



# Jacob and Esau

Lesson Aim: To know we can forgive each other.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The God Who Keeps His Promises

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Genesis 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11

**What He Has Done:** God kept His promised plan for each brother.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "Forgive everyone."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go." Genesis 28:15

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-11, 14-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To see how to live in peace with one another.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 21:12-20	God kept His promise when He rescued Hagar and Ishmael in the desert.	To know God watches over us.
34	Abraham's Visitors, Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14	God sent three men to say His promise would come true.	To know God can do anything He promises.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-46, 61-67	God helped Abraham's servant find Rebekah.	To show how to obey and pray throughout every task we are given.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11	God kept His promised plan for each brother.	To know we can forgive each other.
37	Life of Jacob: The Dream, Genesis 28:12-17	God told Jacob in a dream He would keep His promise.	To trust God to keep His promise to be with us wherever we go.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 1 Timothy 1:12-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for choosing us. Inspire the children to pursue the repairing and the building of family relationships that honor You and each other. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heart
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Forgive everyone."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "I Am with You" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "Father Abraham" "Trust and Obey"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 36
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Genesis 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 33:4 Visual: Large red paper heart
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Esau Finger Puppet	Flesh-colored and various colors of sturdy paper, label, glue or glue stick, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Forgiveness Circle	None
		<b>Game:</b> Who's Got the Heart?	Large red paper heart, optional: Use the WATCH THE WORD visual.
		<b>Snack:</b> Hearts of Forgiveness	Heart-shaped crackers or cookies
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 36 Color This Story: "Jacob and Esau"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Genesis 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> God Chose You	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Stand Up and Say It!	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Wherever You Go	Chairs (optional)
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about forgiveness

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



## Forgive everyone **THE WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I am glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a heart remind you to forgive everyone with all your heart. Today's Whisper Verse is "Forgive everyone."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

### **SIGN LANGUAGE: "Forgive everyone."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>"Forgive"</b>   | The hands appear to be cleaning themselves to show that whatever was there is no longer there.   |
| <b>"everyone."</b> | One hand shaped in a fist with thumb on top, move down while the other hand in fist with thumb on top goes up with index finger pointing up (for a 1). Repeat. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "Forgive everyone," Luke 11:4. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God who keeps His promises

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.

**It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who keeps His promises. God has promised to be with us wherever we go. Long ago, God was with twin brothers named Jacob and Esau. Esau was the older of the twins. Jacob tricked his father Isaac into giving him the family's special blessing which Esau should have received as the oldest son. Esau was very angry when it happened but eventually he forgave Jacob and gave him a great big hug. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse, “Forgive everyone.” Let's say it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: “Forgive everyone.” Include sign language.**



**Just as Esau forgave his brother Jacob, God wants us to forgive everyone. Sing: “Love One Another.”**

**In today's story, Jacob sent a message to Esau because he was sorry for what he had done. When we are sorry for what we have done, we can tell God we are sorry. God has promised to forgive us when we are truly sorry, and He always keeps His promises. Sing: “The Lord Is Faithful.”**

**As we collect our offering, let's ask God to show us anything we have been doing that is wrong in His eyes. If you think of something you have done wrong, quietly ask God to forgive you and He will! Sing: “Trust and Obey” or substitute “Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled” while the offering is collected.**



**Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello have heard the story of Jacob and Esau. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 36.**



**God watched over Jacob and Esau their whole lives. God promises to watch over us, too. Sing: “I Am with You.” Let's thank God for always keeping His promise to watch over us. Sing: “Give Thanks to the Lord.”**



Esau forgives Jacob

## THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **Classroom Promise with the motions.**

**With my eyes on my teacher;**

**My mouth quiet as can be,**

**I will listen to hear,**

**How God loves you and me.**

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we heard how a faithful servant found a wife for Isaac. Today, we will learn about Isaac and Rebekah's twin boys, Jacob and Esau. Let's open our Bible to the first book of the Bible, **Genesis**. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Genesis 33:4.

### **WATCH THE WORD: GENESIS 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11**

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a large red paper heart. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **Jacob tricked his father Isaac.**
- **This made his brother Esau mad.**
- **So Jacob ran away from Esau**
- **And hurried across the land.**
  
- **Then Jacob sent a message to Esau.**
- **Esau showed that he forgave.**
- **He ran to give Jacob a kiss and a hug;**
- **They became friends that day.**
  
- **When Jacob saw Esau's face**
- **And how he was forgiven,**
- **He said it was like seeing the face**
- **Of the Lord God in heaven.**



**What did Esau do when he saw Jacob coming toward him?** (He ran to meet him. He gave him a kiss and a hug.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Genesis 33:4 from the teacher's Bible.

**Esau forgave Jacob. What does God want us to do?** (Forgive everyone.) **The answer is in our Whisper Verse! Let's say our Whisper Verse together, "Forgive everyone."** Include sign language or hand motions.



Forgive everyone

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: ESAU FINGER PUPPET**

**Purpose:** To remember the big hug Esau gave to Jacob when he forgave him.

**Supplies:** Flesh-colored and various colors of sturdy paper, label, glue or glue stick, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** Cut a 2-inch x 6-inch rectangle shape for Esau's robe from any color sturdy paper. Cut two finger holes at the bottom of the robe. From the flesh-colored paper, cut a 2-inch circle for Esau's head, two 1-inch x 8-inch strips of paper for Esau's long arms, and two paper hands. For arms, fold the two long strips of paper accordion style. On a label, print:

**Esau forgives Jacob. Genesis 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11**

#### **Directions:**

1. Draw Esau's happy face on the circle.
2. Glue the circle shape onto the top of the rectangle (robe).
3. Attach the label to Esau's robe.
4. For Esau's arms, glue a folded paper strip to either side of the rectangle.
5. Glue hands on the ends of the paper strip arms.
6. Optional: Color the arms to make Esau's arms hairy.
7. Show children how to put their fingers in the holes to make Esau walk.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **How do you think Jacob felt when he saw Esau had forgiven him?** (Children respond.)
- **With your Esau puppet, can you show me how Esau would have run to see his brother, Jacob?** (Children respond.) **Now, show me how he gave Jacob a big hug.**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: FORGIVENESS CIRCLE**

**Purpose:** To build a habit of forgiving as quickly as possible from the heart with a hug.

**Supplies:** None

### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Teacher turns to child on his/her right and in sign language says: "Forgive everyone."
3. Then teacher hugs the child as Esau hugged Jacob.
4. That child then turns to the child on his/her right and repeats the sign language and hug.
5. After receiving the sign language and hug, each child then shares the sign language and the hug with the next child until everyone in the circle has received a hug.
6. If time allows, repeat this game to see how quickly you can complete the forgiveness circle.

## **GAME: WHO'S GOT THE HEART?**

**Purpose:** To challenge us to forgive everyone.

**Supplies:** Large red paper heart, optional: Use the WATCH THE WORD visual.

**Teacher Tip:** Have some examples of times to forgive ready to get children thinking, such as when somebody takes the toy you wanted to play with, your baby sister chews on your favorite book, or your friend isn't nice to you.

### **Directions:**

1. Children are seated in a circle.
2. Teacher places the heart in the center of the circle.
3. **God wants us to forgive everyone. Sometimes, it is hard to forgive others. It must have been hard for Esau to forgive Jacob for taking his blessing.**
4. **Anyone who would like to share may come hold the heart and tell us something that is hard to forgive.**
5. Allow any child who wants to share to take a turn. After each one shares, lead the children in saying, **"Forgive everyone!"** with sign language.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: HEARTS OF FORGIVENESS**

**Purpose:** To remember to forgive others.

**Snack Suggestion:** Heart-shaped crackers or cookies

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.**  
**Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **Esau forgave Jacob for taking his blessing. God wants us to forgive others, too. That reminds me of our Whisper Verse. Who remembers it?** ("Forgive everyone.") Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
  - **Have you ever done something wrong that you needed to ask forgiveness for?** (Children respond.) **Did someone forgive you?** (Children respond.) **How did that feel?** (Children respond.)
  - **Have you ever forgiven someone else?** (Children respond.) **How did that feel?** (Children respond.)



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "Esau Finger Puppet." Tell someone how Esau forgave Jacob and gave him a big hug.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God wants us to forgive everyone.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Jacob and Esau." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Am with You," as children color.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SAY & DO: GENESIS 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions, then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Jacob tricked his father Isaac.** (Wag index finger no.)
- **This made his brother Esau mad.** (Fold arms angrily.)
- **So Jacob ran away from Esau** (Run in place.)
- **To live in a far away land.** (Walk in place.)
  
- **Then Jacob sent a message to Esau.** (Cup hands at mouth, as if calling.)
- **Esau showed that he forgave.** (Pretend to clean hands.)
- **He ran to give Jacob a kiss and a hug;** (Hug self.)
- **They became friends that day.** (Hands on heart.)
  
- **When Jacob saw Esau's face** (Point to eyes.)
- **And how he was forgiven,** (Pretend to clean hands.)
- **He said it was like seeing the face** (Point to eyes.)
- **Of the Lord God in heaven.** (Point to heaven.)

### **GAME: GOD CHOSE YOU**

**Purpose:** To remind children that regardless of our sins and weaknesses, God chooses us to build His kingdom, just as He chose Jacob.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:**

1. Sit children in a circle.
2. Choose a child to stand in the center of circle as the remaining children and teacher chant:  

Child's name, Child's name,  
**God chose you.**  
**He's got a job**  
**for you to do!**
3. Each child takes a turn in the center of the circle to hear his or her name in the chant.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go." Genesis 28:15

### **GAME: STAND UP AND SAY IT!**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** None

**In the Bible, God made a promise to watch over us. We can remember that promise by saying it to one another.** Practice saying the Bible Memory Verse together a few times.

#### **Directions:**

1. Say, **"If you are a girl, I want you to stand and say God's promise together."**
2. The girls stand and say, **"I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go."**
3. Repeat steps 1-2 with various groups such as:
  - If you are a boy,
  - If you love God,
  - If you are wearing something blue,
  - If you have a brother or sister,
4. Play as often as you like, announcing different groups each time.

### **GAME: WHEREVER YOU GO**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Chairs (optional)

**Prepare:** In this game, the children will pretend to travel to various locations. You may choose to set up two rows of chairs next to each other as a pretend car or the children can sit in rows on the floor.

**In the Bible, God made a promise to watch over us wherever we go. What are some of the places we go?** (e.g., Grandma's house, store, playground, doctor's office.)

#### **Directions:**

1. Children sit in the chairs or sit in rows on the floor.
2. **Let's pretend we're riding in a car.** Ask one of the children, **"Where should we go?"**
3. Have fun pretending to drive the car to that location. Pretend to stop for traffic or to take a wrong turn. When you arrive, say, **"We're here!"**
4. You may choose to have the children get out of the car and act out an activity they might do at that location, such as hugging grandma, buying milk, or running in place for the playground.
5. Ask, **"Is God with us when we are at name of location?"**
6. Lead the children in saying, **"God says, 'Yes! I will watch over you wherever you go.'"**
7. If the children got out of the car, have them take their seats again. Play as often as you like or as long as children are interested. You may choose to change the vehicle into a bus, train, or airplane depending on the location to which you are traveling.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about forgiveness.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 7, Lesson 36: Jacob and Esau

**PONDER!** Read Genesis 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11 with your family. Jacob fooled his father and took his brother's blessing. Discuss how sometimes we do wrong in God's eyes by hurting our family members. Talk about how wonderful it must have been when Esau forgave Jacob!

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer, each day this week: "Thank You, Lord, for forgiving each of us. Help us forgive our family members, just as Esau forgave his brother Jacob. Amen."

**PLAY!** Draw a picture or create any type of gift to give to a family member who has forgiven you. Give it as a way to thank that person, just as Jacob gave Esau a gift to thank him for his forgiveness.

**Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse:** Genesis 28:15

"I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go."