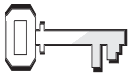


A Thief in the Family



References

Genesis 27:1-45;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 179–182



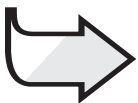
Memory Verse

“Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another”
(Leviticus 19:11, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that God wants people in His family to be honest.
Feel a desire to be truthful in all things.
Respond by resolving to be honest and tell the truth.



The Message

People in God’s family are honest.

Monthly Theme

We belong to God’s family.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Isaac is old and going blind. It is time to pass on the blessing that goes with the birthright. He sends Esau to hunt some game and prepare the kind of tasty food that he likes so much. Rebekah overhears the conversation and convinces Jacob to pretend to be Esau and trick Isaac into giving him the special blessing. Jacob puts on Esau’s clothes so he will smell like Esau. He wears goatskin on his hands and neck to be hairy like Esau. He takes the food that Rebekah has prepared into Isaac’s tent and tells his father that he is Esau. Isaac doesn’t believe him at first because the youth sounds like Jacob, but feels hairy and smells like Esau. Isaac gives the special blessing to Jacob. When Esau returns, it is too late; Jacob has the blessing that was to be his.

This is a lesson about community.

Sometimes, through unethical means, we try to “help” God do things that He has promised to do. Living in community with other Christians means that we are obedient to God and respectful of others. We are to trust that God is powerful and able to do what He says He will without taking things into our own hands. When we lie and deceive others in order to get our own way (even if we think something good will come of it), it causes problems in our families and in our churches. This does not honor God or benefit our community.

Teacher Enrichment

“Jacob had learned from his mother of the divine intimation that the birthright should fall to him, and he was filled with an unspeakable desire for the privileges which it would confer. It was not the possession of his father’s wealth that he craved; the spiritual birthright was the object of his longing. To commune with God as did righteous Abraham, to offer the sacrifice of atonement for his family, to be the progenitor of the chosen people and of the promised Messiah, and to inherit the immortal possessions embraced in the blessings of the covenant—here were the privileges and honors that kindled his most ardent desires. His mind was ever reaching forward to the future, and seeking to grasp its unseen blessings” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 178).

“Jacob and Rebekah succeeded in their purpose, but they gained only trouble and sorrow by their deception. God had declared that Jacob should receive the birthright, and His word

would have been fulfilled in His own time had they waited in faith for Him to work for them. But like many who now profess to be children of God, they were unwilling to leave the matter in His hands. Rebekah bitterly repented the wrong counsel she had given her son; it was the means of separating him from her, and she never saw his face again. From the hour he received the birthright, Jacob was weighed down with self-condemnation. He had sinned against his father, his brother, his own soul, and against God. In one short hour he had made work for a lifelong repentance" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 180).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 10.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Taste Test</i> B. <i>Feels Like . . .</i> C. <i>Who Am I?</i>	variety of fruit and vegetables, blindfolds 5-6 paper bags, 5-6 household or nature items, paper, pencils blindfold
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> well from previous lessons none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, bowl, fur (optional), comfortable chair or bedroll, bow and arrows none Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Masking the Truth</i> B. <i>Truth Box</i>	paper dinner plates, scissors, thin elastic, stapler, art supplies small box/plastic cup per child, craft supplies, glue, scissors, pebbles
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Banner of Truth</i>	12 inch/30 cm thin gardening canes or dowels (one per child), card stock, glue or tape, markers/crayons, Bibles

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- variety of fruit and vegetables
- blindfolds

A. Taste Test

In advance, peel and cube a variety of fruit and vegetables, such as an onion, apple, potato, etc. Blindfold the children and instruct them to hold their noses so they can’t smell anything. Give each child a piece of food to eat and have them guess what it is. Try it again, without making them hold their noses. After all of the food has been tasted, tell the children what they ate.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it harder or easier to guess what you were eating when you were holding your nose? What would life be like if you had no sense of smell? Jesus gave us five senses so we could know what was going on in the world around us: eyes to see, ears to hear, a nose to smell, a tongue so we can taste our food, and skin so we can touch and feel things. In our lesson today we are going to see how one man was dishonest and tricked his father’s senses. That’s not the way God wanted him to act. Why not? Because . . .**



PEOPLE IN GOD’S FAMILY ARE HONEST.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- 5-6 paper bags
- 5-6 household or nature items (see activity)
- paper
- pencils

B. Feels Like . . .

Prepare five to six mystery bags. Number the bags for identification. (Prepare two or more sets for a larger group.) Place household objects or objects from nature in the bags. (For example: keys, grapes, walnut halves, cooked cold spaghetti noodles, potato peels, raisins, leaves, pumpkin seeds, a baby rattle, cotton balls, fur, etc.)

Say: **Without looking, feel inside the bag. Then write down the number on the bag and what you think is in it.** When everyone has felt in the bags, ask what the children thought was in each bag, then show them.

Debriefing

Ask: **What made it difficult to guess what was in the bag?** (You could not use all your senses.) **God gave us five senses: eyes to see, ears to hear, a nose to smell, a tongue so we can taste, and skin so we can touch and feel things. In our story today we are going to learn about someone who used their father’s senses to trick him. That was not what God wanted Him to do. Why? Because . . .**



PEOPLE IN GOD’S FAMILY ARE HONEST.

Say that with me.

C. Who Am I?

Have the children sit in a circle with one blindfolded child sitting in the center. Ask for volunteers to go quietly to the “blind” person and say something. The “blind” person may touch only the volunteer’s head, neck, and hands while trying to guess who it is. Repeat the activity until all who want to have had a turn.

You Need:

- blindfold

Debriefing

Ask: **What was it like to try to guess who is in front of you when you couldn’t see them? What gave you clues as to who the person was?** (voice, clothes, hair) **In our lesson today a son tricked his blind father by wearing his brother’s clothes. That wasn’t what God wanted him to do. Why? Because . . .**



PEOPLE IN GOD’S FAMILY ARE HONEST.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any Time



Fellowship

Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week’s lesson study and review last week’s memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- “Come and Praise the Lord Our King” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 5)
- “Psalm 66” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 11)
- “Praise Him, Praise Him” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 12)
- “In His Time” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 42)
- “O, How He Loves You and Me” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 28)
- “Jesus Loves Children” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 37)



Mission

Share a story from *Children’s Mission*. Emphasize the importance of being honest with others about what we believe.



Offering

Say: **Giving our offerings is one way of helping others in God’s family.**

You Need:

- well from Lesson 10



Prayer

Take prayer requests. Then allow time for silent prayer, when each child can tell God about their love for Him and confess their need of Him. Ask for volunteers to pray out loud after the silent prayer.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- bowl
- fur (optional)
- comfortable chair or bedroll
- bow and arrows

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob, chorus (all other children)

At the appropriate time, have the chorus say: "Tell the truth, Jacob."

Setting the scene:

The scene opens with Isaac sitting in a chair or reclining on the bedroll.

Read or tell the story.

You would never have thought that Jacob and Esau were twins. *[Jacob and Esau stand looking at each other.]* They looked different. They dressed differently. They had different interests. They were opposites. Esau loved to hunt, while Jacob stayed closer to home and looked after the family's flocks and herds.

Before they were born, God told Rebekah that the older brother would serve the younger. Now Isaac was old and blind, and it was time for him to bless his sons. Rebekah reminded Isaac of what God had said. But Esau was Isaac's favorite, and Isaac was determined to give him the blessing.

One day Rebekah overheard Isaac talking to Esau. *[Rebekah listens near Isaac. Esau goes in to Isaac.]*

"Esau, I am old," said Isaac to his son. "I don't know how long I will live. Take your weapons and hunt some wild game for me. Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me, then I will give you my blessing." *[Esau goes out, picks up bow and arrow, and disappears.]*

As soon as Esau left, Rebekah called Jacob and told him what was happening. *[Rebekah calls Jacob to her.]* Then she said,

"Don't worry, Jacob. I have a plan. Go out to the flock and bring me two of the best kid goats. I will prepare food just like your father likes it. Then you can take it to him and get the blessing."

Jacob replied, "But, Mother, he will know the difference. Esau is hairy and I am not. He would know I was tricking him. Then he would curse me rather than bless me." *[Chorus.]* Rebekah said, "If anyone will be cursed, it will be me. Just go and do as I tell you." *[Rebekah shakes head and gently pushes Jacob away.]*

[Rebekah puts some fur on Jacob's hands.] Jacob dressed in some of Esau's clothes. Rebekah covered his hands and neck with goat skins. Then she sent Jacob to Isaac with the food she had prepared.

[Jacob goes to Isaac.] Isaac turned as he heard Jacob entering the room. He asked, "Who is it?"

"Esau, your firstborn," lied Jacob. "I have done as you told me. Sit up and taste this food, and give me the blessing." *[Chorus.]*

"How did you find the game so quickly?" asked Isaac.

"God gave me success," lied Jacob again. *[Chorus.]*

Then Isaac said, "Come close so I can touch you."

Jacob moved to stand before his father, and Isaac reached out to touch Jacob. "You sound like Jacob," Isaac said. "But you feel like Esau. Are you really Esau?"

"Yes, I am," Jacob lied again. *[Chorus.]*

[Jacob moves closer, and Isaac grabs his clothes.] "Then come and give me some food to eat," said Isaac. As Jacob came nearer, Isaac grabbed him by his clothes and smelled them. "Ah," he said, satisfied, "these smell of the field." Convinced that Esau was standing by him, Isaac blessed

the wrong son—Jacob.

[Jacob leaves. Esau enters.] Jacob had just left when Esau came into Isaac's tent. "Here is the food you asked for, Father," he announced.

[Isaac looks fearful and worried.] In a trembling voice, Isaac asked, "Who are you?"

"I am Esau, your firstborn," replied Esau.

Isaac asked, "But who was just here? Jacob? So it was Jacob! And I gave him your blessing!"

[Esau angrily walks back and forth.] Esau was furious. "Can't you bless me as well? He cheated me out of my inheritance, and now he has cheated me out of your blessing. Can't you give me anything?"

[Isaac looks sad and shakes his head.] Isaac sadly shook his head and said, "The blessing has been given. I cannot take it away."

[Esau goes to Jacob and shakes his fist at him, then leaves the scene.] Esau went out muttering, "When my father dies I will kill Jacob and get what is mine."

Jacob knew he had done wrong. And he felt sad. He began to understand that his lies caused problems for everyone.

Debriefing

Say: **God told Rebekah that Jacob would be the leader of the family. Isaac wanted to give Esau the blessing. How did Jacob and Rebekah try to "help" God?** (Jacob dressed up as Esau, and lied to his father.)

Would God have kept His promise to Rebekah? (Yes. He would have found another way. God always keeps His promises.)

What was the result of Jacob's trying to "help" God? (Jacob caused problems for himself and his family.) **Was Jacob the only one who had done wrong?** (No, Rebekah was wrong too.)

What should we learn from this story? (Telling lies, being dishonest, causes problems in a family.) **Let's say our message together:**



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY ARE HONEST.

Memory Verse

Use the following to teach the memory verse. Repeat until the children know the verse.

Do not steal. Reach out as if taking something.

Do not lie. Point to mouth.

Do not deceive Hand behind ear, then shake head.

one another. Point to each other.

Leviticus 19:11 Palms together, then open.

Bible Study

Say: **Jacob caused a lot of problems for himself and his family when he told lies and tricked his father, Isaac. Let's discover what the Bible says about lies and liars.**

Form five groups and give each one of the following texts. Have them read it and explain it to the rest of the groups. Adults assist as needed. Allow time for the groups to report.

John 8:44 (Who is the father of lies?)

1 John 1:10 (This could make you a liar.)

1 John 2:4, 5 (What can make us liars? [Continuing in sin.]

1 John 4:19 (How can our feelings make us a liar?)

Revelation 21:8 (Who will be outside heaven?)

You Need:

- Bibles

Debriefing

Ask: **What does God think about lies?** (He does not like them.) **Who is behind all lies?** (Satan)

What happens when we lie? (We break the relationship between God and us.)

Can Jesus ever lie? Let's read John 14:6. (Jesus is truth.)

What should we do if we tell a lie? Let's read 1 John 1:9. (Confess and ask

for forgiveness.)

Lies hurt others. God doesn't want people in His family to tell lies or to cheat others. But if we do, and if we are really sorry, God is willing to forgive us and will help us to do what is right. Let's say today's message:



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY ARE HONEST.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- paper dinner plates
- scissors
- thin elastic
- stapler
- art supplies

A. Masking the Truth

Use a paper dinner plate for each child. Help them hold it in front of their face. Mark and cut out holes for the eyes. Distribute art supplies and have the children decorate their mask. When each child finishes, measure enough elastic to go around the back of the child's head. Tie a knot in both ends of the elastic and staple it to either side of the circle. Look at and admire the masks.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happens when we put a mask on?** (It hides our face. People can't tell who we are.) **Do you know who is behind the mask?** (Sometimes it is easy to tell, sometimes it is hard.)

How is lying like putting on a mask? (We pretend to be something we are not.) **What happens when we lie?** (We cause trouble for ourselves and sometimes for others.) **If we ask God, He will help us always to tell the truth.**

Remember:



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY ARE HONEST.

B. Truth Box

Say: **Today we are going to make "Truth Boxes" to remind us to always tell the truth.** Allow the children time to decorate their "Truth Box," then give them 10-15 pebbles.

Say: **If you tell a lie to someone, or do something that hurts someone, put a pebble in the box. At the end of the day, take your pebbles in your hand as you talk to Jesus, and tell Him what you have done. Ask Him to forgive you, and to help you always to be honest.**

Debriefing

Say: **Jesus will forgive us and help us do better.**

When you have asked Jesus to forgive you, empty the box and put all of the pebbles back in the bag. Thank Jesus for giving you a fresh start. Ask Him to help you always to be honest.

Let's say our message together:



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY ARE HONEST.

You Need:

- small box/plastic cup per child
- craft supplies
- glue
- scissors
- pebbles

Sharing the Lesson

Banner of Truth

Ask: **Can you remember who was outside the New Jerusalem? Let's look again at Revelation 21:7, 8 to see who was inside and who was outside.** Read the text aloud. **We are in a battle, and all who follow Jesus gather under the banner of "Truth."**

Let's make a banner. On one side write: "With Jesus' help, I will always tell the truth" and on the other side write your name.

When you finish, find a partner and share times when it seems hard to tell the truth. Wave your flag and say: "With Jesus' help, I will always tell the truth."

Debriefing

Ask: **When is it hard to be honest?**
(When we have done something wrong.)

Who will help us tell the truth?
(Jesus)

Why is it always better to tell the truth? (When we tell lies, it creates problems with others.)

Let's say our message together:



PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY ARE HONEST.

Closing

Gather in a circle and ask God to help each one to be honest and always tell the truth.

You Need:

- 12 inches/30 cm thin gardening cane (dowel) per child
- card stock
- glue or tape
- markers/crayons
- Bibles

A Thief in the Family

References

Genesis 27:1–45;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 179–182

Memory Verse

“Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another”
(Leviticus 19:11, NIV).

The Message

People in God’s family are honest.

Have you ever done something you knew you shouldn’t do? And when someone asked you about it, you told a lie? How would you feel if you were caught telling a lie? Jacob lied to his father and hurt his whole family.

You would never have thought that Jacob and Esau were twins. They looked different. They dressed differently. They had different interests. They were opposites. Esau loved to hunt. Jacob liked to stay home and look after the family flocks and herds.

Before they were born, God spoke to their mother, Rebekah. He said that the older brother would serve the younger. She didn’t know how this would happen. But she believed what God said.

Isaac was now old and blind. He decided that it was time for him to give the special blessing to his son. Rebekah reminded him of what God had said. But Esau was Isaac’s favorite. And Isaac was determined to give him the blessing.

One day Rebekah overheard Isaac talking to Esau. “Esau, I am old,” she heard Isaac say. “I don’t know how long I will live. Take your weapons and hunt some wild game for me. Prepare the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me. Then I will give you my blessing.”

As soon as Esau left, Rebekah called Jacob to her. She told him what was happening. Then she said, “Don’t worry, Jacob. I have a plan. Go to the flock and

bring me two of the best kid goats. I will prepare food just the way your father likes it. Then you can take it to him and get the blessing.”

Jacob replied, “But he will know the difference. Esau is hairy and I am not. Father would know I was tricking him. He would curse me rather than bless me.”

“If anyone should be cursed, it will be me,” his mother responded. “Just go and do as I tell you.”

So Jacob dressed in some of Esau’s clothes. Rebekah quickly covered his hands and neck with goat skins. Then Jacob went to Isaac with the food Rebekah had prepared.

Isaac heard Jacob entering the room. “Who is it?” he asked.

“Esau, your firstborn,” lied Jacob. “I have done as you told me, Father. Sit up and taste this good food and give me the blessing.”

“How did you find the game so quickly?” asked Isaac.

“God helped me,” lied Jacob once again.

Then Isaac said, “Come close so I can touch you. You sound like Jacob, but your hands feel like Esau. Are you really Esau?”

“Yes, Father,” Jacob lied again.

“Then come and give me some food to eat,” said Isaac. As Jacob came near, Isaac grabbed him by his clothes. He smelled them. “Ah, yes,” he said, satisfied at last. “These smell of the field.” And so it was that Isaac blessed Jacob.

Jacob hurried away. He had just left when Esau entered his father’s tent. “Here is the food you asked for, Father,” announced Esau.

Isaac trembled. In a shaking voice he asked, “Who are you?”

“I am Esau, your firstborn,” replied Esau.

Isaac asked, “Then who was just here? Was it Jacob?” Isaac knew then what had happened. He turned to Esau



and sadly said, "I blessed him. I blessed your brother Jacob."

Esau was furious. "Can't you bless me as well? Jacob cheated me out of my inheritance. Now he has cheated me out of your blessing. Can't you give me anything?"

Isaac sadly shook his head. "The blessing has been given. I cannot take it away."

Esau muttered as he left his father's tent. "When my father dies, I will kill Jacob and get what is mine."

Jacob knew he had done wrong. And he was sorry. He felt sad. His lies had caused problems for everyone. He should have waited. God had made a promise. He didn't need Jacob's help—or Rebekah's either. What would happen now?

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Play a game of "true or false" with your family. Think of a Bible story. Then ask your family four true or false questions. The person who gets the most right thinks of the next story.
- With your family, think of Bible stories where people told lies. What was the result of each? Now think of stories where people told the truth. What was the result? Which is better—to lie or tell the truth? Why?
- Ask God to help you always to tell the truth.

Sunday

- Read and discuss Genesis 27:1-17 with your family. Who encouraged Jacob to lie? Ask your family: What can we do to help others do what is right?
- Draw a picture of a tent. Stick two pieces of paper over the entrance to make tent flaps. Write your memory verse under the flaps. Use this to teach the verse to your family.
- Sing a song about obeying God. Then ask God to help your family always to be honest.

Monday

- Read and discuss Genesis 27:18-30 for worship today. Ask an adult to tell about a time when they were tempted to lie, but told the truth.
- Ask if you can use some herbs, spices, or scents. Put them in separate paper bags. Ask your family to smell each bag and guess what is inside.
- Write a family blessing. Ask each person to add a sentence that tells how God has blessed them. Thank God for all His blessings.

Tuesday

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 27:30-41. Ask: Has anyone ever told a lie about you? Talk about ways to react when

someone lies or hurts you. Ask God to help you always to tell the truth.

- Find five different kinds of fabric. Ask your family to close their eyes, feel each, and guess what they are.

Wednesday

- For worship today, read and discuss Exodus 20:16 and Romans 6:23. What is the result of telling lies? Review Genesis 27 and count the number of lies Jacob told.
- Ask your family to try this: Get a balloon. Blow into the balloon. Make sure that the air does not escape. Now let go of the balloon. How is asking for forgiveness like letting the air go out of the balloon?
- If you are really sorry, ask God to forgive you for wrongs you may have done today. Ask the people you may have wronged to forgive you too.

Thursday

- Read and discuss John 8:44 with your family. Ask your family to help you create a poster encouraging people to tell the truth. Pray for strength to resist Satan's temptations.
- Survey your family. Make a list of their favorite foods. Ask if you can help fix a favorite food for tomorrow evening.

Friday

- For your evening meal, serve the favorite food you helped prepare yesterday. What else did you do to help your family get ready for Sabbath?
- For worship, reread Genesis 27. Ask your family to help you act out the story. Ask each person to tell what they have learned from this story.
- Sing your favorite Sabbath songs before prayer. Pray that your family will be blessed throughout the Sabbath.