

JACOB



THINK ABOUT IT:

How can you forgive others?

Introduction

Say, “Think of a time when someone really hurt your feelings. Maybe they did it on purpose, maybe it was an accident. Now think to yourself if you have forgiven that person for what they did. Forgiveness is when we let go of being hurt and upset and try our best to love the person who hurt us, even if they didn’t say sorry. Today we will learn about two brothers and see what happens when you do and don’t forgive others.”

Message

1. Choose four children to act out the story (Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau), and two children to hold the curtain. Dress them in costume if desired and have your adult helper give the children some general direction on how the story will be acted out while you continue to talk to rest of the class.
2. Ask, “Who can tell me what they remember about Abraham? How about Isaac?”
3. Say, “God made a promise to Abraham to give him a son, and many descendants, and it was answered. Today we’ll learn about Isaac’s twin sons. God had promised their mother, Rebekah, that the younger son, Jacob, would receive Isaac’s blessing, even though it traditionally would go to the oldest son, Esau. We’ll see today the difference it makes when we place our trust in God, like Abraham did, or trust in our own schemes, like Rebekah and Jacob did. Be on the lookout for who needed to be forgiven, and who did or didn’t do the forgiving.”
4. Read the text, pausing at the breaks to allow the actors to act out the scene.



SCRIPTURE

Genesis 27 & 33

Psalm 65:3



MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- Four robes or head pieces
- CBA cross for each child *
- Visual - Jacob receives blessing *

* Available in the Member Toolbox



PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Choose an adult volunteer to help direct the drama
- Bookmark the Bible verse

**CBA s**

- Prepare the CBA crosses as follows:
 - With the heart facing you, fold up the prayer (two folds).
 - Next fold in the A, then B, then C flaps so you have a square with the C on top.
 - You may use a paper clip to secure the square until ready for use.
- Have questions about the CBAs? See page 10 for more information.

**IDEA!**

It is helpful to have an adult assist the children in acting. The visuals listed in the materials are provided as additional resources to be used at your discretion.

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**EXTRA TIME**

Put what the children learned into practice! Have the children think about someone they need to forgive and lead the children in prayer to help them have forgiving hearts.

The Story of Jacob and Esau**Scene 1 * Jacob sitting on a chair with Esau in a begging position**

Our story begins with Jacob busily stirring soup in the kitchen as his twin brother Esau comes in from a day of hunting. Esau wanders over to the kettle and lifts the lid to see what Jacob is cooking. He begs for some of the soup, now. Jacob just shakes his head and continues to stir. Then Esau gets another idea. Even though he and Jacob are twins, born on the very same day, he was born first. Since he is the oldest son in the family, he will get a special blessing and inherit all of his father's wealth when his father dies. Right now, that seems like a long time away, and Esau is very hungry, and the stew smells so good. Esau falls to his knees before his brother and offers a trade. Esau promises to let Jacob have his blessing, all of their father's possessions, if Jacob will just let him have the stew now. Jacob cannot believe his good fortune. He hands him the pot of stew. He always thought it was unfair that Esau got everything just because he was born a few minutes earlier. Well, Esau could have the stew, and now Jacob would get the inheritance.

Scene 2 * Jacob kneeling, Isaac sitting in chair with a hand on Jacob's head

As the years went by, Isaac got very old and very sick. Isaac thought that he was going to die soon, so he called for his son Esau. Esau knelt beside his father's bed as Isaac told him the time had come to give Esau his blessing. Isaac loved when Esau hunted and came home with fresh meat for stew, so he sent him out to hunt and make stew for him one last time. As Esau left the house, Rebekah called Jacob to her. She whispered to Jacob what she had heard Isaac tell Esau. Then she got Esau's animal skins and covered Jacob with them. She gave him a bowl of soup and sent him to Isaac to pretend he was Esau. Isaac was very ill and could not see well, so he called Esau to him. Jacob knelt down beside the bed, pretending to be Esau. When Isaac felt the animal skins, he believed it was Esau, so he put his hand on Jacob's head and gave him the blessing promise of good things for the future. Rebekah knew that Esau would return soon and would be very angry, so she prepared to send Jacob away.

Scene 3 * Esau with outraged expression, Isaac looking surprised

Esau returned from hunting, cooked the meat, and took a bowl to his father. When he knelt by Isaac's bed and offered him the stew, Isaac was confused. He said that he had already given the blessing away. Esau remembered his trade with his brother but it was too late. Jacob was gone, and the blessing was gone, too.

Scene 4 * Jacob and Esau shaking hands

Years went by, and Jacob was sad because he missed his brother Esau. Jacob decided he wanted to see his brother no matter what might happen. He sent word to Esau that he was coming. He could see Esau on the road far ahead. Was Esau still angry? Maybe Esau would try to hurt him or even kill him.

As Jacob walked toward his brother, Esau raised his hand in a friendly wave. Jacob ran to his brother, and they excitedly high-fived and shook hands. All was forgiven as the brothers walked away together talking about their children and grandchildren.

5. Encourage the children to applaud for the volunteers!
6. Say, “You’ll discuss the story you just saw and answer the question, ‘How can you forgive others?’ in small group.”

Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Ask, “What did Rebekah and Jacob do?” (*didn’t wait for God to act, lied, stole the blessing from Esau*)
2. Say, “They mistook God’s promise as an excuse to act on their own to make sure Jacob got the blessing. Why do you think they didn’t wait?” (*didn’t trust God to keep His promise, impatient, thought they could handle it*)
3. Ask, “How did their action affect their family? How could this have been avoided?” (*tore the family apart; should have waited on God*)
4. Ask, “How did Jacob and Esau finally become a family again? Whose heart changed?” (*both – Jacob for seeking forgiveness and Esau for forgiving*)
5. Read 1 John 1:9. Ask, “What does the verse say God will do with our sins?” (*forgive them*)
6. Ask, “How can you forgive others?”
7. Say, “Just like Esau forgave Jacob and they could become a family again, God is willing to forgive our sins so we can be part of His family.”
8. Use the CBA cross as a visual to explain the CBAs.
 - Say, “The Bible tells us a lot about how God gives us faith. We’re going to use the acronym CBA to help us remember the important parts.”
 - Open to show the ‘C.’ Open the ‘C’ flap and say, “C stands for Confess. Everyone needs to confess that you have sinned and made bad choices.”
 - Open the ‘B’ flap and say, “B stands for Believe. Believe that Jesus died for the forgiveness of your sins.”
 - Open the ‘A’ flap and say, “A stands for Ask. Ask God to forgive your sins and ask Him to be part of your life forever.”

- Show the question and say, “So, how does God give me faith? The verse John 3:16 explains what faith in Jesus means.” Read the verse (in the heart). Take a few minutes to explain the concept of salvation further if clarification is needed and answer any questions the children might have.
- Open the prayer flap to reveal the prayer (and the cross made when the visual is fully open!). Lead the children in prayer, encouraging them to pray with you if they’d like to affirm their decision to follow Jesus.

*“Dear God, I’m sorry for my sins.
 I believe Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.
 I want to follow you.
 Please forgive me and be a part of my life forever.”*