

Isaac and Rebekah had been married for a long time now, but they still didn't have any little children. They both wanted a baby so badly that one day they prayed to God about it. Do you think God heard their prayer? Yes, he did...but guess what! God told them that they were to have not just ONE baby boy, they were to have TWO baby boys at the same time ... Twins.

Sure enough, Rebekah did have two little twin boys. Some twins look alike but these two little boys each looked different. They might have looked something like the picture of these boys. One boy had lots of thick, orange-red hair and Isaac named him Esau. The other little boy had dark hair and was smoother skinned. Isaac named him Jacob.



Esau was born a few minutes before Jacob was, so Esau was called the oldest son. Little Jacob and Esau played together and quarreled at times too, just like most little boys do.

BIBLE LESSON # 13

2.

Do you sometimes like to pretend you are a mighty hunter sneaking through the woods with a bow and arrow and looking for lions or bears? Well Esau liked to play hunting games and when he grew up he became a very good hunter. People in Bible days didn't have guns to shoot at animals, and they didn't hunt animals just for the fun of it. They didn't have grocery stores to go and buy food. If a man could bring home an antelope or a deer it would be food for their family for days and days.

When Esau would bring home a deer he would cook it in a special way that would taste very good. His father Isaac loved the meat Esau cooked! Isaac also loved to hear all the stories Esau told about how he found the gazelle or deer and how many arrows it took to get the animal.



Do you like to sit quiet sometimes and listen to Bible stories? Do you like to be home, close to your family? Well, Jacob was this kind of man as he grew up. He didn't like to hunt but he did like to take care of the plants and the animals on their farm. The sheep and cattle and horses and camels took a lot of work and this was the kind of job Jacob liked best.

Jacob also loved to hear the stories about God and his people. Jacob especially liked to hear about his grandfather Abraham, and how God had given him special promises and blessings. Jacob wanted to grow up to be like Abraham. Jacob was a little sad though, for since Esau was the oldest, he was the one who would get the blessings and promises and he would also inherit all his father's sheep and cattle and farm animals. This was called a "Birthright." A birthright meant that since Esau was born first he had the right to inherit all his father owned as well as the special promises God gave Abraham and Isaac. Esau didn't seem to think a birthright was very important, but Jacob knew this WAS very important.



BIBLE LESSON # 13

4.

Jacob and Esau were now grown men and one day Esau got his bow and arrows and went hunting. Jacob was out in the fields taking care of the flocks and herds and he had decided to cook himself a big pot of red beans mixed in with vegetables and meat. Do you like beans? Kids don't always care for them, but when cooked with lots of nice spices they can be very tasty. As Jacob stirred the pot of beans over the fire there was a delicious smell in the air.

Esau had been hunting for a long time but he couldn't find any animals to bring home for food. He ate all his lunch on the first day but still he traveled on for several days looking for food before he finally gave up and headed home. He was very, very hungry and when he came near Jacob's tent he smelled the most delicious smell of beans! Food! Esau ran up to Jacob and demanded, "give me some of your beans, I'm starving!" Now Jacob was hungry too, and he wanted the food he had cooked, but Jacob wanted something even more than his dinner, do you know what Jacob wanted more than food?



Jacob wanted the birthright! He wanted to be the one to inherit the wonderful promises God had given to Abraham and Isaac. He also wanted to inherit his father's flocks and herds and all the blessings that went with the birthright. So Jacob said, "I'll give you my food if you will sell me your birthright! Esau didn't care for something in the far future, he was hungry RIGHT NOW and so he said, "I'll sell the birthright, after all if I starve to death I won't need a birthright." So then Jacob gave his dinner away to his brother, Esau, who gobbled it all up.

Jacob went to bed hungry that night, but he was very happy because he knew how important God's blessing were and now he would be the one to receive them. Jacob knew being hungry wouldn't last for he would eat again tomorrow, but God's promises would last - forever!

If you had a choice of having all the candy you could eat today, OR a chance to live forever and ever on a beautiful earth where you could play with lions and bears, and where no one died or got hurt or was sad every again, which would you choose?



Questions

1. What did Isaac and Rebekah pray for? (a) a new home (b) money (c) a baby
2. Did Isaac and Rebekah have just one little boy or two?
3. What were the names of Isaac and Rebekah's twins?
4. What did Esau like to do most? (a) Fish (b) Hunt (c) Play Games
5. What did Jacob like best? (a) Stay home and care for the flocks (b) Run races (c) Sew tents
6. What were some of the things a birthright gave a son?
7. Which son thought God's promises were very important?
8. Why did Esau want the food Jacob was cooking?
9. Did Esau think his birthright was more important than anything else?
10. Did Jacob think the birthright was more important than his dinner?
11. Did Esau want things "right now" ? Do you sometimes have to WAIT for important things (like a Birthday or Dad to come home or a visit to Grandma next week)?
12. What did Esau sell his birthright for? (a) Bread (b) money (c) cookies (d) Red beans

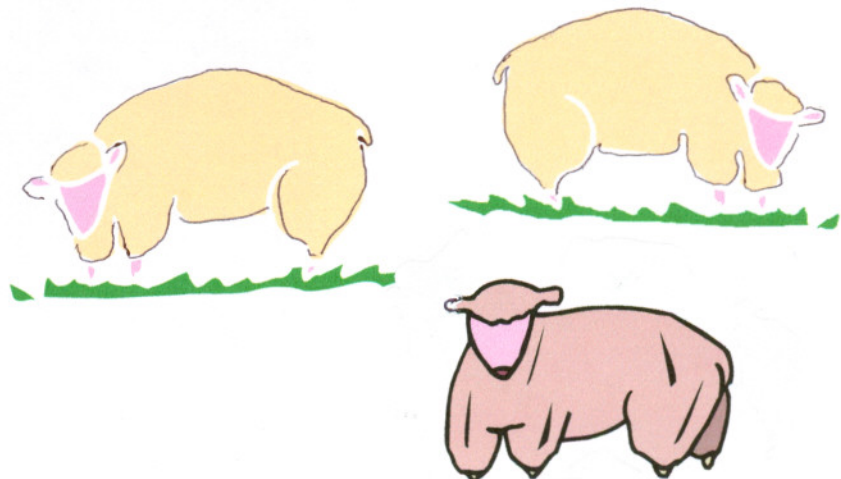
13

Draw a line from the weapons on the left to the same weapon on the right. Which weapon did Esau use to hunt for animals?



13

Jacob's sheep are missing something! Can you draw in their eyes and feet? Can you draw some little lambs for the sheep and color the picture?



Jacob cooked his beans and probably put it in a pot to keep warm. Here are some pretty pots. Use a pencil and colors or markers and make some other pots with stripes or dots or designs

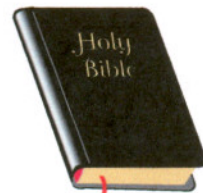


Put an X on the things that are important to you right now and then Circle the things that are most important to us that will last forever

Pets



Candy



God's word

Prayer



Birthdays



Friends

Gods Kingdom



Love

