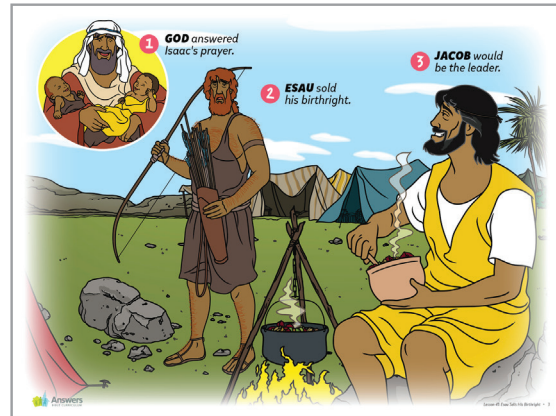


Lesson 41

Esau Sells His Birthright

Esau, the older twin, sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew.



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 39 Flip Chart. We talked about how Abraham's servant had to go and find a wife for Isaac. He prayed for God's help. The woman who watered all his camels was the right one.

- ? What was her name? *Rebekah.*

Rebekah was the one God had chosen for Isaac. She left her home and her family and married Isaac.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Today, we're going to talk about Isaac and Rebekah's children.

The Bible tells us that Rebekah couldn't have children. So Isaac prayed and asked God to give them a child. And God answered! But God didn't just give them one child, he gave them two. Rebekah was going to have twins!

Twin Dress Up

You will choose two volunteers to be "turned into twins" by dressing them up with similar clothing items. Make it fun by filling two bags with some of the following (one of each in each bag): brightly colored T-shirts, hats with flowers stuck in the side, sunglasses, silly-looking socks, mittens or gloves, scarves, clown wigs, hair bows (for girls), masks, etc.

- ? What are twins? *Two babies born at the same time.*

Two brothers or sisters, or a brother and sister, who are born at the same time are called twins. Before we get started on our lesson today, I need two volunteers to come up here so we can see what twins look like. Have volunteers stand in front facing

the class. I have some special twin stuff in these bags. Just stand right there, and we'll turn you into twins in no time! Take out the bags of dress-up items and have an assistant help you make a show of "dressing up" each volunteer with the clothes and objects, turning them into "twins."

Ta-da! Here they are, the twins for today! Have class applaud.

- ? Some twins look alike; they are called identical twins. How do our twins look? Do they look just like each other? *Yes/no.*

Well, not exactly. But not all twins look alike. We'll see what Rebekah and Isaac's twins were like in just a few minutes. Allow volunteers to put the items back into the bags and return to their seats.

Twins Are Born

Before Rebekah's twins were born, God said that the older son would serve the younger one. This was important because back then the oldest son was special. After the father died, the oldest son would become the leader of the family. But in Isaac and Rebekah's family, God said it would be different—the younger twin would be the leader, and the older one would serve him.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Pretty soon, the twins were born! Remember, some twins look alike and some look totally different from each other.

How about Rebekah's twins? The Bible says the first son born was red and hairy all over. That doesn't sound like a very cute baby, does it? His parents named him Esau. Esau means "the hairy one."

The second baby was named Jacob. Jacob's name can mean "one who deceives others." To deceive someone means that you lie or trick them and make them believe something that is not true. That doesn't sound very nice, does it? Listen carefully as we read our lesson to find out if Jacob tries to trick anybody.

Jacob and Esau looked different, and they also liked to do different things.

Genesis 25:27

- ? Genesis 25:27 tells us what Isaac and Rebekah's twins were like as they grew up. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.

As the twins got older, Esau became a really good hunter who liked to be outdoors in the wild. But Jacob liked to stay close to home and cook and take care of the animals.

Esau Sells His Birthright

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. So who was the oldest son? *Esau.*

That's right. And the oldest son was given something special called a birthright. Say that word with me: birthright. That meant that he would get twice as much of his father's money and become the leader of the family when his father died.

- ? But God said it would be different in this family. He said the younger son would be the leader. And which son was younger? *Jacob.*

Yes. Jacob knew that God had said he would be the leader, so he wanted the birthright from his brother. But how would Jacob get the birthright? Let's read and find out!

Genesis 25:29–30

I'm going to read some more from Genesis 25. Listen carefully. Read Genesis 25:29–30.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. Jacob was cooking when Esau came in from the field. What was Jacob cooking? *Stew.*

Jacob was cooking up some lentil stew—like a thick soup. Esau was a good hunter, so he probably just came back from trying to shoot something to eat.

- ? How did Esau feel when he came in from the field? *Exhausted.*

- ? He smelled something delicious! What did he smell cooking when he got home? *Jacob's stew.*

Esau was exhausted—he was tired and very hungry. His stomach was probably growling. Mmm. The stew smelled so good!

- ? So what did Esau ask for? *Some of Jacob's stew.*

But instead of just sharing some food with his brother, Jacob decided to be tricky and get something for himself.

Genesis 25:31–33

Let's read what happened next. Read Genesis 25:31–33.

- ? What did Jacob ask Esau to sell to him for some stew? *His birthright.*

- ? Esau was really hungry! He said he was so hungry he was about to do what? *Die.*

- ? Do you think he really was about to die? *No!*

There probably was other food around, but Esau was impatient and just wanted to eat.

- ? So what did Esau do to get some stew? *Sold Jacob his birthright.*

- ? Which do you think was worth more—lentil stew or the birthright? *The birthright.*

The birthright was worth way more than a bowl of stew. It was wrong for Esau to be so impatient and only care about filling his stomach.

- ? What about Jacob? Was it right for him to be sneaky and ask Esau to sell his birthright for the stew? *No.*

- ? Think back now. Who said the younger son would lead in this family? *God.*

Right. It was God's idea. Jacob cared about the birthright, but he didn't trust God to give it to him at the right time. He was impatient, too. It was wrong for Jacob to try to "help" God by getting the birthright for himself.

- ? Does God need our help? *No!*

God wants us to trust him and wait for him. When we get impatient and jump ahead and try to do things on our own, we end up sinning like Jacob. And there will always be bad things that happen, called consequences, when we sin. We'll see some big problems between Jacob and Esau in our next lesson.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.



1 **GOD** answered Isaac's prayer.

2 **ESAU** sold his birthright.

3 **JACOB** would be the leader.

