

Jacob and Esau- Genesis 32

THE POINT

Focus:

God is all-powerful and trustworthy
God fulfills his promises

Application:

We can trust God.
We show we trust God by obeying God's commands.

Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

HEART CONNECTION (5-7 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- 2 signs (different colors) hung on opposite sides of the room labeled "True" and "False"

Content:

Today we're going to start off with a review game. Run to the "True" poster if you think the statement I make is the truth. Run to the "False" poster if you think it is false. If the statement is False, we'll try to fix it to make it True.

Let's try it out with an easy question:

In the beginning, Moses created the Heavens and the earth. (**False:** GOD).

Everything God created, He said was Good. (**True**).

Puppy Dogs were made in the Image of God. (**False:** Humans were made in the image of God).

When Adam and Eve disobeyed, sin entered the world (**True**).

When Sin entered the world, just a few tiny things were messed up (**False-** everything was messed up!).

Noah thought up the idea to build a big boat all by himself (**False-** God told him to build it).

God sent the flood because he was sad by all the sin in the world (**True**).

God promised to only destroy the world by flood every once in a while (**False**- Never again!).

A Covenant is a Special Promise of God (**True**).

God made a Covenant with Abraham that he would be the father and grandfather and great-grandfather of a Great Nation (**True!**).

Abraham was a young man when he became a dad (**False**- He was very old!).

Abraham and Sarah named their son Moses (**False**- their son was Isaac!).

Abraham and Sarah loved God more than Isaac, even though they loved Isaac very much (**True.**).

You were awesome at that game, and it helped us review what's happened so far in our story. We have to remember that this is all one big story- not lots of little ones! The whole story is about God's work in the world!

STORY CONNECTION (10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- Bible story book with good illustrations of Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Esau

Instructions:

There are a few options for creative storytelling here: If you have some enthusiastic youth helpers, have them act the story aloud while you read it. Be sure to bring some type of costume like a hat or robe to tell the characters apart. If you have a smaller group or less assistance, have them color an illustration of the story while you read aloud.

Background:

Before you get to the story, give the children some family context for Jacob and Esau. Explain that Abraham's son Isaac grew up and married a woman named Rebecca. They had twin boys named Jacob and Esau. Esau was the older brother, so God's special covenant promise was supposed to belong to him. Esau gave that promise away to Jacob one day when he was hungry; now Jacob would have the special promise from God. This started a huge fight between the two grown-up brothers.

Jacob ran a long, long way away. He ran away for many years. He married a woman named Leah and then a woman named Rachel. Then, God told Jacob that it was time to go back to where his brother Esau lived.

Our story today takes place when Jacob is on his way to see Esau again. He is afraid that Esau will still be very angry. He wants to obey God, and God told him to go. Let's find out what happens next in Genesis 32.

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

Instructions or background information.

Genesis 32: 7-12; 24-30; 32:3-5

7 Jacob was very worried and afraid. So he separated the people who were with him into two groups. He also separated the flocks and herds and camels. 8 He thought, "Esau may come and attack one group. If he does, the group that's left can escape."

9 Then Jacob prayed, "You are the God of my grandfather Abraham. You are the God of my father Isaac.

11 "Please save me from the hand of my brother Esau. I'm afraid he'll come and attack me and the mothers with their children. 12 But you have said, 'I will certainly give you success. I will make your children as many as the grains of sand on the seashore. People will not be able to count them.'"

24 So Jacob was left alone. A man struggled with him until morning. 25 The man saw that he couldn't win. So he touched the inside of Jacob's hip. As Jacob struggled with the man, Jacob's hip was twisted. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go. It is morning."

But Jacob replied, "I won't let you go unless you bless me."

27 The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

28 Then the man said, "Your name will not be Jacob anymore. Instead, it will be Israel. You have struggled with God and with men. And you have won."

29 Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you want to know my name?" Then he blessed Jacob there.

30 So Jacob named the place Peniel. He said, "I saw God face to face. But I'm still alive!"

The next day, Jacob went to meet Esau- and Esau had 400 men with him! Jacob was really scared that they would be attacked! He thought Esau was going to be very, very angry.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet Jacob. He hugged him and threw his arms around his neck. He kissed him, and they cried.⁵ Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these people with you?" he asked.

Jacob answered, "They are the children God has so kindly given to me."

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like to wrestle with God.

I wonder what Jacob thought of his New Name.

I wonder how Esau felt to see his brother again after so many years.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.