

Love and Forgiveness: Jacob and Esau Meet Again

Genesis 32 and 33



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 32 and 33; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Peter 3:8-9

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "...forgiving one another...even as Christ forgave you"
(Colossians 3:13).

OLDER CHILDREN: "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Colossians 3:13).

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.

- "[Love, Love](#)"
- "[Forgiveness](#)"

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)
- "[Map of Jacob's Journeys](#)" on which you can show Jacob's journey (map provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- [Jacob Wrestles with an Angel; Reunited with Esau images](#) from [freebibleimages.com](#) (DISCLAIMER: some representations may be biblically inaccurate)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

It is important that I learn to forgive and not hold grudges against someone who has hurt me.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Do you remember how Jacob tricked his father Isaac so that he could get the blessing that should have been Esau's? How did that make Esau feel? (Very angry) Jacob left his family and his home in Canaan to get away from Esau. After 20 years away from Canaan, working for his uncle Laban, God spoke to Jacob and told him to go back home. Jacob wanted to go back, but he was afraid of what Esau might do, even after all of those years. Today, we are going to talk about how Esau treated his brother when they saw each other again.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Do you remember how Jacob tricked his father Isaac so that he could get the blessing that should have been Esau's? Jacob left his parents and his home in Canaan to look for a wife, but he left home mainly because he was afraid of Esau. Esau was so angry that he wanted to kill Jacob. After 20 years away from Canaan, working for his uncle Laban, God spoke to Jacob and told him to go back home. Jacob wanted to go back, but he was afraid of what Esau might do, even after all of those years. Today we are going to find out how Esau treated Jacob when they saw each other again.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jacob had left his childhood home and family with nothing. He returned with many flocks, 12 children (11 sons, plus Dinah; Benjamin had not yet been born), two wives (Rachel and Leah), two women he treated like wives (Bilhah and Zilpah), and many servants.
2. As they got closer to Canaan, Jacob sent messengers to the land of **Seir** where Esau and his descendants lived. The messengers were to tell Esau that Jacob was coming and that he wanted to pass through that area peacefully. The messengers returned with news that Esau was coming toward Jacob with about 400 men!



NOTE: **Seir**, the homeland of Esau's descendants, the Edomites, was a mountainous region which stretched eastward from the south end of the Dead Sea.

3. Jacob was frightened by the possibility of war with his brother Esau. So he divided his family and his animals into groups, putting Rachel and their young son Joseph farther away from danger than the rest. Jacob thought if Esau attacked one group, the others might escape. Jacob asked God for help and protection. The next day, Jacob gathered over 500 animals (camels, goats, donkeys, and others) to be sent as gifts for Esau. He hoped that all the gifts would help calm Esau so that he might not want to attack Jacob and his family.
4. Then Jacob made camp for Rachel and Leah, as well as Bilhah and Zilpah, and all the children on one side of a stream called Jabbok. He spent the night alone on the opposite side of the stream. That night a "man" came and wrestled with Jacob all night long. When the Sun was beginning to come up, the "man" told Jacob to let go, but Jacob wouldn't until the "man"

blessed him. Jacob realized he was not a man at all but an angel from God (Hosea 12:3-4). The angel of the Lord told Jacob that his name wouldn't be **Jacob** any longer, but "**Israel**."



"**Jacob**" means "supplanter" or "deceiver," while "**Israel**" means "having power with God" or "God's fighter."



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles "[Seeing God 'Face to Face'](#)" and "[Why Was Jacob Still Called Jacob After His Name Was Changed to Israel?](#)" by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for responses to alleged biblical discrepancies regarding the Jacob wrestling with God incident.

5. That morning, Jacob saw Esau and his 400 men coming at a distance. He decided to go out and face Esau and try to protect his family. Jacob bowed down to Esau seven times as a sign of respect and humility. Thankfully, Esau did not come to fight his brother. He had heard that Jacob was coming and likely brought the men to give Jacob's family protection as they traveled through the area. He ran to meet Jacob and hugged him and kissed him. The two brothers who had been apart for so many years cried together because they were so glad to see one another again and be at peace with one another.
6. Esau did not want to accept Jacob's gifts, but Jacob insisted. It was good for Jacob to give gifts to Esau to try to make up for the deceitful way he stole from him. God wants us to try to make things right with others when we mistreat them (Matthew 3:8). He met Jacob's wives and children for the first time. Jacob told Esau that they did not need his protection because he was relying on God.
7. So Esau went back to Seir, and Jacob went to **Succoth** where he and his family stayed long enough to build a house and "booths." Jacob then went on to Shechem where he bought some land, and built an altar to worship God as his father Isaac and grandfather Abraham had done so many times before.



"**Succoth**" means "booths."

8. Forgiveness is one of the main themes of the entire Bible. God is always willing to forgive us when we make mistakes, admit we're wrong, ask for forgiveness, and make things right the best we can. He expects us to do the same. We must learn to say, "I'm sorry," and forgive those who say, "I'm sorry" to us.
9. God has the right and the power to punish us for every mistake, but He is willing to forgive. He allowed His Son, Jesus, to die the death that we deserve so that we could have forgiveness of every sin we have ever committed. If God is willing to forgive me, should I hold a grudge (have bad feelings toward someone) or try to seek revenge? **No!** And, besides that, I will surely make mistakes and need the forgiveness of others. If I hold grudges and withhold forgiveness, others will more than likely not be willing to forgive me either.

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 the Complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- "[Jacob and Esau Reconcile Coloring Sheet](#)" (provided in activity sheets)

- Provide each child with four small red foam hearts and a piece of yarn long enough to make a necklace. On one heart write “I will;” on another write “have a;” on the third one write “forgiving;” on the fourth one write “heart.” Punch one hole in each heart. Help the children string the hearts together to make necklaces.
- Heart review game: Cut out several hearts, and cut them in half. Write questions from the story on the left sides of the hearts and the answers on the right sides. **Or**, for non-readers, write questions on the left sides and put stickers or small pictures on the right sides that will indicate the answers. Put magnetic tape on the backs of each piece. Place the answers (right sides) on a magnetic board. Let each child draw a question (right sides), then read the question or help them read the question. Then see if the child can find the answer to match the question. Continue until every child has had a turn.
- Have children role-play a few situations in which they need to forgive someone or situations in which they need forgiveness. Examples: Two children role-play someone breaking a toy and the other forgives him. A child breaks his mother’s favorite lamp and tells his mother what he’s done.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Heart review game: Cut out several hearts, and cut them in half. Write questions from the story on the left sides of the hearts and the answers on the right sides. **Or**, for non-readers, write questions on the left sides and put stickers or small pictures on the right sides that will indicate the answers. Put magnetic tape on the backs of each piece. Place the answers (right sides) on a magnetic board. Let each child draw a question (right sides), then read the question or help them read the question. Then see if the child can find the answer to match the question. Continue until every child has had a turn.
- Have children role-play a few situations in which they need to forgive someone or situations in which they need forgiveness. Examples: Two children role-play someone breaking a toy and the other forgives him. A child breaks his mother’s favorite lamp and tells his mother what he’s done.
- [“Love and Forgiveness”](#) crossword puzzle (provided in activity sheets)
- Play review games with a beanbag toss. Children sit in a circle and toss the beanbag back and forth to each other. As they do so, they can say the books of the Bible in order, parts of a memory verse, or ask a question about the lesson that the next student must answer.
- Jacob Pizza Round: Divide a cardboard circle (from a frozen pizza) or a poster board circle, into equal sections and write a review question on each section. Write answers to the questions on clothespins. Encourage one student at a time to match the clothespins (answers) to the correct questions on the circle.
- Trace Jacob’s journey on the [“Map of Jacob’s Journey”](#) (provided in activity sheets).

3rd-4th Graders:

- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the children read Genesis 32-35 (as well as chapter 31 if they did not do so last week). [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Genesis 31-35 quiz from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz if they have yet to do so. 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.
- [“Love and Forgiveness”](#) crossword puzzle (provided in activity sheets)
- Play review games with a beanbag toss. Children sit in a circle and toss the beanbag back and

forth to each other. As they do so, they can say the books of the Bible in order, parts of a memory verse, or ask a question about the lesson that the next student must answer.

- Have children look up “forgive” and “forgiveness” passages in Bible concordances and/or Bible dictionaries. Discuss their discoveries with them.
- Trace Jacob’s journey on the “[Map of Jacob’s Journey](#)” (provided in activity sheets).

SONGS:

“LOVE, LOVE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: English Folk Hymn

Love, Love, Love, Love.
The Gospel in a word is Love.
Love your neighbor as your brother.
Love, Love, Love.

Peace, Peace, Peace, Peace.
The Gospel in a word is Peace.
Peace that passes understanding.
Peace, Peace, Peace.

Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy.
The Gospel in a word is Joy.
Joy that fills to overflowing.
Joy, Joy, Joy.

Christ, Christ, Christ, Christ.
The Gospel in a word is Christ.
Love Him, serve Him, and adore Him.
Christ, Christ, Christ.

“FORGIVENESS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Nestle Song”)

If others come and mistreat me,
F-O-R-G-I-V-E.
For-give.

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

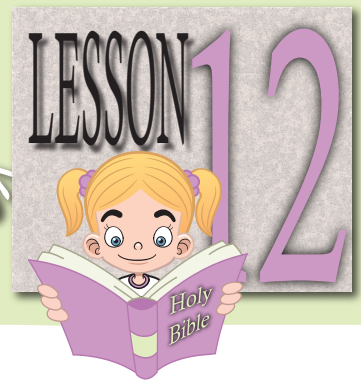
*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

It is important that I learn to forgive and not hold grudges against someone who has hurt me.

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. Forgiveness is one of the main themes of the entire Bible. God is always willing to forgive us when we make mistakes and ask for forgiveness, and He expects us to do the same. We must learn to say, “I’m sorry,” and forgive those who say, “I’m sorry” to us.
2. God has the right and the power to punish us for every mistake, but He is willing to forgive. He allowed His Son, Jesus, to die the death that we deserve so that we could have forgiveness of every sin we have ever committed. If God is willing to forgive me, should I hold a grudge (have bad feelings toward someone) or try to seek revenge? **No!** And, besides that, I will surely make mistakes and need the forgiveness of others. If I hold grudges and withhold forgiveness, others will more than likely not be willing to forgive me either.
3. In the New Testament, when Jesus was teaching His disciples about the importance of forgiving others, Peter wanted to know how many times he had to forgive someone. Jesus’ answer indicated an unlimited number of times, which was very hard for Peter to understand (Matthew 18:21-35). (Read and discuss the parable of the Unmerciful Servant with older students.)
4. Describe situations where someone is hurt by the actions or words of another person. With older children, read some or all of the following scriptures: Matthew 5:1-12; 6:9-15; Galatians 5:14-15; Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-32.

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’s lesson.

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