

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2009

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part One



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-45

Memory Verse:

Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what He wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.
(Romans 12:2 NIV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Jacob and Esau were brothers.
2. Understand that Jacob was dishonest.
3. Recognize that Jacob changed his ways.
4. Learn that God wants us to allow Him to change us.

Last week we learned that God asked Abraham to give Him his son. Abraham did not hold back. Abraham was obedient to God. Acting in faith, he was ready to return the promised son, his only son.... (Hebrews 11:17-19 The Message). God gave His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could be with Him in heaven forever. God loves us and wants us to love Him more than any-

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 25:19-34 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

Abraham's son, Isaac, grew up and married a woman named Rebekah. When it came time, Rebekah had twins. The first baby was reddish in color. He was very hairy too. They named him Esau (*E-saw*). The second baby was born holding onto Esau's foot. So they named him Jacob (which means "grabber"). Esau loved to hunt and work outside in the fields. Jacob stayed inside the tents and cooked. (Genesis 25:19-28)

One day Esau came into the tent. He was very hungry. Jacob was cooking a delicious vegetable soup. Jacob decided to do something dishonest. He told Esau that he could have some soup if he gave Jacob his rights as the firstborn son. Esau was so hungry that he did it! (Genesis 25:29-34)

Years later their dad, Isaac, was very old. It was the custom to "bless" the oldest child before the father died. So, Isaac called Esau and asked him to prepare a special meal. Their mom, Rebekah, was listening in the other room. She thought to herself, "I have a plan. I must find Jacob." (Genesis 27:1-10) While Esau went off into the fields to find an animal and prepare a meal, Rebekah rushed to Jacob and gave him some special instructions so that he could get the blessing instead of Esau. Rebekah was going to deceive Isaac. Jacob told Rebekah that he couldn't fool his dad because Esau was very hairy and he wasn't. (Genesis 27:11-14)

Rebekah had an idea. She told him to put on his brother's clothes and put a piece of goat skin on his arms and chest because goat's hair was long, like his brother's hair. (Genesis 27:8-16)

Jacob and Esau — Bible Facts

1. Isaac and Rebekah were Jacob's parents.
2. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob.
3. Jacob stole Esau's blessing.
4. Jacob had to flee for his life.

Jacob went in to his father. His father was almost blind so he couldn't tell if it was Jacob or Esau. When he listened, he thought that it was Jacob so he asked him to come closer. He felt his hands (which were covered with goat hair) and smelled his clothes (which were Esau's clothes) so he thought that it was Esau. Jacob fooled his father. (Genesis 27:17-25) Isaac ate the tasty food and blessed Jacob—thinking it was Esau. Later, after Isaac blessed Jacob, Esau walked in. He was so upset! (Genesis 27:26)

A blessing was so important for a child. It showed how special they were and that their family loved them very much. It was so crushing that Jacob stole Esau's blessing. And remember—Jacob also stole Esau's birthright. Esau was very angry. In fact, he was plotting to kill Jacob. Rebekah heard what was going on and told Jacob to leave and live with his uncle. (Genesis 27:27-41) Years passed without Jacob seeing Esau. During that time Jacob changed his ways and stopped being dishonest. Jacob started following God. God sent Jesus to help us follow Him. The Bible says, "Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what He wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2 NIV)

One day it came time for the brothers to meet. Jacob was very nervous about it. He wasn't sure what his brother would do. In fact he sent his wife and children ahead of him to make peace. Finally Esau saw Jacob. He rushed to him and hugged him. He totally forgave Jacob for everything that had happened. (Genesis 33:1-10)

Review

1. Who were Jacob's parent? (Isaac and Rebekah)
2. What did Esau do? (sold his birthright to Jacob)
3. What did Jacob do? (stole Esau's blessing)
4. What did Jacob do next? (fled for his life)

Do you know Jesus?

Jacob changed his ways and began to follow God. God sent Jesus so that we can know Him. (John 3:16) God wants us to allow Him to change the way we think and act. (Romans 12:1-2) When we invite Him to be a part of our lives, when we confess that Jesus is His Son who died for our sins and rose from the dead, we can have a personal relationship with Him. (Romans 10:9-10) Would you like to do that?

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help us change.
3. Ask God to help you change the way you think and act.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to know God.

Application

Jacob started out being dishonest and stealing from his brother, Esau. His mother helped him be dishonest. As a result, he had to flee for his life. But Jacob changed. God wants us to allow Him to change us. If we ask Him to help us, God will help us change the way we think and act. (Romans 12:1-2)

Planning for the next week:

Joseph's Coat and Dream — Genesis 37:1-36

Preschool Lesson

Preschool Lesson
For
Jacob and Esau

Make little twin puppets so that the kids can see the difference between the two boys.

Abraham's son, Isaac, grew up and married a woman named Rebekah. When it came time, Rebekah had twins. Do you know what twins are? They are two babies that are born at the same time. Sometimes they look alike, but not always. These babies looked different. The first baby was reddish in color. He was very hairy, too. They named him Esau (*E-saw*). The second baby was born holding onto Esau's foot. So they named him Jacob (which means "grabber"). Esau loved to hunt and work outside in the fields. Jacob stayed inside the tents and cooked.

One day Esau came into the tent. He was very hungry. Jacob was cooking a delicious vegetable soup. Jacob decided to do something dishonest. He told Esau that he could have some soup if he gave Jacob his rights as the firstborn son. Esau was so hungry that he did it! Years later their dad, Isaac, was very old. It was the custom to "bless" the oldest child before the father died. Jacob went in to his father. His father was almost blind so he couldn't tell if it was Jacob or Esau. When he listened, he thought that it was Jacob so he asked him to come closer. He felt his hands (which were covered with goat hair) and smelled his clothes (which were Esau's clothes) so he thought that it was Esau. Jacob fooled his father. Isaac ate the tasty food that Jacob gave him. Isaac blessed Jacob—thinking it was Esau. Later after Isaac blessed Jacob, Esau walked in. He was so upset!

A blessing was so important for a child. It showed how special they were and that their family loved them very much. It was so crushing that Jacob stole Esau's blessing. And remember—Jacob also stole Esau's birthright.

Esau was very mad. Rebekah was afraid and told Jacob to leave and go live with her brother. So Jacob left his family and went to live with his uncle.

Years passed without Jacob seeing Esau. During that time Jacob changed his ways and he stopped being dishonest. Jacob started following God.

One day it came time for the brothers to meet. Jacob was very nervous about it. He wasn't sure what his brother would do. In fact, he sent his wife and children ahead of him to make peace.

Finally, Esau saw Jacob. He rushed to him and hugged him. He totally forgave Jacob for everything wrong that had happened.

God wants us to forgive others like Esau forgave Jacob. Let's ask God to help us forgive others this week.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help us change.
3. Ask God to help you change the way you think and act.

Memory verse for younger children:

Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Romans 12:2

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Use markers that can change colors and write out the verse. Talk about what it means to really “change” your ways. Practice the verse.

•**Test your memory** — Find pictures from the scenes in Jacob’s life. Use the pictures to tell the story. Have the children retell the story.

•**Taste activity** — Bring a can of vegetable soup today or make it yourself with mixed vegetables and tomato juice. Cook and add seasonings like pepper and salt.

Bring a powdered drink mix and make the drink so the children can see the color change. Talk about how God wants us to allow Him to change us.

•**Think about it** — Jacob was very dishonest. His name meant “grabber.” How would you like a name like that? Anyone that said his name knew that he tried to grab or take things from others. God changed his name later in his life. God helped him change. Our verse talks about change, too. Talk about some ways that God wants us to change.

Back in Bible times, a blessing was very important. It was something that people remembered all their lives. It was a special word that told each child how special they were and helped them see that their parents loved them. Teachers, write a blessing for each child using scripture. Take time today to “bless” each child and remind them that God loves them. Have the children read their scripture to another child (bless someone else).

•**Touch activity** — Make “hairy” arms by gluing strips of yarn on a piece of paper. Let them pretend to put it on their arms like Jacob did.

Make Esau’s clothes by cutting a circle out of the bottom of a paper sack and cutting a line through the sides for an arm opening. Make pretend bow and arrows out of straws.

Jacob loved to cook. If you have an oven in your Bible study, try to cook something today and let the kids help. If you do not have an oven, see if you can bring an electric skillet, toaster oven, or even a hot plate. Kids love to cook, but be careful and be safe.

•**Run and play** — Bring bandanas, colored handkerchiefs, or strips of cloth that the children can use as markers. Have the children run in four different directions based on their markers. For example: red will run north, blue will run south, green will run east, and yellow will run west. Have the children trade markers and run in a different direction. Talk about how God wants to change us.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to allow Him to change the way we think and act.

•**Sing** — Sing “He’s Changing Me,” or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray for kids that did not come today. Deliver coloring pages for those who did not attend. Invite the children to go with you. Sing a song and tell the child the Bible verse you learned. Encourage him to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

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the way this world lives.
Let your way of thinking
be completely changed.

Then you will be able
to test what God wants
for you. And you will
agree that what He wants
is right. His plan is good
and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Jacob
changed
his
ways.

Word Search

M T T T D P F R I B F D
F E V I E C E D L L I R
D E T S O B T E D S T U
N P I H E A S C H V A P
J S D K G S E O G S R N
D E A D I I N F E A S D
E H R N E E R B O C A J
C S G D S F C H I S E P
N A F T F V G H T P D S
K N A F G L P U I R K E
R E O S L J E S C S I L
N H H O I R S E V D H B

ISAAC

REBEKAH

JACOB

ESAU

DISHONEST

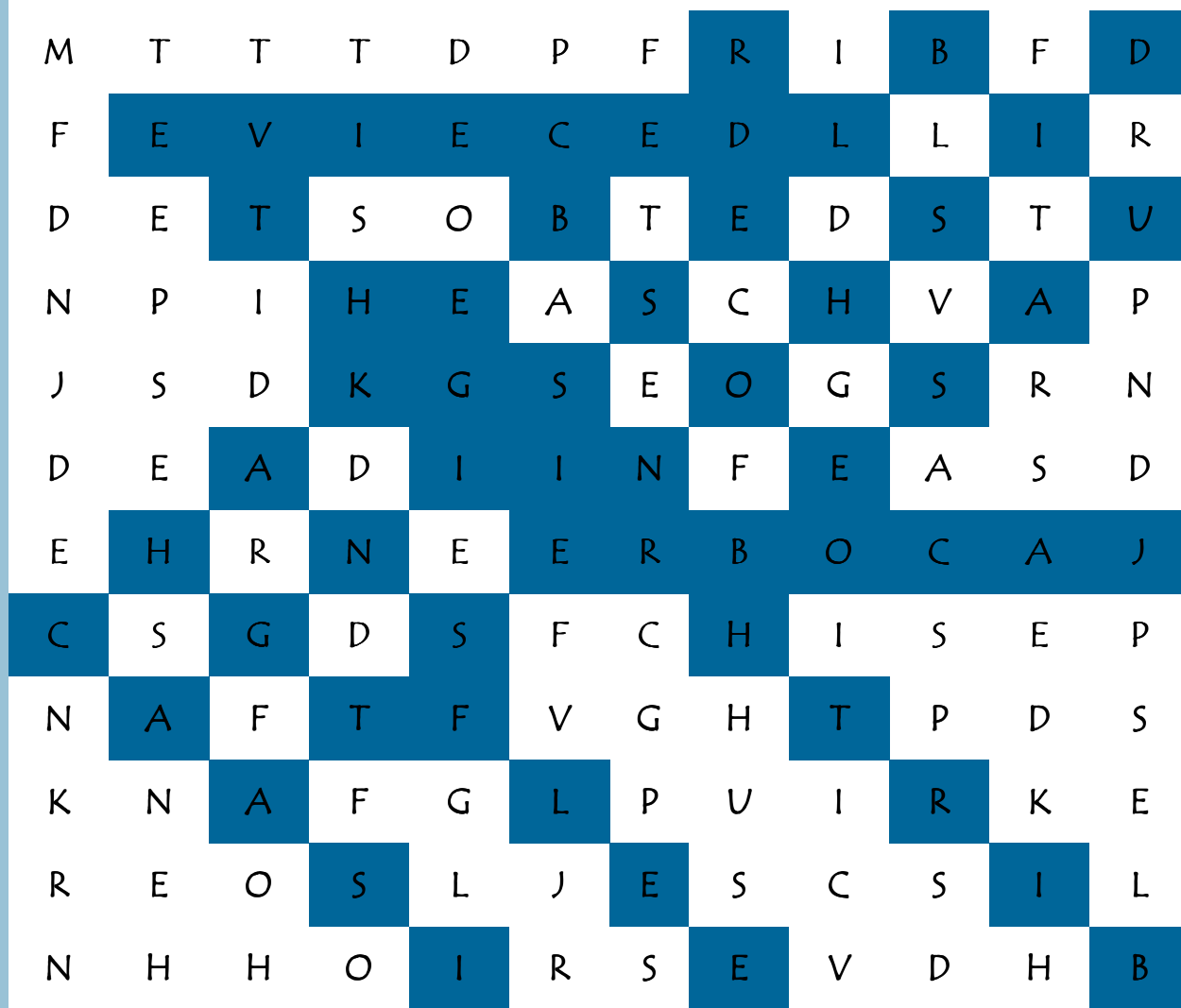
DECEIVE

BLESSING

BIRTHRIGHT

FLEE

Word Search



ISAAC

REBEKAH

JACOB

ESAU

DISHONEST

DECEIVE

BLESSING

BIRTHRIGHT

FLEE

Word Search

E S A U V J D B K V S P
P R W B W B F V L F N G
J A C O B C T W N D S E
S V R J H R E B E K A H
M F S L A C T E D F D B
P R M V J S E I S A A C
F B T G H D M F V P R S
J R B L T D R B L E S S
B G L T E S T E D P Z R
I S W J C B R O T H E R
M F P V R P D J R B L T

ISAAC

REBEKAH

JACOB

ESAU

BLESS

BROTHER

Word Search

E	S	A	U	V	J	D	B	K	V	S	P
P	R	W	B	W	B	F	V	L	F	N	G
J	A	C	O	B	C	T	W	N	D	S	E
S	V	R	J	H	R	E	B	E	K	A	H
M	F	S	L	A	C	T	E	D	F	D	B
P	R	M	V	J	S	E	I	S	A	A	C
F	B	T	G	H	D	M	F	V	P	R	S
J	R	B	L	T	D	R	B	L	E	S	S
B	G	L	T	E	S	T	E	D	P	Z	R
I	S	W	J	C	B	R	O	T	H	E	R
M	F	P	V	R	P	D	J	R	B	L	T

ISAAC

REBEKAH

JACOB

ESAU

BLESS

BROTHER

Anagram

EILV

DLORW

GHIKNNT

CEELMOPTY

ACDEGHN

ESTT

GHIRT

ALNP

CEFPRT



Anagram

LIVE

WORLD

THINKING

COMPLETELY

CHANGED

TEST

RIGHT

PLAN

PERFECT