



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Pass the Promise  
Fall Year 1, Lesson 17

# Esau and Jacob

**Take Home Point:** \*Rough times in our families need God's forgiveness.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Genesis 25:24-34

**Key Verse:** Romans 5:8, "Christ died for us while we were still sinners."

**We will help kids know:**

- Jacob and Esau weren't the perfect family, but God still used them in his plan for salvation.
- God's forgiveness is there even when we have made major mistakes.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Thankful for God's forgiveness.
- Confident in God's forgiveness for them.

**We will help kids do:**

- Respond by forgiving others when they have been wronged.
- Tell others about God's love for them.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3-4	Children will learn that holding a grudge against someone is wrong, and they can forgive instead.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plate of doughnut holes for each group</li> <li>• plenty of napkins to cover the plate</li> <li>• toothpick for each child</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7-8  8-10  11	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Esau and Jacob"  <b>Dramatic Presentation:</b> "Esau and Jacob"  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Esau and Jacob" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy</li> <li>• ice pack</li> <li>• bandage</li> <li>• bottle of aspirin</li> <li>• glass of water</li> <li>• Bible</li> <li>• costumes for Esau and Jacob</li> <li>• football for Pass the Promise series</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5-6	Sometimes we get angry with our family and friends or they hurt our feelings because we got tricked. Sometimes we do the tricking and others get angry with us. How does Jesus treat us when we hurt someone?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sheet of paper with "Christ died for us" printed on it for each child (p. 12)</li> <li>• cross cut from sandpaper for each group (or child)</li> <li>• markers</li> <li>• light colored crayon for each shepherd</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

Make sure the doughnut holes on the plate are completely covered with napkins so they cannot be seen. Ask:

**Can you guess what is under the napkins? I will walk around the group holding this plate. Close your eyes and without touching, only smelling, try and guess what I have.**

If the children are still getting to know one another, have each child introduce himself and make a guess as you hold the plate in front of him. After the children have smelled it and guessed, ask the following.

**Does it make you hungry just to smell this food? What would you trade just to have some of these?**

Remove the napkin and display the doughnut holes. Do not pass doughnuts out yet.

**Today we will learn a story about a brother who was so hungry that he traded his birthright or inheritance to his brother for a bowl of red stew.**

**An inheritance is everything a person gets when his parents die. An inheritance could include the family house, the land it is on, and all the furnishings inside. It would also include all the money saved. In Bible times, a birthright was very important. The son who received it would get twice as much land as the other son. What would you trade for one of these doughnut holes? Would you trade your whole house for doughnut holes? Have you ever wanted something so bad that you would give anything for it?**

Let the children discuss this and then continue.

**Today we will learn how Jacob tricked his brother Esau out of his birthright with some food. Esau was very angry with Jacob. Have you ever been angry with a brother or a sister or a friend? Can you think of something they did to you that made you angry? If you can and you would like to tell us about it, take a toothpick and poke one of the doughnut holes when you tell your story.**

As each child tells a story and pokes a doughnut hole, point out the following.

**Holding a grudge for something someone did to hurt you is like a sharp jab. It's like sticking a doughnut hole with one of these toothpicks. But when you forgive the person, it's like getting rid of the bitterness that you feel.**

As each child tells his story, remind him that he can forgive that person. Then let the kids eat their skewered doughnut holes.

**When we go to large group, listen to the Bible event of Jacob and Esau and remember that just as Esau became angry at his brother, *\*rough times in our families need God's forgiveness.***

## **Large Group: 20-30 minutes**



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### **Overview:**

#### **Puppet Presentation:** "Esau and Jacob"

Mr. King introduces Gordy to the Bible event when he learns that Gordy is having bad feelings toward his brother.

#### **Dramatic Presentation :** "Esau and Jacob"

Jacob and Esau argue about how Jacob tricked Esau into giving up his birthright for a bowl of stew.

#### **Puppet Presentation:** "Esau and Jacob" Conclusion

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## **Observation Questions: What happened?**

Have kids refer to Genesis 25:24-34 for the following.

**What is a birthright?** *(It is when the firstborn son would get twice the inheritance of the other son.)*

**Why did Esau want to trade his birthright?** *(Genesis 25:31-33. He was so hungry and wanted a bowl of stew.)*

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**Do you think it was fair of Jacob to trick Esau like he did?**

**How do you think Esau felt?**

**How do you think Jacob felt?**

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**Can you think of a time when a brother or sister (or friend) did something to trick you or hurt you? Tell us about it. How did it make you feel?**

Allow time for responses.

**Sometimes we get angry with our family and friends or they hurt our feelings because we get tricked. Sometimes we do the tricking and others get angry with us. How does Jesus treat us when we hurt someone?**

**Romans 5:8 says, “Christ died for us while we were still sinners.”**

**How should we treat others who hurt us?** *(Forgive as Jesus forgave us.)*

### Application Activity:

Give each child a paper entitled, "Christ died for us" across the top. Have the children use markers to color a picture about a time when they hurt or tricked someone and made them angry or a time when they were hurt or tricked.

After the children draw their pictures, they should bring their pictures to you. Lay their picture on top of a cross cut from sandpaper. Using a light colored crayon, rub the area of the paper over the cross. The cross will show up in the middle of the children's "trouble." This is an excellent time for you to talk to the children about their troubles on a one on one basis and explain how Jesus is always in the center of our problems offering help.

*Option: Let each child cut a cross out of sandpaper so they each have their own.*

Hold up the sandpaper cross and say,

**Even when life seems rough like this piece of sandpaper, Christ is there right in the middle of our problems offering us forgiveness. What a wonderful God we have!**

Pass the piece of sandpaper around and let all the children feel it. Remind them that the roughness of the sandpaper is like how they feel when they are fighting with a family member or a friend.

**We can remember that just like Jacob and Esau, *\*rough times in our families need God's forgiveness.***

### Closing Prayer:

Have the children pray about a time when they hurt or tricked someone, and let them ask God for forgiveness. At the end of the prayer, reassure them of God's forgiveness and encourage them to share that forgiveness with others.

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## Large Group Presentation

### Esau and Jacob

#### Puppet Presentation

Gordy: *(Appears with ice pack on head and a bandage on his nose.)* Ouch!!

**Mr. King:** Gordy, what hurts?

Gordy: My head, my nose, my ears, my everything!

**Mr. King:** Is there some way I can help?

Gordy: No, I'll be okay. I don't need your help. You'll probably make it hurt worse anyway.

**Mr. King:** I surely don't want you to hurt anymore than you already do. I want to help you feel better, too. What can I do?

Gordy: Hand me that bottle of aspirin. I have a headache.

**Mr. King:** Here you go.

Gordy: Well, aren't you going to get me some water too?

**Mr. King:** Oh, sure. I'll be right back. *(Leaves room.)*

Gordy: *(Speaks to the kids.)* My brother makes me so mad! Last week he came to the playground and said Mom wanted me to come home. So I went home, but Mom asked me why I came home. She said I could still play for another hour.

So I went back to the playground. Do you know what I saw? My brother was playing with *my* friends. They all laughed at me when my brother told them he had tricked me into going home. He lied! My friends thought he was cool and that I was a loser.

That's so unfair. I was burning mad. At supper that night, I told my parents what he did and he got in trouble. He was grounded for the rest of the night.

**Mr. King:** *(Enters room.)* Here's your water.

Gordy: I'm talking to the kids.

- Mr. King:** Yes, I know. I overheard your conversation. Tell me, how does all of this make you feel?
- Gordy: Hmm. I guess I feel bad because my brother tricked me. But then again, I feel glad because he got grounded. But then again, I feel sad because he's not here to play with me. I think I'm all mixed up.
- Mr. King:** Gordy, do you want to know what God has to say about this?
- Gordy: I thought you'd get around to that.
- Mr. King:** In today's Bible event, we find two brothers Esau and Jacob. They also had some family problems. Jacob tricked Esau out of his birthright.
- Gordy: What's a birthright?
- Mr. King:** The birthright is getting the first of the inheritance. It is for the firstborn child to get most of the good stuff when his mom and dad die. In this case, that inheritance included a special blessing by God.
- Gordy: Special blessing?
- Mr. King:** Yes. Remember how God passed the promise through Abraham and his son Isaac? That was a special blessing that through his great, great, great grandchildren there would be born the Messiah, Jesus.
- Gordy: Way cool! But I'm not sure if I totally get it.
- Mr. King:** Sit back and listen, Gordy. Let me read the Bible event.

## **Esau and Jacob**

### Dramatic Presentation

- Mr. King:** Open Bible and have the following paraphrase inside. **Genesis 25:24-34:** *"When the time came for [Rebekah] to give birth, she had twins. The first one born was red. His whole body was covered with hair, so they named him Esau (Hairy). Afterwards, his brother was born with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, and so he was named Jacob (Heel). Isaac was 60 years old when they were born.*
- They grew up. Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman. Jacob remained a quiet man, staying around the tents. Because*

***Isaac liked to eat the meat of wild animals, he loved Esau. However, Rebekah loved Jacob.***

***Once Jacob was preparing a meal when Esau, exhausted, came in from outdoors. So Esau said to Jacob, ‘Let me have the whole pot of red stuff to eat—that red stuff—I’m exhausted...’***

***Jacob responded, ‘First, sell me your rights as firstborn.’***

***‘I’m about to die,’ Esau said. ‘What good is my inheritance to me?’***

***‘First, swear an oath,’ Jacob said. So Esau swore an oath to him and sold him his rights as firstborn. Then Jacob gave Esau a meal of bread and lentils. He ate and drank, and then he got up and left.***

***This is how Esau showed his contempt for his rights as firstborn.”***

**Esau:** *(Enters.)* Wait a minute, wait a minute. It’s not that I didn’t really want my birthright. It’s just that I was soooooooooo hungry.

**Jacob:** *(Following behind.)* Yeah, you were soooooooooo hungry you were willing to sell to me your whole birthright. So, I now get the rights of the oldest son. *(Flexing muscles.)*

**Esau:** Ah, you’re still just a little brother.

**Jacob:** Am not. You sold me your title. I have the birthright.

**Esau:** Why you little...I could stomp you like a grape!

**Jacob:** Could not.

**Esau:** Could to.

**Jacob:** Wouldn’t do it.

**Esau:** Would to.

**Jacob:** Would not. I’d tell Mom.

**Esau:** Mama’s boy! You see kids, Jacob here was always a mama’s boy. We lived in tents, not houses like you do. We had flocks of sheep and goats to take care of. All Jacob did was watch over the flock and stay around the tents with my mother, Rebekah. He’s nothing but a mama’s boy.

**Jacob:** I didn’t hear you call me a mama’s boy the day you sold me your birthright for a little bit of red stew!

Esau: That was a trick!

**Jacob: It was no trick. You were just thinking with your stomach instead of your brain.**

Esau: A real man's gotta eat, you know. After all, I spend all my time hunting because Dad likes the good wild game that I bring.

**Jacob: You didn't shoot anything and you barely made it back to the tents! You were so hungry you thought you were going to die. You sold your birthright for some bean stew.**

Esau: That was a trick!

**Jacob: No, it was just a good business deal.**

*(Walks to the side, talks to audience.)* **Okay, so I did trick him. But he deserved it! The birthright of the firstborn was really important in our day. It meant you got twice the inheritance from your parents. My brother must not have thought very much of it if he traded it for a bowl of red stew. It serves him right! On the other hand, it sure isn't easy to get along with Esau anymore. I wish our family got along. I'm Mom's favorite and Esau is Dad's favorite. I wonder...**

Esau: What are you mumbling about over there?

**Jacob: Oh, nothing. I was just wondering how it is that...um...how we could ever start getting along.**

Esau and Jacob exit.

## **Esau and Jacob**

### **Puppet Presentation Conclusion**

**Mr. King: Are these guys wrong for tricking and arguing with each other? Yes, they are. Even though they were wrong and sinned, was God willing to help them change?**

**When Esau and Jacob made mistakes, God didn't forget them or brush them aside. It says in Romans 5:8, "Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us."**

**We are all sinners. Just like Gordy and his brother fought, Jacob and Esau fought. The bad things we do are enough to separate us from God's family.**

**But God showed his love for us by sending Jesus into the world to pay the price of our forgiveness. Jesus did that when he died on the cross for our sins. We can still be part of God's family. It's just like a birthright that we get from God. He gives us his love and eternal life that is worth more than all the money in the whole world. This is how God passes the promise to us.**

Hold up the football with cross logo on it.

Gordy: Hey, I think I get it. Since God's been nice to me, I can be nice to my brother.

**Mr. King: Yes, and you can forgive him for giving you that bump on your head and that scratch on your nose.**

Gordy: Oh, he didn't give that to me.

**Mr. King: He didn't?**

Gordy: No, I got that from my sister!

**Mr. King: Oh, Gordy. What did you learn today?**

Gordy: I learned that *\*rough times in our families need God's forgiveness.*

**Mr. King: You got it! Would you say a closing prayer for us, Gordy?**

Gordy: Sure! Dear God, thank you for loving and forgiving me when I fight with my brother and sister just like Jacob and Esau fought. Thank you that I can receive a birthright from you. I can receive the inheritance of eternal life when I believe Jesus is my Savior. Help any other boys and girls who aren't sure of their heavenly inheritance, that they, too, can receive you into their hearts. Please help our families to be forgiving and to get along. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Christ died for us!