



JACOB

Young Preschool • #OT8 • July 30, 2023

Concept

God will always keep His promises.

Goal

The children will learn that Rebekah and Jacob lied to Isaac to make sure that Jacob would receive what God had promised him. They will learn they can trust that God will keep His promises.

Passage

Genesis 27

Key Verse: "... the older will serve the younger." Genesis 25:23b

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brown paper grocery bag with the following items inside:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Ball</i> ◦ <i>Glue stick</i> ◦ <i>Leaf</i> ◦ <i>Picture book</i> ◦ <i>Marker</i> <p>Lesson: teachers bring * items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Big purse*</i> • <i>Small pan and spoon*</i> • <i>Sweats*</i> • <i>Bible*</i> • <i>Plastic sword</i> • <i>Pictures of Jacob & Esau</i> • <i>2 pieces of curly brown or black fleece</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Printed picture of Jacob and Esau, 1/child</i> • <i>Crayons</i>

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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Jacob's life is a story of God's patient and sovereign grace, as He slowly molds a deceptive schemer into a surrendered, godly man. It is also a story of the consequences of choosing not to trust God to fulfill His promises. Because Jacob didn't trust God to work out His promises, he forfeited the personal blessings God intended to freely give him.

"The ancient law of primogeniture provided that, under ordinary circumstances, the younger of two sons would be subservient to the older. God's election of the younger son highlights the fact that God's people are the product not of natural or worldly development but of his sovereign intervention in the affairs of men. Part of this verse is quoted in Ro. 9:10-12 as an example of God's sovereign right to do 'whatever pleases him' (Ps. 115:3)—Not in an arbitrary way (see Ro. 9:14), but according to His own perfect will. In ancient times the birthright included the inheritance rights of the firstborn (see Heb. 12:16). Jacob was ever the schemer, seeking by any means to gain advantage over others. But it was by God's appointment and care of Jacob, not his own wits, that he came into the blessing. Esau in despising his birthright proved himself to be 'godless' (Heb. 12:16), since at the heart of the birthright were the covenant promises that Isaac had inherited from Abraham."^[1]

"The principal parts in this story are those which relate to the birthright, and the blessing, and the key to both is in ch. 25:23: 'The elder shall serve the younger'. Here is a Divine purpose and promise, and the meaning of it must have been plain to Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob." ^[2]

Jacob's life is an example of God fulfilling His plan, often in spite of our actions. In His sovereignty, God has provided a solution to all mankind's foolish choices by providing the way of salvation to all who turn to Him in faith. And as believers, Jacob's life continues to sound familiar. All too often we set out to accomplish God's will in our way, not trusting the blessings we are promised in Christ Jesus. We can learn from Jacob's life the folly of not trusting God to accomplish what He has promised. As we trust Him to work out His plan in His way, we will experience His promised blessings.

1 The NIV Study Bible, © 1983, Zondervan Press, notes on Gen. 25:23; 25:31; 25:34, pp. 43, 44.

2 W. Graham Scroggie, *The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*, © 1994, Kregel Publications, pp. 120-122.

Set Up

The week before class:

- Practice the story for the lesson.
- Put together your BIG purse or backpack with a pan and spoon, wadded-up old sweats and your Bible for the lesson.

The day of class:

- Add the curly fleece and the sword to the purse or backpack.

Activity Stations:

Touch & Guess

- **Instructions:** Put the brown grocery bags with the items inside on the table. Have the children reach in without looking and try to guess the objects by feeling them. The orange will allow them to use smell to guess, too. The familiar objects should be easy to identify. Are they easily tricked? Do they like to be tricked when it isn't a game? Do they know what it is called when someone tricks you or doesn't tell the truth? It's called a lie. Today we will learn about a man who lied to his father.

Instructions: One teacher will pretend to be Rebekah. She has a purse with various items to supplement the story.

Boys and girls, my name is Rebekah. I want to tell you about my family. I had two boys. Esau was my older boy—he was big and had very hairy arms and legs. (Pull piece of fake fur out of your purse.) Really hairy! Can you say Esau? My other boy's name was Jacob. Can you say Jacob? Jacob loved to cook dinner. (Pull a pan and spoon out of your purse stir the pot and set it down.) Jacob had smooth skin and he smelled like all the good things that he cooks in the kitchen. But Esau just plain smelled! (Pinch nose.) PEEE UUU!

One day God made a promise. God's promised me that Jacob would be the leader of his brother Esau. When their daddy, Isaac, was going to make Esau the leader, I thought, "NO WAY! God promised that Jacob will be the leader, not Esau."

Oh boy, did I ever make a really BAD choice because I didn't believe God will always keep His promises. I made up a lie for Jacob to tell his dad. Do you know what a lie is? If you hit your friend and then tell your mommy you didn't hit him that is a lie. I told Jacob to lie to his dad. I told him to tell his dad that he was Esau. I said to Jacob, "Just put this fur on your arms and put on Esau's smelly clothes. Your dad doesn't see very well, he'll never know you're not Esau." (Pull out some wadded-up sweats and some more fake fur out of your purse.) He wore these to trick his dad and it worked. Isaac believed that Jacob was Esau and made Jacob the leader. Boy was Esau mad about that lie. Isaac was also very angry that we had lied to him.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

Lesson Continued

You can see in this picture that Esau was so angry! (Pull the picture of Esau out of your purse.) He was so angry that he (pull a plastic sword menacingly out of your purse) decided that he would kill Jacob. Oh my! So I told Jacob to go far away, where his brother couldn't kill him. Oh my Jacob. (Pull the picture of Jacob out of your purse.) Oh, I love you; I miss you. We lied because we didn't believe that God will always keep His promises. That was a very bad choice.

(Set down your purse, sit down and look at the boys and girls.) You know, the consequence for my lie was that I never saw Jacob again. But you know the really cool thing about God? God will always keep His promises. God kept the promise He made to Jacob. He made Jacob a leader. You make bad choices sometimes, too. Sometimes you tell lies, you are mean to your friends and brothers and sisters, and you don't always obey your moms and dads. Even though God knows all these things about you He loves you and promises to forgive you just like He forgave Jacob and me. He can forgive us because Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our bad choices when He died on the cross. If we ask, He will come to live with us and help us make good choices.

God wrote about our lives in His Bible (pull your Bible out of your purse) so that you can learn from us. I hope you learn that God will always keep His promises.

Let's pray and thank God for how he keeps all of his promises.

Now, let's make a picture to remind us that God will always keep His promises even when we don't believe Him.

Craft – Jacob & Esau

Instructions: Give each child a printed picture to color with crayons or markers.

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Birthday Plans Bible Guy Skit

[Bible Guy ENTERS with a birthday cake and present, wearing a birthday hat]

B.G.: Well today is my birthday. Mrs. Bible Guy promised me a party and everything, but I think she forgot. She has been very busy. This morning she didn't even wish me Happy Birthday. She never told me what time the party would be and none of my friends have said anything about it. I think she forgot.

So I decided to have one myself... got my favorite cake,...bought myself what I wanted for a present...and I'm going to have a party.

[He sits down and opens his present]

Ah...just what I wanted!

[He begins eating the cake]

Mmmmm! My favorite! Well...it would be more fun if Mrs. Bible Guy and my friends were here, but at least I'm having a party. Don't you think this was a good idea?

[picks up gift and EXITS, still eating the cake]

NARRATOR: When Bible Guy got home, he learned a lesson about promises. He's coming back to tell you what he learned.

[B.G. ENTERS]

I made a wrong choice to have a party by myself. Mrs. Bible Guy had promised me a party. When I got home she had a surprise party for me with all my friends, my favorite cake, and everything. Only problem was I had eaten that whole cake at my own party I had for myself. I was so sick I couldn't enjoy her party. Also, she got me the same gift I had bought for myself. It hurt her feelings and ruined the surprise. I should have trusted her to keep her promise instead of getting impatient and doing it all myself.

Do you think we sometimes do that with God? When we try to make his plans happen our way we can really mess things up, just like I messed up my birthday.

God's plans will always happen. He says if we ask Jesus in our hearts we can be with him forever. If we try to do it ourselves, we can miss out on God's plan.

I learned a good lesson... and now I need to go for a walk and try to work off some of that cake I ate. Bye!