

## LESSON 6: JACOB AND ESAU

from Genesis 24:1 to 27:45

Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac grew up. He married a woman named Rebekah. They had twin sons, Esau and Jacob.

The twins did not get along with each other. Isaac liked Esau the best and Rebekah liked Jacob the best. Esau was hairy and spent most of his time outside. Jacob was smooth-skinned and liked to stay inside. Esau was the oldest of the two which meant that he would be in charge when their father Isaac died. This is called a birthright.

One time when the boys were grown up, Esau came home from hunting and was very hungry. Jacob had just made some soup. He wouldn't share the soup until Esau promised that Jacob could be in charge when their father died. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup.

Another time, when Isaac was very old and couldn't see well, he told Esau to bring him some special food and that he would give him a special blessing. Rebekah, the boys' mother, heard this. While Esau went hunting to find a wild animal to kill and prepare, she helped Jacob cook a sheep. Rebekah told Jacob to wear Esau's clothes and to put animal skins on his arms and neck so that he would be hairy.

Jacob took the cooked sheep to his father Isaac. "Here I am, Father," he said. Isaac asked, "Are you Esau? You sound like Jacob."

"I am Esau," Jacob lied. Isaac said, "Come close so that I can hug you." When they hugged, Isaac said, "You sound like Jacob, but you feel and smell like Esau." And Isaac gave a special blessing to Jacob.

As soon as Jacob left, Isaac came in with his cooked meal. "Here I am, Father," he said. Isaac said, "Who are you?" Esau said, "I am Esau." Isaac trembled and said, "Then who was just here? I already ate and gave a blessing to Esau."

Esau realized that Jacob had tricked him. He became very angry and decided to kill Jacob as soon as their father died. Rebekah heard about his plan and sent Jacob far away.

1. How were Jacob and Esau different?

Esau was: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Jacob was: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which twin was supposed to get the birthright and the blessing?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who twin ended up with the birthright and the blessing?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did Jacob leave his family?

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\_\_\_\_\_

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## EXTRA QUESTIONS (Lesson 6)

5. At the end of today's story, the brothers were enemies.

How do you think Esau felt? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you think Jacob felt? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. After many years, the brothers met again. Read Genesis 32:4 to 33:16 to find out what happened. What are some things Jacob did to show that he wanted to make things right between them?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Did Jacob know that his brother Esau wasn't going to kill him? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there someone that you don't get along with? Be encouraged that someday you and this other person may be friends again.

8. Read Genesis 35:10. What is the new name that God gave to Jacob?

\_\_\_\_\_

Where have you heard or seen this name before?

\_\_\_\_\_

Jacob's influence is important, even to today!