



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: No Matter What, God Keeps His Promises

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 25–27

WORD OF WONDER: From Psalm 90:2

I grew up with a twin, and we sometimes engaged in “battles” growing up. I can identify somewhat with Jacob and Esau. When my twin sister and I were little, we once decided to swap identities to fool our family. We wore hats, switched clothes, and walked into the family room, declaring ourselves with each other’s names. Our parents knew who we were, and the ruse ended before it started!

We can probably all identify in ways with both Jacob, who tricked his brother to get what he thought he deserved, and Esau, who was deceived.

Read Genesis 25:29–34. In this story, the birthright was more than just a physical inheritance. Birthrights involved becoming the head of the family and spiritual leader when the father passed. And for this family, it involved inheriting the covenant God had made with Abraham—the promise of a land, a nation, and blessing the world.

God wasn’t thrown off by Jacob’s actions, just as my own parents weren’t fooled by my attempted trick as a child. His plans prevailed even when His people deceived, acted foolishly, and sinned. God doesn’t withhold His love from us when we act foolishly either.

We have access to an eternal inheritance and birthright in the family of God through Jesus, and it doesn’t depend on our character or actions, but on the character of God. He is faithful to keep His promises no matter what.

—Lynne Howard

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JACOB AND ESAU

DID YOU KNOW?

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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Guess the Object

SUPPLIES: bag or box, variety of small objects

Ahead of time, put a variety of small objects in a bag, such as a small ball, puzzle piece, paper clip, crayon, etc.

Show the kids the bag or box full of items. Invite each kid to reach inside the bag or box to feel for an item. Ask the kids to describe what they feel, and if they can guess the item they feel. Play until each kid has had a turn to play the game. If a kid is struggling to guess the item, give clues or offer two choices. Example: Is it a marker or a crayon?

We had to guess what was in the bag without seeing it. It's not always easy to know what something is when we can't see it clearly. We're going to hear about someone who played a trick on someone who couldn't see well. We'll hear about how God made a promise to a family, and even though someone played a trick and made a wrong choice, God kept His promise.



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LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, we're thankful we get to be together today. Help us learn more about You and Your love for us. Help us understand that You are the God who keeps Your promises no matter what! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? ***The Bible***

Ask: Why is the Bible special? ***Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.***

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 58-62

Isaac's Blessing

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Before You created the whole world, You are God. You will always be God.

— Psalm 90:2