



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**

Children’s Ministry Leader and Curriculum

Developer Wonder Ink Development Team

LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

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

Curiosity 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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who was Isaac's dad?** (*Abraham*)
- **What were the names of Isaac and Rebekah's twin sons?** (*Jacob and Esau*)
- **What did Esau have that Jacob wanted? How did Jacob get what he wanted?** (*the birthright; Jacob tricked Esau with a bowl of stew*)
- **What is your favorite soup or stew?**
- **Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? Have you ever been tricked? How did you feel?**
- **Name one promise God makes to us.** (*If kids need help, offer ideas such as: hearing our prayers, giving us what we need, forgiving us, loving us, helping us.*)
- **Even though Abraham's family made a big mistake, God still kept His promise to them. How does it make you feel to know you can trust God to be faithful to you too?**

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

—from Psalm 90:2



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Game: Target Time

SUPPLIES: beanbags (3), large bowls (3)

Before the kids arrive, set out three bowls evenly spaced on the ground. A few feet away, set out beanbags. The bowls will be the targets. Encourage the kids to line up near the beanbags.

In our story today, one brother was a hunter. Do you remember which brother was the hunter? Allow kids to respond. **Esau was a hunter, and he provided food for the family. Today we're going to do a little target practice, but don't worry—we'll be safe! We're going to toss these beanbags into our targets.**

Let the kids take turns tossing the beanbags into the bowls.

Sin means "missing the target." The target is what God wants—living God's way. We have all missed the target because we sin and make wrong choices. But God is faithful and forgives us! Esau got tricked by his brother. But even when Jacob made wrong choices, God was faithful to their family and kept His promises.