

## Genesis 27

Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys; the oldest boy was called Esau and he would receive a special "birthright" blessing when Isaac grew old. The boy that was born second was named Jacob. Before the boys were born God told their mother in a dream that one day the youngest son, Jacob would be the one to get God's blessing, not Esau. Esau didn't love God or want his birthright blessing as much as Jacob did, so one day Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for some of Jacob's food. Do you remember this story from your last lesson?

Several years passed after Esau sold his birthright to Jacob and now their father Isaac was growing very old. Isaac's eyes had grown bad and he could not see anymore (close your eyes and think what it would be like if you couldn't see anything). That wouldn't be any fun, would it? Esau was a good hunter and one day Isaac called Esau and asked him to go hunting for a deer. Isaac loved the way Esau cooked the deer meat and he told Esau he would give him the birthright blessing as soon as he finished eating. Esau didn't tell his father that he had sold the blessing to Jacob.



# 14

2.

Isaac's wife, Rebekah had heard what Isaac had said. She knew that Jacob was supposed to be the one to receive the birthright and blessings. Rebekah knew that Esau was Isaac's favorite son and he would go ahead and give him the blessing even if it belonged to Jacob. Rebekah went to Jacob and said, "We must trick your father, because he plans on giving the birthright and blessings to Esau."

Do you think it's right to trick someone? No, it wasn't right, was it? Isaac shouldn't give the blessing to Esau and Esau shouldn't take the blessing for he had sold it to Jacob. That was wrong, but it was also wrong for Rebekah and Jacob to trick Isaac. What a mess!

What do you think the right thing would be? Should they trick the old, blind father? No, the right thing to do would be take the problem to God. We can always pray to God for help, then wait for things to work out the way God wants them to. Instead they all decided to do something that was wrong.

Even if we have a good reason to trick someone, if it's wrong then we should never do it, should we?





Rebekah told her son Jacob, that she would cook some goat meat just the same way that Esau cooked his deer meat. She got the fire going and started cooking. "You will take this meat to your father and pretend that you are Esau," Rebekah said, "then you will get the blessing instead of Esau."

Jacob said to his mother, "but I have smooth skin and Esau's skin is very hairy, what if my father feels my skin, he'll know I'm Jacob and tricking him." Rebekah had thought of that and she got the hairy skin of a young goat and tied the skin onto Jacob's hands and arms and put some of the hairy skin on Jacob's neck as well.

"Now feel your hands...don't they feel just like Esau's hands?" she asked. Jacob agreed that now his hands were hairy like Esau's were. Next Rebekah went to Esau's tent and got one of Esau's robes for Jacob to wear. "You will have the smell and feel of Esau and your father, Isaac is sure to think you are Esau and give you the birthright blessing," Rebekah said. Jacob should have said, "No, that isn't right to do," shouldn't he? but instead Jacob picked up the plate and went in to his father Isaac.



Isaac was laying in his bed and he couldn't see who was coming into the room, but he smelled the good food. "Who is it?" Isaac asked. Then Jacob told a lie, "It's me, Esau, your firstborn, sit up Father, I've cooked the meat so you can eat and then give me your blessing."

"How did you find the deer so quickly," Isaac asked.

"God helped me find a deer right away." Jacob replied.

Isaac thought something was wrong. This sounded like Jacob's voice, and Esau never gave God credit for helping him hunt. "Come closer so I can tell if you are really my son Esau," the old father said. Jacob was probably really frightened by now, would his father find out he was tricking him? Jacob went up to his father's bed and Isaac put out his hand and felt Jacob's arm, it felt hairy just like Esau's arm. "Your voice is Jacob's but your hands feel like Esau's, are you really my son Esau?" Jacob said, "Yes, I am Esau."



*This was not right, was it? When we tell one little lie, then we feel we have to tell another lie and another one. Things can get really in a mess when we lie to our mothers and fathers. It's much better to always tell the truth, isn't it?*



Isaac sat up in bed and ate the tasty food, then he asked Jacob to come near and give him a kiss. When Jacob kissed his father, Isaac smelled new grass and grain on Esau's clothes that Jacob was wearing. Then Isaac gave Jacob the birthright blessing that he meant to give to Esau.

"The smell of my son is the smell of the fields that the Lord has blessed. May God give you rain from heaven and abundant grain and wine. May nations serve you and you are to be a ruler over your brother. Those who curse you will be cursed, those who bless you will be blessed."



So Jacob did get the blessing but he did it in the wrong way, didn't he? He should have waited for God to give him the birthright instead of tricking his father.

Jacob had barely left Isaac when Esau came into the room with a big plate of food and said, "Here I am, father, here's the food I've prepared, now eat and give me your blessing." Isaac asked, "But...who are you?" Esau said, "Why, I'm Esau, your firstborn son. I've brought you the deer meat you asked me to, so you can eat and give me the blessing.

Isaac started shaking, "Esau, I gave your blessing to your brother and once the blessing has been given it can't be taken back."

Esau cried and yelled but it didn't do any good. Esau felt he had been tricked but the birthright really DID belong to Jacob for Esau had sold it to him for some food. Jacob just didn't turn to God to get the blessing but instead thought he had to use trickery to get it.

Esau felt very sorry for himself and very, very, angry at his brother. "Give me a blessing too, father, can't you give me a blessing too?" Esau shouted. Isaac gave Esau a blessing but it wasn't one he was very happy with. Esau was so mad at Jacob that he planned to kill him.

Isaac and Rebekah told Jacob he would have to leave his home because of Esau's anger, so poor Jacob had to leave the home and fields that he loved so well and leave his father and mother. He would one day receive the blessing and his birthright but for many years he would be away from all he loved.

However, God was with Jacob and took care of Jacob on his long journey.

## Question Page

1. Did Esau sell his birthright to Jacob? What for? (a) money (b) food (c) sheep
2. Isaac asked Esau to go hunting, why?
3. What was Isaac's problem? Was he (a) In a wheel chair? (b) Blind? (c) Had a cold?
4. Was it right for Jacob to trick his father, even if he should have had the blessing?
5. Why did Rebekah put goat skin on the arms and neck of Jacob?
6. What did Rebekah do with Esau's robe?
7. Did Jacob tell his father a lie? Should he have done that?
8. What did Isaac do before he gave the blessing? (a) pray (b) eat the food (c) feed the dog
9. What were some of the things Jacob would receive in the blessing?  
(a) a big house (b) land that would have rain and grow lots of food and grain (c) cats
10. Was Esau mad or happy that his brother received the blessing?
11. Was Esau happy that his father gave him a blessing also?
12. Why did Jacob have to leave his home and family for a long time?
13. Was God mad at Jacob or did God take care of Jacob on his long journey?

Circle which of these things Rebekah tied onto Jacob's hands and neck and color all of them



Wood



gloves



Backpack



Goat skin



feathers



Esau is hunting the deer, draw the rest of his head and body and give him lots of red/orange hair on his head, beard and arms. Draw a tree for him to be hiding behind.

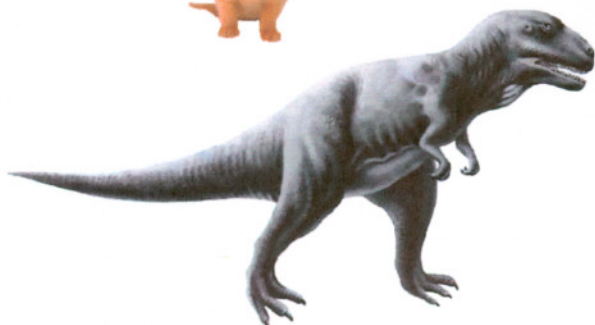
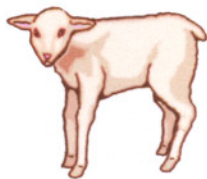


Which animal did Rebekah make tasty meat from? Which animal did Esau make meat from?



Circle the animal Rebekah cooked


Put an X by the animal Esau cooked

Which animal would you like for a pet? Put a heart beside it.








Can you help mom or dad read this story? When you see a picture, you say what the word should be.

Isaac was the father of two twin boys. One was named Esau and one was named Jacob. Esau had lots of red \_\_\_\_\_  His brother Jacob had smooth skin. Isaac's \_\_\_\_\_  were

bad and he was blind. One day Isaac wanted Esau to get him some \_\_\_\_\_  meat so he could give Esau a blessing. The blessing really belonged to Jacob.

The mother's name was Rebekah and she decided to help Jacob trick blind Isaac. Rebekah cooked some \_\_\_\_\_  meat and put it in a \_\_\_\_\_  Then Rebekah took some of the \_\_\_\_\_ 

skin and tied it to Jacob's \_\_\_\_\_  and to his \_\_\_\_\_  to make Isaac think that this was his son Esau with all the red \_\_\_\_\_ 

Rebekah also gave Jacob the \_\_\_\_\_  that belonged to Esau. Jacob tricked his father but had to leave his \_\_\_\_\_  and go on a long journey because Esau was so angry at him.