

Forgiveness Sermon Series #1

WEEK #4 (5-16-21) We can be hurt, but God heals. (Baggage of Hurt)

Key Words: BIRTHRIGHT

Memory Verse : NUMBERS 6:24 “The Lord bless you and keep you.”

Scripture: GENESIS 25:27-34

When the boys grew up, **Esau** was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while **Jacob** was a quiet man, living in tents. **Isaac** (Esau and Jacob’s father) loved **Esau**, because he was fond of hunting animals; but **Rebekah** (Esau and Jacob’s mother) loved **Jacob**. Once when **Jacob** was cooking a stew, **Esau** came in from the field, and he was famished. **Esau** said to **Jacob**, “Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!” (*Therefore he was called Edom.*) **Jacob** said, “First sell me your **birthright**.” **Esau** said, “I am about to die; of what use is a **birthright** to me?” **Jacob** said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then **Jacob** gave **Esau** bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus **Esau** despised (*showed he didn’t care about*) his birthright.

Application / Message Isaac and Rebekah didn’t have a baby for 20 years, and then they had twins! When they were born, the twins didn’t look alike at all. The first baby was all hairy and red and they called him **Esau** which means red. Then his brother was born. They named him Jacob. **Jacob** means ‘holder of the heel,’ because Jacob was holding on to Esau’s heel when he was born. Isaac was 60 when they were born. God told Rebekah that even though Jacob was the younger son, he would have the **birthright** and rule over his older brother.

What is a BIRTHRIGHT? Usually the older son received the birthright. A birthright in Bible times was a custom that the oldest received 2 different blessings. The things that you have around you, like money, land, food and animals were given to the oldest twice as much as the other children of the father. The firstborn was also considered head of the family. The other part of the blessing, being the oldest, meant he offered the sacrifices and taught the family about God. **Eventually, these men in our story were ancestors to Jesus’ earthly father, Joseph.**

The boys grew up and Esau was a skillful hunter. He liked to be outside. He was a big strong man with hair all over him. Isaac loved Esau the most. But Jacob liked to stay inside in the tent. And Rebekah loved Jacob the most because he was a gentle man and stayed in the tents.

Have you ever regretted doing something? Well, Esau didn’t seem to care about his birthright. He never figured that Jacob would REALLY be able to take it from him. How could he? Jacob wasn’t as strong as Esau, and he certainly didn’t look like Esau. So Esau planned to KEEP his birthright when his father Isaac died. Do you think Jacob hurt Esau, his father, himself and God by taking what did not belong to him? Do you think Esau hurt himself by thinking very little about the honor of his birthright? God had other plans. The Bible says, “*Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.*” What do you think will happen? You will find out NEXT WEEK!

Hands on Activities:

Activity: WHAT WOULD YOU DO? (Pretend you are either Esau or Jacob. How would you answer these questions?)

Have the children answer the questions by saying, "I am Esau/Jacob, and my answer would be..."

o What would the _____ and you have done the same?

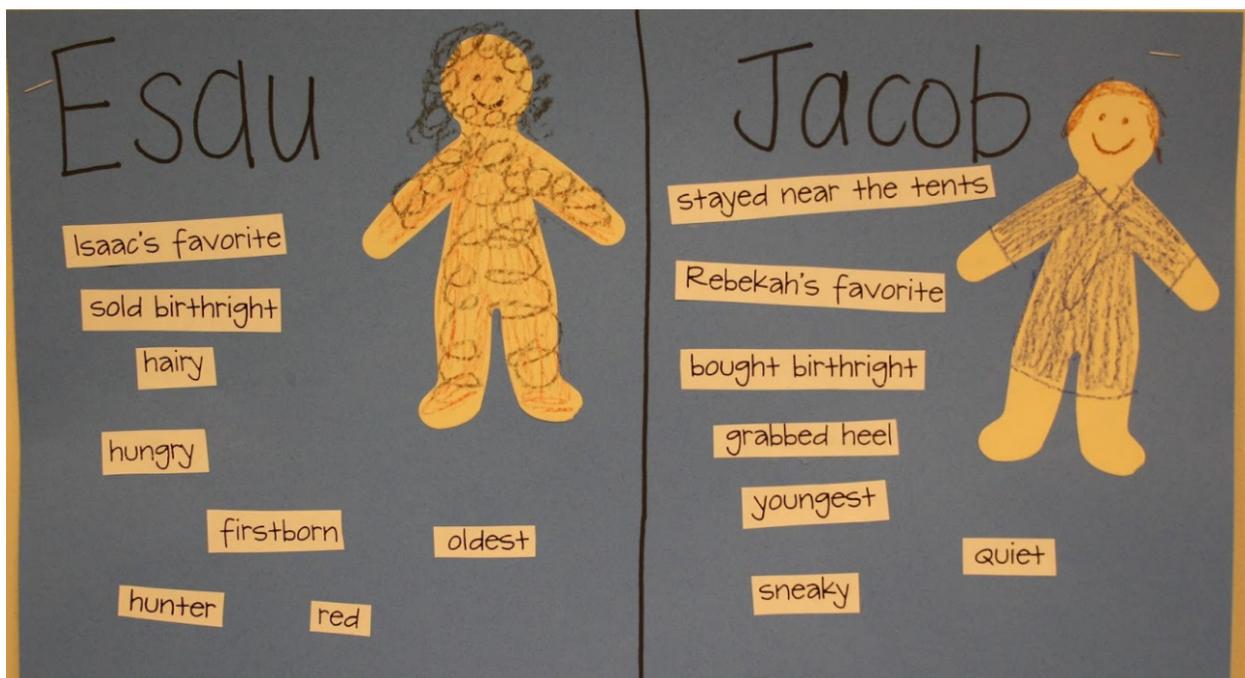
o What would you have done differently?

o What are your feelings during the story?

o What choices were good/bad?

What would you like to be when you grow up?

CREATE A COMPARISON CHART TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JACOB AND ESAU.





Song “Trading my Sorrows” words and music at <https://youtu.be/WzjFIQvJvDo>

I'm trading my sorrows / I'm trading my shame / I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord
I'm trading my sickness / I'm trading my pain / I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord

We say

Yes, Lord / Yes, Lord / Yes, yes, Lord / Yes, Lord / Yes, Lord / Yes, yes, Lord

Yes, Lord / Yes, Lord / Yes, yes, Lord / men

I am pressed but not crushed / Persecuted, not abandoned / Struck down but not destroyed

I am blessed beyond the curse / For His promise will endure / His joy's gonna be my strength

Though the sorrow may last for the night / His joy comes in the morning (REPEAT SONG)

LETTER PRAYER: Take each letter of the word P-R-A-Y-E-R and pray for someone or something that begins with that letter. (Like P could be for all the PEOPLE who are sick with Covid 19 or any other disease. Now think about what or who you could pray for that begins with the other letters.) End your prayer by saying, “In the name of Jesus we ask that you answer our prayers.”

JOY PRAYER: Take each letter of the word JOY and say prayers for Jesus (J), Others (O), You (Y). (Note: Goes with song above - “Laying down sorrows for the JOY of the Lord”)

Optional Activities

- Make a stew (or meal) together as a family. Notice how it smells... it is hard to wait, isn't it when you are hungry. Discuss what types of things you would be willing to give up/ trade for food. Now write down things you would not give up for food.
- Write down ways that the Lord has blessed you. Then say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for loving you and giving you the things on your list. Remember that as children of God we are loved and redeemed by our loving Father, God.
- Esau’s “birthright” was his right as the oldest son to inherit God’s promises. How did Esau show that God was not important to him? The way we act shows if God is important to us. Make up an ending to each of the following to show how a person would act if God is important to him or her. Tell your endings to a friend or parent.
 - The boys were throwing stones in a neighbor’s yard. “Come on, they said. It’s fun. Here take this stone.”
 - I won’t come to your party if ____ is there. He/She is different than we are.
 - Hey ____, can I copy your homework?

(Note: adapted from The New Adventure Bible)