

Jacob Receives the Blessing

Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-40



The Story

Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac married Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah were sad because they did not have children. Isaac prayed to God asking for children and God heard his prayer. Rebekah was going to have twins!

God told Rebekah that even though it was the older son who was important, her younger son would be more important than the older son.

Rebekah's first baby had red hair all over. They named him Esau. The younger son was born hanging on to the older brother's foot. He was called Jacob.

So the boys grew. Esau was a good hunter, a man who liked to be outdoors. Jacob was a shepherd and liked to stay near the tents.

Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. This was not good. God wants parents to love all their children the same.

One day Jacob cooked a stew and Esau came in from the field very hungry.

Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am hungry."

Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright." Since Esau was the older son, he had a special inheritance from his father.

Esau said, "Look, I am about to die, so what is this birthright to me?" So Esau sold his birthright to Jacob and Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils. Esau then ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Esau did not treat his birthright as he should have. Now it belonged to Jacob.

When Isaac was old and he was blind, he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son."

Esau said, "Here I am."

Isaac said, "I am old. I do not know when I will die. Go out with your bow and arrow and hunt meat, cook it, and bring it to me. I will bless you before I die."

Was this the son God wanted to have the blessing?

Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau. She told Jacob to bring two goats and she would make food for Isaac that would taste like Esau's cooking. Then

Jacob should take the food to his father and pretend he is Esau so that he would get the blessing.

Does this sound like a honest plan?

Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."

Rebekah took clothes of Esau's and put them on Jacob. She put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she took the wild tasting food and the bread, which she had made, and gave it to Jacob.

Jacob went to his father and said, "My father."

Isaac said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat my food and bless me."

Isaac said, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?"

Jacob said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."

Is Jacob telling the truth?

Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel

you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and Isaac felt Jacob and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

Isaac did not recognize Jacob, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

After eating and drinking Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."

Jacob came near and kissed his father; and Isaac smelled the smell of Esau on Jacob's clothing, and blessed him and said, "May God give you plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brother. One day the Savior will come from your family."

Jacob had just left his father when Esau came in from hunting. He cooked food and brought it to his father. "Come and eat, Father, and bless me," Esau said.

Isaac said to him, "Who

are you?"

Esau said, "I am your older son, Esau."

Isaac shook and said, "Who? I already gave my blessing and whoever is blessed keeps the blessing." When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried very much and said to his father, "Bless me also, O my father!"

But Isaac said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

Esau said, "He took away my birthright, and now look,

he has

taken away my blessing! Isn't there a blessing left for me?"

Then Isaac said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master. I have given him the blessing of the Savior from his family."

Then Esau hated his brother Jacob and wanted to kill him.

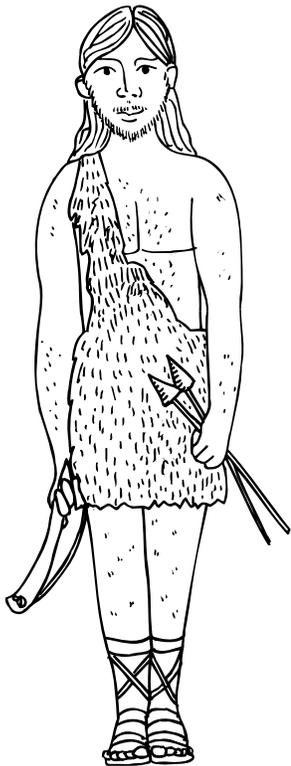
Activity One - Find the words from the lesson in the WORD SEARCH and tell how they fit the lesson.

ISAAC
REBEKAH
ESAU
JACOB
BLESSING
BIRTHRIGHT
JESUS
LOVE

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

It was the LORD's will that Jacob was given the blessing that the Savior was to come from his family.

Activity Two - Look at the pictures of Esau and Jacob. Decide if the word in the middle describes Esau or Jacob and draw a line to their picture.



Esau

first born

second born

shepherd

hunter

hairy red

stayed by tents

liked outdoors

loved by Isaac

loved by Rebekah

chosen by God to be Jesus' ancestor



Jacob

It is God's will that we receive earthly blessings and eternal salvation through Jesus.

Passages

James 1:14 – Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires.

1 John 3:15 – Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

The Lord's Prayer – Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Hymn - TLH #418 v.1

My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home on life's rough way,
Oh, teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done."

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for helping us learn the lesson today. Help us to believe and trust that Your will be done. We know it is Your will that all people be saved because of Your Son, Jesus', death on the cross. Help us to spread that saving message to our friends, family and neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.