

## Lesson 42

# Jacob Steals the Blessing

*Isaac is tricked into blessing Jacob instead of Esau.*



### K-1st Lesson

#### Review

Refer to the Genesis Timeline. We learned how Abraham's son Isaac married Rebekah. And in the last lesson we talked about their two sons who were twins.

- ? What were their names? *Esau and Jacob.*

Because Esau was the older twin, he had the birthright, which meant he would get twice as much of his father's money and lead the family one day after his father died.

- ? Refer to Lesson 41 Flip Chart. But what did Esau sell his birthright for? *A bowl of stew.*

Esau was hungry and impatient and didn't care about his birthright, so he sold it to Jacob for a bowl of stew.

So Jacob got the birthright. But there was also a special blessing that was meant for the oldest son. And Jacob wanted his father, Isaac, to give that blessing to him instead of to Esau.

- ? Jacob's name means deceiver. Do you remember what it means to deceive someone? *Allow answers. To lie to or trick someone.*

Jacob was tricky in getting the birthright from Esau for a bowl of stew. And today we'll see how Jacob deceived his own father to get the special blessing. How did he do it? Well, it has something to do with his father's eyes.

#### Blind Guess Experiment

Bring in and keep hidden several small objects, such as a piece of fruit, furry mitten, stuffed animal, boiled egg, etc. Have the scarf available.

Our eyes are very useful, aren't they? We can see things all around us. But what about people who can't see—people who are blind? How do they get along without seeing things? Many times, if you can't see, you can use your sense of smell, taste, hearing, and touch to help you figure things out.

Let's do an experiment. I need a volunteer. *Call up a volunteer and blindfold him with the scarf.* I'm going to give you something, and I want you to figure out what it is without looking at it. You can sniff it, feel it, and shake it to see if it makes any noise, but you can't use your eyes. *Give the student one of the objects you brought and see if he can guess what it is. You may want to give hints if necessary. If time allows, have two or three volunteers try.*

It was a lot harder to figure out what you were holding when you couldn't see it, right? In our lesson today, Isaac was very old and his eyes had gone blind, so he couldn't see any more. And that's how Rebekah and Jacob were able to trick him. Let's find out how they did that.

#### Rebekah and Jacob Deceive Isaac

*Show the Lesson Flip Chart.* Many years had passed since Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for the stew. There came a day when Isaac, who was old and blind, wanted to give his special blessing to Esau before he died. Back in those days, a father would bless his children by telling them special things about what they would get after he died—like money, land, and animals.

Isaac told Esau to go hunting and bring back meat so he could cook Isaac's favorite meal, and then Isaac would bless him. So Esau left to go hunting.

Meanwhile, Rebekah heard that Isaac was going to bless Esau. But she wanted Jacob to get the special blessing. She knew God had promised that Jacob would lead the family. Instead of waiting for God to make that happen, she decided to do things her own way by deceiving Isaac.

Rebekah told Jacob her plan to trick Isaac. Since Isaac was so old that he couldn't see anymore, Jacob would pretend to be Esau and get the blessing. So Rebekah made one of Isaac's favorite

meals and told Jacob to put on some of Esau's clothes.

But Jacob was worried. His skin was smooth, and Esau's skin was very hairy. What if Isaac reached out and touched Jacob? That would give it away. So Rebecca put goat skins on Jacob's hands and neck so that he would feel hairy, like Esau.

- ? How many of you think their plan will work? *Show of hands.*
- ? Let's find out. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

#### Genesis 27:18–19

Let's read about it from Genesis 27. *Read Genesis 27:18–19.*

- ? Jacob took the food his mother cooked to his father, but Isaac was blind and couldn't see who was there. Who did Jacob say he was? *Esau.*
- ? Was Jacob telling the truth? *No!*

Isaac asked Jacob to come closer so he could feel his skin to see if he was hairy like Esau.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. What did Jacob have on his skin to make him feel hairy? *Goat skins.*

Isaac was a little confused. He thought he heard Jacob's voice, but when he touched him, his skin was hairy like Esau's.

- ? Isaac even smelled the clothes Jacob was wearing. But whose clothes did Jacob have on? *Esau's.*
- ? Isaac finally gave Jacob the blessing. Was it right for Jacob to trick his father? *No.*
- ? How did Jacob sin? *He lied to deceive (trick) his father.*

Jacob lied and tricked his blind, old father by making him think he was Esau.

Isaac gave some great promises in the blessing and said that his son would be master over his brother. This meant Jacob would lead the family someday, just like God told Rebekah before the twins were even born.

God's promise did happen. But Jacob and his mother should have waited for God instead

of doing things their way. Now they had sinned. And when we sin, there will always be consequences—something bad will usually happen because of sin.

#### Esau Finds Out and Jacob Flees

*Refer to the Flip Chart.* While Jacob was being blessed, Esau was out hunting for meat to cook for his father. Just after Jacob left Isaac's tent, Esau came in with his food so he could get the blessing.

It didn't take long for Esau to figure out what Jacob had done. Isaac told Esau it was too late; he had already blessed Jacob and made him the leader over Esau.

- ? How do you think Esau felt about that? *Allow discussion.*

#### Genesis 27:41

The Bible says Esau cried out with a great and bitter cry. He was really angry. Listen and tell me what Esau planned to do to Jacob. *Read Genesis 27:41.*

- ? How did Esau feel about Jacob? *He hated him.*
- ? And what did he say he was going to do to Jacob? *Kill him.*

Yes. Esau hated Jacob for taking his birthright and stealing his blessing. He was so mad that he said he would kill Jacob.

When Rebekah heard about this, she told Jacob to get out of there quickly and go to her brother's house far away where he would be safe from Esau's anger.

So let's think about the consequences of what Jacob and his mother had done. When they tried to do things their way, it led to sin, and they ended up making a mess of things, didn't they? Now Jacob's relationship with his brother was ruined, and Rebekah had to send Jacob away. She thought it would only be for a few days, but we'll see that she actually lost Jacob for many years.

We may not like to wait, just like Rebekah and Jacob, but it's always best to wait for God's timing. When we try to do things our own way, it can lead to sin.

*Continue with the Lesson Review Game.*



**ISAAC** gave  
Jacob the blessing.

**JACOB** tricked  
his father.



**ESAU**  
was very  
angry.

