, orange, yellow; Rebekah - purple)

**IV. Teaching Aids**

- A. Illustrations of story

**V. Further Reading for the Teacher**

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. I, pp. 317-330.
- B. The Sower, Vol. I, pp. 113-118.