

# Jacob and Esau

Lesson 40

## Bible Story

Genesis 25:19-28

## Teacher Challenge

The word “brotherhood” conjures up images of familial love and harmony. Jacob and Esau were brothers—twins who grew up in the same household—but they certainly did not display the ideal image of brotherhood. Each one struggled for dominance. And the differences between the brothers were only compounded by their parents’ favoritism. Their father, Isaac, favored Esau while their mother, Rebekah, favored Jacob.

- ➔ List some positive ways your family has influenced you.
- ➔ How has the family of God been like a family to you?

God designed you to be a part of a family. And whether or not your immediate family functions in a healthy, supportive way, you also belong to the family of believers. Consider the role you play in that family. Ask God to help you to be a good family member and help other believers continue to grow in Christ. Pray for each little one in your class and pray for their families. Ask God to give you sensitivity to show His love in ways that each of them can grasp.

**God’s Word**  
“Let us love one another.” 1 John 4:7

**God’s Word and Me**  
God made the people in my family and  
He wants us to love each other.

## Teacher’s Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



# Play to Learn

Lesson 40

## Active Game Center: Chore Champs

### Collect

Bible; six or more of the following—articles of clothing (socks, shirt, shorts, etc.), plastic dinnerware (plates, cups, bowls, etc.), small toys (toy people, blocks, etc.); large bag; laundry basket; storage box.

### Prepare

Place articles of clothing, plastic dinnerware and toys in large bag. Place bag, laundry basket, storage box and a table in opposite corners of the room

### Do

1. Children line up by bag and take turns reaching into bag and selecting an item. Child decides if the item belongs in the laundry basket (clothing), in the storage box (toy) or on the table (dinnerware) and then walks to the appropriate area and places item. Child returns to line. Continue until all the items have been placed.
2. For the next round, children choose items from the laundry basket, the storage box or the table to return to the bag.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, a family had two sons. One son helped his family by getting food for them. The other son helped his family by cooking. Let's act out some ways we can love and help our families.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Let us love one another." We show love for our families when we help them. Amanda, what are some of the jobs you do to help your family? Putting away the groceries is a way to show love! Nathan, how does your dad help you? Your dad loves you!**



**God's Word**  
"Let us love one another." 1 John 4:7

**God's Word and Me**  
God made the people in my family and  
He wants us to love each other.

### For Younger Children

Simplify game by using only the laundry basket and clothes or the table and plastic dinnerware.

### For Older Children

Place a sponge, a feather duster and a whisk broom in bag along with other items. When a child selects one of these items, he or she acts out a way to use the item to help his or her family.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 40

## Art Center: Chalk Families

### Collect

Bible, sidewalk chalk; optional—construction paper in dark colors.

### Prepare

Arrange to complete this activity outdoors in a safe, paved area.

### Do

1. Children name people in their families. Then children draw pictures of family members on pavement. (Optional: Children draw pictures on dark-colored construction paper.)
2. Children may also draw houses, cars, trees, etc.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Let us love one another.” God made the people in our families and He wants us to love each other. Let’s draw pictures of the people in our families!**
- ➔ **Sophia, what are the names of the people in your family? Let’s count the names as you say them. One, two, three, four, and don’t forget Sophia—that makes five. You have five people in your family!**
- ➔ **Matthew, who helped you get dressed this morning? What does your big brother do to help you? Your grandma? Helping each other is one way to show love to our families.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for the people in our families. Help us to show love to them.**



**God’s Word**  
“Let us love one another.” 1 John 4:7

**God’s Word and Me**  
God made the people in my family and  
He wants us to love each other.

### For Younger Children

Before class, cut pictures of people from magazines and catalogues. Instead of drawing with chalk, children glue magazine pictures to sheets of construction paper, forming collages.

### For Older Children

Children write family member’s name above each figure, or dictate name for an adult to write.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 40

## Block Center: Tent Blocks

### Collect

Bible, bedsheet or tablecloth, classroom furniture, blocks, toy people; optional—small tent.

### Prepare

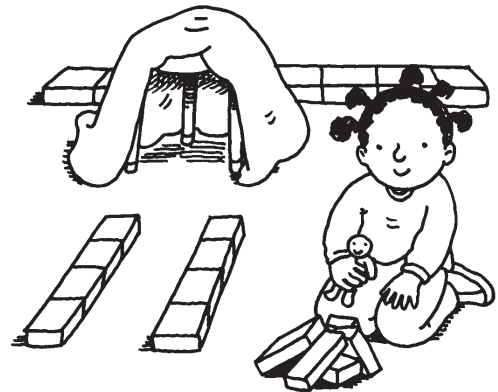
Drape the bedsheet or tablecloth over chairs or tables to make a three-sided tent. (Optional: Set up a small tent.)

### Do

1. Children use blocks to outline campsite area and a path to the tent.
2. Children use blocks to make campfire and play with toy people in and around tent and campsite.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Let us love one another.” God wants us to love the people in our families. Let’s build a campsite and act out ways to show love to our families.**
- ➔ **Let’s pretend our family is going to eat dinner. What would be a good dinner to cook on a campfire? Can you take the steak to your dad at the fire? Thank you! We show love to the people in our families when we help them.**
- ➔ **We can also show love to the people in our families by being kind. Chloe, what are some kind things you can do for your baby brother?** (Help mom feed him. Be quiet when he’s sleeping.)



**God’s Word**  
“Let us love one another.” 1 John 4:7

**God’s Word and Me**  
God made the people in my family and  
He wants us to love each other.

### For Younger Children

Children play with blocks in the tent.

### For Older Children

Bring one or more items of camping gear (sleeping bag, backpack, flashlight, coffee can, etc.) for children to use in imaginative play.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 40

## Science Center: Peas in a Pod

### Collect

Bible; two each of a variety of nature items (flowers, leaves, vegetables, fruit, rocks, etc.); butcher paper; marker; tape; optional—magnifying glass(es).

### Prepare

Place pairs of nature items on table. Draw chart on butcher paper as in sketch. Tape chart to wall.

### Do

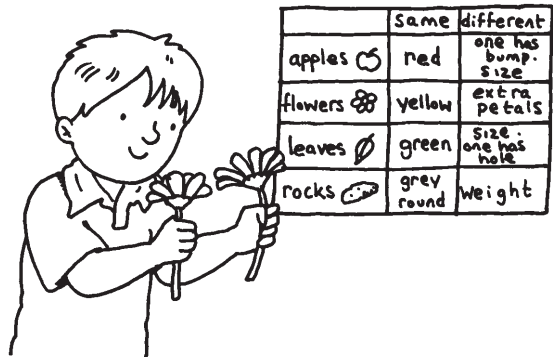
1. Children examine nature pairs. (Optional: Children use magnifying glass[es].) Children note similarities and differences between items in each pair.
2. Record children's observations on chart.

### Talk About

➔ **In today's Bible story Isaac and Rebekah had baby boys. These boys were twins. That means they were born at the same time. But even though they were twins, these babies grew up to be very different from each other. Let's look at items that might look the same, but are different from each other.**

➔ **Thomas, how are the two apples the same? Yes, they are both red. How are they different? Are they both exactly the same size? What about their shape? Does one have a bump on the side?**

➔ **The Bible says, "Let us love one another." Isaac and Rebekah loved their baby boys. Maria, what are some ways to tell the people in your family that you love them? (Say "I love you." Give a hug.) What kind things can you do for the people in your family to show you love them? (Share toys. Help with chores.)**



**God's Word**  
"Let us love one another." 1 John 4:7

**God's Word and Me**  
God made the people in my family and  
He wants us to love each other.

### For Younger Children

Place three or four pairs of items randomly on floor or table. Children identify pairs and place pairs side by side.

### For Older Children

Children identify ways they are similar to and different from their siblings.

# Listen to Learn

Genesis 25:19-28

Lesson 40

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 1 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player.

## Greet Each Other

Children stand in a circle. **We all have families. And all our families are different! If your family has any (boys) in it, (reach for the sky). If your family has any (girls) in it, (touch your toes).** Continue, giving other family features (family has a pet fish, family lives in an apartment, etc.) and inviting children to respond with other actions.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 25. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 1 pictures.

**What are some things your family likes to do? Listen to a story about a family with a dad, a mom and two brothers.**



Isaac was a man who loved God. Isaac married a lady named Rebekah. For a long time, they had no children. Isaac **prayed** to God. He asked God to give him children.



God answered Isaac's prayer. God told Rebekah she was soon going to have twin **babies**. Isaac and Rebekah were going to have TWO babies!



Finally it was time for the babies to be born. The twins were both boys, but they were different. The older baby was very red. He had lots of hair. His name was Esau.

The other baby was named Jacob. He had smooth skin. He didn't have a lot of hair. These boys were VERY different from each other.

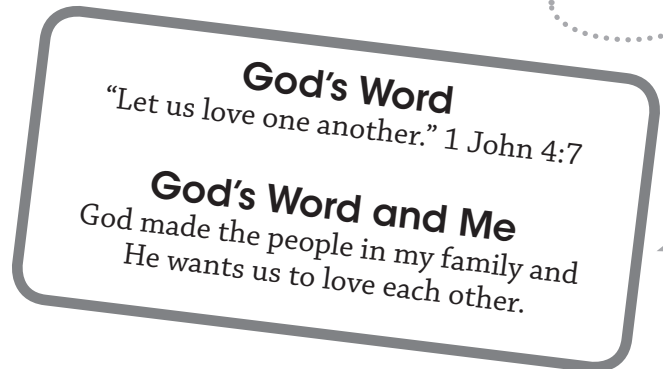


As Esau and Jacob grew up, they still were very different. They looked different from each other. They acted differently from each other.

Esau became a good **hunter**. Using a bow and arrow, he was able to find food for his family to eat. Esau liked to be outdoors. Isaac was very proud of his big, strong son, Esau.

Jacob liked to stay home in the tents where his family lived. He liked to **cook** good food for his family. His mother, Rebekah, was very proud of her quiet, helpful son, Jacob.

Isaac and Rebekah were very happy that God gave them two sons to love.





## Talk About the Story

**How many sons did God give Isaac and Rebekah?** (Two.) **God made this family with two brothers, a mother and a father. God wants the people in families to love each other. Who is someone in your family?** (Mom, Dad, Grandma.) **God made the people in your family. God wants you to love each other. What can you do to show love to the people in your family?** (Help them do chores. Play games with them.)

## Sing to God

**Let's sing together!** Lead children in singing "Let Us Love" (track 11 on CD). **This is a song you can sing with your family. That's one way to show love for the people in your family! Let's sing the song again.**

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to 1 John 4:7, say verse aloud. **God made our families. God wants us to love the people in our families.** Lead children in repeating the verse several times. Before each repetition, ask a different volunteer to name a person in his or her family. Use that person's name instead of the words "one another." Repeat until every child has an opportunity to name someone.

**Option:** If you take an offering during this time, explain to children that giving money is one way to show love to others. Briefly describe one mission project your church uses offering money to support.

## Pray to God

Invite volunteers to name people in their families, or use names mentioned in Hear and Say God's Word. Pray, using the names of the people mentioned by children. **Dear God, we love You. Please help us show love to \_\_\_\_\_. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Praise to God

Children line up and follow the first child in the line, walking around the classroom. Say verse aloud, replacing the words "one another" with the name of the first child in the line. After his or her name is said, that child moves to the end of the line and the next child becomes the line leader. Repeat verse until every child has had an opportunity to be the line leader. **God wants us to love each other. And God wants us to love the people in our families.**

## Bible Story Activity Pages Center

### Collect

A copy of Activity 1 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, scissors; optional—short lengths of yarn, glue.

### Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue yarn strips to stripes on tent.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

## Preschool Puzzle Center

### Collect

Copies of Puzzles 79 and 80 (p. 165 and p. 167 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

### Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

## Read-Aloud Story Center

### Collect

A copy of Story Picture 40 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, scissors, paper fasteners.

### Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

