

## Session 5

### Jacob and Esau

Children learn more about the story of Jacob and Esau.

**Scripture:** Genesis 25:19–34, 27:1–42

**Supplies:**

- Items with a significant scent for the game
- Blindfolds
- Decorations for masks
- String for masks



#### Welcome

Play a smelling game: The children are blindfolded and then smell the different items. Use scents like lemon, orange, parsley, celery, cinnamon, cloves, etc. (*Isaac also differentiated between his sons with smells.*)



#### Worship

**Settle down ritual:** Children lie on the ground and hold each other's hands. The leader says: "Remember, God binds us together as his children and also to our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Squeeze each other's hand and get up again.



#### Word

**Show the children the three do-together activities:**

Every time when walking is mentioned, the children clap their hands on their legs (walk-walk-walk) and clap fast when running is mentioned.

When eating or food are mentioned, they must say "yum yum!" If shooting or hunting are mentioned, they must say "poing" and pretend to be shooting an arrow from a bow.

(*Get four broomstick operators for Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau.*)

**Story:**

Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. They couldn't have children at first. But God answered Isaac's prayers and gave them twin boys. Esau was born first. He was red and had a lot of hair on his body. His nickname, Edom, means "red". When the second baby was born, he was holding his brother's heel. They named him Jacob; it means "someone who holds the heel" or someone who is sneaky. Isaac was 60 years old when his sons were born. The two boys grew up. Esau was a good hunter (**poing**). He loved to walk around in the veld (**walk-walk-walk**). He was Isaac's favourite because Isaac loved venison (**yum yum!**). Jacob was a peaceful man; he farmed with sheep and goats and rather helped his mother in the tent. He was Rebekah's favourite.

One day while Esau was walking around in the veld (**walk-walk-walk**) to hunt (**poing**), Jacob stayed at home and made a pot of soup (**yum yum!**) When Esau came home tired and hungry, he told Jacob: "Give me some of that soup (**yum yum!**) because I am starving!"

Jacob answered, "I will give you some of the soup (**yum yum!**) but you're the eldest brother. One day you are going to inherit twice as much as I will. Give me your firstborn right that you received from being born first."

Esau said, "I'm dying of hunger anyway. It doesn't help me to be the firstborn. Give me something to eat (**yum yum!**)"

Jacob gave Esau some of the soup (**yum yum!**) and a piece of bread (**yum yum!**) Esau ate and ate (**yum yum!**) and then got up and walked away (**walk-walk-walk**) without saying a word. And that's how Esau gave away his firstborn right. It wasn't important to him.

Over the next few years Isaac became a very rich man because God was good to him. Esau married two women when he was 40 years old. They were bad women who worshipped false gods. This made Isaac and Rebekah very sad.

When Isaac became old, he was almost completely blind (*bind some material over Isaac's eyes.*) One day he called Esau and said: "I am very old and I don't know when I'll die. Take your hunting things (**poing**), your bow and arrow (**poing**), and walk (**walk-walk-walk**) to the veld and hunt (**poing**) some wild game (**yum yum!**) and cook it as I like it. I want to eat it (**yum yum!**) and then I want to bless you before I die." Rebekah heard what Isaac told Esau. She walked (**walk-walk-walk**) quickly to Jacob and told him about it. "Go kill two goats (**yum yum!**). I'll cook them like your dad likes it. Then you take it to him so he can bless you before he dies."

"Mom, your plan won't work. Esau has a lot more hair on his body than I do," Jacob said.

"Don't worry about it. Go kill the two goats (**yum yum!**)" she answered.

Rebekah made a lovely meal (**yum yum!**), just as Isaac liked it. The skins from the goats (**yum yum!**) she tied around Jacob's hands, arms, and neck and Jacob put on Esau's best clothes. (*Bind rough material to Jacob*)

Jacob walked (**walk-walk-walk**) with the food (**yum yum!**) to Isaac. "Here is the yummy food (**yum yum!**) for you, Dad!"

"Which son is talking to me?"

"It's Esau, Dad's eldest son. I did as you asked. Come, sit up and eat (**yum yum!**) the food (**yum yum!**), then you can do what you promised to do and give me a big inheritance," Jacob lied.

"But how did you get the game so quickly?"

Then Jacob lied again, "God helped me!"

"Come a bit closer so I can feel if it really is Esau."

Jacob came closer and Isaac felt the hair from the goat's skin.

"I don't understand it. You sound just like Jacob, but your arms are as hairy as Esau's!"

Isaac was entirely confused at this point. "Are you really Esau?"

"Of course, Dad!"

"Then give me the food (**yum yum!**) and I will bless you."

Jacob gave Isaac the food (**yum yum!**) and wine. He enjoyed the meal (**yum yum!**)

"Esau, come closer and kiss me!"

Jacob did so. Isaac smelled Esau's clothes and said, "My son, you still smell like the veld!"

Isaac then blessed Jacob.

Jacob was barely out of the tent when Esau came walking along (**walk-walk-walk**). He had also prepared a delicious meal (**yum yum!**)

"Dad, here is the venison (**yum yum!**) that I promised you. Sit up and eat it (**yum yum!**) so that you can bless me."

"But to whom am I speaking now?" Isaac asked, surprised.

"To me, Dad, Esau!"

"But who just came in here and brought me food (**yum yum!**)? I ate it and blessed him and the blessing will stay with him!"

When Esau heard this, he screamed and began to cry.

"Dad, it can't be! Please bless me as well!"

"Your brother has already gotten your blessing through trickery. I cannot break my word."

"Jacob was smart from the start. First he blackmailed me into getting my inheritance. Now he's tricked you into giving him everything. Can you bless me as well?" Esau begged.

Isaac told Esau that he would live on a barren piece of land and that he will be at war and be subject to his brother. Esau was furious. "Just wait until you have died, Dad, then I will kill Jacob!"

Rebekah realized what Esau was planning. She helped Jacob to flee (**walk-walk-walk**). The best place for him to go, was to her brother Laban in Harran. It was far enough that Esau couldn't find him there.

Both sons made Isaac very sad. Will there ever be peace in their family that God made so many promises to? Next week we're going to tell the next part of the story, because we know that God doesn't give up. He wouldn't make promises to their grandpa, Abraham, and then forget them.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how the story made you feel.
2. I wonder which part was the most important to you.
3. I wonder if you think there will be peace between Jacob and Esau.
4. I wonder how Esau felt when he realized that Jacob had lied to him.



### Working and Playing

- **Disguise game.** Give the children some material, toilet paper, old clothes and blankets to make each other unrecognizable. They can even have a competition to see who make the best disguise. For big groups, divide into smaller groups.
- **Something to take home.** Ask your parents the meaning of your name. Ask them why they gave you that name.

Closing prayer to end the session



