



## LESSON 12

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Principle: Jealousy and envy.

Bible Character(s): Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau

Scripture Reference: Genesis 25:19-34



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, read Genesis 25:19-34. Isaac and Rebekah desired children, but Rebekah was barren. Isaac cried out to God on her behalf and God answered by giving them not one child, but twin sons who they named Esau and Jacob. The boys struggled within Rebekah before they were born, foreshadowing a hostile relationship between the brothers. Esau, the firstborn, was physically gifted, decisive, and preferred by his father. Jacob was the younger son, his name having the connotation of “deceiver.” He was a good manipulator, patient, and preferred by his mother. We see the convergence of jealousy and envy of each brother for the other, and the consequences that arise as each one lives selfishly rather than trusting in God.

Are you like Isaac, dependent on God, or like Jacob and Esau, dependent only on yourself? How are you depending on yourself instead of God? How have you experienced jealousy and envy? What were the consequences when you acted selfishly out of jealousy and envy? Spend some time studying James 4. Do you have a broken relationship with anyone because of your selfish desires? How can you move towards reconciliation? Pray for God to reveal your sin, your need for Him, and your need to ask forgiveness. Ask God to help you love and follow Him above your own desires.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

### The Power of Prayer

Tell your campers that we are going to learn more about Isaac and Rebekah today. We will see how Isaac prays to God on behalf of Rebekah. Give each camper a blank piece of paper and ask them to spend some time thinking about any prayer requests they may have. Have them write or draw pictures of these requests on their paper. Read Mark 11:24 to the class: “I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours” and talk to them about how God hears our prayers and answers them. He may not answer them in the way we want Him to, but He does answer them in His own way. Also tell them to think of times where God has answered their

prayers and have them write or draw pictures of those answered prayers on their papers. Allow a few minutes for the campers to share any prayer requests or praises.



## **BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes**

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

**\*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

### **The Bridge to Small Group**

Today we will look at the story of Jacob and Esau to study about jealousy and envy. We will learn about the consequences of living independently of God and allowing jealousy and envy to control our hearts. God calls us to love others more than we love ourselves.

## **Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes**

### **Getting Started**

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group today? Did the counselor who gave up his bait and his shoes get something better or worse? (He gave up something more valuable for something that wasn't worth very much – chips and water.)

Last week we talked about godly character. What did you learn about Eliezer and Rebekah that displayed Godly character? Eliezer obeyed Abraham's commands, and depended on God to show him the woman to become Isaac's wife. Rebekah was kind, compassionate, and hard working. She left her homeland and family, and trusted in God's plan to become Isaac's wife. What does this mean for you? We have the potential to be like Christ, who gave us the best example of what it looks like to have godly character. We can follow Him and obey His commands so that our lives glorify God.

When we left the story, Isaac and Rebekah had just gotten married. Today we are going to continue with the story to see how Isaac and Rebekah followed God in their marriage.

Let's begin in Genesis 25 [NLT].

### **Genesis 25:21**

*21 Isaac pleaded with the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children. The Lord answered Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with twins.*

Isaac probably did not know that Rebekah could not have children when he married her. How did he respond to this? (Allow responses.) He chose to worship God and he prayed for Rebekah to get pregnant. Isaac knew the promise God had made with his father Abraham to make Abraham into a great nation, meaning Isaac was a part of

that promise. Isaac put his faith and trust in God to keep this promise. God blessed Isaac for his faith by making Rebekah pregnant with not only one child, but two children!

Let's continue with the story.

### Genesis 25:24-28

*24 And when the time came to give birth, Rebekah discovered that she did indeed have twins! 25 The first one was very red at birth and covered with thick hair like a fur coat. So they named him Esau. 26 Then the other twin was born with his hand grasping Esau's heel. So they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were born.*

*27 As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home. 28 Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating the wild game Esau brought home, but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

God answered Isaac's prayer and gave Rebekah twin boys. Esau is the older son. He is the outdoorsman and hunter, the son whom Isaac grew to love more. The younger son was named Jacob. Jacob was more quiet and calm. Rebekah loved Jacob more. The boys had different personalities.

## Jacob and Esau



The purpose is to see how God made Jacob and Esau different.

### Supplies:

Jacob and Esau guide (1 per bin)

Hang the guide on the whiteboard for the whole class to see. Go through the lists as a class to look at the differences between Jacob and Esau.

## Tie It Together



God blessed Isaac and Rebekah with two unique sons. Esau, the older son, is the son Isaac loved more. He liked the outdoors, and was a hunter. Jacob, the younger son, was the son Rebekah loved more. He had a quieter personality than Esau, and enjoyed staying at home.

If you have a brother or sister, how are you different from him or her? (Allow responses.) Have you ever thought about how God created you uniquely different from other people? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue with the story to see what happens.

### Genesis 25:29-32

*29 One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. 30 Esau said to Jacob, "I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew!"...*

*31 "All right," Jacob replied, "but trade me your rights as the firstborn son."*

32 *"Look, I'm dying of starvation!" said Esau. "What good is my birthright to me now?"*

Do you think Esau was really "dying of starvation?" (Allow responses.) He probably was just really hungry. Esau said what he felt, and did not think about what might happen before he acted. He was the first-born son, so he had the birthright. A birthright is a special honor given to the first-born son. It meant Esau would get a lot of money and he would rule his family if his father, Isaac, died. Because of this and because Isaac loved Esau the most, Jacob was very jealous of Esau.

How many of you have brothers and sisters? Do you always get along? When do you have a hard time getting along? (Allow responses.)

## Brotherly Love?



The purpose is to look at scripture concerning the treatment of sibling and others.

### Supplies:

Scenarios guide (1 per bin)

Verse references below

Look up and read each scripture reference (below). (You can ask for volunteers, if the class size and dynamics is appropriate.) After reading through each verse, have all the campers stand up. Tell them that you are going to read through a list of scenarios – some show examples of treating a sibling in ways that bring glory to God and some show ways that do not bring glory to God. Tell the campers to stay standing if the scenario's response brings glory to God. If it does not bring glory to God, then they are to sit down. Ask the campers to point out the wrong response and give an example of a right response that would bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Hebrews 13:1

Philippians 2:3-4

Psalms 133: 1

## Tie It Together



Have you ever had anything like that happen to you? (Allow responses.) Have there been times when you have shared something with someone else? Have there been times you chose not to help someone else in need? (Allow responses.) God wants us to love others more than we love ourselves. We can do this because He loved us enough to give up his own Son for us. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Because of his love for us, we can choose to love others, even siblings we have a hard time getting along with.

Let's see if Jacob chooses to love Esau more than himself.

## Genesis 25:33-34

*33 But Jacob said, "First you must swear that your birthright is mine." So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob.*

*34 Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.*

Jacob chose to take advantage of Esau in his weak moment when he was really hungry. All Jacob cared about was gaining power and money for himself. Esau made an unfair trade because he acted on his feelings in the moment and did not think through the consequences, just like the counselor did in the skit. Both Jacob and Esau were not living to bring glory to God, but instead were living just for themselves.

## Act It Out!



The purpose is to help the campers understand that they can love others more than themselves, and they have the opportunity to choose to bring glory to God in everything they do.

### Supplies:

Two campers

Verse reference (Genesis 25:29-34) (1 per bin)

Bowl (1 per bin)

Spoon (1 per bin)

Piece of paper to represent the birthright

Have two campers act out verses 29-32 with the props. One camper can be Jacob, and one camper can be Esau.

## Tie It Together



When Esau came to Jacob for the food, Jacob saw it as a chance to take advantage of Esau in a weak moment to gain money and power. Was Jacob greedy? Was he trusting God or was he putting hope in getting money and power? Do you think it was wise for him to trust in money or power? Was Jacob thinking about anyone other than himself? (Allow responses.) Jacob was only thinking of himself. Esau also was only thinking of himself. He had the choice to give up the birthright or to keep it, but all he wanted was food so he would not be hungry.

Sometimes when we want something so badly, we do not think about the consequences of making a choice based on what we want. We may give up something great in order to gain something that would only give us happiness for a short while. God has a plan for us that is better than anything we can imagine, and He blesses us according to that plan. We can trust that God knows what is best, and depend on Him.

## Count Your Blessings



The purpose is for the campers to understand that God has blessed them in ways that they should be thankful for and never want to trade.

### Supplies:

Ball (1 per bin)

Pass the ball from one camper to the next. Each time a camper catches the ball, he or she needs to say a blessing God has given them. Continue until every camper has had a turn to say at least one blessing.

## Tie It Together



We have all been blessed in so many ways by God. We do not deserve anything He has blessed us with, not even our breath of life. But God is gracious and loves us enough to bless us anyway. Would you consider giving up something that God has blessed you with just to get something that would make you happy only for a short time? (Allow responses.)

Esau was willing to give up the blessing he had been given, his birthright, for a bowl of soup to satisfy his hunger. The blessings we have been given have much more value than anything we can get on our own. Because we have been blessed, we can bless others by loving them. How can you bless people around you? (Allow responses.)

## Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for showing us what it means to love others more than ourselves through what Jesus did on the cross. Ask God to help us love as He does and not allow sin to control our hearts.



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