

Jacob and Esau

Who?

Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob

What?

God answered Isaac's prayer for a child; and twin boys, Jacob and Esau, were born to Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 25:19-28)

When & Where?

During the time of the patriarchs, in the area of present day Israel

Why?

To help children recognize that even though each family member is different, God loves each one and wants them to love each other



Teacher Challenge

Read Genesis 25:19-28.

How can this story make a difference in your own life and in the lives of the children you teach?

The word "brotherhood" conjures up images of familial love and harmony. Jacob and Esau were brothers—twins who grew up in the same household—but they certainly did not display the ideal image of brotherhood. Each one struggled for dominance. And the differences between the brothers were only compounded by their parents' favoritism. Their father, Isaac, favored Esau while their mother, Rebekah, favored Jacob.

Goals For each child

- 1 Name the people in Isaac's family**
- 2 Tell a way to show God's love to a family member**
- 3 Thank God for people in his or her family**

- List some positive ways your Family has influenced you.
- How has the Family of God been like a Family to you?

God designed you to be a part of a family. And whether or not your immediate family functions in a healthy, supportive way, you also belong to the family of believers. Consider the role you play in that family. Ask God to help you to be a good family member and help other believers continue to grow in Christ. Pray for each little one in your class and pray for their families. Ask God to give you sensitivity to show His love in ways that each of them can grasp.

Bible Verse

"Let us love one another."

1 John 4:7

Art Center

Collect

Bible, two paper lunch bags for each child, marker, crayons.

Prepare

Make puppets by drawing a simple happy face on the bottom flap of each bag. Make two puppets for each child.

Do

Give each child two puppets to color. Children place hands in puppets as you talk about the Bible story.



Enrichment Idea

Provide glue sticks and a variety of materials (wiggle eyes, construction paper, yarn, etc.) for children to use in decorating puppets.

Game Center

Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music # 1* CD and player, index cards, colored markers.

Prepare

With one color draw two simple happy faces on separate index cards. Repeat with other colors, making an index card for each child.

Do

Place cards facedown on the floor in a circle. Children walk around cards while you play “Sing Praises” (track 16 on CD). When you stop the music, each child stands next to a card. Children turn over cards to show happy faces. Children with matching cards stand together. Repeat by mixing up cards and playing again. Briefly talk about how Isaac and Rebekah had two babies.



Talk About

• **In our Bible story today, a man named Isaac asked God for a child. God answered Isaac’s prayer. Two boys, Jacob and Esau, were born to Isaac and his wife. Now there were two babies in this family.**

- **Is there a baby in your family, Lindsey? What does your baby sister like to play with?**
- **The Bible says, “Let us love one another.” We can show God’s love to the people in our families. Who loves you? What does your mom do to show love to you? What can you do to show love to your mom?**

Teaching Tip

Suggest different ways of moving around the circle (walking, hopping or crawling, etc.).

Tip for Younger Children

Each child colors one puppet instead of two.

Tip for Younger Children

Play game as above without asking children to match cards.

Blocks Center

Collect

Bible, masking tape, blocks, toy people.



Do

Place masking tape on the floor to outline a house shape. Children cover tape with blocks and play with toy people shape and name people in their family who they can show kindness to.

Teaching Tips

1. To help children think of people in their family who they can be kind to, tell an age appropriate personal story of someone you have shown kindness to this week.
2. Remove tape at the end of class.

Tip for Younger Children

Invite individual children to sit on the floor as you make block squares around them to represent houses. Encourage children to tell names of people who live in their house.

4

Dramatic Play Center

Collect

Bible, a variety of dress-up clothes and shoes; optional—digital camera.

Do

Children dress up like people in their families and try on shoes. (Optional: Use digital camera to take pictures of children in dress-up clothes. E-mail pictures to families during the week or print them to send home with children.)



Teaching Tip

As you talk about families, be aware of those in your class who live in single-parent families, foster families, blended families, etc. Make sure that no child in your class feels that his or her family situation is unacceptable to you.

Talk About

- Point to 1 John 4:7 in the Bible. **The Bible says, “Let us love one another.” God made the people in our families. We can show His love to them.**
- **Sam, you have a big sister in your family. What is a way your big sister shows love to you? What is a way you can show love to her?**
- **Melanie, how many people are in your family? God made the people in your family. God loves them. God loves you and your mom and dad. The people in your family can show love to each other.**
- **Let’s thank God for the people in our families.** Pray briefly.

Tip for Younger Children

Children try on shoes only.

Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

Summer • Lesson 1

Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, Bible Verse Poster 1 and Figures 1-4 from *Visual Resources*, Buddy puppet, beach ball, small gift-wrapped box, two similar baby items (shirts, rattles, bottles, etc.), flannel board, optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

Come Together

Children sit in a circle. Play “Are You Ready?” (track 15 on CD). Children pass beach ball around the circle. After beach ball has been passed to several children, stop the music. Child holding the beach ball when the music stops tells his or her name.

Bible Verse

Show Bible Verse Poster 1. Open the Bible to 1 John 4:7. **The Bible says, “Let us love one another.” We can show God’s love to people in our families.** Repeat Bible verse with children several times. Each time you say the verse, lead children to clap hands as they say the verse.



Enrichment Idea

Place Activity Poster 1 on the floor. Invite a child to stand near the poster and toss a beanbag onto the poster. **Jessica, where did the beanbag land on the poster?** Hold poster, so other children can see while child points to place beanbag landed. **Who in this picture is showing love to someone? What is that person doing?** **The Bible says, “Let us love one another.” We can show love to people in our families, too.** Repeat with several other children as time permits.

Prayer

Invite several children to name people in their family. Pray with children. **Dear God, thank You for Joey’s mom and grandma. Thank You for all the people in our families. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Song

The Bible says, “Let us love one another.” That means God wants us to show His love to everyone. Play “Let Us Love” (track 11 on CD) several times. Sing song and lead children in doing the motions mentioned in the song.



Puppet Time

Use Buddy puppet and small gift-wrapped box to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

Bible Story

Use baby items and Figures 1-4 to help tell the Bible story on the next page.

Listen to Learn

Jacob and Esau
Genesis 25:19-28

Summer • Lesson 1

Introduction

Show baby items. **What is the same about these?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear about a time that two babies were born.** (Hold your Bible open to Genesis 25 as you tell the following story.)

Isaac Prays

Isaac and Rebekah were married. Isaac and Rebekah loved God. For a long time, they had no children. That must have made Isaac and Rebekah sad. Isaac prayed to God. He asked God to give them a baby.



God Answers

God answered Isaac's prayer. Soon, Rebekah was going to have a baby! Then God told Rebekah she was going to have twins. Isaac and Rebekah were going to have TWO babies!

Two Babies Are Born

Finally, it was time for the babies to be born. Both of the twins were boys. But they were very different from each other.

The first boy was very red when he was born. He had lots of hair. His name was Esau.

The other baby had smooth skin. He didn't have a lot of hair. His name was Jacob.

Twins Grow Up

As Esau and Jacob grew up, they became even more different. They didn't look like each other. They didn't act like each other.

Esau liked to be outdoors. He loved to hunt with a bow and arrow. Isaac loved his big, strong boy, Esau.

Jacob liked to stay home near the tents where his family lived. He liked to cook. His mother, Rebekah, loved her quiet, helpful boy, Jacob.

Isaac and Rebekah were very happy that God gave them two boys to love.

Conclusion

God made Isaac and Rebekah and their two sons. God made the people in our families, too. God loves the people in our families. We can show God's love to the people in our families. The Bible says, "Let us love one another." (Optional: Review story by using pages 62-65 in *God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Place two dolls near storytelling area. As the story is told, use as much expression as possible. When describing Esau, show one doll; show second doll when describing Jacob. Briefly retell the story, letting children have a turn to hold the two dolls.

TalkTime Activity Page

Collect

Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, markers or crayons.

Do

Hand out *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



Bible Storybook Corner

Collect

Children's books showing a variety of families and family situations.

Do

In our Bible story today, two babies were born. The mom and dad were glad to have two new babies in their family. Let's find some pictures of families in our books. Look through and read one or more books with children. Encourage children to name family members they see in the books.



Teaching Tip

If you do not have children's books, visit a library or ask parents to let you borrow books for the week.

Talk About

- Who was Isaac's wife? What did Isaac ask God for? Isaac and Rebekah were glad God gave them two babies. What were their names?
- What did Esau like to do? What did Jacob like to do?
- God loved the people in Isaac and Rebekah's family. God loves the people in your family, too. The Bible says, "Let us love one another." God wants us to show love to the people in our families.
- Jonas, who is in your family? I'm glad God gave you a sister and a mom.
- Pray, Dear God, thank You for the people in our families. In Jesus' name, amen.

Family FunTime Page

Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "Let Us Love" (track 11), "Come On In!" (track 1) and/or "Wave goodbye" (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1 CD*.