

Bible Story 7: JACOB, HIS NAME CHANGED TO ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 25:19-20,24-34; 27:1-27,41-45; 28:10-22; 30:25-26; 31:3,22,38,41; 32:11,22-30; 33:1-17

MEMORY VERSE: LEVITICUS 19:11

BIBLE STORY:

Isaac was the son of Abraham, and he married Rebekah when he was forty years old. They had twin boys: Esau, the first born son, and Jacob. The father, Isaac, loved Esau more because his son liked to be out in the fields and hunt animals. The father liked to eat the meat of the wild game. The mother, Rebekah, preferred Jacob, who liked to be near the tents.

One day Jacob was cooking a stew when Esau arrived very hungry from being out in the field. He asked his brother for food. But Jacob answered that he would only give him food if he passed him the birthright of the firstborn son. (*The birthright enabled the firstborn to receive a greater inheritance than others.*) Esau was so very hungry that he finally agreed, showing so little value to these rights. Jacob then gave him some stew and bread.

Time passed, and the father Isaac became old and blind. One day he called his son Esau and asked him to hunt venison and prepare a delicious meal that he liked. After eating, he would give him the special blessing for the oldest son. Esau obeyed and left. Rebekah overheard what her husband Isaac had said. She called her son Jacob and told him to deceive his father so that he could receive that blessing. Jacob caught two kid goats, and his mother prepared the food just as Isaac liked. Rebekah dressed Jacob with Esau's clothes, covering his hands and neck with goatskins, because Esau was very hairy. Jacob took the tasty food to his father Isaac. Listen to what happened:

JACOB: *"Here I am Father."*

ISAAC: *"Who are you? Are you my son Esau?"*

JACOB: *"Yes, I am Esau. I did as you asked. Eat some of the meat of the animal that I hunted and then bless me."*

ISAAC: Suspicious, he said, *"Come closer to me so that I can touch you and verify that it is really Esau."* Taking hold of his hands, he continued saying, *"Your voice sounds*

like Jacob, but these hands seem like the hands of Esau. Are you actually my oldest son Esau?"

JACOB: *"Yes, I am."*

ISAAC: Then Isaac ate the tasty meal and said, *"My son, come here and give me a kiss."* Jacob kissed his father. When Isaac felt his hairy hands and smelled the odor of Esau's clothes, Isaac thought that it was his son Esau and blessed him.

Jacob left. Soon afterwards Esau arrived, and when he found out what had happened he was very, very angry.

Jacob became afraid of his brother's anger. He received permission from his father, and quickly left to visit his uncle's home in a distant place. On the road Jacob stopped to rest. He selected a stone to serve as a pillow and lay down. He dreamed that a ladder went from the ground to the sky, and angels went up and down the ladder. God told Jacob that He would be with him everywhere he went and would protect him. Jacob made the promise that he would serve God.

Jacob worked for his uncle Laban for many, many years in order to marry his wives Rachel and Leah. He grew prosperous with flocks. Finally, Jacob decided to return home. On the road, he struggled with an angel, totally surrendering his life to God. Then God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

Jacob was still afraid of his brother Esau, because he did not know if he was still angry with him. So Jacob sent presents ahead for Esau. But as soon as Esau saw him, he ran and hugged his brother Jacob. The two cried together. Esau forgave his brother and they lived in harmony, at peace with one another.

When Jacob arrived in Canaan with his family and possessions, he made an altar and worshiped God and God continued to be with Jacob.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. Jacob lied and deceived his father and his brother. His brother was extremely angry with him. Jacob quickly received permission to visit his uncle and left. He was gone for many years. Be honest with everyone. Lies bring bad consequences.
2. God told Jacob that he would be with him everywhere he went, protecting him and taking care of his life. Trust God that he will be with you everywhere you are, protecting you and taking care of your life.
3. Jacob struggled with the angel but finally surrendered. He changed his way of life and his attitude. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Surrender your life to God and ask God to forgive you of your sins. God will forgive you and change your life for better.
4. Jacob and Esau were reunited. Esau forgave his brother and they began to live in harmony, at peace with one another. Forgive people that have done wrong things against you. Seek to live in harmony.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Isaac love Esau more than his other son? Why did Rebekah love Jacob more than Esau?
2. Do you think it is right for a mother or father to love one child more than another? Why? Have you ever felt that way? How does it make you feel?
3. Why did Jacob lie and deceive his father? Was he right? Why not? How did Esau feel when he found out? What were the consequences of Jacob's lying? What did he do?
4. What happens when someone lies to someone and then the lie is discovered? What should you do if you have lied to someone?
5. What did Jacob dream when he stopped to sleep? What did God tell him?
6. How does God protect and take care of you? What are some things you can do to protect yourself from harm?
7. What did Esau do when he saw his brother Jacob return? Did Esau forgive his brother? How was their relationship after this encounter?
8. What should you do if someone has hurt you? What should you do if you have hurt someone?

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

– Ask, “Did anyone ever lie to you? How did you feel? Did you ever lie to anyone - your parents, friends, acquaintances, boss, teachers? What happens when a lie is discovered?” Tell the Bible story.

DRAMA:

– Option 1: Instead of telling the story, have different ones prepare and dramatize the Bible story about Jacob. If you wish, use costumes, such items as old clothes, sheets as robes, towels for the head covering, etc. Let it be a fun experience.
 – Option 2: Let two people dramatize about someone telling a lie and discuss its consequence.

TRAIN RIDE:

– Arrange the chairs in rows as if you are going on a trip. Then each one gets on and sits down on the bus, train or car.
 – Option 1: Draw with a stick on dirt, mark with chalk on cement or use masking tape on a rug or floor the shape of a bus, train or car.
 – Option 2: Make one large train, connecting several boxes that are decorated like different kinds of train cars (engine, flatcars, box cars, coal car, caboose, etc.).
 – Option 3: For small children, make individual train engines out of boxes. Each child gets into one box, playing as if he/she is driving his/her own train.
 – Suggestion: While on the train, bus or car, play a cassette tape with sounds of a train going down the track, buses or cars on a street, etc.
 – When seated, tell the Bible story.
 – Suggestion: Serve a snack while they are riding in their train, bus or car.

MISSION ACTIVITY:

– Prepare some food (such as cookies, cupcakes, fruit basket, etc.). Give it to someone to show appreciation for what that person has contributed to you and the community:
 ...Policemen ...Mailmen
 ...Firemen ...Garbage collectors
 ...Volunteers who help in emergencies

GAME: “TRAVELING”

– Divide into two equal groups. Place two poles or chairs in front of each group. Place a basket, sack or suitcase with objects (such as a shawl, coat, hat, tie, gloves, belt) on the chair or near the pole.
 – Game: The first person from each team runs to his group's first pole or chair, and puts on all the objects that is on it. Then he runs to the second pole or chair, and takes off these items, leaving them there. Then runs back to his team, tagging the first person that is in his group. Repeat this procedure. The team that finishes first, wins.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Genesis 25:19-20,24-34; 27:1-27,41-45; 28:10-22; 30:25-26; 31:3,22,38,41; 32:11,22-30; 33:1-17

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
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