

Scripture Reference

Genesis 27

Memory Verse

1 John 5:3

Life Point

God wants family members to ask for forgiveness and to forgive.

WELCOME!

Forgiveness is a gift that God gives to us for our benefit. He forgave us while we were still sinners – yes, we were and still are repeat offenders! He forgives us and commands us to do the same. By the world's standards Esau was well within his rights to hold a grudge. Favoritism. Deception. Lies. Manipulation. Talk about hard issues in a family. After Esau returned from hunting, he realized he suffered another loss. Esau accused Jacob of cheating him out of his privileges as the firstborn – which was false because Esau willingly “sold” his birthright for a bowl of stew. Then Esau accused Jacob of stealing his rightful blessing – which was true because Jacob tricked their father. Esau may have had many reasons to be angry with his twin brother, but harboring vengeance toward his brother added turmoil to the family instead of healing. When their mother learned that Esau was consoling himself with thoughts of murder, she sent Jacob far away. What began as an attempt for Jacob to escape for a few days turned into years apart from his family. Many years later, God told Jacob to return home. Jacob was frightened and sent messengers to Esau rather than going to meet Esau himself. Jacob offered gifts of livestock. He even divided his herdsmen and animals into groups and sent them out separately and ahead of himself to meet Esau. Finally, Jacob met and eventually talked face to face with Esau, but it was not the encounter that Jacob feared. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged and kissed him. Forgiveness fueled sweet reunion. How are grudges, bitterness, or unforgiveness causing separation in your relationships or holding you back from reconciling with someone? Pray for God's guidance to handle your situation. Talk with kids about what forgiveness means. Remind kids that God is forgiving and wants them to forgive other people even when it is hard to do.

Activities

Sword Wars (Matthew – Romans)
True or False

Live It Out!

Verse Challenge Hearts

S.O.A.P.

Genesis 27

Observation Questions:

1. Jacob and Esau were cousins. (False)
2. Esau and his father, Isaac, were close; Jacob and his mother, Rebekah, were close. (True)
3. Jacob was born first and was given a “birthright.” (False)
4. Jacob fixed a stew, and Esau wanted some. (True)
5. Isaac told Esau to go hunting and to make him some food. (True)
6. Rebekah put a coat on Jacob so that his arms and neck would be hairier like Esau's. (False)
7. Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing. (True)
8. Esau wanted to kill Jacob. (True)
9. Jacob ran away and was very poor all his life. (False)
10. Years later, Jacob returned home. Esau forgave Jacob. (True)

Prayer: If possible, have a time of silence and let kids have time in prayer. Close with: God, you are so great! You sent your son Jesus who is the ultimate example of forgiveness. Jesus forgave the people who put Him to death on the cross and Jesus took the punishment for our sins so that we can be completely forgiven. Thank you, God for Jesus. Because Jesus loves and forgives us, we can love and forgive others, especially our family members.

Memory Verse:

“In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.”

1 John 5:3

ACTIVITIES:

True or False – played during Observation

During Observation you will be playing True or False. The argument between Esau and Jacob began over a meal! Show kids the T (true) and the F (false) on the inside of the cups. Flip the cups upside down and shuffle them around on the table. Explain that you will make a true or false statement about the Bible story. The kids will then take turns answering and choosing the cup they think has the correct answer. (Remember to shuffle the cups between questions.)

Live it Out! Verse Challenge Hearts

You can do this together during class or send home. Depends on time. Have kids cut out and put in baggie to bring home.