

2 Videos:
biblestoriesonline.com/stories/Jacob-and-Esau-Two-Nations-in-One-Tummy (1:29)
Watch the next video:
biblestoriesonline.com/stories/Esau-The-Man-Who-Made-a-Foolish-Trade (3:42)

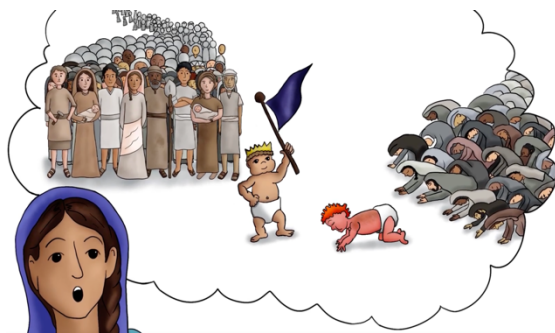


Lesson #17: JACOB & ESAU AND THE BIRTHRIGHT (GENESIS 25:19-34)



The Bible says that Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. For many years they didn't have a baby. Isaac prayed for God to give them a child. God said "yes"!

So, Rebekah's tummy got very BIG. Her tummy went wiggle and bump a lot. Rebekah thought maybe something was wrong. So, she did what all wise people do when they are hurting. She talked to God about it.



God explained, "Two nations are in your tummy. One nation will be stronger than the other. The older boy will serve the younger boy." Rebekah was going to have twins - 2 baby boys! And they would each become leaders of entire nations of people.

Finally, the time came for the two boys to be born. The first baby was red all over, like red hairy clothes, so they named him Esau, which means "hairy".



When his younger brother arrived, his little hand was grabbing hold of Esau's tiny heel. They named him Jacob, which means "sneaky grabber".



When the boys grew up, Esau became a skilled hunter who liked being out in the countryside. Jacob was a peaceful man, who liked to stay at home doing more peaceful things working around the tents.



Esau went on a long hunting trip, but he didn't get an animal. So, when he returned home Esau was very, very hungry. Jacob was cooking red bean stew. Esau said, "Please let me have some of your stew. I'm starving."



Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."



A birthright is lots of special gifts that a father gives to the firstborn. So, since Esau was born before Jacob, Esau would get those special gifts when he got older. But Jacob wanted those special things, so Jacob tried to make a trade. Jacob was playing a mean trick on his brother.

Esau said, "I'm so hungry I feel like I'm about to die! What good are those special gifts to me later? I'm hungry now!" But Jacob said, "Promise me that I can have your birthright if I give you some soup." And Esau promised. (Even though Esau foolishly agreed to the deal, Jacob was also being a grabber and taking advantage of Esau.)



Jacob gave Esau some bread and soup. Esau slurped it all up. Gone with the soup went all those special things he could have had. What was Esau thinking? His birthright was a gift from God since he was the firstborn. But Esau threw it all away because he wanted that soup so much. He cared more about filling his belly than he cared about the special thing God had given him. Esau only thought about what he wanted now. He didn't stop to think about the future.

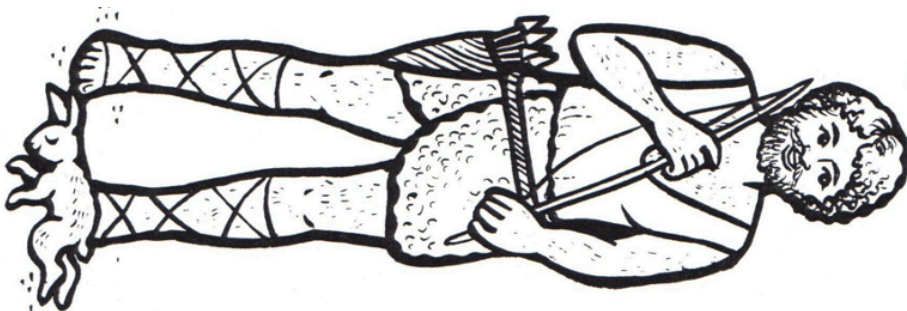
Now that the soup was gone and his belly was full, Esau felt bad that he traded his birthright for one little meal. So, he stormed off angrily. Later, Esau cried and cried trying to get his birthright back, but it was too late.

Some decisions have consequences that can't be undone. If we focus on worldly things, we are giving away some of our heart that is meant for God.

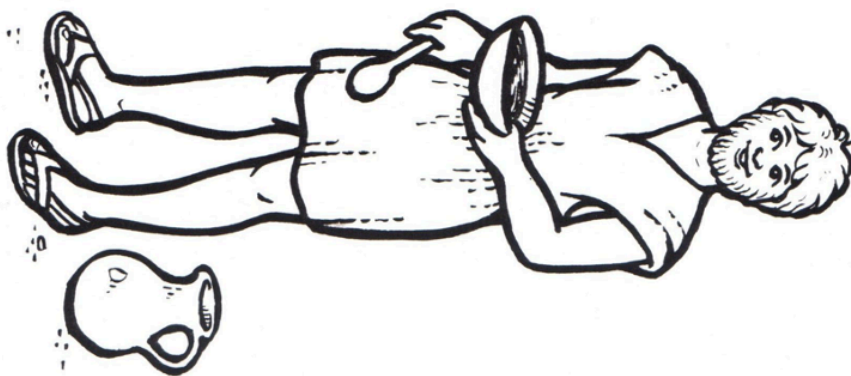


PRIMARY GRADES ACTIVITY

E
S
A
U



J
A
C
O
B



Esau grew to be a skillful hunter.
Jacob grew to help at home.

Circle the 3 things that relate to each brother.



Esau
skillful hunter



Jacob
helped at home



UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY


Cross out all the X's, V's, Q's and Z's from the maze.
Then write the remaining letters in order on the lines below to find the answer.

WHEN ESAU ASKED JACOB FOR FOOD, HOW DID JACOB REPLY?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| → | Z | J | X | Q | A | C | V | O | X |
| | R | Z | S | T | X | S | V | E | B |
| | V | V | R | Q | B | X | I | Z | Q |
| | I | U | I | X | G | Q | Z | Q | R |
| | F | Z | R | T | V | H | R | L | Z |
| | Q | O | Z | H | V | T | Q | V | E |
| | D | Q | Y | X | E | M | Z | L | V |
| | Z | E | X | I | Q | L | V | X | P |

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IN YOUR OWN WORDS:
What did Esau do wrong?