

Isaac's Blessing

Lesson At-a-Glance

Scripture Reference

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

Lesson Focus

All of us can do God's work in the world.

Bible Memory Verse

"... and I have blessed him?—yes, and blessed he shall be!" Genesis 27:33b

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids will thumb-wrestle with a friend.	Spark Activity Pages, Spark Coloring Pages	None
Circle Time Kids will share one truth and one lie about themselves.	Spark Song CD, Spark Songbook	Music source
Opening Prayer Kids will hold hands in a circle to pray.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Isaac's Blessing Story Kids will act out opposites to underscore the differences between Jacob and Esau.	Spark Story Bibles, Spark NRSV Bibles	None
Disguises Kids will make "hairy arms" and bless each other.	Leaflets	Yarn, scissors, glue sticks, blindfolds

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Race for the Blessing Kids will do a maze in which Jacob takes Esau's blessing.	Leaflets, Spark Bible Stickers	Markers
Blessing Cards Kids will bless others by sending cards to college students and people serving in the military.	None	Camera, white paper, markers, stickers

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids will talk about doing God's work in the world.	None	None
Closing Prayer Kids will squeeze together to pray.	Family Pages, Leaflets	None

Introduction

Bible Background

Jacob and Esau are twin boys, grandsons of Abraham and Sarah and sons of Isaac and Rebekah. They wrestled in Rebekah's womb and were born one right after the other—Esau first, with Jacob clutching his heel.

Esau, being firstborn, already had the birthright, or right of inheritance—the higher status in the family. As Isaac is preparing to give Esau, his favored son, his paternal blessing before his death, Jacob and Rebekah agree on a plan to conceal Jacob's true identity and cheat Esau out of his blessing. Isaac insists on kissing (and smelling) his son to confirm his identity as firstborn "Esau." But the trick works, and Isaac gives his blessing to the younger son.

Why This Story Matters

This story illustrates how God uses imperfect people, like Jacob the cheater, to fulfill God's plans. Perhaps that will help a kid in your group who sees herself or himself as not good enough for God. All of us are good enough. God uses all of us to accomplish God's purposes.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the Activity Page and Coloring Page and set them out for kids to try.

Invite kids to engage in thumb-wrestling with a friend. Kids sit down facing a friend and hold their right hands in a thumbs-up position. Link right hands at the fingers, and chant, "One, two, three, four—I declare a thumb war." As you say this chant, your thumbs will cross over each other in time with the rhyme. When the chant is finished, kids use their thumbs to push their friend's thumb down (gently!) and hold it there for a count of three.

Spark Resources

Spark Activity Pages
Spark Coloring Pages

Supplies

None

Circle Time

Gather in a circle and invite everyone to think of two things about themselves—one true and one false but believable. When everyone is ready, go around the circle and invite each kid to share their two things. The group will have to guess which statement is true and which is false. Encourage kids to share things about themselves that will surprise the group—things that might seem impossible but are true.

Our story today is about two brothers, Esau and Jacob. Jacob lies to his father and takes away Esau's blessing. Even though Jacob lied, God later uses him for good. We don't have to be perfect. God uses all of us for good, even when we make mistakes.

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Song 1: "Father Abraham" (tracks 15 and 32 on Spark Song CD, page 83 in Spark Songbook)

Sing this song again this week as you dive into stories about Abraham's grandsons, Jacob and Esau. Do all the motions, and create your own new ones!

Song 2: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Isaac blessed Jacob. God blesses all of us. Sing this doxology to thank God for our many blessings.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD
Spark Songbook

Supplies

Music source

Opening Prayer

Hold hands in a circle as you pray.

Gracious God, thank you for all these kids and their sisters, brothers, and friends. Be with all of us when we have good times with our family and friends, and when things are hard. Be with us during our time together. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Isaac's Blessing Story

Invite kids with Spark NRSV Bibles to each find and sit with a buddy with a Spark Story Bible.

Today's Bible story is called Isaac's Blessing. It's a story about twin brothers who were opposite in every way. Let's act out some opposites. One boy was big—make yourself as big as possible. The other was small—make yourself as small as you can. One was loud—yell “hello” to your buddy as loudly as you can. The other was quiet—whisper “hello” to your buddy. One was a hunter—act out hunting. The other brother preferred farming—act out farming. One brother was honest—show an honest face. The other brother was tricky—show what your face looks like when you are going to trick someone. Read Isaac's Blessing on pages 42-45 from the Spark Story Bible.

Next, have buddies show each other the Isaac's Blessing story from their own Bibles. Younger kids can work with their buddies to find Squiggles on each page of the story, and to figure out which baby is Jacob (smiling) and which is Esau (yelling). Older kids can show their younger buddies where the story starts in Genesis 25 on page 27 of the Spark NRSV Bible.

Bible Memory Verse

“... and I have blessed him?—yes, and blessed he shall be!” Genesis 27:33b

Invite one buddy to say the first part of the verse, and the other to say the second part. Encourage both buddies to convey as much meaning as possible using their voices. After saying it a few times, mark it with a Spark Bible sticker.

Disguises

Jacob tricked his dad, Isaac, into giving him his brother Esau's blessing by making a disguise. Today, we will make disguises. Invite buddies to get yarn, scissors, and tape. Kids will cut the yarn into a few lengths and tape the yarn onto the leaflet. Once the yarn is on the leaflet, ask kids to wrap it around their arm like a sleeve and tape it together so it stays on. Then, buddies will take turns wearing a blindfold to be Isaac, touching their buddy Jacob's “hairy” arm, and saying, “You have my blessing.”

Invite kids to read and discuss the Bible Bits together.

Spark Resources

Spark NRSV Bibles
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Yarn
Scissors
Tape
Blindfolds

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Race for the Blessing

Jacob chased Esau his whole life. Jacob hung onto Esau when they were being born, and tricked their dad, Isaac, into giving him Esau's birthright—the biggest, most important blessing in a family. With your buddy, race through the maze on the leaflet where Jacob is trying to catch Esau to take what he has.

If there is time after doing the maze, and you have an open area for kids to run in, have the buddies play tag to burn off a little energy. Remind them to be careful!

Ask for volunteers to read the Did You Know? items aloud. Invite kids to place a sticker or special mark next to the item they found the most interesting.

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Markers

Blessing Cards

Jacob received a special blessing from his dad, Isaac—and Isaac's dad, Abraham, received an incredible blessing from God. All of us are blessed to be a blessing to others! Invite kids to draw pictures and/or write letters to send to homebound people, college students, and adults serving in the military who are from your faith community. **So many students and adults who will be blessed by artwork and letters from you!** When kids have finished creating, take a group picture to send along with the artwork and letters.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Camera
White paper
Markers
Stickers

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

All of us can do God's work in the world, even if we make mistakes along the way. God used Jacob to bless the world, even though he was a trickster and stole his older brother's blessing. How can you bless others?

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
None

Closing Prayer

Distribute Family Page to kids and encourage them to tell the story of Isaac's Blessing using the "hairy arm" of the leaflet, then play a family game of Blind Man's Bluff at home.

Spark Resources
Spark Family Pages
Leaflets

Hold hands, close your eyes, and gather in a tight circle to pray.

Supplies
None

God, we are so glad we can share your love and blessings in the world, even though we aren't perfect. Help us to be kind to everyone, and to ask for and give forgiveness when we need to. Amen.

As you say goodbye to kids, make sure they take home their leaflets and Family Pages.