

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.**GOD'S BIG STORY:** 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.

Activity: Esau's Sensory Soup

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Good morning! We're going to talk today about someone who tricked his brother using soup! Do you like to eat soup? What kind of soup have you eaten? Allow the kids to respond.

Let's pretend to make soup! What would you put in the soup? Set out a bin with a variety of pompoms. Include cups, bowls, and spoons to add to the sensory experience. Let the kids take turns playing in the pompoms, pretending to make soup. You could also use play food or pictures of food.

Leader Tip: To make it more fun, bring a large soup pot and stirring spoon and let the kids pretend to make real soup. You can even print and cut out pictures of food and soup ingredients. Allow kids to add them to the soup. You could let the kids add toy food to the pot.

We're going to talk today about a part of God's big story when God made a promise and kept it. Has anyone made a promise to you? Allow the kids to respond. **We'll learn how God always keeps His promises to us, no matter what!**

Activity: Step on the Promise

Print one set of the [Step on the Promise Pictures](#). Set the papers on the floor, just far enough apart for the kids to step or crawl from one to the next.

In God's big story today, we're learning about God's promise to a family. God kept that promise. We can trust Him! God makes promises to us too! Let's play a game to learn about some of them!



Tell the kids to step or crawl from one promise to the next, and each time they land on one, read it aloud and encourage the kids to repeat you.

The promises they will hear are:

- **God promises to forgive you.** (1 John 1:9)
- **God promises to give you peace.** (Philippians 4:6–7)
- **God promises to help you.** (Isaiah 41:10)
- **God promises to always love you.** (Romans 8:38–39)
- **God promises to always be with you.** (Joshua 1:9)

We can thank God that He keeps His promises! We can trust Him!

Our Wonder Truth today is: NO MATTER WHAT, GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

- **NO MATTER WHAT**,—*Shake index finger back and forth (“no, no”).*
- **GOD KEEPS**—*Point up.*
- **HIS PROMISES**—*Hold both hands out in front of you, palms up.*

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 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: 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.

Activity: Guess Who?

Have the kids sit down with their eyes closed. One at a time, bring another person to each child with her eyes closed and tell her to guess who is standing in front of her without looking. Tell her she can shake the person's hand and feel the person's hand to try and figure out who it is.

It can be hard to figure out who someone is when you can't see that person! Today we learned how Jacob made a wrong choice by tricking their dad and pretending to be his brother Esau. God still kept His promise. We can always remember God keeps His promises, no matter what. We can thank God for keeping His promises!