

A Thief in the Family

Genesis 17:1-45; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 179-182

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

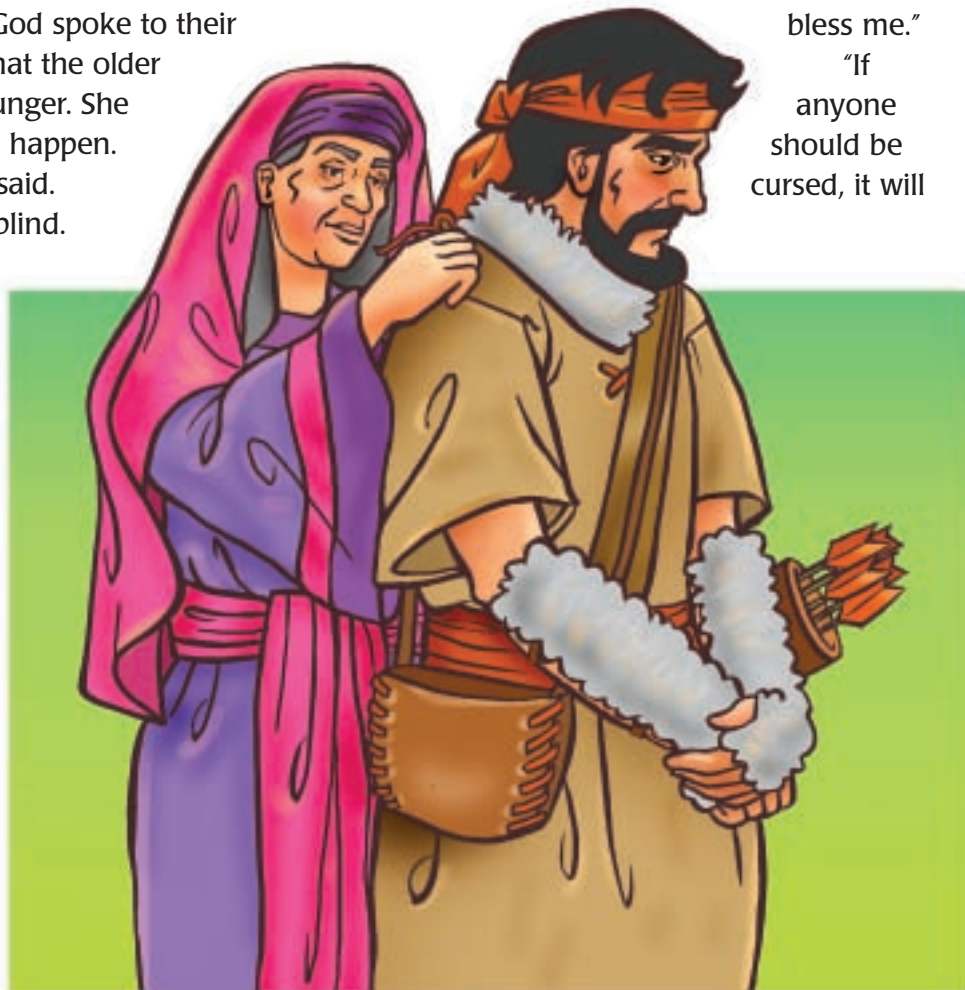
to me. Then I will give you my blessing."

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



The Message

People in God's family
are honest.

Memory Verse

“ ‘ “Do not steal.
Do not lie. Do not
deceive one
another” ’ ”

(Leviticus 19:11, NIV).

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.

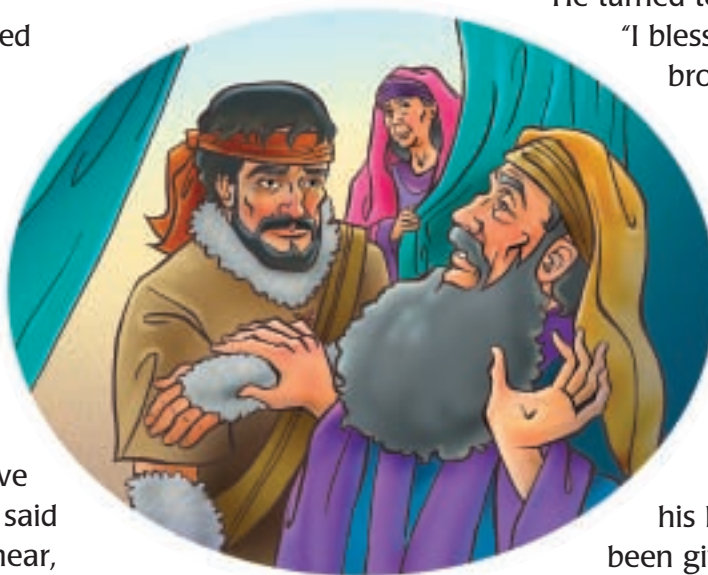
He turned to Esau and sadly said, “I blessed him. I blessed your brother Jacob.”

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?



S A B B A T H

DO 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.

THINK 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?

PRAY Ask God to help you always to tell the truth.

S U N D A Y

READ 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 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 Sing a song about obeying God. Then ask God to help your family always to be honest.

A birthright is the special inheritance the oldest son received. God promised the Messiah would come into the part of Abraham’s family that had received the birthright.



M O N D A Y

READ 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 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.

DO Write a family blessing. Ask each person to add a sentence that tells how God has blessed them. Thank God for all His blessings.

T U E S D A Y

READ 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.

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

W E D N E S D A Y

READ 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 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?

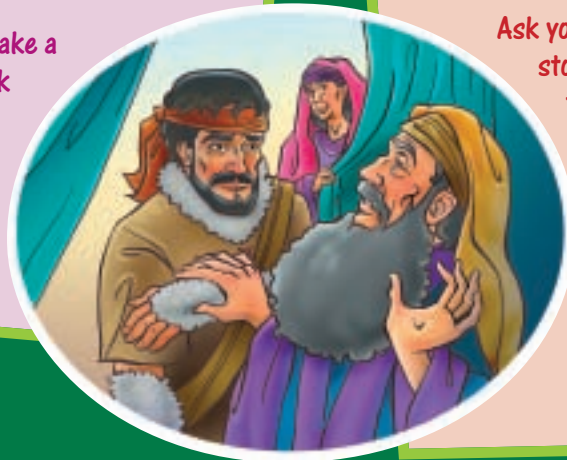
ASK If you are really sorry, ask God to forgive you for wrongs you may have done today. Ask the people you may have wronged to forgive you too.



THURSDAY

READ 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.

DO Survey your family. Make a list of their favorite foods. Ask if you can help fix a favorite food for tomorrow evening.



FRIDAY

DO 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?

READ 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 Sing your favorite Sabbath songs before prayer. Pray that your family will be blessed throughout the Sabbath.

A Thief in the Family PUZZLE

Directions: Color each square that has a dot in it to find out what was hidden when Jacob took food to Isaac.

