



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Pass the Promise  
Fall Year 1, Lesson 20

# Jacob and Esau Are Reunited

**Take Home Point:** \*God heals families with forgiveness.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Genesis 32:3-21, 33:1-11

**Key Verse:** Luke 18:27, "Jesus said, 'The things that are impossible for people to do are possible for God to do.'"

## **We will help kids know:**

- Jacob tried to buy Esau's forgiveness and love with gifts.
- God had already taken care of the problem for Jacob by giving Esau a forgiving heart.
- Jacob received Esau's forgiveness then gave gifts out of love.
- God healed the family with forgiveness as both brothers changed how they felt about each other.
- Jesus' forgiveness helps us forgive others.




## **We will help kids feel:**

- Hope over losses they have in their family relationships.
- Power to forgive when family members have injured them, because God has forgiven them.

## **We will help kids do:**

- Talk about areas of injury and pray that the Lord would release them from bitterness over those things and, instead, forgive.
- Ask for God's forgiveness for their sins committed against others and God.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Children will share experiences about times when they have received or given a special gift within their family. The family in today's Bible event received a gift that brought them together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wrapped package, gift bag, or bow for each group</li> <li>• cake decoration sprinkles</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	3-4  7-11	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Radio Interview:</b> "Jacob and Esau are Reunited"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ON THE AIR sign and various other signs (see comprehensive supply list or lesson)</li> <li>• big desk or table</li> <li>• microphone</li> <li>• camel puppet</li> <li>• costumes for Jacob and Esau</li> <li>• football with a cross on it</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-6	Sometimes bitter things in life (like holding a grudge or wishing ill towards someone) can overpower the sweet things. These bitter things are sins against God. Jesus gives us the sweet gift of forgiveness. Children will taste sour and sweet flavors on crackers to help them understand this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two craft sticks for each child</li> <li>• napkin for each child</li> <li>• ½ graham cracker for each child</li> <li>• cake decorating sprinkles in a bowl for each group</li> <li>• 11x18-inch paper table cloth for each group</li> <li>• large piece of waxed paper for each group</li> <li>• sour cream cheese concoction that looks like white icing and is in a bowl for each group (Mix cream cheese with lemon juice until sour.)</li> <li>• red sweet icing in a bowl for each group</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.*

We would like the kids to warm-up by sharing experiences in their family life in which they have received or given a special gift. Use a wrapped package, a gift bag, or a gift bow for your group as a discussion starter. Each child in turn is handed the wrapped package and recalls a favorite gift received from a family member.

**Tell us about one of your favorite presents you ever received from someone in your family. Or tell about the best gift you ever gave someone else.**

After each child shares, give him/her a small “sweet” reward of cake decoration sprinkles poured into his/her hands. Continue until each child has had a turn.

**Today we will learn how one family that was torn apart received a sweet gift that brought them together. *\*God heals families with 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

**Radio Interview:** “Jacob and Esau are Reunited.” An interactive drama involving the kids making animal noises to help move the interview and Bible story along.

## 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 32 and 33 in their Bibles for the following.

**Why was Jacob afraid to meet Esau on his return home?** *(Genesis 27. Jacob had stolen Esau's birthright and blessing. Esau hated him and wanted to kill him.)*

**What did Jacob do to try to make Esau not get angry with him?** *(Genesis 32:4-5. He sent Esau a gift of donkeys, cattle, sheep, and goats.)*

**What did Esau do when he saw Jacob?** *(Genesis 33:4. Esau ran to meet Jacob. He hugged him and kissed him.)*

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

**Why did Jacob send so many sheep, cattle, and goats?** *(Jacob was afraid Esau was going to be very angry. He was trying to bribe Esau.)*

**Why do you think Esau forgave Jacob? Was it because of the gifts?** *(God had changed Esau's heart and given him a heart of forgiveness.)*

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

**When someone has done something wrong to you, who can help you to forgive that person?** *(The Holy Spirit working in our hearts can change every impossible situation and make it possible.)*

### Application Activity:

*This activity involves the use of a sour cream cheese concoction that looks much like plain white icing but tastes far from it. Its counterpart will be a red sweet icing in a separate container. Cake decorating sprinkles and graham crackers will be used as well.*

Put the bowl of sprinkles in the center of the table.

**Share about something that happened in your family to hurt your feelings or something that someone did against you. Sometimes those hurts make us feel bitter. That means we want to stay mad at someone and we don't want to forgive him.**

Let children share their hurts and how they reacted.

**Let's do an experiment to help us understand what it is like to have bitterness in our lives.**

Hand out craft sticks and have the children dip out a small amount of white sour icing. Then have the kids dip their stick into the sprinkles. As children take a bite, say the following.

**What do you taste? What is the strongest taste? (*Sourness.*) This shows us that bitter things in life can sometimes overpower the sweet things.**

**Have you ever held a grudge against someone or hoped something bad would happen to someone who hurt you? That is unforgiveness. It is bitterness and it takes the sweetness out of life.**

Up until this point, the children have been focused on injuries perpetrated against them. Now change the conversation to those injuries the children have done against God.

**Have you done anything that is disrespectful or damaging to others, like calling someone a name? Have you hurt a brother or a sister by saying mean things or even hitting him or her? Have you been disobedient to a parent?**

As you give the above examples, pour a few sprinkles on an 11x18-inch piece of paper to represent the sins against God. Feel free to give other examples that you believe might fit.

**Did you know that these are sins against God? Every time you call someone a name or hurt him, God says it is as if you are doing it to him. Each of these sprinkles represents an injury against God.**

**Now I want to show you how God takes care of these sins for us.**

Pass out half of a graham cracker and a napkin to each child. Use napkins as a surface for the children to set their graham crackers on. Have the children break the graham cracker into quarters and frost each with red icing using a craft stick. Then have each person in the group lay his frosted graham crackers on a large piece of waxed paper in the shape of a cross. Now take the sprinkles (sins against God) from the “paper tablecloth” and pour it over the cross.

**What does this cross remind you of? (*Jesus dying on the cross.*)**

**What does the red icing remind you of? (*The love of Jesus, the blood of Jesus.*)**

**What did we say these sprinkles represent? (*Sins against God.*)**

**Jesus collected our sins and took them on himself. Jesus has taken everything bad we have ever done and taken it to the cross. He has changed our bitterness into sweetness.**

**Luke 18:27, “Jesus said, ‘The things that are impossible for people to do are possible for God to do.’”**

**No one can do for us what Jesus did. He lived a perfect life that did not deserve punishment, yet he took the punishment for our sins upon himself.**

Have the children feast on God’s love as they eat their graham cracker rectangles with his forgiveness.

**Because Jesus forgives us, we can forgive others. *\*God heals families with forgiveness.* Jacob experienced this when Esau forgave him. Jacob probably tried to buy Esau’s forgiveness with his gifts.**

**But forgiveness can only be given as a free gift. If we could buy forgiveness from someone else, it would be a payment and not a gift. Forgiveness can only be given when we give it away as a gift. When we do that, it changes people’s lives. Jacob changed after receiving Esau’s forgiveness. Jacob readily gave Esau gifts in return and a blessing. *\*God heals families with forgiveness.***

*Optional:* Now let kids talk about how they can share God’s forgiveness with others. This is done by pouring more sprinkles onto the paper tablecloth and identifying those things done against them that they need to forgive. Because of Jesus’ love, they have the power to forgive. Have kids dip their craft sticks in the red icing and then dip it in the sprinkles. This will help them picture Jesus’ love removing the injuries against them.

**Closing Prayer:**

Have prayers focus on thankfulness for Jesus’ death and resurrection and for God’s forgiveness. Also encourage kids to repent of specific sins and to forgive others who have hurt them.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

## Large Group Presentation

### Jacob and Esau are Reunited

#### Radio Interview

Today's large group involves a "radio interview" done by the large group presenter with Jacob and Esau. The children should be told they are the studio audience. An adult "sound technician" will be behind a screen to make the sounds and/or hold up the signs when prompted.

Explain to the children that today and during the weeks to follow they will be producing a radio drama series and to make the drama realistic, the audience is needed to participate in making certain sounds at specified times. The "sound tech" can hold up each cue sign and explain what the sounds will be and who will make them. For example:

**SHEEP** sign: 1<sup>st</sup> grade girls make sheep sounds,  
**GOAT** sign: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade girls make goat sounds,  
**CATTLE** sign: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girls make cow sounds,  
**DONKEY** sign: 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls make donkey sounds, and  
**CAMEL** sign: All boys making the *sound* of camels spitting.

**ANIMAL NOISES** sign: All children making their animal sounds.

**ANGRY MEN** sign: All boys will growl, "Grrrrrr!"

**APPLAUSE** sign: Everyone claps when the sign is up and stops when it is down.

Towards the middle of the presentation, you may want to insert a commercial. This commercial could be quickly acted out by the sound tech and the host or by children who were previously instructed. The commercial could pertain to your church's current mission project.

An interview table has places for the host, Jacob, Esau, and a camel puppet. (If a puppet is not available, make a puppet out of a sock or a bag, or dress a child to look like a camel.) As the presentation begins, all except Esau (who is offstage) are sitting at the table.

### SCENE 1

*Sound:* 5-4-3-2-1...

*Sign:* *ON THE AIR (Up throughout the presentation.)*

**Host:** Welcome to Kingdom Quest radio station KLIF 21.28 on your FM dial. It's the station that reports how God passes the promise to his people!

Sign:        *APPLAUSE*

**Host:**        **Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, and we are broadcasting live from *(name of your children's program)*. The kids here have been studying some pretty famous people in the Bible such as: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Esau. (Hold up the football with the cross on it.) It's interesting to see how God has passed his promise through their family and even to our family today.**

**We have several guests coming to you from the Bible in Genesis chapters 32 and 33. Each will tell you his story as we welcome our main character. Let me see if you can guess who it is. He's the son of Isaac and Rebekah, the brother of Esau, and the famous deceiver or cheater. That's right! It's Jacob. Help me welcome our special guest to the studio.**

Sign:        *APPLAUSE*

**Jacob:**        ***Thanks. It's nice to be here.***

**Host:**        **And with Jacob we have our second guest, Mr. Camel. Tell us, Mr. Camel, how is it that you have a part in this event?**

Camel:        Well, I'm not just an ordinary camel.

**Host:**        **Obviously not. For one, you can talk!**

Camel:        No, it's not just that. I was part of a gift presented to my master's brother, Esau. The gift included cattle...

Sign:        *COW*

Camel:        ...a couple hundred sheep...

Sign:        *SHEEP*

Camel:        ...a couple hundred goats...

Sign:        *GOAT*

Camel:        ... and donkeys.

Sign:        *DONKEY*

Camel        But the best part of the gift was 30 top of the line, four-legged, double humped, streamlined Arabic spitting camels!

Sign:        *CAMEL*



**Host:**       **Wow! That sure is a lot of animals! What was this gift for?**

Camel:       Our master, Jacob, wanted to go back to his homeland but was worried about his brother Esau. You see, 20 years ago Jacob had stolen Esau's birthright and made Esau so angry he wanted to kill Jacob. So our master got us in one big group. Wait a minute. I think I can hear us all now...

Sign:       ANIMAL

Camel:       Hey, can we have it quiet in here?! We're trying to do a radio show! As I was saying...Jacob drove us out in front of his traveling group as a present to his brother Esau.

**Host:**       **Jacob, is that right? Why *did* you give Esau such an extravagant gift?**

**Jacob:**       *Well, I suppose I was trying to pay Esau back for the blessing I had stolen from him. Or maybe I was just trying to make Esau's anger go away so he wouldn't kill me when I finally met him.*

**Host:**       **So you must have been pretty worried.**

Camel:       You bet he was! The night before he sent us, I heard him pray, "Oh, God of my fathers, you told me to come back to this land and you would make me prosper. I am unworthy of all your kindness because I am returning a rich man. Now save me from my brother Esau, because you have passed me the promise that you would bless me and all people through me."

**Host:**       **This is an exciting story. To find out what happened next, stay tuned. We will return after this brief word from our sponsors.**

*(COMMERCIAL INSERTED HERE. Act out a commercial about your current mission project.)*

## **SCENE 2:**

**Host:**       **Welcome back to Radio KLIF. We continue to find out what happened to Jacob. Let's introduce our next guest. It's the hairy, red brother Esau!**

Sign       APPLAUSE

Esau:       (Enters and shakes hands with Jacob as he sits beside him.)

**Jacob:**       *The servants went ahead with the gifts and I spent the night by myself...kind of. I had a strange night wrestling with who I thought*

***was a man but who was really God. He gave me a blessing and even changed my name to Israel. But that's another story. Anyway, when I woke up in the morning, I heard it.***

**Host:** What did you hear?

Sign: ANGRY MEN

**Jacob:** ***Four hundred men were coming with Esau. I divided up my family and sent them out to meet Esau in groups. First, the maidservants and their children were in front. Then I sent Leah and her children. Finally, Rachel and her child Joseph went.***

**Host:** Why were Rachel and Joseph way in the back?

**Jacob:** ***So they would be protected.***

**Host:** I think you were playing favorites and that only leads to trouble. What happened next, Esau?

*Esau:* Well, Jacob came out to meet me. He bowed down seven times in front of me. Guess what I did when he looked up at me?

Camel: You popped him in the eye with a right hook?

*Esau:* No.

Camel: You said "Sic'em" to those 400 men?

Sign: ANGRY MEN

*Esau:* No.

Camel: You called him bad names.

*Esau:* No! I threw my arms around him and hugged him.

Camel: That's because Jacob gave you all of us high-classed camels, right?

*Esau:* No, it wasn't the gifts. I had forgiven him and I wasn't angry with him anymore.

Camel: Are you sure it wasn't all those super deluxe camels he gave you?

*Esau:* No, I didn't even want the gifts. I only took them when he insisted. God had changed my heart!

**Host:** Well Jacob, it sounded like Esau had given you a blessing!

**Jacob:** *Yes, he did. And I tried to give back the blessing that I had taken from him 20 years before. But I guess what I was looking for all along was a blessing from God. After God had passed the blessing to me and given me a new name, Israel, I had plenty of blessings to pass out to others.*

**Host:** What an amazing story. Thank you so much for being our guest, Jacob—excuse me—Israel. Thank you, Esau and Mr. Camel.

What a wonderful example of how God provides healing in families. You know, audience, many times we forget to go to God in prayer when we are having problems forgiving others or when we have done something really wrong to someone else. But no matter what the problem is with someone else or how serious it seems, even if you can see no way that it will ever get better, Jesus can fix those hurts. He can do this because he took all of our hurts upon himself when he went to the cross. There is absolutely nothing impossible for God.

Our Bible memory verse today is from Luke 18:27. *“The things that are impossible for people to do are possible for God to do.”*

Thanks again for listening. This is \_\_\_\_\_ for Radio KLIF, the station that reports how God passed the promise to his people.

Sign: *APPLAUSE*

*ON THE AIR signs come down.*