

# blast

Week of February 12, 2012

This past week in BLAST, your children learned that they are specially made by God. He created them uniquely, including their talents and how they look. Your child(ren) learned all about Jacob and Esau, but may not have heard the entire story. Share with them the following version of the bible story from Genesis and lead them in a discussion about their choices.

Because Jacob stayed at home a lot he learned to cook with his mom. One day he had made some of his delicious stew that everyone liked. Esau had been out early in the morning hunting and he was very hungry. So hungry that he could smell the stew from a far way off.

As soon as Esau got home he asked Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of your stew, I'm starving!" Jacob replied, "First give me your birthright."

Wait a minute! You're probably wondering what a birthright is? Jacob and Esau's family believed that the oldest child should receive double of all the things they would leave behind after they died (this was the birthright). Things like money and the farm with all the animals.

So when Jacob asked Esau for his birthright, Esau should've said, "No way! That's something special for me and I need to use it because every gift I receive is a gift from God."

Instead Esau could only think of how hungry he was and he said, "Yes already, you can have my birthright just give me some food before I starve to death."

By choosing food over his birthright Esau did a bad thing. He made a decision he couldn't change and he disappointed God by not seeing the importance of his special gift he would get later on and choosing a silly thing like a bowl of soup instead.

The story isn't over yet. The next part of the story is about Jacob and the bad choices he makes. Isaac was getting old and he wasn't able to see anymore. He wanted to give his oldest and favorite son Esau his blessing before he died. This blessing was the special promise that God promised to his grandfather Abraham, and then to his father Isaac.

Isaac loved the food that Esau hunted. So he told Esau to go hunt and prepare a special meal for him and then he would give him the blessing.

Rebekah overheard Isaac talking to Esau and rushed to tell her favorite son Jacob. She said to Jacob, "Your father is about to give Esau his blessing and I want you to have it instead. You need to go get two of our goats and bring them to me, I will prepare them just the way Isaac likes it. Then you can take it to him and he will give you the blessing instead."

Jacob replied, "But mom, Esau is a hairy man. What if dad touches me and realizes that I'm tricking him?"

His mother said to him, "Don't worry you can wear Esau's clothes and we'll put the goat hair on your hands and neck so he'll never know." So they did just that and Jacob went to see his father pretending to be Esau.

"Hello father," Jacob said. "Hello, and who is this?" His father asked.

"It is me, Esau. I have brought you the food you wanted so that you can give me my blessing." Jacob lied. "Come closer so I can touch you and know that you are really my oldest son Esau," said his father.

So Jacob went to Isaac and he felt his hands and said, "You sound just like Jacob but your hands are just like Esau. Are you really Esau?"

And Jacob chose to lie again, "I am." So Isaac ate and when he was finished he asked, "Come and kiss me." When Jacob went to kiss him, Isaac smelled the clothes he was wearing just to make sure it smelled like Esau. Since Jacob was wearing Esau's clothes his father believed that he was with Esau and he gave the blessing to Jacob.

Just as Jacob finished getting the blessing he thought he heard Esau coming so he quickly snuck out the back of the tent. Just as he was walking away Esau entered the tent with the food he had prepared for his father.

His father asked, "Who are you?" "It's me, your son Esau. I'm here to get my blessing," said Esau confused.

"I just gave you your blessing." And Isaac started to realize he had been tricked just like he thought. Esau started crying and yelling, "Bless me too father!"

"There is no blessing left," said his father sadly.

Esau was very upset with his brother Jacob for what he had done, so Jacob had to run away so he would be safe.

What a story! Both brothers did things that they shouldn't have, and made bad choices that they couldn't change. Be careful with the choices that you make, you never know how they will change your life later on.

# Jacob and Esau Maze

