



Esau Forgave Jacob

Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45; 31:3; 32:1-23; 33 | Winter Unit 3 Session 2

Wednesday 8th and Sunday 12th

Unit Verse

“Love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12

Life Point

Family members can forgive one another.

Level of Biblical Learning

God loves families even when they hurt each other, and He wants families to forgive each other.

Devotion

Sometimes holding grudges feels stronger and more natural than forgiving. How can forgiveness work better than grudges? Forgiveness is not magical. It will not change someone who shows no regret, and it will not change a repeat offender. 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 this 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.



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Bible Skills

Books of Law and Gospel Bingo

The first 5 Books of the Old Testament were all written by Moses and called the books of Law. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

The first 4 books of the New Testament are called the Gospel because it means good news and these books tell of Jesus life. (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

Can be played as a large group with the lead teacher calling the names of the books or as a small group with the guide using flashcards from the previous week to call the names of the books.

S.O.A.P

Scripture:

The Beginners Bible,
“Isaac’s Blessing” page 58
“Jacob and Esau Meet Again” page 66
Point out under the title it says Genesis.

Observation & Application:

- Make heart craft, details on the back

Prayer:

- Ask for prayer requests.
- Feel free to say your own prayer of use the prayer below.

God, thank You for brothers, sisters, parents, and grandparents! Thank You for families. Please, help us get along with our family members. Help us forgive and say “I’m sorry.” In Jesus’ name we pray, amen

"Heart Craft"

Need:

- 2 pipe cleaners per child
- Assortment of beads and straw pieces

DO: Help the children string the beads and straw pieces on the pipe cleaners, Then twist the two pipe cleaners into a heart shape.

As you do this talk about the observation and application questions below. Remind the kids of this month's Bible verse. "Love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

Observation:

- Why did Jacob have to leave home?
- What happened to Jacob while he was away from home?
- Why was Jacob worried about returning to his home?
- What did Esau do when he saw Jacob?

Application:

- If you were Esau, would you have forgiven Jacob? Why or why not?
- Have you ever had to forgive someone?
- Have you ever had to ask someone to forgive you? Did you say sorry?

Notes from Small Group Guide to the Lead Teacher:

