



Jacob and Esau

Lesson Aim: To understand the role of God's mercy in the lives of those He chooses to use in His plans.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36

What He has done: God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.

Key Verse: Genesis 27:23

THE WAY

Christ Connection: 1 Timothy 1:15-16

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how to be a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To challenge children in each job they have been given to obey, pray, and give themselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To understand the role of God's mercy in the lives of those He chooses to use in His plans.
37	Life of Jacob: The Blessing, Genesis 32:24-30; 33:4, 8-10; 35:1, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To inspire spiritual growth in pursuing God's blessings and in mending relationships.

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 repairing and building family relationships that honor You and each other. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Family Fray	Three sets of cloth strips or flags, each a different color (one flag per team member)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am With You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Standing On the Promises" "Great is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 32:1-2	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 36 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36	Map—Haran (in modern day Southeast Asian Turkey), Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: 1 Timothy 1:15-16	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Lentil bean, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Fruit Stew	Applesauce, fresh or canned fruit chunks (such as apples, pears, and grapes)
	Up to 10	Game: Family Support	Dice, paper, pen (or something on which to keep score)
	Up to 10	Craft: Chosen and Forgiven	Two large craft sticks, ribbon or string, scissors, glue, double-sided tape, markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Understanding the Promise	None
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is the best trick you have ever seen?

GAME: FAMILY FRAY

Purpose: Children will form teams of family members and attempt to collect the most flags from other family member teams.

Supplies: Three sets of cloth strips or flags, each a different color (one flag per team member)

Who has brothers and sisters? Children raise hands. **Do you sometimes argue with each other?** (Children respond.) **Let's play a game with three family teams: the Brothers, the Sisters, and the Parents. Work with your team to try to take the most flags from the other teams.**

Directions:

1. Form three teams (*Brothers, Sisters, and Parents) of an equal number of players. Assign a corner of the play area and give a set of flags (cloth strips) to each team. (Example: Brothers get white flags, Sisters get red flags, and Parents get green flags.) Each player should tuck the end of a flag into his or her waistband.
2. On your signal, the players are to grab the flags of the other teams and pile them in their own team corners. Players cannot hold onto their own flags or attempt to retake them. Children are not allowed to touch, tackle, or trip each other. If you are playing indoors, remind the players to not run.
3. The game is over when all the flags have been taken. The goal is to be the team with the most flags taken from the other teams.

Sometimes, brothers and sisters steal each other's toys or play mean tricks on each other. It is important to show our love for family members by treating them with respect. Today, we are going to learn about two brothers who did not get along at all.

* Note that the boys will most likely want to be on the Brothers team and girls on the Sisters team. Genders can be combined for the Parents team. If your group of children is all one gender, create sibling teams using proper names, such as Brother Andrew's team or Brother Sam's team.



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 music as children move to the designated area.

Welcome! Today, we worship the God who keeps His promises. In today's story, we will discover Jacob lied to his father and cheated his brother out of his inheritance and his blessing. When we see the sins of Jacob, we are reminded we are all sinners, yet God chooses to bless us and use us in His perfect plan. Let's take time now to confess our own sins to the Lord, and ask Him to bless us with His forgiveness.



Read Psalm 32:1-2.



As we give our offerings, let's celebrate God's promise to forgive our sins when we confess them. Sing: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God watching over us.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 36.



Jacob takes Esau's birthright and blessing

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we discovered Abraham's servant found a wife for Isaac. What happened when the servant arrived at the well? (He prayed for God's sign to be a woman who gave water to him and his camels.) What was the name of the wife the servant found for Isaac? (Rebekah.)

Soon, Rebekah and Isaac were married. They had twin boys named Jacob and Esau. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Esau, being the firstborn, would receive a double inheritance, which was his "birthright." This meant the oldest son was given most of what his father owned after his father's death.**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 25:29-33; 27:19-23, 32-36. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 27:23.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Listen to what happened when Jacob and Esau grew up. Read Genesis 25:29-33. **When Isaac was very old and blind, he asked Esau to go hunting and prepare his favorite food for him. Isaac was going to give Esau the family's special blessing saved for the oldest son. In the meantime, Rebekah chose to help Jacob trick his father into giving him the blessing. She gave him Esau's clothes and covered his hands and neck with goatskins so he would be hairy like Esau. Then Jacob brought Isaac's favorite food to him.** Read Genesis 27:19-23. **Isaac gave the special blessing to Jacob. When Esau returned, he asked for the blessing, but it was too late. Let's read what happened next.** Read Genesis 27:32-36. **Esau was very angry, so Jacob was afraid and ran away to Haran.** If a map is available, point to Haran in modern day Southeast Asian Turkey.



God chooses us for His plan

THE WAY

When Esau asked for some stew, what did Jacob do? (He would not give it to him unless Esau sold him his birthright, his inheritance.) **Jacob tricked Esau into giving him his special inheritance for a bowl of stew. How do you think Esau felt?** (Angry, cheated.)

When Isaac was old, what did Rebekah and Jacob decide to do? (Tricked Isaac into giving Jacob the family's special blessing.) **What happened?** (They dressed Jacob like Esau and Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob instead of Esau.) **Jacob tricked his father and brother. He received both the birthright and the family blessing reserved for the oldest son. What did Esau do when he found out?** (He begged his father to give him a blessing. He was very angry with Jacob.) **Jacob suffered the consequences of his sin—he had to run away because Esau threatened to kill him for what he had done.**

Do you think God knew Jacob had sinned? (Yes. He sees everything.) **Do you think Jacob deserved to keep the blessing after stealing from his brother?** (Children respond.) **Since God hates sin, it is very hard to understand why He would allow Jacob's sin to move His perfect plan forward. In Isaiah 55:8, God tells us His thoughts are not our thoughts, and our ways are not His ways. God chose to show mercy to Jacob. To show mercy is to forgive and show undeserved kindness.**

Even though Jacob had lied to his father and cheated his brother, God did not reject him. Seeing Jacob's sins reminds us that God is full of mercy toward us. He uses us in His plans, even though we do not deserve it.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Almost 2000 years after we see Jacob's sinfulness, Paul explains one reason God shows us His mercy. Before believing in Jesus, Paul (then called Saul) was a violent man determined to hurt those who followed Jesus. Check out what Paul said about the fact that God chose Him and used Him in His plan even though he was a sinner.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 1 Timothy 1:15-16. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16.

This statement from Paul is true for all of us because we all sin (do wrong in God's eyes). God chose to forgive and use sinners like Jacob and Paul to build His kingdom. God will use us to build His kingdom, too.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a lentil bean. Beans like this were in the tasty lentil stew Jacob used in tricking his brother Esau. Let it remind you that even though we do wrong, God chooses to build His kingdom with imperfect people like Jacob and each of us!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 36 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jacob receiving the blessing from his father. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: FRUIT STEW

Purpose: To enjoy a snack symbolizing the stew Jacob gave to Esau.

Snack Suggestion: Applesauce, fresh or canned fruit chunks (such as apples, pears, and grapes)

Let's have some fruit stew for our snack! In today's story, Jacob used stew to trick his brother, Esau. We will not have any mean tricks with our stew, but I would like to hear about some of the things that cause you to argue with your brothers, sisters, or cousins.

Directions:

1. Scoop some of the applesauce and fruit chunks into a bowl for each child. Encourage them to mix up their "stew." Serve drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. As you eat, ask the children to share things that cause arguments with their siblings or cousins.

GAME: FAMILY SUPPORT

Purpose: Children will form teams ("families") in which members help each other answer the questions.

Supplies: Dice, paper, pen (or something on which to keep score)

In this game, you will be divided into "families" and you will each take turns as the family captain. To get points for your family team, your whole family must help the family captain answer the question.

Directions:

1. Form teams of six players per "family." Ask each team to choose a name for their family. They can also decide if they want to choose who will be the mother, father, brother, sister, and/or grandparents. Assign a number, one through six, to each person in the family.
2. Roll one die. The player from each family that is assigned that number will be the family captain for the first question.
3. Ask the first question from the list below. Provide a minute for each captain to confer with the rest of the family before answering. After that minute passes, say, "go." The captains must jump up and yell out the answer. If the family worked together on the answer, they get five points.
4. Repeat steps two and three for each question. Remind families they will get five points just for working together on an answer. Ideally, all the families will get five points every round, but it may take a few rounds for some families to understand this idea.

Questions:

1. What is one of the things God filled the heavens and earth with on the second day of Creation? (Plants, trees, sun, moon, stars.)
2. What are the names of the first man and woman God created? (Adam and Eve.)
3. What did God do on the seventh day of Creation? (He rested.)
4. From what did God save Noah, his family, and the animals? (The flood.)
5. Name one thing God promised to Abraham. (God promised to bless him, give him a great name (fame), a family that would become a nation, a baby.)
6. What was the name of the son God gave to Abraham and Sarah? (Isaac.)
7. What was the name of the girl Isaac married? (Rebekah.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CHOSEN AND FORGIVEN

Purpose: For children to create a cross to help them remember God chose them and forgave them, even though their behavior is not always pleasing to Him.

Supplies: Two large craft sticks, ribbon or string, scissors, glue, double-sided tape, markers

Today's story shows us Jacob did wrong in God's eyes. Just like Jacob, we all have sinned. The good news is God has chosen us and uses us in His plan, even though we are sinners. All who believe in Jesus are chosen by God and forgiven by His Son. Today, we will make a cross to remind us we are both chosen and forgiven.

Directions:

1. Tape (or glue) the two craft sticks together to form a cross.
2. Have the children write the word "CHOSEN" across the horizontal craft stick so that the "O" in "CHOSEN" is at the point where the two craft sticks meet.
3. Have the children write the word "FORGIVEN" down the vertical craft stick using the "O" already written in from the word "CHOSEN."
4. Cut a 6 inch piece of ribbon or string. Make a loop and glue it to the back of the top of the cross so it can be hung on the wall.
5. Children may use the markers to decorate their crosses.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: For I know/ the plans/ I have for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to prosper you/ and not to harm you/ plans to give you hope/ and a future/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

Directions:

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE

Purpose: To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us. Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

How can we seek God? (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) How did God test Abraham? (God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.) **Who did God send to stop Abraham before he sacrificed Isaac?** (An angel.) **What did God promise Abraham?** (He would have more family than stars in the sky.)

Isaac and Rebekah Who did Abraham send to find the future wife for Isaac? (His chief servant.) **What happened when the servant arrived at the well?** (He prayed for God's sign to be a woman who gave him and his camels water.) **What was the name of the wife the servant found for Isaac?** (Rebekah.)

Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) What did Jacob do to Esau? (He tricked him out of his birthright; He took his blessing by tricking their father Isaac into giving it to him.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)