

**Date - November 8, 2020**

**Scripture/Bible Story/Theme**

Isaac and Rebekah and Esau and Jacob

Children's Illustrated Bible p. 46-48

God is steadfast and faithful

**\*\*\*\*\*Important note about blessings in Isaac's time – I thought this was something that needed to be explained to the children.**

During that time a blessing for a family mattered more than anything else. The blessing tied the past to the present and to the future. It could not be retracted and it could not be given again. It was not just about inheriting property, it was that God's blessing went with the one that had been blessed. The child that was not blessed was on their own. It was expected in those days that the blessing would go to the oldest son. That background information will help the students better understand the significance of the blessing that Isaac gives to the younger son Jacob.

Reference: - Walter Brueggemann – *Interpretation: Genesis*

**Workshop Name**

Family Tree Please note optional Reader's Theater about Esau and Jacob is also included.

Maybe during the week you would have time to read this with your kids.

**Opening Prayer**

Dear God,

We know that you are here, now, watching over us, guiding us with a plan for our lives. Help us to remember that you love us and that you are with us every step of our journey. Amen

**Objectives**

1. Find the stories of Isaac, Rebekah, Esau in Genesis, in the Old Testament.
2. Identify the following characters and place them correctly in the story: Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob.
3. Discover God's plan at work in the lives of these characters, despite their imperfections.
4. Understand that a loving, forgiving God is at work in their lives.
5. Realize that we need patience, persistence, and courage to wait for God's timing.
6. Discover that the stories are timeless and continue to speak to us today.

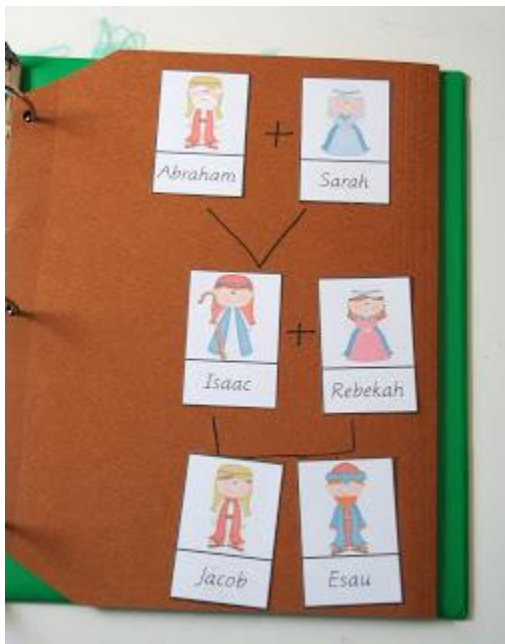
**Supplies – You will find in your supply bag a half sheet of poster board and 6 white cards. You will need to have marking pens or Sharpies and glue at home to complete this activity.**

See picture below.

## Activity

The idea here is to create a very simple family tree. In recent weeks the Kids' Kingdom group will have completed a study of Abraham and Sarah and now they are studying the next two generations of Isaac and Rebekah and Esau and Jacob. The family tree is to help the students track how all these people are related to one another. So, before you begin you may need to do a quick review of Abraham and Sarah.

1. Write the names of the six characters on a large sheet of paper for the students to be able to copy their names.
2. Have the children draw and color each of the six characters to be included in the family tree. They can include some of the features such as the thick red hair for Esau and that he was the hunter and that Jacob was his mother's favorite and liked to stay at home. You will need to use Sharpie or marking pens on the white cards.
3. Glue the six rectangles onto the large sheet of poster board. Draw lines as shown below to connect the generations. Abraham marries Sarah. Abraham and Sarah have a son Isaac. Isaac marries Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah have two sons Esau and Jacob.



## Reflection/Evaluation

The following could be used for discussion:

How were the boys different? Jacob was quiet and preferred to help his mother. Esau was hairy, and a hunter and outdoors-type, strong and adventurous hunter preferred by his father Isaac.

How did Jacob trick Esau the first time? He traded some stew for Esau's birthright.

How did Jacob trick Isaac and Esau the second time? He pretended to be Esau and stole the blessing. Rebekah wanted Jacob to have the birthright. Rebekah dresses Jacob like Esau in his brother's clothes to trick Isaac.

How is Isaac tricked? He feels the hands that he thinks are Esau's. Jacob lies and tells him that he is Esau.

What happened when Esau came home? He was angry and wanted to kill Jacob.

Can Isaac change what he has already done? No, it was already promised to Jacob and it could not be changed.

What did Jacob do? He ran away because Rebekah told him that Esau planned to kill him.

Do we always know what God's plan for us is? Do we sometimes not trust in God's plan?

What example can you think of when you did not trust in God's plan?

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Reader's Theater**

#### Esau and Jacob

NARRATOR: When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of hunting; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a lentil stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob,

ESAU: "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!"

JACOB: "First sell me your birthright."

ESAU: "I am about to die of hunger, of what use is a birthright to me?"

JACOB: "Swear to me first."

NARRATOR: So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau lost his birthright for a plate of lentil stew and bread.

NARRATOR: When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am."

ISAAC: "See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die."

NARRATOR: Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, Rebekah said to her son Jacob,

Rebekah: "I heard your father say to your brother Esau, 'Bring me game, and prepare for me savory food to eat, that I may bless you before the LORD before I die.'

Now therefore, my son, obey my word as I command you. Go to the flock, and get me two choice goats, so that I may prepare from them savory food for your father, such as he likes; and you shall take it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies."

JACOB: "Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a man of smooth skin. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him, and bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."

Rebekah: "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my word, and go, get them for me."

NARRATOR: So he went and got them and brought them to his mother; and his mother prepared savory food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob; and she put the skins of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she handed the

savory food, and the bread that she had prepared, to her son Jacob.

So he went in to his father, and said,

JACOB: "My father";

ISAAC: "Here I am; who are you, my son?"

JACOB: "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me."

ISAAC: "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?"

JACOB: "Because the LORD your God granted me success."

NARRATOR: Then Isaac said to Jacob,

ISAAC: "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not."

NARRATOR: So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

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

ISAAC: "Are you really my son Esau?"

JACOB: "I am."

ISAAC: "Bring it to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you."

NARRATOR: So he brought it to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him,

ISAAC: "Come near and kiss me, my son."

NARRATOR: So he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his garments, and blessed him, and said,

ISAAC: "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed. May God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

NARRATOR: As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of his father Isaac, his brother Esau came in from his hunting. He also prepared savory food, and brought it to his father. And he said to his father,

ESAU: "Let my father sit up and eat of his son's game, so that you may bless me."

ISAAC: "Who are you?"

ESAU: "I am your firstborn son, Esau."

NARRATOR: Then Isaac trembled violently, and said,

ISAAC: "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him?--yes, and blessed he shall be!"

NARRATOR: When Esau heard his father's words, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father,

ESAU: "Bless me, me also, father!"

ISAAC: "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing."

ESAU: "He took away my birthright; and look, now he has taken away my blessing." "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

ISAAC: "I have already made him your lord, and I have given him all his brothers as servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?"

ESAU: "Have you only one blessing, father? Bless me, me also, father!"

NARRATOR: And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Then his father Isaac answered him:

ISAAC: "See, away from the fatness of the earth shall your home be, and away from the dew of heaven on high. By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you break loose, you shall break his yoke from your neck."

NARRATOR: Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself,

ESAU: "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

NARRATOR: But the words of her elder son Esau were told to Rebekah; so she sent and called her younger son Jacob and said to him,

Rebekah: "Your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran, and stay with him a while, until your brother's fury turns away- - until your brother's anger against you turns away, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send, and bring you back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"