

BIBLE LESSON # 12

1.

Genesis 25 - 26

Abraham lived a good long life. He had been given very important promises and had lived to see his son Isaac grow up and marry Rebekah, a girl who loved God as he did. Now Abraham was ready to die and rest quietly in the grave until God's kingdom was set up on earth. He knew he would be raised to eternal life when Christ came, and then the promises God gave him would all come to pass. When Abraham died his son Ishmael came from his desert home to be with Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac. They buried their father in the cave that Abraham had bought when his wife Sarah died.

Isaac missed his father but he was comforted by his lovely wife, Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah had wanted a family for a long time, but Rebekah hadn't been able to have a baby. They both prayed to God for a son or daughter and one day their prayer was answered. Rebekah could hardly wait for Isaac to return from the field. When he came home and sat down to the evening meal he noticed how Rebekah's eyes were dancing and she couldn't help smiling every few minutes. After supper she told Isaac that she was going to have a baby. How happy they both were! Rebecca started making little baby clothes and Isaac made a handsome little bed for the new baby to sleep in.



One day Rebekah felt very strange...the baby seemed to be kicking and struggling and making her sick and worried. That night Rebekah prayed to God and asked him what was wrong with her, and God answered her prayer. God told her that she didn't have just one baby, but she was carrying TWO babies! She was to have twin boys who would grow up to be very important. Each one would be different from the other and they would be the heads of two nations! The oldest twin would serve the younger twin. This was very unusual in those days. Usually the oldest son would inherit all the land, the cattle and sheep and the home. The oldest son would make all the rules and be over the rest of the family. The oldest son should also receive God's blessings and the promises God made to Abraham and to Isaac about inheriting the land forever. But God said the youngest one would inherit all of this. Rebekah often thought of this prophecy while she sewed tiny clothes for two babies instead of one.

Finally the day came for Rebekah to have her babies. Isaac, waiting outside of the tent heard first one tiny cry then another. He hurried inside the tent to see his twin boys.

The little boy who had been born first had red hair on his head...in fact he had tiny red hairs all over his body. He was a big, healthy looking baby, crying at the top of his lungs! Isaac named this son "Esau." The youngest twin had darker hair and was smaller than Esau. His skin was smooth and his dark little eyes were open and looking very serious at hearing his brother's loud cries. This boy they named "Jacob." Isaac and Rebekah were very proud of their two newborn sons.

As time went by and the boys grew older, it was plain to see the twins were very different. When they were old enough, Isaac made them bows and arrows. Esau loved his bow and arrow and immediately started shooting it in every direction. Isaac would take the boys hunting to get birds or gazelles or deer for their meat.

Jacob didn't use his bow and arrow often, he would much rather stay home and play with the little lambs or feed the calves, than go hunting.



Jacob learned how to take care of the farm animals and what crops to grow for good feed for the animals. Jacob loved to sit and listen to his mother tell about the blessings and promises that God gave to his grandfather Abraham and to his father Isaac. Esau had little time to sit and listen to stories about God's promises. He would much rather be out in the country hunting animals to shoot with his bow and arrow. Esau became a very cunning hunter and Jacob became a young man who loved caring for the crops and herds of animals.

Isaac especially liked the way Esau would fix the food he brought home and while he would sit and eat the meat Esau cooked, Esau would tell him humorous tales of the hunt he had been on. Rebekah could see that Jacob wasn't given much time by his father, for he stayed close to his home and was a quiet, serious young man. Jacob loved all the things that Esau was to inherit, the herds and flocks and the land as well as God's promised blessings. However, Jacob knew this was to be part of Esau's birthright, for Esau had been born a few minutes sooner than Jacob, so Esau would be the one to get all the inheritance.

Rebekah knew that God had promised the younger son would rule over the older one, but it was hard for her to see how this would come about. Isaac cared more for Esau than he did Jacob and Isaac would be sure that Esau got the inheritance and the birthright blessings since Esau was the firstborn.

Then one day something happened to give Jacob his chance. Jacob was watching the flocks of sheep far away from the main tents. He was outside cooking over the campfire. What he was cooking was a big pot of red bean stew. Does this sound good to you? Probably not, but Jacob had put lots of good tasting spices in the beans and it was very tasty and smelled very good too. Jacob was about to eat when Esau came running up. He had been out hunting for days and hadn't been able to kill anything to eat. Esau was very weak and hungry and that red bean stew smelled delicious. Esau demanded, "Quick Jacob, give me some of that stew." Jacob thought for a minute and then said, "I'll give you my stew if you will give me your birthright."



Esau cared very little for his birthright, he was hungry RIGHT NOW, what good was a birthright for some future day? Esau showed very little faith in God, for he said "What good is my birthright if I'm going to die from hunger right now?" Then Esau made an important promise (called an oath) that he would give the birthright to Jacob. Then Esau sat down and ate the food, not giving the precious birthright another thought.

Esau was thinking only of his own pleasure for the moment. He had no thought of the future kingdom and the promises that one day he would be in line to inherit the promise of eternal life on this land. That day Jacob went to bed with an empty stomach but a glad heart, for he believed in God and knew that the promises were the most important thing in this life.

What would you do if you had a choice of either eating all the candy you wanted today, (everything in a candy store) or if you had a choice of living forever in God's kingdom when Jesus returns someday? Sometimes it's tempting to do what we feel like at the moment, without thinking of what the future will bring. God wants us to love his words in the Bible and believe that what he has promised is much more important than feeling good today.

Jesus tells us that if we put God's kingdom first, then all the other things we need like food, and clothes will all be given to us by God. This will be your memory verse today and when you've learned it, put a check in the box

Matt:6:25 "Seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."

Shortly after this there was a great famine in the land. The crops dried up before they could be harvested and there was no water in the stream beds. The flocks and herds were dying for lack of food and water. Isaac told his family they would have to move either into Egypt where there was lots of water and crops or stay in the land and hope to find new places to dig wells to water their cattle and sheep. That night God appeared to Isaac in a dream and said: "Don't go to Egypt, stay in this land and I will be with you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and I will keep the oath I gave to Abraham because he obeyed my commandments. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give them all these lands." Then God said, "Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed."

What a comfort these promises must have been to Isaac. We should get much comfort from these promises too, for if we obey God, read his instructions in the Bible and are baptised we are promised we'll be blessed and be among the descendants of Abraham who will live forever in that land.

Isaac was glad to stay in the land and he had faith that God would take care of them during the famine. Isaac and his family moved to the land where a Philistine king ruled. Years ago Abraham had lived here and dug wells. Isaac planted crops there and that year he had a big harvest, for God took care of Isaac and his family. In fact Isaac did so well in the next few years that he became very wealthy and had many more flocks and herds. This made the Philistine people jealous and some of the men went around and filled in all the wells that Isaac was using. Do you think Isaac got mad and fought the Philistines when they did this? No, for Isaac knew the right thing to do was be a peacemaker. Isaac moved several times until he found a spot where the Philistines wouldn't bother him anymore.

It was discouraging to have all this trouble and Isaac wondered if he would ever be safe from these angry Philistine people. That night after everyone was asleep, Isaac walked outside and looked up to the stars. He remembered the promise God had given Abraham about his descendants being like the stars in the sky. Suddenly Isaac heard God's voice, "Isaac, I am the God of your father Abraham. Don't be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants just as I told Abraham." Isaac then knew he had no need to ever be afraid, for God was watching over him and would keep all his promises. We also know that we don't need to be afraid, for God is watching over us also.

Put T or F in the blanks to show if the statement is True or False

1. ____ Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham in the cave where Sarah had been buried
2. ____ Isaac and Rebekah had three girls before they had baby Esau and Jacob
3. ____ God told Rebekah that she would have triplets (three babies at once)
4. ____ God told Rebekah her sons would be heads of two different nations
5. ____ Esau loved God's laws and wanted to keep his birthright
6. ____ A birthright meant the oldest son would inherit all the father's possessions, be the head of the family, make the rules and most important, would receive God's blessings

Draw a circle around the correct answer below

1. Isaac loved Esau best because (a) Esau loved tending the sheep (b) Esau loved God's laws (c) Isaac like the food Esau hunted for and cooked for him (d) He was handsome
2. Esau was (a) a cunning hunter (b) a good herdsman (c) a tent dweller (d) a baker
3. Jacob wished he had his brother's (a) red hair (b) hunting skills (c) birthright (d) knife
4. What was Jacob cooking that Esau wanted to eat? (a) red bean stew (b) beef stew (c) deer meat (d) chocolate cake

Answer the following questions in the space below each question

1. What did Esau value more than his birthright?
- 2.. What did God tell Isaac about moving to Egypt when there was a famine?
3. Why did the Philistines become jealous of Isaac?
4. What did the Philistines do to make Isaac's life hard
5. Did Isaac fight the Philistines or did he try to live peaceably and move away?
6. How would you treat those who want to make you feel bad or to fight you?

Help Jacob make some tasty bean stew. Draw a picture of Jacob and Esau by the fire and pick some ingredients from those below to put in the stew. Would you eat this stew?



WHO IS IT ?

Take the first letter of each picture and put it in the spaces to find the names of Bible people



1. _____



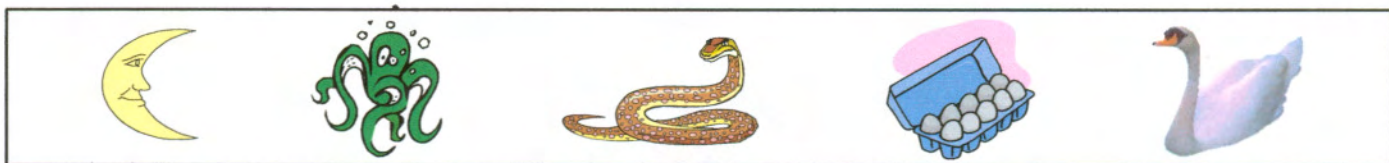
2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____

THE SHIPWRECK



Once, long ago there was a family named Matthews. Mr. and Mrs. Matthews had three children, Philip, Sarah and little Gideon.

They were on a ship traveling to a new country where they planned to make their home.

The Matthew's family took several things along to help them start a farm in the new land. They had **Matt.13:4** _____ for growing vegetables and **Neh.10:35** _____ for an orchard. They even had loaded onto the ship a **Isa.7:21** _____ and two _____ for their farm.

One day a terrible storm came up. The ship was being tossed **Eph.4:14** _____ and _____ by the _____. The sailors were afraid the ship would sink, so they lightened the ship by **Acts 27:38** _____ the _____ into the sea. Suddenly with a loud crash the ship landed on a **Matt.7:24** _____. It was growing dark and nothing could be done that night, so Mr. Matthews told he family that they must try to **Psa.4:8** _____. The sailors were afraid the ship was sinking and that night they escaped with the little **Acts 27:30** _____.

The next morning the family saw that they were all alone. As Mr. Matthews looked around he spotted **Gen.12:7** _____ close by. "Our only chance is to try and reach the **Gen.12:7** _____" he told his family. "We must gather up as many things as we can to help keep us alive, but before we do anything else, let us give a **Psa.65:2** _____", and that's just what they did.

Mr. Matthews and Philip began to pull some loose **Acts 27:44** _____ and pieces of the ship in order to build a sturdy raft. Meanwhile Mrs. Matthews found a **Job 14:17** _____ and put their **James 2:3** _____ in it. Sarah found a big **Acts 9:25** _____ and going into the ship's kitchen she put some **John 6:5** _____ and ten **I Sam.17:18** _____ in it. Little Gideon ran all over the ship hunting for something useful to bring along.

Finally the raft was ready and while Mrs. Matthews and Sarah loaded things on it, Mr. Matthews and Philip looked for more supplies. Philip made a great find, a **Gen.18:9** _____ big enough for the whole family. Mr. Matthews went below deck looking for tools. He collected an ax and then he found **Jer.10:4** _____ and _____ to bring along. Just then little Gideon came dragging a **John 21:6** _____ he had found. "This will be good to help us catch **Exod.7:18** _____ won't it?" he asked. "Yes, that is excellent," his father said. Philip helped Mr. Matthews lower the **Isa.7:21** _____ and the two _____ into the water so they could swim to land. Then the family pushed off on their raft, praying for God to help bring them safely to the **Acts 21:5** _____.