

Upper Elementary

Jacob & Esau

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Checklist

- ☐ Large cardboard box
- ☐ 2 large books
- ☐ 1 piece of plain paper
- ☐ Drinking glass
- ☐ Rotten grapes
- ☐ Raisins

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| Topic: | Jacob and Esau |
| Intro: | Have students draw a picture of their family & their favorite food. What is the hungriest you have ever been? Maybe after a long car ride, or perhaps something happened where you had to skip a meal. How did you feel? Imagine someone was offering you your favorite food at this time. You would probably agree to a lot of things to get food sooner. Would you give up a toy? What about a game? A book? Your favorite shoes or piece of clothing? What about being part of your family? Would you give that up to eat sooner? |
| Genesis 25: 19-23 | This is the history of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham became the father of Isaac. Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Paddan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian, to be his wife. Isaac entreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. The LORD was entreated by him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. The children struggled together within her. She said, "If it is like this, why do I live?" She went to inquire of the LORD. The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb. Two peoples will be separated from your body. The one people will be stronger than the other people. The elder will serve the younger." |
| Cardboard Box | Have students sit in pairs in a cardboard box just big enough to hold them both. Talk about how crowded it must be for twins to have to share space like this for nine months. |
| | Babies move around in their mothers' bellies. The mother can feel this. Rebekah could feel that she had two babies, and that they were fighting with each other in her belly. This must have worried her. She went to God in prayer to understand it. His answer must have sounded strange. |
| map | Jacob's descendants would become the nation of Israel. Esau's descendants would become the nation of Edom. Throughout history, the Israelites and Edomites did not get along. Israel was God's chosen nation, through which He spoke to people and showed His plan for people. |



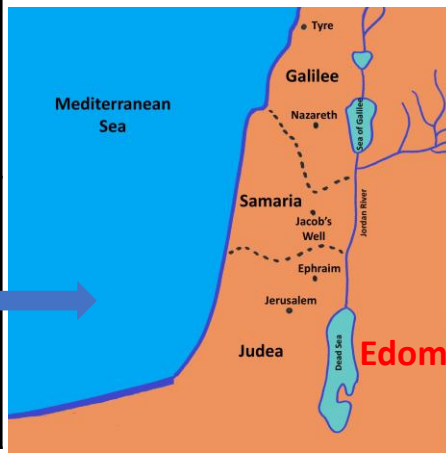
Jacob and Esau

| My Family | My Favorite Food |
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Genesis 25: 19-23

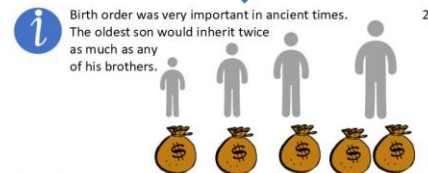
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Normally, the firstborn son would be the ruler and the younger son would be his servant. God was letting Rebekah know that He had a plan that was different from the normal way things happened.

When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red all over, like a hairy garment. They named him Esau. After that, his brother came out, and his hand had hold on Esau's heel. He was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. The boys grew. Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field. Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Now Isaac loved Esau, because he ate his venison. Rebekah loved Jacob.

Esau means hairy or rough. Jacob means supplanter (one who takes the place of another). Sometimes one child has more in common, like enjoying sports or reading, with one parent than another. Parents are to love their children equally, no matter whether they enjoy the same things or not. Did Isaac and Rebekah do a good job at this? If you have more in common with one sibling, or classmate, do you treat them like a favorite? Do you obey one of your parents more often than another because you both like the same things? Is this an okay thing to do?



HOLY BIBLE Genesis 25:24-28

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i Esau **עֵשָׂו** = hairy, rough

i Jacob **יַעֲקֹב** = supplanter: one who takes the place of another

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| Genesis 25:29-34 | <p>Jacob boiled stew. Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with some of that red stew, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom. Jacob said, "First, sell me your birthright." Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die. What good is the birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." He swore to him. He sold his birthright to Jacob. Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew. He ate and drank, rose up, and went his way. So Esau despised his birthright.</p> |
| | <p>Was Esau really going to die from hunger? Was he perhaps exaggerating? Do you ever say your starving when you're not really?</p> |
| | <p>A birthright was like an inheritance. It was a special portion of the father's land, animals and money that would go to the oldest son. In ancient times, being the oldest son was a privilege and a responsibility. The oldest son had to carry on the family line. This was a very important thing. Was it worth a bowl of soup? What did this say about Esau as a person?</p> |



Genesis 25:29-34

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Edom אֶדוֹם = red



Humans can survive without any food for about 20 days.

Which is more important?

☐

My favorite food

☐

My place in my family

Genesis
27:1-10

When Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his elder son, and said to him, "My son?" He said to him, "Here I am." He said, "See now, I am old. I don't know the day of my death. Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and get me venison. Make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat, and that my soul may bless you before I die." Rebekah heard when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it. Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Behold, I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 'Bring me venison, and make me savory food, that I may eat, and bless you before the LORD before my death.' Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command you. Go now to the flock and get me two good young goats from there. I will make them savory food for your father, such as he loves. You shall bring it to your father, that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death."

Jacob and Rebekah made a decision to trick Isaac and Esau. They may have been trying to bring about God's prophecy, but the Bible does not say that they had asked God if this was the right way to do it. They were acting on their own. Have you ever tried to make something happen that you thought was right, but the way you did it might not have been?



Genesis 27:1-10

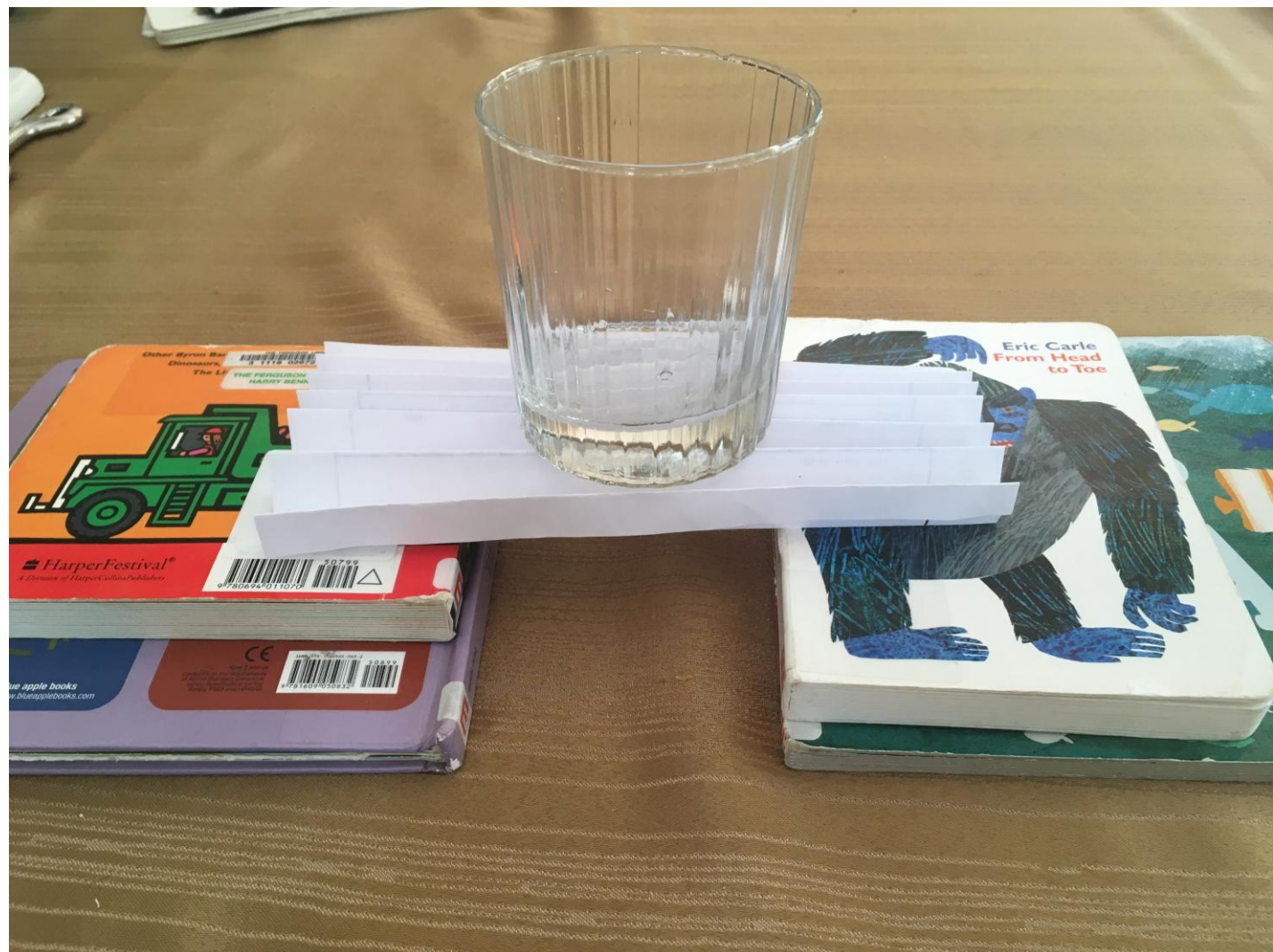
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Did Rebekah and Jacob ask God if this was the right way to make His prophecy happen? _____

books, drinking glass, paper

Place two books about four inches apart. Give students an empty drinking glass and a piece of paper. Ask them to make the paper into a bridge across the two books so that it will hold up the drinking glass. Let them brainstorm how to do this. They will probably use their hands to hold it up or get tape (or just give up). After they are done, ask them if they think they did things the best way. Take the paper and fold it back and forth like a fan. Turn it on it's side across the books and place the drinking glass on top. Ask them which way is better. All they had to do to find out the best way to make a paper bridge was to ask the person who gave them the command. Rebekah and Jacob could have done this, but they chose to do things their own way instead.



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| <p>Genesis 27:14-23</p> | <p>He went, and got them, and brought them to his mother. His mother made savory food, such as his father loved. Rebekah took the good clothes of Esau, her elder son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob, her younger son. She put the skins of the young goats on his hands, and on the smooth of his neck. She gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. He came to his father, and said, "My father?" He said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done what you asked me to do. Please arise, sit and eat of my venison, that your soul may bless me." Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He said, "Because the Lord your God gave me success." Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." Jacob went near to Isaac his father. He felt him, and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." He didn't recognize him, because his hands were hairy, like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him.</p> |
| | <p>Didn't Isaac remember that God had said Jacob would rule over Esau? Was he being obedient to God's prophecy by trying to give Esau the birthright? Remember, Isaac liked Esau more because he caught the wilds animals that Isaac enjoyed eating. It sounds like Esau took after his father in more than one way: they both let their stomachs make their decisions.</p> |



Genesis 27:14-23


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Jacob lied _____ times.

Circle each one.

| | |
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| <p>Genesis 27:30-36</p> | <p>As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had just gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. He also made savory food, and brought it to his father. He said to his father, "Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that your soul may bless me." Isaac his father said to him, "Who are you?" He said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who, then, is he who has taken venison, and brought it to me, and I have eaten of all before you came, and have blessed him? Yes, he will be blessed." When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, my father." He said, "Your brother came with deceit, and has taken away your blessing." He said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright. See, now he has taken away my blessing." He said, "Haven't you reserved a blessing for me?"</p> |
| | <p>In Bible times, agreeing to something and saying it out loud made it official. It was as if people had signed a contract. Not everyone was able to read and write back then, or even sign their names, so a person's word was legally binding. You might notice that many of God's commands have to do with the way we speak (do not take the Lord's name in vain, do not say false things about others, etc). God took what people said out loud very seriously. You couldn't just say 'never mind,' and go back again.</p> |



Genesis 27:30-36

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Esau lost his _____ and his _____ to Jacob.

Review Who are the four people in this story? (Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau) Did any of them act the way they were supposed to? (no) Isaac ignored God's prophecy and tried to act on his own will. Rebekah and Jacob tried to bring about God's prophecy in a way that was deceitful. Esau was disrespectful of his role as the oldest son and made poor choices. Even though all four of them messed up, God had a plan for each of them, and He brought it about in another way.

Who was in this story?

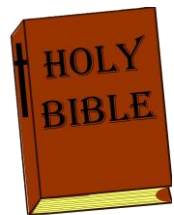
1. Isaac _____
2. Rebekah _____
3. Jacob _____
4. Esau _____

Closing: **Show children rotten grapes.** In 1872, there was a terrible drought, and all the grapes went bad. Since they couldn't be sold they were left out until they shriveled in the sun. That was the first batch of raisins. **Show children raisins.** The sun turned something bad into something good. Just like the bad grapes, we all mess up. We might feel worthless, but when we let the Son of God, Jesus, shine on us, he can turn us into something sweet, like raisins.

Jacob and Esau

My Family

My Favorite Food

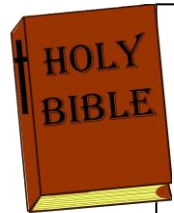
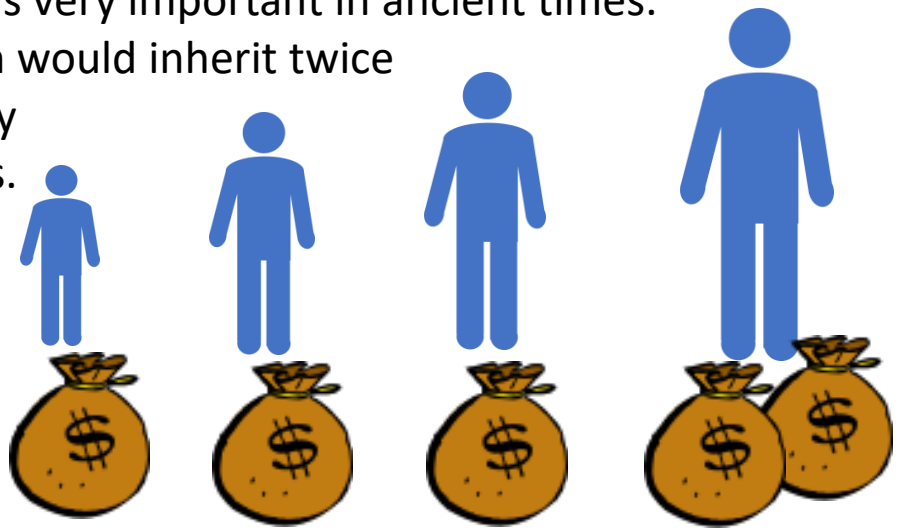


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Birth order was very important in ancient times. The oldest son would inherit twice as much as any of his brothers.



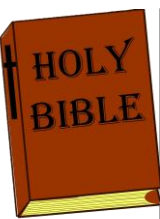
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Edom

אֶדוֹם

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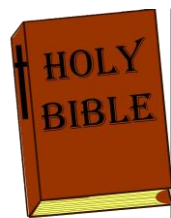
Which is more important?

☐

My favorite food

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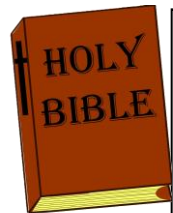
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Did Rebekah and Jacob ask God if this was the right way to make His prophecy happen? _____



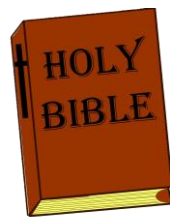
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Esau lost his _____ and his _____ to Jacob.

Jacob & Esau



Name: _____

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | L | K | S | T | E | W | H | T | G |
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| I | D | J | A | C | O | B | T | K | P |
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| H | K | L | K | I | T | C | H | E | N |
| J | M | E | A | T | H | G | F | D | S |

Isaac

Rebecca

Jacob

Esau

stew

kitchen

meat

hunting

trick

hairy

shepherd