

Esau and Jacob

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- construction paper (cut into half inch widths)
- permanent markers
- packaging tape
- scissors
- self-adhesive Velcro
- hole punch and ribbon (optional)



Scriptures

Gen 25:20-34

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to be patient and wants us to treat the blessings that He has given us very specially

Behavioral Objective(s)

Learn to be patient and to not make foolish choices that lead to losing our blessings from God

Memory Verse

"Love is patient." (1 Cor 13:4)



Bible Knowledge

Twin Boys

After twenty years of marriage, the Lord gave Isaac and Rebekah children. Instead of a son, Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys. As they were in Rebekah's body, they were struggling with each other. The Lord told her that she was carrying two sons who would become the ancestors of two nations (the Edomites and the Israelites) and that the firstborn would serve the younger (Gen 25:23). The Lord revealed to Rebekah what their futures would be like.

At the time of their birth, the younger baby, Jacob, grabbed hold of the heel of the older son, Esau. Jacob's name means "heel catcher," implying an intent to cause others to fall. As the boys grew, their differences in appearance, personality, and interests became even more apparent. Esau was an outdoors man; Jacob, however, preferred to do things near home.

Birthright

A birthright was a special honor given to the firstborn son. It included a double portion of the family inheritance along with the honor of leading the family. The oldest son could sell his birthright or give it away if he chose, but in so doing, he would

lose both material goods and his position in the family. By trading his birthright, Esau showed complete disregard for the spiritual blessings that would have been given to him. Esau despised his birthright.

Jacob's Deception

Although Jacob got the blessing he wanted, it was through deceiving his father. He had to live with some of the consequences:

1. he never saw his mother again;
2. his brother wanted to kill him;
3. he was deceived by his uncle, Laban;
4. his family was torn by strife;
5. Esau became the founder of an enemy nation;
6. he was exiled from his family for years.

Imagine how different his life would have been if he could have waited.



Understanding Your Students

To stress the uniqueness of each of your children, you can try a project to reinforce the differences and commonalities of the students in your class. Each week, you can feature a student in your room. Before or after the class begins, display a picture of one student. Create a chart around this picture which has facts about the featured student. Things to include are physical traits (height, age, hair length, gender) and character traits (smiles a

lot, loves to eat pizza, helps out at home by taking out the garbage). When you have finished sharing the student's information, post his picture in an area of the room designated for the "featured students." Spotlight one student per week until all the students have had a chance to share things about themselves. The caption above all the posters could read "God Has Made Us Unique!" As a class, after every student has been featured, remind the children that God has created us similarly in some ways and different in other ways. We should appreciate each other for who we are. Otherwise, the world would be a very dull place.



Vocabulary

Twins

two babies born at the same time from one mother; sometimes they look alike, sometimes they don't

Birthright

special things the firstborn son gets

Red Stew

a kind of stew made out of red beans

Foolish

to do or say something without thinking about it



Before You Teach

There are many characters in the Bible who lost a great deal because of their lack of patience. Moses, who in a moment of frustration, hit the rock twice instead of commanding water to come out from it, lost his chance to enter into Canaan (Num 20). Saul lost his kingdom when he offered up the sacrifices himself and did not wait for Samuel to come (1 Sam 13). In today's lesson, Esau lost his right to his inheritance because he was hungry and a bowl of stew looked more inviting (Gen 25:29-34). When we read their stories we might think that if they had just been a little bit more patient, their lives might have turned out very differently.

Ironically, patience is usually built during times of trial and tribulation. When our patience is tested, that is the time to rely even more on God and

trust that He knows what is best for us. Jacob was a good example of someone who waited. He had already worked seven years to marry Rachel. But when he was tricked, he patiently worked another seven years so that he could finally have Rachel as his wife (Gen 29:20).

"I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry" (Ps 40:1). Jacob's example teaches us that when it seems hardest to be patient, that is when we need it the most.

One of God's characteristics is long-suffering. God was patient with the Israelites even though they had abandoned Him over and over. He did not give up on them, but instead He was always ready to forgive and help them. God's amazing unconditional love is something we should strive for. It can help us be that patient person during times of difficulties. It can be the key to our success, so that we don't make rash choices or do things we will come to regret later on.



Bible Story

Isaac and Rebekah Have Twins

In our last lesson, we talked about Isaac and how he was a peacemaker. Even though his neighbors kept taking away his wells, he did not fight

with them. He moved away until he found a place where he could build a home. God blessed Isaac and he was very rich. That meant he had a lot of servants and animals.

Isaac was forty years old when he got married. His wife's name was Rebekah. But Rebekah didn't have any children for a long time. She was sad that

she could not have any children. So Isaac prayed to God for his wife and God heard his prayer. Do you know what that means? It means that God knew how much they wanted a baby and He answered Isaac's prayer.

Rebekah and Isaac were very happy. They were going to have a baby! Slowly, Rebekah's tummy started to get bigger and bigger. Soon, Isaac and Rebekah found out that God had another surprise for them. There was more than one baby in Rebekah's tummy. There were two babies! They were going to have twins. Rebekah was very surprised but she was also very happy! God told her that this was His will. As the babies got bigger in Rebekah's tummy, she could feel that they liked to kick each other a lot! Rebekah could not wait for them to come out.

Soon, she gave birth to the twins and they named the two baby boys Esau and Jacob. Esau was born first, so he was the older son. Jacob came out right after Esau so he was the younger brother. When they were born, Jacob was holding on to his older brother's foot.

Jacob and Esau Are Very Different

Isaac and Rebekah were very joyful when the babies were born because God made both Esau and Jacob. They were twins so both of them were the same age. In some ways, they were alike. They were cute babies and they were small and very soft. But in other ways, they were not the same. First, they didn't look the same even though they were twins. Esau had red skin and he had a lot of hair. Jacob did not have red skin or very much hair.

They were very different after they grew up too. Esau liked to go to the field and hunt for food. He was happiest outside where he could breathe fresh air. Jacob liked to be near the tents where he could help his mother. He was happiest when he could help cook the food and take care of the house.

Esau Gives Up His Birthright

One day, Esau went out to hunt for wild animals. Jacob stayed home. He was doing one of his favorite things, cooking. He was cooking red stew. Do you know what red stew is? (show samples of red lentils or beans to the children) Jacob cooked this for a long time, and then it became red stew. It looked and smelled very delicious when it was

almost ready.

Jacob smelled the red stew he cooked. Oh, it smelled so good! Just then his brother, Esau, came in. He was very tired and very hungry from his day of hunting. Suddenly, Esau smelled something good. It was his brother's red stew!

He said to Jacob, "Oh, I'm so hungry! Can I have your red stew?"

So Jacob said, "All right, if you let me be the big brother and give me your birthright, I will let you have all this red stew."

Esau didn't even think about what Jacob was asking him. He was too hungry to care.

"I am so hungry I am about to die. I don't care. You can be the big brother. I can be the younger brother. All I want is the red stew."

Jacob said to Esau, "You have to promise me that you will give me the birthright so that I will be the older brother."

Esau replied, "Yes, yes, yes. I promise."

After Esau made his promise, Jacob gave Esau the stew and also some bread to eat. After Esau finished eating and was full, he got up and left. He didn't even think about what he had just done.

Esau Loses His Birthright

Some time later, their father Isaac was old and about to die. It was time to give the older son all the blessings from God. Do you remember who was the older brother? Esau was born first so he was older. But Esau was not the older brother anymore because he had given his birthright to his younger brother Jacob. He had given his birthright to Jacob for the red stew. So Jacob was the older brother now and he received all the blessings from his father. Esau lost all of his blessings. When Esau realized what he had done by giving away his birthright without even thinking about it, he was very sad. He cried and cried. He wished he had not done something so foolish. He begged his father to give him some blessings too. But it was too late. He could not be the big brother anymore.

We Must Learn to Wait

Esau should not have let Jacob be the big brother because he was hungry and could not wait to eat. He couldn't wait to have the red stew and in the end, he lost his blessings.

God does not want us to make foolish choices like Esau did. He wants us to learn how to wait. Esau

could have made his own food to eat or waited for dinner. If Esau had learned to wait, he would not have given up his blessings just like that. We must

also be careful. We don't want to do something foolish just because we can not wait. God wants us to wait for things.



Check For Understanding

1. **How many babies did Isaac and Rebekah have?** (Two babies at the same time or twins.)
2. **What were their names?** (Esau and Jacob.)
3. **When Esau and Jacob were babies, how were they different?** (Esau had red skin; he was hairy. Jacob did not have red skin; he was not hairy.)
4. **After Esau and Jacob had grown up, how were they different?** (Esau liked to hunt and Jacob liked to stay indoors and cook.)
5. **What happened to Esau one day after he**

- finished hunting?** (He was very hungry.)
6. **What did Esau ask Jacob when he saw the red stew Jacob had cooked?** (Asked him for red stew to eat.)
7. **What did Jacob ask Esau for?** (Asked him for his birthright; he wanted to be the older brother.)
8. **Did Esau give it to him?** (Yes, he didn't care about it.)
9. **Who got the blessings from Isaac?** (Jacob)
10. **How did Esau feel when he knew he didn't get the blessings?** (Sad and he cried.)
11. **Sometimes it is hard to wait. What can we do when we are waiting for something?** (Let students answer.)



Life Application Story

The Stomachache

Mrs. Lopez's sister, Claudia, came to visit the Lopez family from a very far away place. She brought a lot of gifts for the whole family, including Ricky and Juan. When Ricky saw his favorite snack, beef jerky, sitting on the table, he grabbed it and started eating.

Mrs. Lopez said, "Ricky, maybe you should wait until after dinner to have some. That way, it will be a snack and you won't lose your appetite now. Juan can also try it later."

But after the first bite, he couldn't put the beef jerky down. It was too good. He kept on eating because he liked it so much.

"This is so good I can eat two boxes of it," said Ricky.

"Be careful, Ricky. Don't eat too much or you might get a stomachache. I think your mom is right. You should wait until later to eat it," Aunt Claudia warned.

But it was so yummy that Ricky did not listen and just kept munching away.

An hour later, after Ricky had finished eating one whole box of beef jerky, he felt sick.

"Mom, I don't feel well. My stomach hurts," Ricky said.

"Ricky, you didn't listen to Aunt Claudia, did you? And you didn't save any beef jerky for Juan?" Mrs. Lopez said.

"Sorry, Aunt Claudia. I guess beef jerky is my favorite snack and I just couldn't stop eating. I should have saved some beef jerky for Juan. I guess I couldn't wait. Now, I know how it feels to have too much beef jerky," said Ricky.

"That's okay, Ricky. I think you have learned your lesson. Come, let's get you some water to drink. Afterwards, go lie down on your bed and pray to God and ask Him to make you feel better," Aunt Claudia said while helping Ricky to get a glass of water.

"Hopefully, God will listen to my prayer and make my stomachache go away. I will learn to wait next time and just have a little bit," said Ricky.

Questions to Think About

1. **How did Ricky feel after eating a whole box of beef jerky?** (Sick)
2. **Why couldn't Ricky wait?** (It was his favorite snack.)

3. **What would have happened if Ricky had waited to eat the beef jerky?** (He would not have had a stomachache and he could have saved some for Juan.)



Activity 1

Esau and Jacob

Look at the picture at the top. Who is Esau and who is Jacob? Write their names below the drawing. Do you remember who likes to hunt and who likes to cook?

Now look at the bottom picture. Esau wanted Jacob's red stew. He could not wait and in the end he lost his blessings. Finish the sentence, "God wants us to _____ (wait)."



Activity 2

"Good Waiters"

Look at the pictures. How are each of the children waiting their turns?



Activity 3

Be Patient Wristband

Materials:

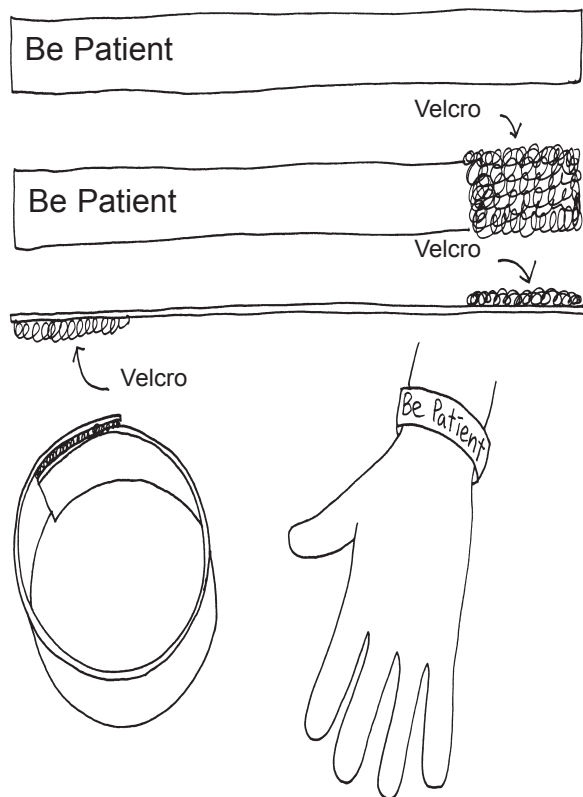
1. construction paper (cut into half inch widths)
2. permanent markers
3. packaging tape
4. scissors
5. self-adhesive Velcro

Directions:

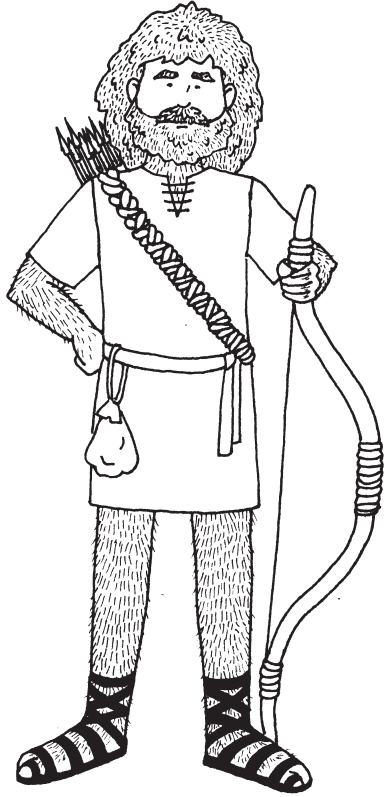
1. Help students write "Be Patient" on the construction paper.
2. To make it sturdy, put packaging tape over the entire strip of construction paper.
3. Wrap the strip around the student's wrist to measure how long it should be. Then cut off.
4. Peel self-adhesive Velcro pieces (hook and eye pieces) and press against the construction paper strip (see below).

4. **What is something that is hard for you to wait for?** (Let students answer.)
5. **How can you be better at waiting for something?** (Let students answer.)

5. Wrap the wristband around the student's wrist until the Velcro pieces overlap.
6. If Velcro pieces are not available, an alternative would be to punch two holes at the ends of the strip and tie together with ribbon.
7. As the students are making the craft, be sure to talk about what the word patient means and how it relates to today's lesson and memory verse.



Activity 10:1



This is _____.

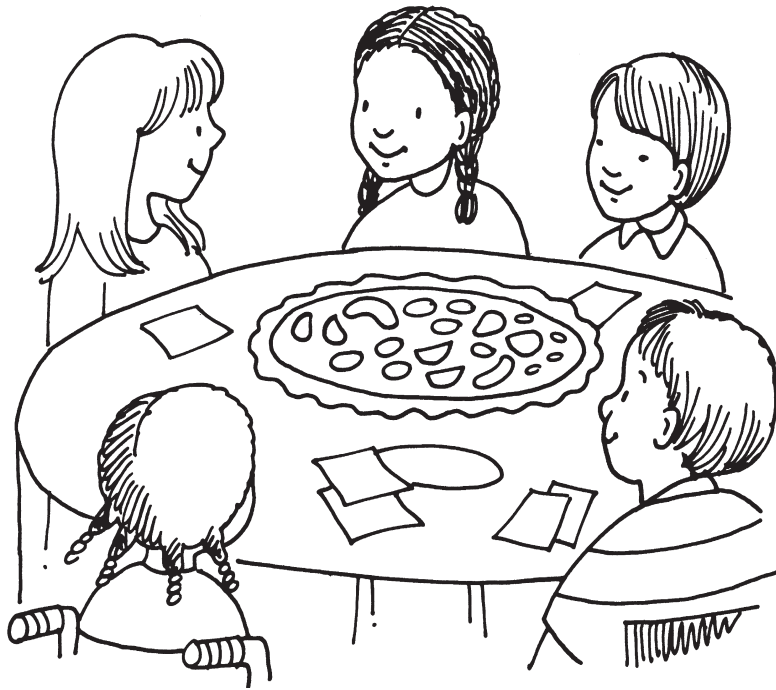
This is _____.



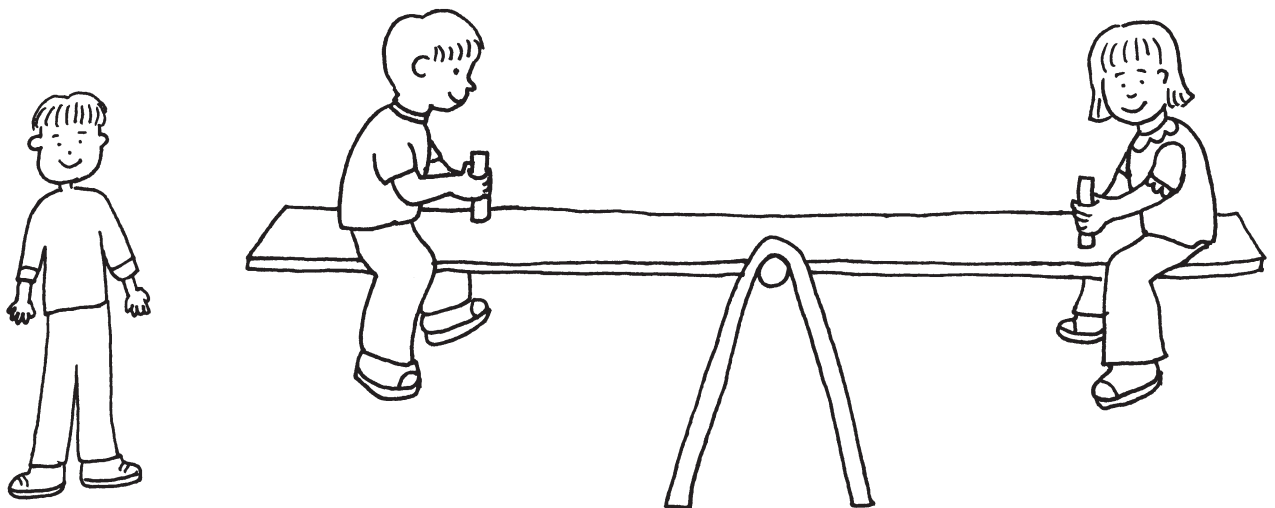
God wants us
to

_____.

Good Waiters



How are these children good waiters?



How are these children good waiters?