

## Genesis: God Brings Jacob and Esau Back Together Genesis 27; 32–33

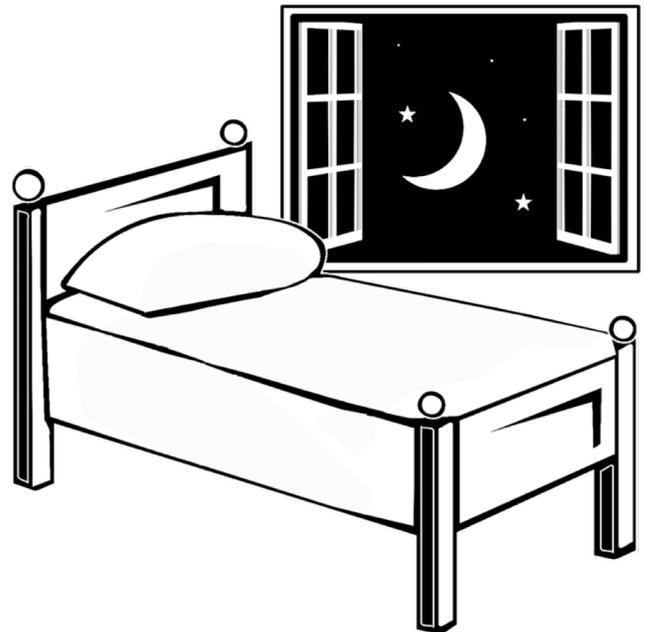


Jacob tricks his dad into giving him his brother's blessing. Jacob's brother Esau is mad, so Jacob runs away. After years apart, Jacob sends gifts to Esau to try to make up. Esau forgives Jacob, and the brothers reunite. God helps us make things right.

*“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them” (Romans 8:28).*

### Through the Week

- Read Ephesians 4:26 as a family.
- Before bed each night this week, encourage your family to reflect on any conflicts they've had that day with other family members.
- Make it a point to hold hands and pray together before bed.
- Pay attention to how God helps you make things right in your family as you include him in your conflict resolution.



### Talk About This...

- What's something people do that makes you feel mad? How can you respond peacefully?

## This Lesson at a Glance



### CORE BIBLE AT HOME

▲ Kids act out the Bible story by opening gifts.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- blanket
- stuffed animals
- markers or crayons
- paper



### OBJECT LESSON

▲ Kids look through water and see things turn the opposite direction.

#### Supplies

- drinking glass or clear vase (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- 8 ounce plastic cup (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- water
- index cards (1 per child)
- markers
- “Arrows” handout (1 per preschooler) (download [here](#))

#### Easy Prep

- Fill a plastic cup with water for each group.



### CRAFT

Kids make blankets to donate.

#### Supplies

- fleece fabric
- scissors

#### Easy Prep

- For every 6 kids, cut two 3x4-foot pieces of fleece.
- Stack 1 piece of fleece on top of another for each set. Cut 4-inch slits into the sides of each set that are about 1 inch apart.
- For your demonstration, leave 1 side of 1 set uncut.
- Decide on a local charity that accepts blanket donations. You might consider homeless shelters, safe houses, or animal shelters.



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

▲ Kids write ideas of what they can give to make a relationship right.

#### Supplies

- plain white paper
- pens
- washable markers
- tape

*\*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



## Supplies

- Bible
- blanket
- stuffed animals
- markers or crayons
- paper

## Tips

- This Bible Experience is specifically designed for video calls, pre-recorded videos, or parent-led lessons for a wide age-range of kids.
- If you're leading this as a video, tell families to pause when you ask questions so they can discuss them. Tell families as you start the video what supplies they'll need so they can gather them before they begin.
- For additional activities that adapt easily to an at-home setting, click "view" to preview the content of each activity block and choose only those that include a ▲ symbol in the highlighted summary description:
  - Opening
  - Music Video
  - Talk About Video
  - Object Lesson
  - Deeper Bible (families can draw the paper person)
  - Life Application Wrap-Up
  - Take-Home page (for families to do at home)

## Form Groups

Say: **In today's true Bible story, we're going to learn about two brothers. There will also be some animals involved, so gather some stuffed animals and set them across the room from where you're watching.** Allow time.

Say: **Since this story is about a family, let me tell you about my family.** Tell kids about your family.

Ask: • **Introduce your family as if we've never met them.**

Say: **We'll talk about some brothers in the Bible as we learn about the story. Let's imagine we're the brothers. Form pairs in your family, and each partner will be a brother. Whoever is older in each pair will be Esau, and the younger partners will be Jacob.** Pause. If a family has an uneven number, an adult can sit out and just observe.

Say: **Jacob and Esau were twins, but Esau was born first, so Jacob was younger.** Allow time for groups to identify who is the youngest person.

Say: **In Bible times, the oldest brother usually got a special blessing from his dad. Esau thought he would get that blessing.** Give the Esaus each a gift, but instruct them to not open it yet.

## Guess the Person

Say: **Esau and Jacob's dad, Isaac, was about to die. So it was time to give Esau his blessing. Isaac asked Esau to make him a favorite meal, and when Esau brought the food, Isaac would give him the blessing.**

**But Jacob was sneaky—and so was his mom! They both wanted Jacob to have the blessing, so Jacob dressed up like Esau. Esau was very hairy, so Jacob put goatskin on his hands, arms, and neck so he'd feel hairy. Let's put some hair on our arms.**

Have each Jacob wrap a blanket over his arms.

Say: **Isaac couldn't see very well anymore, but he could smell and feel just fine. So here's what happened when Jacob showed up dressed like Esau.**

Read Genesis 27:21-24.

Say: **Let's see what Jacob's hairy arms felt like.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time someone tricked you.** Share your own example first. Then have kids share in their groups.

### **Get a Blessing**

Say: **Since Jacob felt and smelled like Esau, Isaac gave Jacob the blessing. A blessing is like a gift given with words, so let's make a gift.**

Have each person fold a piece of paper in half and decorate the outside to look like a present.

Say: **As I read the blessing, we'll draw in our presents to show what the blessing was.**

**The first part of the blessing said: "From the dew of heaven and the richness of the earth, may God always give you abundant harvests of grain and bountiful new wine." Draw a loaf of bread inside your paper present.** Pause for drawing.

Say: **The second part of the blessing said: "May many nations become your servants, and may they bow down to you." Servants carry plates, so draw a plate.** Pause for drawing.

Say: **The third part of the blessing said: "May you be the master over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you." Draw a number one to show Jacob would be number one.** Pause.

Say: **The final part of the blessing said: "All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed." Giving a curse or a blessing is saying something mean or nice about someone. So draw a smiley face to show a blessing.** Pause.

Say: **Now, since Jacob stole the whole blessing, anyone who's playing Esau has to give their present paper to Jacob!** Pause.

Say: **Just as Jacob left his father, Esau came in with the meal he'd made. Isaac realized he'd been tricked, but it was too late. Esau really wanted a blessing, but Isaac said he'd already told Jacob he'd get all the good stuff.**

**When Esau started crying, Isaac gave him this blessing.**

Read Genesis 27:39-40.

Ask: • **What do you think about this blessing?**

Have all the Jacobs crumple a piece of paper and give it to Esau. Say: **Esau's blessing wasn't nice. Isaac said he wouldn't live near good fields of crops and that he'd live by the sword and serve his brother. It was kind of like getting a piece of trash for a present.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time a sibling or friend got something *you* wanted.** Share your own example first.

### **Run Away**

Say: **After Jacob stole his blessing, Esau was really mad at Jacob and wanted to hurt him. So Jacob ran away.**

Have the Jacobs each run across the room to where the stuffed animals are.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you were mad at a sibling or friend.** Share your own example first.

### **Send Gifts**

Say: **Many years later, God told Jacob to go back home. It was time for God to help Jacob make things right. Jacob was scared about what Esau would think of him. God helped him have a sorry attitude. Jacob sent Esau a lot of gifts to try to make him happy. Here's a list of what he sent.**

Read Genesis 32:14-15.

Have all the Jacobs toss stuffed animals over toward their Esaus.

Say: **Jacob sent all these gifts with messengers. The next day, Jacob went to see Esau. He bowed seven times to show how sorry he was. Jacobs, go back to your partner, bowing seven times on the way.** Allow time.

Say: **God was helping Jacob make things right with Esau. But Jacob was nervous about how Esau would react. Let's see how Esau reacted to seeing Jacob after all this time.**

Read Genesis 33:3-4. Have the Esaus give the Jacobs a high-five.

Say: **God helps us make things right. He helped Esau let go of his anger. Sometimes it's hard for us to let go of anger and hurt. It can be hard to forgive. But we can always ask God to help us. His love can work in our hearts, and his power can bring forgiveness. God is so amazing!**

**Okay, back to the Bible story. Esau didn't think Jacob needed to give him so many gifts, and he told Jacob to keep them.**

Have Jacobs and Esaus stand a few feet apart, facing each other. Esau can hand stuffed animals back to Jacob.

Say: **But Jacob really wanted to make things right. He insisted Esau take the gifts.** Have the Jacob hand the stuffed animals back to Esau.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you resolved a problem with a sibling or friend.** Share your own example first. Then have groups sit back down together and discuss their responses.

Say: **Sometimes we get mad at our siblings, just like Esau did. Sometimes we don't treat our siblings right, just like Jacob did. But God helps us make things right. We can say we're sorry when we hurt our siblings or friends, and we can offer forgiveness when we've been hurt. God can help us fix our problems with other people.**



### Supplies

- drinking glass or clear vase (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- 8 ounce plastic cup (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- water
- index cards (1 per child)
- markers
- “Arrows” handout (1 per preschooler) (download [here](#))

### Easy Prep

- Fill a plastic cup with water for each group.

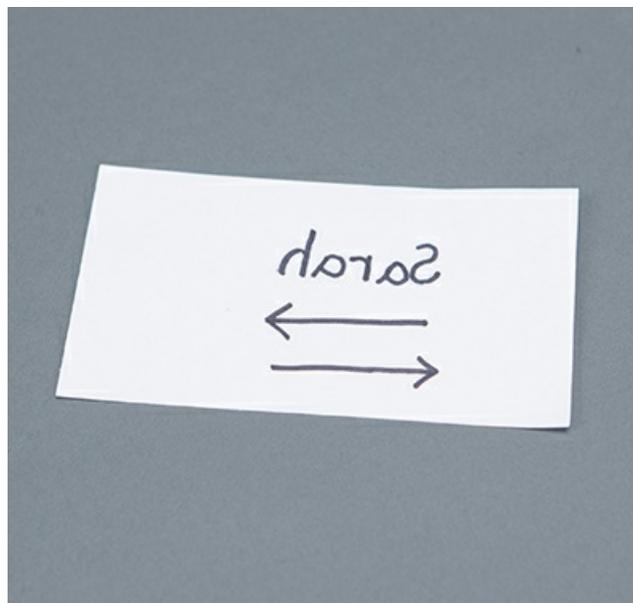
### Tips

- Here’s a tip to help kids write their names backward. Kids can turn the index cards over and write their names on the back of the cards with a marker and then flip them over to the front and trace the letters that bleed through the cards.
- We found that wide drinking glasses or clear vases with straight sides worked best. But you could have kids experiment with different sizes and shapes of glasses to see which one flips the arrows most clearly.

### Draw or Write Backward

Say: **Just like Jacob, sometimes we make choices that send our relationships in the wrong direction. But God can turn us around and help us make things right. Let’s explore that idea with an experiment.**

Form mixed-age groups of three or four kids, depending on how many glasses you have available. Give each group a glass and each older child an index card. Younger kids can each get an “Arrows” handout and color the sections in different colors. Have older kids draw two 1-inch horizontal arrows, one above the other, one pointing left and the other pointing right. Then have older kids write their names backward above or below the arrows using the tip above.

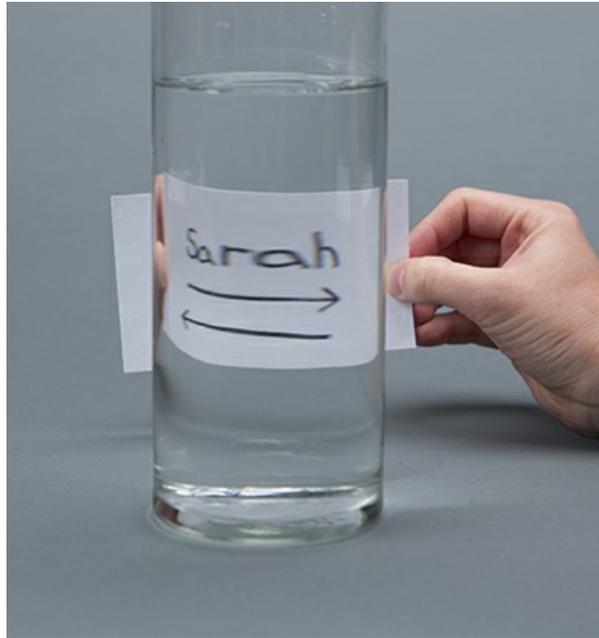


### Fill the Glass

Say: **Now let’s see if we can turn these things around.**

Give each group a plastic cup of water. Show kids how to place their glass in front of one of the cards and then watch what happens to the arrows and name as another group member pours water from the plastic

cup into the glass. Encourage kids to see what happens when they move the index card closer and farther away from the glass. The arrows should appear to flip directions, and the name will read correctly. Allow all group members to take a turn looking at their arrows and names through the water.



#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What happened when you moved your index card closer to or farther away from the glass?**

Say: **We just saw something called *refraction*. That's when light goes through the glass and meets at one point—the focal point. If the card is placed in front of the focal point, the image stays the same, but if it's moved behind the focal point, the image appears to flip directions and you were able to read your backward name correctly.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time you wished you could reverse a choice you made because it hurt someone.** Share examples to start the conversation, such as wishing you had invited someone to your party after you saw how hurt she was, or wishing you hadn't picked on your little brother when you saw how mad he became.

Say: **We can't always go back and change our hurtful choices, but when we're heading in the wrong direction, God can turn us around and help us go the way he wants us to go. God helps us make things right.**



## Supplies

- fleece fabric
- scissors

## Easy Prep

- For every 6 kids, cut two 3x4-foot pieces of fleece.
- Stack 1 piece of fleece on top of another for each set. Cut 4-inch slits into the sides of each set that are about 1 inch apart.
- For your demonstration, leave 1 side of 1 set uncut.
- Decide on a local charity that accepts blanket donations. You might consider homeless shelters, safe houses, or animal shelters.



## Introduce

Say: **Today we're discovering that God helps us make things right. Sometimes we mess up our relationships. Name some things people do that hurt friendships or relationships within our families.**

For each idea kids name, cut a slit in the side of the set you left uncut.

Say: **It might seem like I've ruined this fabric because I've cut all these slits in it. But God helps us make things right. Let's make this fabric right by turning it into a blanket.**

## Tie Blankets

Have kids form mixed-age groups of six. Give each group a set of two pieces of fleece. Show kids how to tie the fringed pieces together so the two pieces become one thicker blanket. Kids will want to use double knots so the ties don't come apart. Preschoolers may not know how to tie, but they'll love to have the older kids teach them. Older kids in each group can secure the double-knot with the second tie.

As kids work, tell them about the charity they'll be donating the blankets to. Say: **God helps us make things right. When we make things right with people, we show kindness to them. So we'll show kindness by giving these blankets to people or animals in need who may have experienced conflict in their lives.**

## Talk About It

Ask: • **We tied two pieces of fleece into one blanket. What helps you “tie” a friendship back together?**

• **How do you think your blanket will help someone?**

Say: **God helps us make things right. Esau and Jacob had separated, like the two pieces of fleece were separated in the beginning. But God helped Jacob make things right, and he gave Esau a forgiving spirit. God brought the relationship back together, just as you brought the two pieces of fleece together.**

Gather the blankets in a pile, and have kids touch them as they pray for the recipients.



## Supplies

- plain white paper
- pens
- washable markers
- tape

## Write a Gift

Say: **When God helped Jacob make things right with Esau, Jacob sent Esau gifts. We're going to think of gifts we can give to make things right.**

**First, think of someone you've had a conflict with this week.** As kids think, distribute paper and pens.

Say: **Next, think of a gift you can give that person that could help resolve the conflict. A gift doesn't have to cost money. You might hug your mom because you were disrespectful to her this morning. Maybe you'll pray for someone at school you've had a fight with. You could say you're sorry or offer the gift of forgiveness. Ask God to show you what gift you can give. Then write or draw what that gift is on your paper.** Allow time.

## Wrap It

Say: **Since these are gifts, let's make them look like gifts! Fold your paper, tape it shut, and then decorate the outside to look like wrapping paper.** Set out tape and markers.

## Pray

Say: **Let's give the gift of prayer right now. Hold your gift in your hands and silently pray for the person you want to give the gift to.** Allow time.

Pray: **God, you know all the conflicts we've had. Help us make things right this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Take your gifts home as a reminder of what you decided to do this week.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week and tell you how God helped them make things right.