





# **BIG IDEA**

God helps us be honest with our families.

# THE BIBLE

Jacob and Esau: Genesis 25:19-34: 27:1-41

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

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- **ACTIVITY** | Truth or Lie

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- **ACTIVITY** | Twin Races
- **ACTIVITY** | Play-Doh Soup



# WEEK 3 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



# **BIG IDEA**

God helps us be honest with our families.

# THE BIBLE

**Jacob and Esau:** Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-41

## **WELCOME TIME**

# WHAT? What are we talking about today?

#### **ACTIVITY | Guess Who**

- Welcome! Today we're continuing our series called We Are Family where we're taking a look at some families from the Bible. How well do you know your family members? Do you think you could know who someone is just by feeling their hands? Let's play a game and see just how good you might be at this!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose one kid to be blindfolded. Have them sit in a chair. Have the other kids take turns standing in front of the blindfolded kid. The blindfolded kid has to guess which person it is by feeling their hands. You can let the other kids have a turn being blindfolded and trying to guess. It might also be a fun challenge to have an adult volunteer try the blindfolded role.
- This game might have been hard! Our story today is about a father who couldn't see and tried to know his son by feeling his son's hand.

#### **ACTIVITY | Truth or Lie**

• INSTRUCTIONS: Tape a line down the middle of your space. Write "TRUTH" on a piece of paper and tape it on one side of the room. Write "LIE" on another piece of paper and tape it on the other side of the room. Say some statements about yourself or your group, some lies and some true, and tell the kids to move to each side based on what they think the statement is. You can say things like: "I have 2 kids", "I have a pet unicorn", "I ate dog food for breakfast", "I live in an airplane", "I love teaching kids about Jesus." For older kids, you can let them make up their own statements and let the other kids guess whether it's true or a lie.



- Was it hard to know what was a lie and what was the truth?
- We're going to hear about a man who told a lie that hurt his whole family.

# **TEACHING TIME**

## **MUSIC | Worship Time**

• INSTRUCTIONS: Spend some time singing with your preschoolers. You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Looking At My Heart" by KidSpring Children's Ministry and, "Love One Another" by Yancy.

## THE BIG IDEA | God helps us be honest with our families.

- INSTRUCTIONS: Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
  - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
  - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
  - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
  - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: God helps us be honest with our families.

## BIBLE STORY | Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-41

- We've been learning about the family of Abraham! **Do you remember where we left off?** Abraham and his wife, Sarah, had a baby named Isaac. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, and Abraham obeyed, but God provided a ram so Abraham didn't have to sacrifice Isaac! Now we're going to learn about what happened when Isaac got old and had two sons of his own!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and read it to your preschoolers.
- How many kids did Isaac have? He had twin sons. Is anyone in here a twin? Do you think the twin sons always got along? They may have had little fights and disagreements just like all siblings!
- How were Jacob and Esau different? Esau had red hair, and he was very hairy! Esau became a hunter and Jacob stayed home.
- One day, Esau came in from hunting and was very hungry. What deal did he make with Jacob? He
  traded his birthright, or the stuff he was going to get from his father when his father died, for some
  stew Jacob had made. Is that a fair trade? No!
- Then Rebekah, Isaac's wife, dressed her son Jacob up to look like Esau. They were going to try and trick Isaac since he was very old. Since Esau was hairy, how did Rebekah dress Jacob to make him seem like Esau? She put Esau's clothes on Jacob, and put animal hair on his arms to make them seem hairy. Then she tricked Isaac so Isaac gave a special gift and blessing to Jacob instead of Esau.
- How do you think Esau felt when he found out what his mother and brother had done?
- Both Jacob and Rebekah were dishonest. Jacob got what he wanted twice, but it caused big problems in their family.
- You may not have the same situation in your family, but being dishonest causes big problems in families today.
- Why do you think it is important to God that we are honest with our families?

## **ACTIVITY | Birthright Soup**

- What deal did Jacob make with Esau? Jacob would give Esau soup for Esau's birth right. That was a crazy deal. Let's make some soup to remember that deal Esau made.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, crumple some different colors of construction paper and put them in a bowl. Bring out a pot that you would use to make soup (or use a paper bowl). The crumpled pieces of paper will be the different soup ingredients. You could also use Play-Doh or plastic toy food. Let the kids help you make up what each ingredient is, put them in the pot, and stir. Then put it in bowls and pretend to make a trade like Jacob and Esau did.
- Jacob got what he wanted from Esau, but he didn't do it in a way that was honest. God wants us to be honest with our family. It hurts our family and it hurts us when we aren't honest.

#### **PRAYER**

- Let's spend time talking with God in prayer.
- Dear God, thank You for forgiving us when we mess up. Help us be honest with our families. Thank You for our families. We love You! Amen.

## **DISCUSSION TIME**

### **DISCUSSION | Snack and Discussion**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a snack to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they're busy sitting and snacking!
- **Did Jacob and Esau get along?** (No, the Bible says that even in Rebekah's stomach, they were fighting.)
- How did Jacob trick Esau into giving him the birthright? (Jacob gave him stew when he was really hungry, as a trade for the birthright.)
- What is a birthright? (The things a child would inherit from the father when the father died.)
- How did Jacob and Rebekah trick Isaac? (Rebekah dressed Jacob with animal skins so he would feel like Esau and get Esau's blessing.)
- **Did Jacob and Rebekah's plan work?** (Yes, Isaac thought Jacob was Esau and blessed Jacob.)
- How do you think Esau and Isaac felt when they realized they were lied to?

## **ACTIVITY | Circle Time**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids join you in a circle on the floor. Get a small object that can fit in a child's fist, such as a toy or a small ball or paperclip. Pull one kid aside and blindfold them, then pass out the object to one kid. Have all the kids sit with their hands closed in their laps. Have the blindfolded child count to ten and then turn around and try to guess who has the object. To make it harder, give them only two guesses in 15 seconds. Play multiple rounds. Then ask the kids the questions.
- Was it easy to see who had the object? Was it easy for you to be tricky and sneaky when you didn't have it?
- Who was sneaky and tricky in our story today?
- What can you do when you're tempted to tell a lie?
- Have you ever told a lie?
- How can you make it better when you do tell a lie or trick someone?

## **ACTIVITY | Tricky Things**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Gather different toys or objects from the room and hold them up. Then ask the kids to think of a different use for it, other than their real use. For example: hold up a broom and tell the kids it's a cane to help you walk. Hold up a brush for your hair and tell the kids it's a spoon to stir the soup. Let them help you come up with funny uses for things that aren't right.
- Was it hard thinking of things that were tricky and not right? Jacob tricked his father Isaac into blessing him instead of Esau by putting animal fur on this arms and neck. Jacob's lies hurt his family. It hurt Rebekah and Esau, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Esau, Jacob and Isaac. It hurt their whole family. Instead of being tricky and sneaky, we can be honest. God can help us!

## **MEMORY VERSE | Romans 8:28**

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder for ideas on how to help your preschoolers memorize Bible verses. Here are the hand motions for this month's memory verse . . .

WE KNOW (point to your head)
THAT IN ALL THINGS (spread arms out in a big circle)
GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD (point to the sky, then give a thumbs up)
OF THOSE (hold your arms out in front of you, palms facing up)
WHO LOVE HIM (cross your arms over your chest in an X).

## **PLAY TIME**

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

## **ACTIVITY | Coloring Page of the Week**

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them that God can help us be honest with our families.

#### **ACTIVITY | Twin Races**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the kids into pairs and tie a bandana around their legs. Let them try to walk around the room while tied to their partner.
- In our story, did the twins, Jacob and Esau get along? No, they pulled and pushed against each other a lot like you probably did in our game! It was hard to work together with someone who wasn't going the same place as you. What can we do when we're having a hard time getting along with or being honest with our families?

## **ACTIVITY | Play-Doh Soup**

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids some Play-Doh and encourage them to make their own stew like the one Jacob made in the story.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.