

Sharing:

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19-34



Old Testament 2
Part 2: Israel

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 2 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Genesis 25:19-34; Genesis 27:1-28:9; Hebrews 12:15-17

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "...[Be] ready to give, willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:18b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:18).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Jacob's Stew"](#)
- ["What You Have"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [Abraham & Israel Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 2 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Genesis Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- [Jacob: A Beka Flash-A-Card Series](#) (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; remove card 2.3)
- "[Jacob and Esau Figures](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- [Jacob and Esau images from freebibleimages.com](#) (DISCLAIMER: some representations may be biblically inaccurate)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to be content and happy with what I have, and to be willing to share what I have with others.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Can anyone tell me how Isaac was a peacemaker? (Briefly discuss.) Isaac married Rebekah and they had twin boys. Does anyone know their names? (Jacob and Esau) Today we are going to learn how badly these two brothers treated each other. Listen as we learn more about them.


INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

What are some things you argue about with your brother or sister? Do you ever get upset with your brother or sister because they have something you want? Our lesson today is about two brothers who argued over a bowl of stew! You will see how both of them were very selfish, thinking only of themselves. Let's see what the Bible has to say about them and what we can learn from them.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. They were married for 20 years and had no children. Isaac prayed to God for children.
2. Rebekah became pregnant, and God spoke to her one day about her baby. First, God told her that there would be not one baby, but two. Second, God told her that the two boys would grow up and their descendants would become two strong nations of people.



HISTORICAL NOTE: “The family name and titles passed through the lineage of the oldest son. The birthright was more than entitlement to the family inheritance; it involved a spiritual position as well. The place of the individual in the covenant status of Israel was part of the birthright and it was this aspect which made the foolishness of Esau so profound” (*Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*).

3. Jacob and Esau were born when Isaac was 60 years old. Because Esau was born first, he was considered the oldest, or first-born son. As the first-born, he would be given twice as much of his father's goods as Jacob, after his father Isaac died. This custom of giving twice as much to the oldest son was called the birthright.
4. From the beginning, the boys were very different. For one thing, they didn't look anything alike. Jacob was very smooth-skinned, but Esau had lots of red hair all over his body. As the brothers grew up, they became different in even more ways. Esau became a very skillful hunter and loved to be outdoors. Jacob enjoyed staying closer to home and doing things “around the house,” like cooking. Most parents try very hard not to have “favorites” among their children. But Esau became Isaac's favorite son, and Jacob became Rebekah's.

5. One day after Esau had been out hunting, he came home to find that Jacob had fixed a pot of stew (or pottage) that had a red color to it. He was so very hungry that he thought he was starving to death. He asked Jacob for some of the stew.
6. Jacob told Esau he could have some stew **if** Esau would trade his birthright for it. Esau was so foolish (**profane**) that he decided his birthright was not as important as having something to eat right that minute. So Esau traded Jacob his birthright for something to eat.



NOTE: Hebrews 12:16 says that Esau was “profane” when he sold his birthright. To be “profane” means to treat something as common/unimportant that should be held in respect. When people take the Lord’s name in vain, they are being “profane” because they should be treating God’s name respectfully. We should always be careful to show respect when it is due!

7. Jacob was selfish because he would not share the stew with his brother. Esau was selfish because he was thinking only of himself. He had no right to sell or trade away his birthright. Both brothers were thinking only of themselves.
8. God is not happy when we are selfish. He wants us to share what we have with others. But He doesn’t want us to share, expecting that person to do something for us or give something to us in return. God gives us what we have and wants us to make the right decisions about using those blessings.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- [“Jacob and Esau Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- On strips of paper write statements children make, both good and bad, about sharing. (Examples: “That’s mine!” “Have one of my cookies.” “Sit with me.” “Put my toy back!” etc.) Put the strips of paper in a bag or box or can. Let each child take a slip of paper out. After the teacher reads the statement, the child will decide if it is the thing God would want them to say or not.
- Let the children role play being Isaac and Rebekah with twin boys. Provide child-sized robes as well as baby dolls, blankets, etc. Talk with them about Jacob and Esau getting older and how things would have changed. If the children have additional time after the lesson, talk more about Esau trading his birthright for a bowl of stew.
- Sharing Review Game: Talk about how we can play with a ball, but it is sometimes more fun to share and play ball with a friend. Have them sit in a circle. Roll a ball to one child, and ask him a question about the lesson. When he answers, ask that child to share by rolling the ball to someone else. Continue asking questions of each child as they roll the ball to one another.
- Help the children put their hand prints on colored cardstock. On the bottom of the page, print the memory verse: “...[Be] ready to give, willing to share” (1 Timothy 6:18b). Write the children’s names above their handprints. Talk about how we can use our hands to give and to share with others.
- For four and five year olds: Provide cutouts of Jacob and Esau that the children can glue onto craft sticks. Tell the children that you will say something about Jacob or Esau. Tell them to hold up the correct stick puppet to indicate which brother you’re describing. (Examples of clues: had red hair;

liked to stay home with his mother; liked to hunt; was his mother's favorite)

- *I am Sharing* by Mercer Mayer

1st-2nd Graders:

- "[Jacob and Esau Crossword Puzzle](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- On strips of paper write statements children make, both good and bad, about sharing. (Examples: "That's mine!" "Have one of my cookies." "Sit with me." "Put my toy back!" etc.) Put the strips of paper in a bag or box or can. Let each child take a slip of paper out. After the teacher reads the statement, the child will decide if it is the thing God would want them to say or not.
- Another way to use the statements described above: Write "Sharing" and "Not Sharing" on a magnetic board. Put magnetic tape on the backs of the statements. Give each child one statement and ask them to put it on the appropriate side of the board.
- Help the children put their hand prints on colored cardstock. On the bottom of the page, print the memory verse: "...[Be] ready to give, willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:18b). Write the children's names above their handprints. Talk about how we can use our hands to give and to share with others.
- Play "Tic-Tac-Toe" with questions from this lesson ([Tic-Tac-Toe questions](#), [Instructions](#), and [Board](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Bring lentil stew for the children to taste (recipe below). Give them the opportunity to serve each other small portions of bread.
- *Hey! That's Mine* by Benrei Huang, Standard Publishing

3rd-4th Graders:

- "[Jacob and Esau Crossword Puzzle](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the kids read Genesis chapter 25 (and chapters 21-24 if they did not read those chapters this quarter). [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Genesis 21-25 quiz from AP's [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.
- Play "Tic-Tac-Toe" with questions from this lesson ([Tic-Tac-Toe questions](#), [Instructions](#), and [Board](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Bring lentil stew for the children to taste (recipe below). Give them the opportunity to serve each other small portions of bread.
- Draw a Venn diagram on the board to compare the differences and similarities of Jacob and Esau (A Venn diagram is composed of two circles drawn with an intersecting section that allows you to distinguish items that the two circles share and don't share in common.).
- Recipe for Lentil Stew (from *Women's Day Encyclopedia of Cooking*):
 - 1 1/2 cups lentils
 - 1/4 cup olive oil
 - 4 cups water
 - 3/4 cup rice, long grain
 - 1 tsp. salt
 - 1 1/2 tblsp. butter
 - 2 cups coarsely chopped onions

Sort and rinse lentils. Cover with water and add salt. Heat and simmer stirring occasionally. Sauté onions in olive oil until soft and yellow. Add to lentils. Wash rice

and sauté in butter until it becomes translucent, then white again. Add to the lentils enough hot water to finish cooking the rice without the lentils sticking. It is ready when the rice is tender and the lentils are soft, but not mushy (about 20 minutes). Can skip sautéing the rice and onions and just add them to lentils as is.

- Have the children read pp. 52-55 of *Noah and the People of Faith*, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia, Contemporary English Version (DISCLAIMERS: p. 8—change “give life to” to “bring forth”; p. 13—remove “before the day is over” from the last sentence; p. 20—change “destroy” to “rule over”; p. 24—change appropriate sentences to “every kind of land animal...” and “Noah took males and females of every...”).
- *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister

SONGS:

“JACOB’S STEW” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb)

Esau wanted Jacob’s stew,
Jacob’s stew, Jacob’s stew.
Esau wanted Jacob’s stew,
For he was very hungry.

Jacob wanted Esau’s birthright,
Esau’s birthright, Esau’s birthright.
Jacob wanted Esau’s birthright.
So he asked to trade.

Jacob acted selfishly,
Selfishly, selfishly.
Jacob acted selfishly
And wouldn’t share his stew.

Esau acted foolishly,
Foolishly, foolishly.
Esau acted foolishly,
And traded his birthright.

“WHAT YOU HAVE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Skip to My Lou”)

Do, do, do good, to o-thers. (3X)
Do not forget to do good.

Share, share, share, what you have. (3X)
Share what you have with o-thers.

Give, give, give from your heart. (3X)
Give from your heart to o-thers.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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Genesis 25:19-34



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Part 2: Israel

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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- "Genesis Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- "[Map of Abram's Journeys](#)" (provided in the map section of the curriculum site)
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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to be content and happy with what I have, and to be willing to share what I have with others.

INTRODUCTION:

- [Abraham & Israel](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “O.T. 2 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 2 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Discuss practical opportunities for kids of all ages to share and not be selfish. Show them pictures of children who do not have all the blessings they have and who need help.
2. **OLDER STUDENTS:** Discuss the birthright we have when we become Christians. God has promised each of His children, not just “the oldest,” a home in heaven. We need to be very careful that we don’t “sell our birthright” by disobeying God.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning lesson.
- Review family tree of Jacob and Esau: Terah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Esau

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