

## Bible background

Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40

## Aim of lesson

To show that jealousy and deceitfulness cause unhappiness, but that, although the members of Isaac's family behaved in this way, God still cared for them.

## Preparation required

You might like to bring in photographs of your family to show the children. Make models from plasticine, or draw pictures of each character to help tell the story. You will need crayons and felt pens/pencils.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Talk with the children about their families. Who is in them? What do they like doing? If you have any twins in your class ask them how they feel about their twin. Draw from the children that families are strong because of loyalty, love and trust. Would it be a happy family if everyone was doing things behind each other's back?
2. Tell the story, using your models or pictures, of the birth of Jacob and Esau. Show how they grew up to be very different. Esau, being adventurous, going out hunting, and Jacob preferring to stay at home. You might like to point out that each son was a favourite of one parent, and discuss with the children whether they think this was a good thing.
3. Lead on to the incident of the birthright. You can explain it by saying that, when Jacob died, Esau, because was a minute or so older, would inherit the greater part of Isaac's wealth. Jacob's concern was probably that Esau would also inherit the promises that God had made.
4. Go on to tell the children what happened many years later when Isaac was very old. Ask the children how they would feel if their brother (or sister) had tricked them. Tell them that Esau was very angry and wanted to kill Jacob, so Jacob had to run away.
5. Discuss with the children the unhappiness that was caused by deceitfulness and favouritism. Do they think that is how God wants them to behave in their families? Encourage the children to see that they should be thankful for their families. Let them draw a picture of their family on the worksheet and think why they should be thankful for each member of it.

## Alternative activities

1. Make a collage picture of the two sons to show the differences in their appearance and interests.
2. Role play: Make a tent, provide some cooking utensils, play dough or modelling clay and help the class to act out parts of the story. Can they make a tasty meal for Isaac?
3. Play a guessing game – Get child A to close his eyes (or if he doesn't mind, use a blindfold. Some young children don't like this so it's best to ask first) Choose another child to go and sit quietly in front of child A. Can child A guess who it is just by touching them? (Careful supervision needed to prevent poked eyes etc!) If child A can't guess who it is, get child B to say 'hello' Can child A guess who it is now?
4. Play a feely bag game - close eyes or blindfold and then try to identify various objects by touch only.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Encourage the children to see that God cares for their family, and that they should care for each other.

## Prayer

Ask the children to say a prayer thanking God for their families.

## Verse

'Since God so loved us we also ought to love one another.' 1 John 4:11.