

LESSON 3

JACOB AND ESAU

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: No Matter What, God Keeps His Promises

SCRIPTURE: [Genesis 25–27](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: When Jacob tricks his father Isaac into giving him the family blessing, God still continues His covenant promises through Jacob, for no matter what, God keeps His promises.

WORD OF WONDER: Before You created the whole world, You are God. You will always be God. —from [Psalm 90:2](#)

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jacob and Esau were the twin sons of Isaac. They were in conflict with each other from the womb. Jacob, although the youngest, deceived his brother and father and gained both the birthright and blessing that should have belonged to Esau.

WHAT?

A birthright and a blessing were generally reserved for the oldest son. The birthright gave the recipient a double portion of the inheritance, among other privileges, and the blessing gave the recipient blessing, favor, and family headship.

WHERE?

Esau preferred the open country. He was a skilled hunter and was often outdoors. His descendants were the nation of Edom. Jacob was a quiet man who spent most of his time closer to home. Jacob's descendants were the nation of Israel.

WHEN?

After Isaac's mother Sarah died when he was 40 years old, Isaac married Rebekah. When he was close to his own death, Isaac blessed Jacob.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God made a covenant with Abraham and kept His promise through Abraham's grandson Jacob. Despite Jacob's deception and trickery, God still worked through Jacob to keep His promise to Abraham's family, making them a great nation and blessing the world through Jacob's descendant, Jesus.

Play Stations

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Esau's Sensory Soup

Set up: Set out a bin filled with various dried beans, scoops or spoons, and bowls. Watch closely to make sure the kids don't put the beans in their mouths or noses, and be aware of skin allergies.

Play: Let the kids play with the beans, allowing them to scoop and pour.

Leader Tip: Setting up multiple smaller bins will allow more kids to participate at one time.

Play Station: Size Sorting

Set up: Print the [Size Sorting Cards](#) and cut them apart. Mix up the [Size Sorting Cards](#) and set them out on the table.

Play: Let the kids sort the cards first by matching images. Then encourage them to sort the cards by size, biggest to smallest and smallest to biggest. Feel free to sort any way the kids lead.



Play Station: Jacob and Esau Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a sibling or family member.

Faith

Craft: Hairy Bracelets

You'll need one empty toilet paper tube for each kid (or paper towel tubes can be cut in half). Cut toilet paper tubes so they are in 3-inch-long "bracelets." (See example below.) Set out toilet paper tubes. You could also use orange yarn. Cut three 4" pieces per kid.



In God's big story today, we heard about two brothers who didn't get along very well. One brother was extra hairy—do you remember his name? Allow kids to answer. Esau! Esau was very hairy, and his brother, Jacob, used hairy goat skin coverings to trick their father, Isaac. Today we're going to make our own version of Jacob's goat skin coverings.

Give each kid a set of supplies. Encourage the kids to glue yarn or cotton balls onto the toilet paper tube bracelets. Once the glue dries, the kids can put their bracelets on.

Leader Tip: If you don't have toilet paper tubes, use strips of card stock stapled into a bracelet.

God is faithful! That means we can trust Him. He keeps His promises. Take your craft home as a reminder of how faithful God was to the family of Abraham, including Jacob and Esau, and how He is faithful to us, no matter what!

Game: Target Time

Before the kids arrive, set out three bowls or buckets evenly spaced on the ground. A few feet away, set out beanbags or small balls. The bowls or buckets will be the targets. Encourage the kids to line up near the beanbags or balls.

In our story today, one brother was a hunter. Do you remember which brother was the hunter? Allow kids to respond. Esau was a hunter, and he provided food for the family. Today we're going to do a little target practice, but don't worry—we'll be safe! We're going to toss these beanbags (or balls) into our targets.

Let the kids take turns tossing the beanbags or balls into the bowls or buckets.

Sin means "missing the target." The target is what God wants—living God's way. We have all missed the target because we sin and make wrong choices. But God is faithful and forgives us! Esau got tricked by his brother. But even when Jacob made wrong choices, God was faithful to their family and kept His promises.

Identity

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for keeping His promises.

Let's say a prayer to thank God for keeping His promises! Dear God, thank You for Your faithfulness. Thank You that we can count on You. You keep Your promises. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: Even when we make wrong choices, God never changes, and He always keeps His promises. May you always remember that God knows you and knows the desires of your heart. May you trust Him in all things. God is faithful and always keeps His promises, no matter what.