



JACOB

Preschool-K • #OT8 • July 30, 2023

Concept

God will always keep His promises.

Goal

The children will learn about 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>Max and the Big Fat Lie, Michael P. Waite</i> • <i>Brown paper grocery bag with the following items inside:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Small Ball</i> ◦ <i>Glue stick</i> ◦ <i>Plastic Fork</i> ◦ <i>Paper Clip</i> ◦ <i>Penny</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>Ice pack or baggie with ice*</i> • <i>Plastic sword</i> • <i>Pictures of Jacob & Esau</i> • <i>2 pieces of curly brown or black fleece</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Curly fleece, 1/16th yard/class (under Intro.)</i> • <i>Printed picture of Jacob and Esau, 1/child</i> • <i>Crayons, markers</i> • <i>Glue sticks</i> <p>Learning Activity #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Basket</i> • <i>Plastic eggs with questions inside</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

Preschool-K • #OT8 • July 30, 2023

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:

- Introduction – Practice the story.
- Introduction – Put together your BIG purse or backpack with a pan and spoon, balled up old sweats, ice pack or baggie of ice, and Bible.
- Learning Activity #3 – Review the questions that will be in the eggs.

The day of class:

- Learning Activity #2 – Cut fleece in small pieces.
- Introduction – Add the curly fleece and the sword to the purse or backpack.

Activity Stations:

- **Read aloud book – Max and the Big Fat Lie**
 - **Instructions:** Read this book to groups of students either before class or anytime later—maybe both! Talk about the consequences of lying or tricking people.

Touch & Guess

Goal: Fun guessing activity. Can tie it to the lesson by considering what it's like to identify things by touch rather than sight. Isaac was unable to see his son so he had to depend on his touch.

- **Instructions:** Put the brown grocery bag with the items 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? What would they think if someone tried to trick them but it wasn't a game? Today we will learn about a man whose mother helped him to trick 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. Before I do, I want to know if you ever want to tell a big fat lie, like Max in that story. I had to learn a hard lesson about lying when I didn't believe that God will always keep His promises. God kept His promise all right, but my son and I made a big mess of things.

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! He loved to be outside and hunt for animals. Then there's my other boy, Jacob. I loved Jacob. He was a great cook (pull a pan out of your purse), oh my! (Stir the pot and set it down.) Jacob had smooth skin and smelled like all the good things that he cooks in the kitchen.

When the boys were born God told me that Jacob would be the leader. Well, the boys grew up and Isaac, their dad, was getting old.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

Lesson Continued

It was time for him to give the special blessing to our older son, Esau. Well, I thought, “NO WAY! Even though Esau is older, God said that Jacob should get this blessing, not Esau.”

It was then that I made a really BAD choice. I did not believe that God will always keep His promises. I was afraid that Isaac would give Esau that blessing and then God would not give Jacob what He had promised. So, I planned a big fat lie. I called Jacob and said to him, “Just put this fur on your arms and put on Esau’s smelly clothes. Your dad doesn’t see too well, he’ll never know.” (Pull out some wadded-up sweats and some more fake fur out of your purse.) He wore these to trick his dad.

Oh boy! What a mess I made. God had promised that “the older, Esau, would serve the younger, Jacob,” but I didn’t believe that God will always keep His promises, so I made up a lie for Jacob to tell his father! Isaac believed that Jacob was his brother, Esau. So Isaac gave Jacob the blessing. Boy, was Esau mad about that lie when he found out. (Pull out an ice pack from your purse.) Just remembering how hot he was makes me want to cool off (put ice pack to your forehead). Isaac was also very angry that we had lied to him.

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 thought of a solution. (Pull a plastic sword menacingly out of your purse.) He decided that if he killed Jacob, then he could get everything. Oh my! So I told Jacob to leave home. I told him to go far away, where his brother couldn’t kill him. Oh my Jacob. (Pull the picture 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. All of us were hurt because of our lies.

(Set down your purse, sit down and look at the boys and girls.) You know, I never saw my son Jacob again. He was gone for 20 years! But you know the really cool thing about God? He forgave Jacob and me. And God gave Jacob the blessing He promised. Do you know that God knows when 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 wants to forgive you just like He forgave Jacob and me. He came to earth as the man, Jesus, and even took the punishment we deserve for our bad choices when He died on the cross. All we have to do is ask Him to forgive us.

Then He comes to live with us and gives us the power to choose to make good choices like telling the truth, especially when we have trouble believing that God will always keep His promises.

Lesson Continued

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

Transition

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

God wrote about our lives in His Bible (pull your Bible out of your purse) so that you can learn from us. Our lie hurt many people. Maybe you will learn from us and choose to trust that God will always keep His promises.

Let's get into small groups to talk about Jacob and Esau.

- Have you ever told a lie? (If kids all deny, teacher should share an age-appropriate personal example of a lie they have told.)
- What happened to Rebekah and Jacob because they lied? Do you think that was fair?
- Do you know that if you ask Him, God will help you choose to stop lying?

Let's pray and thank God that Jesus took the punishment for our bad choices. All we have to do is ask Him to forgive us. Let's thank God that when He comes to live in us, He gives us the power to make good choices.

We're going to sing a song to help us remember the story of Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Esau.

Song

- **Instructions:** Sing to the tune of the "Farmer in the Dell." Children join hands and circle around. Repeat each stanza, since the words are new. As you sing, follow the specific instructions in italics.
 - 1. Isaac was a man, who lived in the promised land Hi-ho the Bible-o, Isaac was a man (*choose an Isaac to stand in the center of the circle*).
 - 2. Rebekah was Isaac's wife, Rebekah was Isaac's wife, Hi-ho the Bible-o, Rebekah was Isaac's wife (*have "Isaac" choose a Rebekah*).
 - 3. Rebekah had twin boys, Rebekah had twin boys, Hi-ho the Bible-o, Rebekah had twin boys (*Have Rebekah choose 2 kids*). (*before singing this next verse, explain that you will have the "actors" DO something for each verse*)
 - 4. God revealed His plan, of who would inherit the promised land, Hi-ho the Bible-o, God revealed His plan.
 - 5. The younger will lead the older, the older will serve the younger, Hi-ho the Bible-o, the younger will lead the older (*have Jacob lead Esau around the center of the circle*).
 - 6. Jacob liked to cook, yes Jacob liked to cook, Jacob was his mother's boy, and Jacob liked to cook (*Have Jacob pretend to stir batter*).
 - 7. Esau liked to hunt, yes Esau liked to hunt, Esau was his father's boy, and Esau liked to hunt (*have Esau pretend to draw and bow and shoot an arrow*).
 - 8. Rebekah helped Jacob trick his Dad, though they knew the choice was bad, hi-ho the Bible-o, Rebekah helped Jacob trick his dad (*Have Rachel and Jacob do-si-do in the center*).

Learning Activity#2 Continued

Transition

Learning Activity#3 Lg. Group

Learning Activity#4 Lg. Group

- 9. Now Esau sure was mad, that Jacob tricked their Dad! Hi-Ho the Bible-o, Esau sure was mad! (*Have Esau make a face, shake a fist*).
- 10. God always keeps His promises, God always keeps His promises, Hi-ho the Bible-o, God always keeps His promises (*have Jacob lead Esau around the inside of the circle*).

Now, let's make a picture to remind us that Jacob tricked his brother, Esau, and lied to his father, Isaac, to get the blessing that God promised. But God always keeps His promises so Jacob did lead Esau later in their lives.

Craft – Jacob & Esau

- **Instructions:** Give each child a printed picture to color with crayons or markers. Give each child a small piece of fleece to cut in pieces for Jacob's arms and legs.

Question Basket

Instructions: Have the children gather around the teacher. Teacher will ask, "Who would like to pick a question out of our Question Basket?" Pick a child, who will reach into the basket and get a plastic egg. The teacher's assistant then will help the child read the question, which will be posed to the teacher. Then the teacher will repeat the question and ask the children if anyone knows the answer.

- Question 1: Who lied to his brother and his father?
 - Answer: Jacob
- Question 2: Who told Jacob to lie Isaac?
 - Answer: Rebekah
- Question 3: Why did Isaac think Jacob was really Esau?
 - Answer: Jacob wore fur so he would be hairy like Esau
- Question 4: Did Jacob believe that God will always keep His promises?
 - Answer: No, he lied to get the blessing
- Question 5: Did Rebekah think that God will always keep His promises?
 - Answer: No, she helped Jacob fool Isaac.
- Question 6: Did Esau have a good solution to his brother's lie?
 - Answer: No, it's not right to kill someone. His reaction caused Jacob to run away for 20 years.
- Question 7: Did Jacob get good things even though he lied?
 - Answer: Yes, he did. However, it also hurt him and his family very much. It also hurt God. God could have given him these good things without lying.
- Question 8: Did God forgive Jacob?
 - Answer: Yes, God will forgive anyone who asks for His forgiveness.
- Question 9: Does God forgive you when you lie?
 - Answer: Yes, God forgives all who ask for His death to take their punishment.

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!