

Sold for a Bowl of Soup

Genesis 25:19-34; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 177-179



Imagine that you have been outside all day. Maybe you were playing with friends or helping in the garden. You come into the house and smell something good. Someone is cooking in the kitchen. All of a sudden you are very hungry. That was just how Esau felt one day. Let's find out what happened.

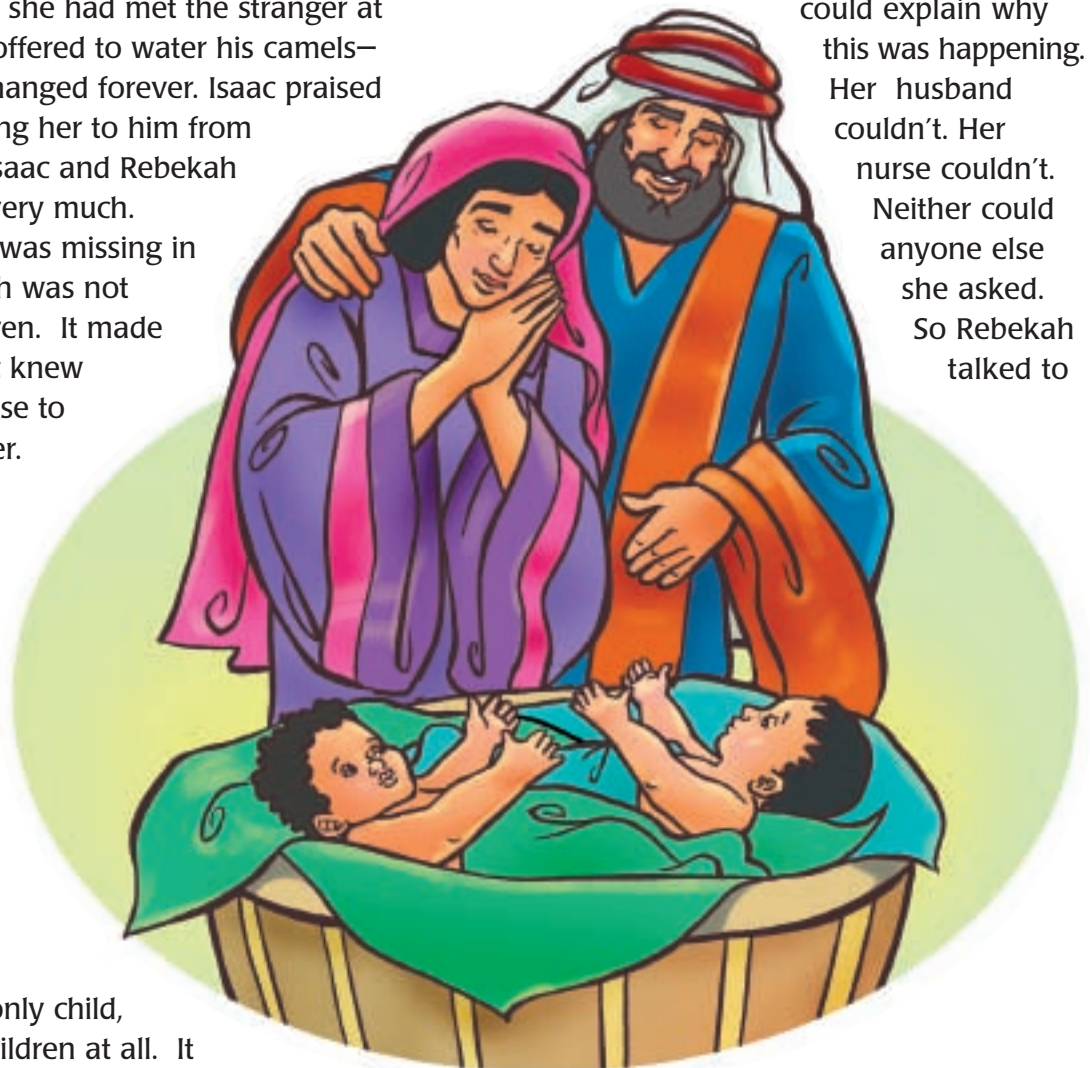
Isaac and Rebekah had been happily married for 20 years. Rebekah loved to remember the day she had met the stranger at the well. She had offered to water his camels—and her life had changed forever. Isaac praised the Lord for bringing her to him from so far away. Yes, Isaac and Rebekah loved each other very much.

But something was missing in their lives. Rebekah was not able to have children. It made her very sad. Isaac knew about God's promise to Abraham, his father. God had told Abraham that his family would become a mighty nation. Isaac spent a great deal of time wondering how that could be. How could a mighty nation come from Abraham's family? Isaac, Abraham's only child, didn't have any children at all. It

was a sad puzzle. One that Isaac longed to solve.

Finally, Isaac pleaded with the Lord. He begged God to give Rebekah a child. And God answered Isaac's prayer—in a surprising way. Rebekah had not one child, but two! God gave Isaac and Rebekah twin boys!

Even before the twins were born, they struggled together inside their mother. Rebekah thought this was strange. No one could explain why this was happening. Her husband couldn't. Her nurse couldn't. Neither could anyone else she asked. So Rebekah talked to



The Message

I can love people who are different from me.

Memory Verse

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves”

(Romans 12:10, NIV).

the Lord. She prayed and asked God what was happening.

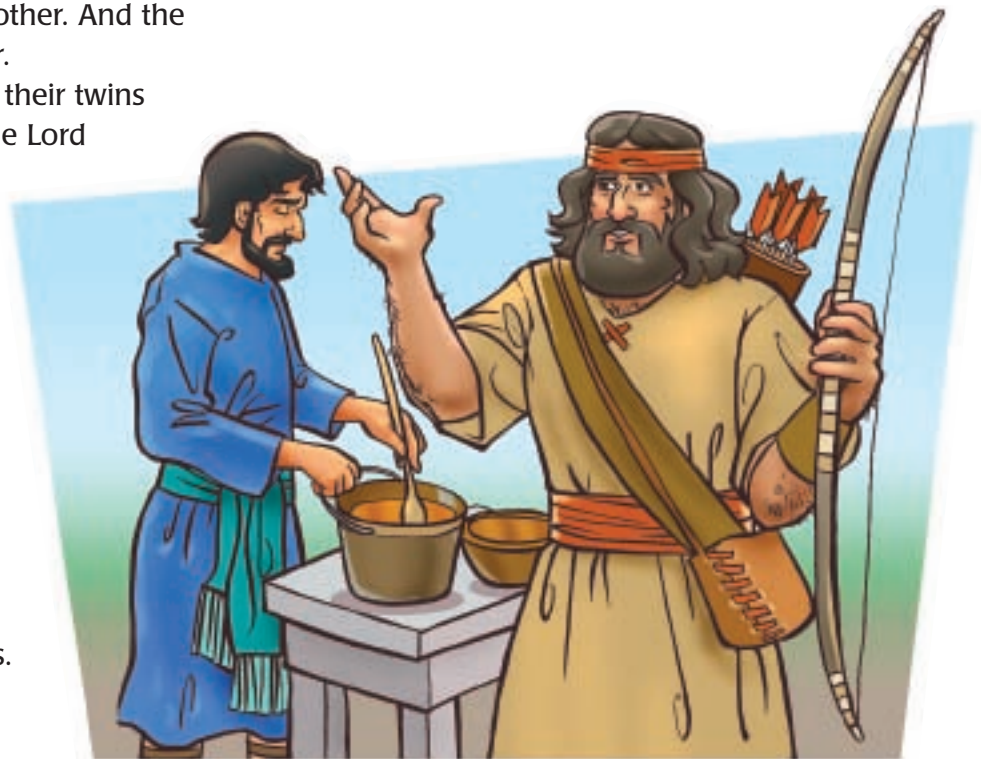
The Lord answered Rebekah’s prayer. He told her that the two children inside her were very different. They would be the beginnings of two different nations, two nations that wouldn’t like each other very much. One twin would be stronger than his brother. And the elder would serve the younger.

Isaac and Rebekah named their twins Esau and Jacob. And just as the Lord had said, the boys were very different. Esau, the older, liked to travel away from home. When he wanted something, he wanted it right now. He liked to hunt and often brought his father things from afar. And he was his father’s favorite twin.

Jacob, on the other hand, liked to stay close to home. He learned how to take care of his father’s flocks and herds. He learned to cook. He was dependable. He spent a lot of time with his mother. And Jacob was his mother’s favorite twin.

One day Esau came in from hunting. He was very hungry and he smelled something good. Jacob was cooking something good, probably lentil soup or stew. Esau stood before his brother and exclaimed, “I’m starving!” Then he demanded, “Let me have some of that.”

Jacob replied, “Are you really so hungry? Hungry enough to trade me your rights as the firstborn son?”



Esau answered, “I am about to die of hunger! What good will my rights do me then?” So Jacob gave him some bread and some of the food. Esau ate and drank, then got up and left. He did not care about his rights as the firstborn son. All he cared about was how he felt at the moment. And because of that, he gave up something that would have been a blessing for the rest of his life.

S A B B A T H

DO Stand near the kitchen and close your eyes. Guess what you will have for lunch.

ASK Esau loved to hunt and be outdoors. If possible, spend some time outdoors in nature with your family today. Ask your family what they think Esau hunted.

PRAY Thank God for food to eat.

S U N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Genesis 25:19-28. Which of the brothers was hairy? Compare arms with your family members. Who has the most hair?

THINK How old was Rebekah when Esau and Jacob were born? How old were your parents when you were born? Do you know someone that age?

DO Cut out 14 different vegetable shapes. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Mix the shapes, then put them in the right order. Use this to teach the verse to your family.

PRAY Ask God to help you to be kind to others.

Isaac and Rebekah didn't have children for 20 years after they married. Isaac was 60 years old when Jacob and Esau were born!



M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Genesis 25:27-34. Would Esau have died of hunger? Find out how long someone can live without food and/or water.

DO Think of a time when you were impatient like Esau. What was the result? Talk about it with your family. Ask God to make you patient.

ASK Ask if you can help make soup one day this week. Thank God for good food.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Matthew 7:12 during worship. What did you learn about treating people who are different from you? Put Matthew 7:12 into practice. Do something special for someone in your family today.

MAKE Make a chart to tell how you and your family members are different. Share it with your family. How are you different? How are you the same? Thank God for differences and variety.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family, read 1 Thessalonians 5:15. How can this help us when we meet different people? Sing "We Grow in Many Different Ways" (Sing For Joy, No. 59).

DRAW Draw a picture of Jacob and some things he liked. If he lived on earth today, what do you think he would like?

DO Look outside. How many different colors can you see? Thank God for variety in nature.

T H U R S D A Y

DRAW Share your lesson story with your family. Draw a picture of Esau and the things he liked. What do you think he would like if he lived today?

THINK Think of your church family. Ask an adult to help you name countries some members come from. What does this tell you about God's family?

MAKE Make a card together and send it to an older church member. Write "I'm glad you are part of God's family."

DO Review your memory verse together. Then ask God to bless your church family.

F R I D A Y

READ During worship today reread Genesis 25:19-34. Ask your family to help you act out the story. Have each person name something they like about each family member. Do not say the same thing twice.


SING Sing happy family songs, then ask God to bless your family.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Study the pictures below and remove letters as indicated to find out what this week's lesson teaches us.



1  - "t" + brother - "br".