

Aug 16, 2026

Jacob and Esau - Twins that don't get along
Genesis 25-27

Story: Read the story ahead of time. Practice it. For the younger grades, feel free to summarize, if needed. It's okay to reference the story as you are telling it, but the goal is to know the story well enough that you don't have to read it word for word. :) And, we encourage you to have your Bible open during the telling of the story, so the kids know where this story came from.

★ **Introduction & Story:**

We have spent the last few weeks talking about the beginning of the Bible and the world. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God made a beautiful garden called Eden. He put the first people there (Adam and Eve) and it was perfect. But it didn't stay perfect for long. No, Adam and Eve sinned. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God. And the consequence of sin is death and separation from God. But God said He would send a Savior. While people were waiting for a Savior, what did they do? More sin!! Despite all of the sin, God was faithful to His promise to send a Savior. He continued to carry His plan out through sinful people.

When Isaac grew up, he married a girl named Rebekah. After a while, Rebekah gave birth to twins. The twin's names were Esau and Jacob. Esau was born first. In that culture, the oldest son inherited what was called a birthright. That meant that when his father, Isaac died, he would inherit twice as much as his brother, Jacob.

Esau and Jacob were nothing alike. Esau was dark skinned and hairy. His name actually means "hairy." Jacob was fairer. Esau was a hunter and loved the outdoors. Jacob was quiet and loved to stay around the house. Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field tired from hunting. He said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that stew, because I'm tired and hungry."

Jacob replied, "First give me your birthright."

"Look," said Esau, "I'm about to die, so what good is a birthright to me?"

So, he said Jacob could have his birthright. Then Jacob gave bread and lentil stew to Esau; he ate, drank, got up, and went away.

Isaac grew old and was blind. One day Isaac called his older son Esau and said to him, "My son, take your hunting gear and go out in the field to hunt some game for me. Then make me a delicious meal and bring it to me to eat, so that I can bless you before I die."

Rebekah was listening to what Isaac said to his son Esau. While Esau went to the field to hunt, Rebekah told her son Jacob what she had heard. She knew that Isaac was planning on blessing Esau before he died so that Esau would have the birthright. She told Jacob to go to their flock and pick out two young goats. She planned to make a delicious stew for Isaac and send Jacob to give the stew to Isaac so that Jacob could receive the blessing.

Jacob knew that even though his father could not see, he would know that it was him and not his brother.

Rebekah had an idea. She had Jacob put on some of his brother's clothes. She put skins of the young goats on his hands and the smooth part of his neck (because Esau was hairy and Jacob was not, so this would fool Isaac). Then she handed the food and the bread she had made to her son Jacob and told him to take it to his father.

Isaac was not sure that Jacob was Esau, but Jacob lied to him. Isaac touched the goat skin on Jacob and decided that it must be Esau. He gave Jacob the blessing that Esau should have gotten.

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob and Jacob had left his father Isaac, his brother Esau came in from his hunting. He made some food and brought it to his father.

But his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?"

He answered, "I am Esau, your firstborn son."

Isaac became angry. "Who was it then," he said, "who brought food to me? I ate it all before you came in, and I blessed him. Indeed, he will be blessed!"

When Esau heard this, he said to his father, "Bless me too, my father!"

But Isaac replied, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing."

In that tradition, once a blessing was given, it could not be taken back.

Jacob knew that Esau was angry, so he ran away to be with his mother's brother a long way from Isaac and Rebekah. Eventually, after many, many, many years, Jacob and Esau meet and forgiveness is given.

★ **Connection to God's Overall Story/Plan:**

Sometimes people do things that are sinful – like Jacob lying to his father. Those sins can have consequences (like Jacob being separated from his family for many years) but God forgives. God sent Jesus to save us all from our sins.

Jacob is an important part of the Bible. He became the father of 12 sons - which became the 12 tribes of Israel. Jesus - our Savior - came through Jacob's son Judah. The Bible changes Jacob's name to Israel.

Even though Jacob lied and stole the birthright (Esau, Isaac, and Rebekah also all sinned) – God still used him in His plan. It's important to remember that God can use us even if we sin. But the consequences may already be carried out and that makes life harder for us (like Jacob being separated from his family for so long). Just because God uses even while we are sinners, we don't have the right to go and sin whenever we want. We should still live obediently to the Lord, but we don't have to fear Him having no use for us. He will use us for His glory.

Follow Up: As a church, we are encouraging disciple makers to practice the REAP method as it is one useful tool in learning to read the Bible on your own. Retell, Examine, Application, Prayer. Now this may not be everyone's preference, but it is an easy and consistent way to teach children to pull the meaning out of a passage and not just read it or rely on others to teach them what it means. Trees & Mountains - this is a station.

★ **Retell:** Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.

★ **Examine:**

- Comprehension Questions:
 - Have you ever known twins that were nothing alike?
 - Do you think it was a good idea for each of the parents to have a “favorite” child?
 - Do you think that God could forgive Jacob for what he did?

- Yes. In fact, God blessed Jacob throughout his life. Jacob had a son named Judah. Through Judah's family, Jesus would be born.
- Do you think that Esau could forgive Jacob?
 - Yes. After many years of being away from each other, Jacob and Esau came together and Esau forgave Jacob.
- Ask, "What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?"
 - We learn that God carries His plan out even when we sin. He is still working to bring a Savior when Jacob sins. He has not forgotten the promise to Abraham – Abraham's family continues to grow in this story.
- Ask, "What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?"
 - We sin. We all sin. Sometimes we encourage each other to sin. We are separated from God and others when we sin.
- ★ **Application:** Ask, "What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?"
 - Jesus is asking us to follow Him. To be obedient and trustworthy. To not lie. God included this to show that He can still use us when we sin.
- ★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse: Have the kids use the Bible. They should either share or each have one. If kids have their own Bibles, we can encourage them to use it, but sometimes you may just need to use the class set. Trees & Mountains - this is one station.

- ★ **Verse:** "Happy is the one whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God." - Psalm 146:5

Memory Verse Practice:

Verse Look Up: Explain the address of the verse (Book Chapter:Verse). Explain whether it's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Read and explain the verse.

- Rainbow Tip: Not necessary until we split classrooms.
- Fireweed Tip: Put Post-It notes on the book of the Bible for the memory verse. Then have them find the chapter and verse.

Practice the Verse:

- Rainbow: Not necessary :)
- Fireweed: Have the kids read it with you several times. Since they are learning to read, group practice is the focus.
- Trees & Mountains: Kids should be learning the verse and saying it on their own. We will provide activities - pick one to have the kids practice. We will PM provide: fill-in-the-blank verses, phrases for the kids to put in order, lines for the kids to write the verse out, and a worksheet for the kids to say the verse based on just the first letter of each word in the verse.

Books of the Bible:

- ★ If there is time or if kids have mastered the verse, have the kids practice the Books of the Bible. When we are doing Old Testament stories, have them practice the Old Testament; when in the New, practice the New Testament. We will have some activities for them to practice with.
 - Trees/Mountains currently have pencil cases with sets of cards/bookmarks in them.

Sticky Activities: No need to do all of these! Pick which ones work best for your teaching style and time frame! For the Trees and Mountains - there is enough time for two of the stations to do activities.

★ Sensory:

Category	Activity 1	Activity 2
Experiential	Birthright Trade Role-Play: Children act out Esau trading his birthright for stew. Discuss whether it was a wise choice.	Blessing Interview: One child pretends to be Isaac while others answer questions as Jacob or Esau about how they felt during the story.
Visual	Twin Compare & Contrast: Draw Jacob and Esau on a poster and list their	Do Not Lie Sign: Cut out “Do not lie” sign from Activity pages. Glue to a popsicle

	differences and similarities.	stick and talk about how Jacob lied to Isaac.
Touch	Guess the Fur: Let children feel fake fur, fleece, and smooth fabric while talking about Isaac feeling Jacob's arms.	
Movement	Hunter vs. Cook: One team pretends to gather "food" while another "stirs" pretend stew. Emphasize each brother's different skills.	Follow the Path Game: Give children two path options (ex. left or right). One represents honest choices, the other dishonest choices. Read scenarios and have children choose a path.
Sound	Character Voices: Read the story using different voices for Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau.	Listening like Isaac: Children close their eyes and identify classmates or volunteers by voice, just as Isaac tried to recognize Jacob by his voice.
Crafts	Blessing Scroll: Decorate a paper scroll and write a simple blessing or Bible verse such as Genesis 27:28 or our Memory Verse Psalm 146:5.	Stew Bowl: Color, cut, and glue Esau and Jacob with the stew bowl.

Send Home Page: Please send home with parents. They are sized 4 to a page.

August 16, 2026 Lesson Activities

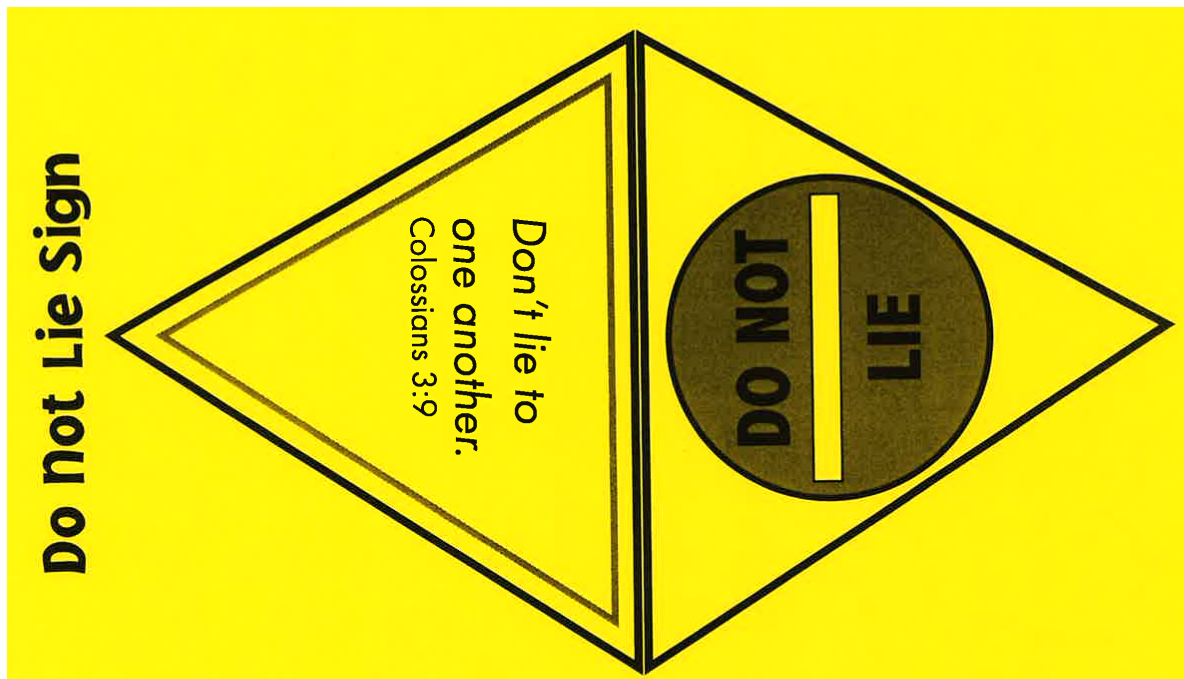
Do Not Lie Sign

Items needed:

- Scissors
- Glue
- Popsicle sticks

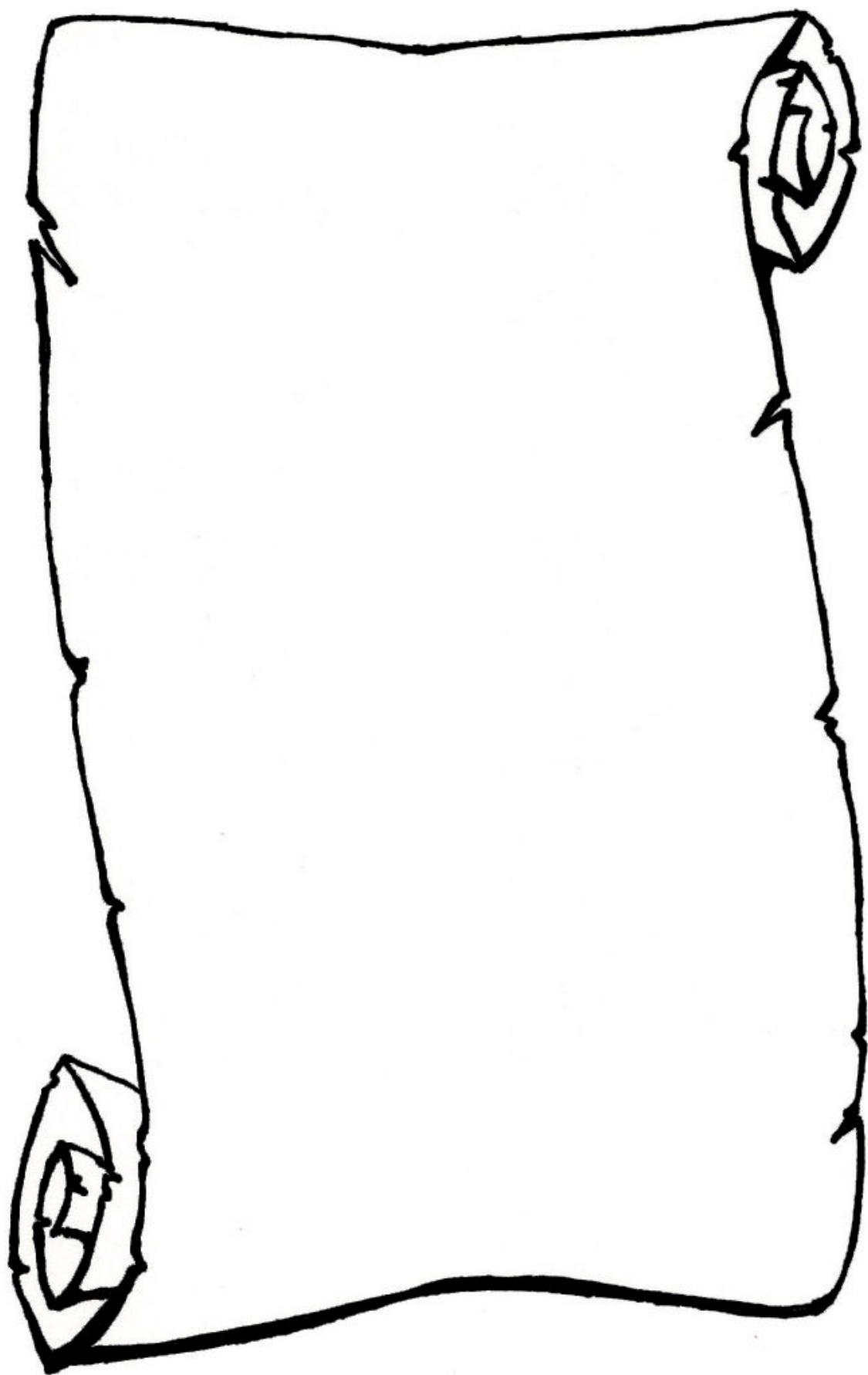
Directions:

1. Cut out the sign around the outside edge (keep the center connected).
2. Fold along middle, sandwich one end of the stick between the pointed ends, and glue the front and back of the sign together.
3. Children hold up sign and say "Do not lie."



Blessing Scroll

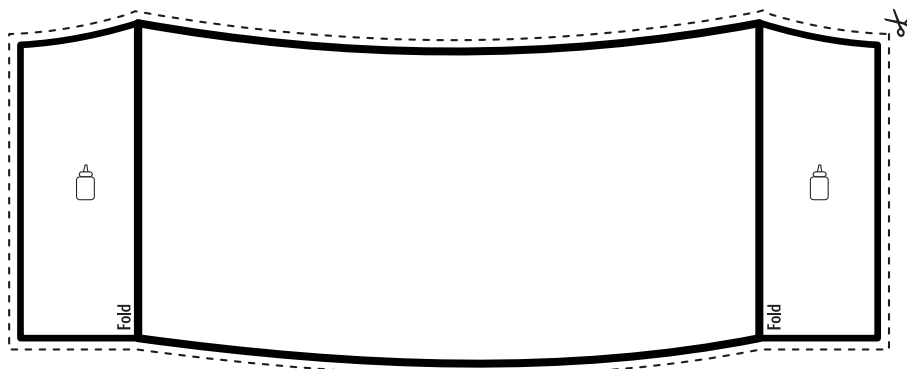
Decorate a paper scroll and write a simple blessing or Bible verse such as Genesis 27:28 or our Memory Verse Psalm 146:5. See next page for "scroll" page.

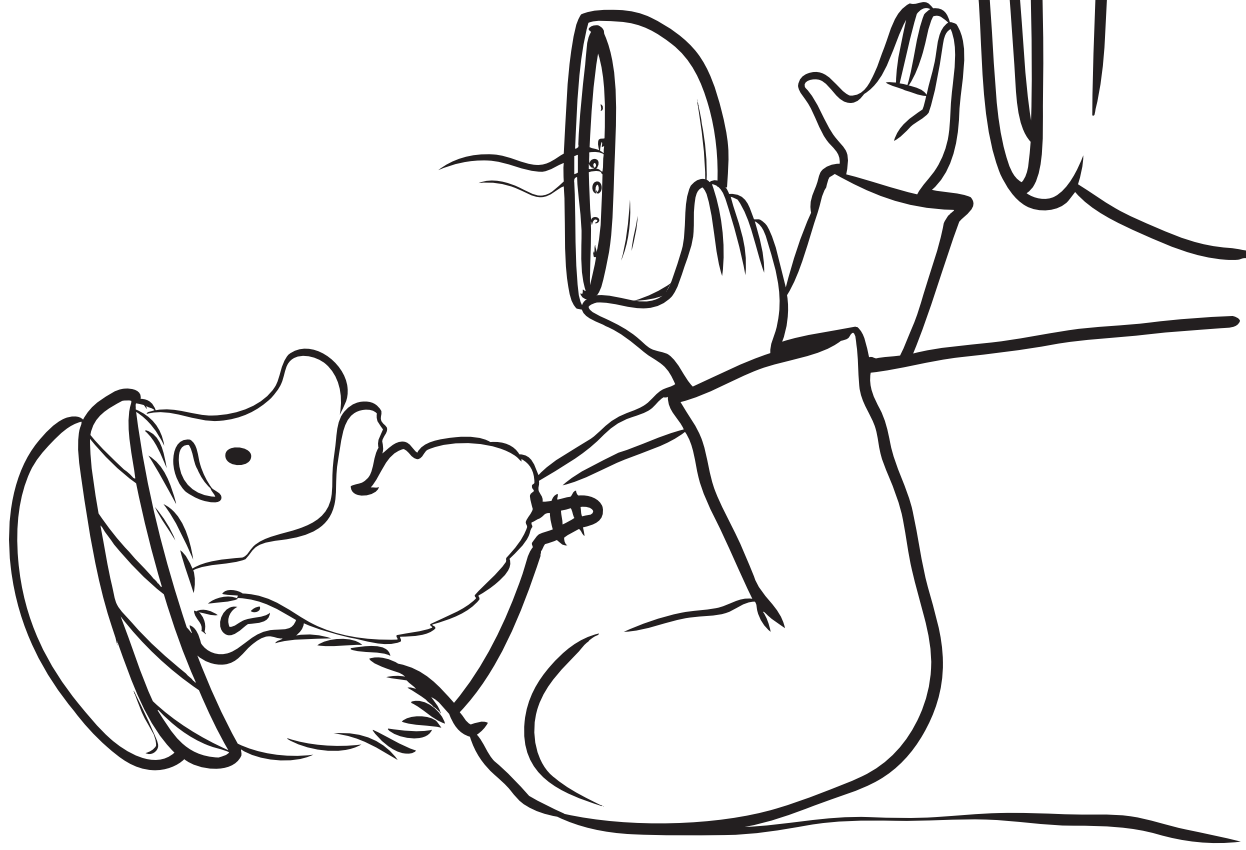


Stew Craft

Color page and cut out “stew bowl” from bottom. Glue tabs to create 3D stew bowl on the picture.









Genesis 27:1-45

Jacob Tricks Isaac

Jacob Tricks Isaac

Genesis 27:1-45

Isaac had two grown-up sons named Jacob and Esau. One day Isaac told Esau, "I am getting old. I want to give you my blessing before I die." (The blessing was a special promise given to the family's new leader.) Isaac wanted Esau to be that new leader. Isaac asked Esau to go hunting and cook his favorite food. Then Isaac would give Esau the blessing. Esau went hunting right away!

But Jacob and Esau's mother, Rebekah, wanted Jacob to be the new leader of the family instead of Esau. She told Jacob, "We will get the blessing for you instead. Quickly, while Esau is gone, do what I tell you."

Rebekah told Jacob to put on Esau's clothes. This made Jacob smell like Esau. She put hairy pieces of goatskin on Jacob's hands and neck. This made Jacob feel more like Esau, because Esau had a lot of hair. Isaac could not see very well, so Rebekah and Jacob hoped Isaac would think Jacob

WAS Esau! Rebekah made Isaac's favorite meal.

Jacob took the food to his father. Then he told a lie. "It's me, Esau," Jacob said. "I've made your favorite food." The trick worked!

Isaac said, "It sounds like Jacob's voice, but these hands feel like Esau's."

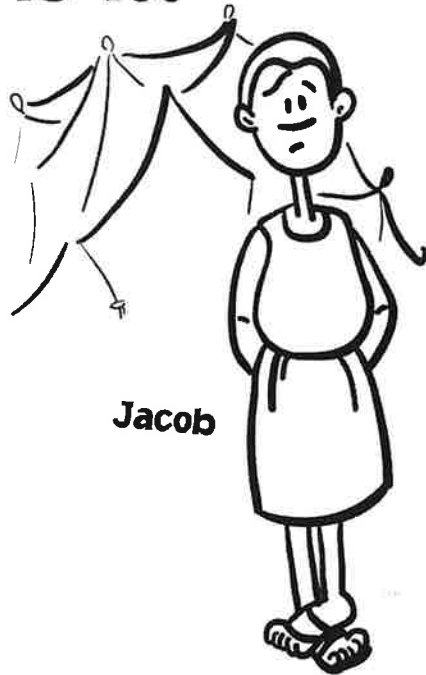
After Isaac ate, he asked God to give his son many good things. He asked God to make his son a great leader. Isaac's prayer was called a blessing. He thought he was blessing Esau. But he was really blessing Jacob!

Soon Esau came home. When Esau found out that Jacob had tricked their father, he was very angry. He wanted to hurt Jacob! Jacob had to go away for many years. Because Jacob didn't do what was right, his family was sad and angry.

Who Is It?



Isaac



Jacob



Esau

Rebekah



Materials: • copies of this page, one for each child • red, blue, purple and green crayons

Directions: 1. Read the "Who" questions below as children answer the questions together. 2. Help the children use the correct colors to answer the questions.

What to Say:

- Who was the daddy of Jacob and Esau? Draw a circle around him with a green crayon.
- Who was the mommy of Jacob and Esau? Draw a circle around her with a blue crayon.
- Who was the brother who liked to hunt? Draw a circle around him with a red crayon.
- Who was the sneaky brother? Draw a circle around him with a purple crayon.

Memory Verse:

August 16, 2026

Happy is the one whose
help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord
his God.

-- Psalm 146:5

Fill in the Blanks

“Happy is the ___ whose
_____ is the God of _____,
whose _____ is in the _____ his
God.”
-- Psalm 146: _

Draw or write how you helped
someone this week.

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“Happy is the ___ whose
_____ is the God of _____,
whose _____ is in the _____ his
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*Kids that recite the memory verse
to the teacher next week earn a prize ☺

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BACK TO School

SUPPLY DRIVE

As you shop those Back-to-School sales, would you consider picking up a few extras for Creekside Kids? Your donations help us keep

ITEMS WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

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Bubble solution • 3 oz cups • Coffee filters
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