

- **TELL THE BIBLE STORY**

- ' Guide the kids to find Genesis 25:27 in their Bibles. Point out the names of twins *Esau* and *Jacob*. Note that Esau was slightly older. Tell kids that the older child received twice as much inheritance from the father as the younger son. Mention that Esau liked to be outdoors but Jacob liked to stay home.

SHOW THE TEACHING PICTURE.

' Challenge kids to find out which people are shown in the picture.

' With a Bible open to Genesis 25, tell the following Bible story in your own words. **Option:** Show the “Notebook Bible Story” video.

**TELL THE BIBLE STORY: JACOB AND ESAU
RECONCILED**

Esau loved to be outdoors while Jacob preferred staying home. One day Jacob was cooking stew. Esau came in from hunting and was tired and hungry. He asked for some stew. Jacob said, “If you sell your birthright, I will give you the stew.” A *birthright* is special privileges that belonged to the firstborn son in a family. He was given twice as much of his father’s money and property as the other sons. Esau was so hungry that he gave Jacob his birthright.

When Father Isaac was old and nearly blind, he asked Esau to go hunt for meat and make a special meal for him. Isaac had a special blessing to give Esau when he returned. Rebecca, Jacob and Esau’s mother, heard what Isaac said. She hurried to Jacob.

Rebecca had a plan to help Jacob get the blessing instead of Esau. She made the special meal. She covered Jacob with animal skin so his arms seemed hairy like his brother. Jacob wore Esau’s clothes and went to Isaac. He pretended to be Esau and got his father’s blessing! When Esau came back, he found out what Jacob had done. He was angry! He wanted to kill Jacob.

Rebecca sent Jacob far away to keep him safe from Esau. After many years, Jacob decided to go back to his home. He had many animals,

servants, and family members now. Jacob sent a message to Esau to tell him he was coming, wanting Esau's forgiveness for the wrong he had done.

The messengers came back after they delivered the message. They said, "Esau is coming with four hundred men!"

Jacob was afraid. He split his family and the animals into two groups. Jacob prayed, asking God to protect him from Esau. Jacob chose goats, camels, and cattle to send to Esau as gifts. He hoped the gifts would calm his brother. The servants with each group of animals passed Esau. They said, "Your servant Jacob is behind us."

When they met, Esau ran to Jacob, hugged him, and kissed him! Jacob showed his family to Esau. At first, Esau would not take the gift of animals. Jacob said, "If you forgive me, please take this gift from me." Finally Esau took the gifts.

Jacob and Esau were friends again.

—BASED ON GENESIS 25:27-34; 27; 32; 33

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- How did Esau feel after Jacob stole the blessing? (*so angry he wanted to kill Jacob*)
- What message did Jacob send to Esau when he wanted to come back home? (*Forgive me.*)
- What did Esau do when he got Jacob's message? (*came with 400 men*)
- How did Jacob try to gain favor with Jacob? (*sent presents of animals*)
- How did Jacob feel when he heard Esau was coming with 400 men? (*afraid*)
- What did Esau do when he finally came to Jacob? (*ran to him, hugged, kissed*)