



## LESSON 12

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</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 25:19-21**

*19 This is the account of the family of Isaac, the son of Abraham. 20 When Isaac was forty years old, he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram and the sister of Laban the Aramean.*

*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 was 40 years old when he and Rebekah married. Isaac probably did not know that Rebekah was unable to have children when he married her. How did he respond when he found out? (Allow responses.) He chose to worship God through prayer, pleading with Him for Rebekah to become pregnant. Isaac knew the promise God had made with his father Abraham to make Abraham into a great nation, meaning he was a part of that promise. Isaac put his faith and trust in God to fulfill this promise. God answered Isaac's prayer and blessed Isaac for his faith by making Rebekah pregnant with not only one child, but two children!

Let's continue with the story.

### Genesis 25:22-23

*22 But the two children struggled with each other in her womb. So she went to ask the Lord about it. "Why is this happening to me?" she asked.*

*23 And the Lord told her, "The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son."*

Rebekah felt the struggle of the two children inside of her. How did she respond to this? (Allow responses.) She went directly to God. God answered Rebekah in saying that her two sons would become two nations, they would be rivals, and the older would serve the younger. This is not normal for their culture because the older child is held in higher status or position over the younger child. This struggle inside Rebekah would foreshadow the struggle between the two brothers later on.

Let's continue.

### 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.*

Isaac was sixty years old when his sons were born. He and Rebekah did not have children until 20 years after they were married. We do not know when Isaac turned to God and pleaded with Him for Rebekah to become pregnant, or how long it was before God answered their prayer, but Isaac put his faith and trust in God and God was faithful.

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 quieter and even-tempered. Rebekah loved Jacob more. These differences in personality help to reveal the struggle the brothers will have with one another.

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!" (This is how Esau got his other name, Edom, which means "red.")

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 exaggerating when he said he was, "dying of starvation?" (Allow responses.) He was probably just really hungry. Esau communicated by what he felt, and did not think through the consequences 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 double portion of the family inheritance, and he would rule his family if Isaac died. Along with the birthright, Esau also had the love of his father Isaac. All of that put together caused Jacob to be very jealous and envious of Esau.

## 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.

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Hebrews 13:1

Philippians 2:3-4

Psalms 133:1

## Tie It Together



Can you relate to any of those situations? (Allow responses.) Have there been times when you have shared something with someone else, or times you chose not to help someone else in need? (Allow responses.) God wants us to love others more than we love ourselves. He allows us to respond to situations in the way that we want, but He wants us to respond in ways that bring glory to Him. He calls us to love others more than we love ourselves. We can do this because God loved us enough to give up His own Son, Jesus, to pay for our sin on the cross. We can have a heart filled with desire to bring glory to God in everything we do. Are there any areas in your life that you have a hard time responding in a way that brings glory to

God? (Allow responses.)

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 of being really hungry. All Jacob cared about was gaining power and money for himself. Esau made a decision for an unfair trade because he acted on impulse and did not think through the consequences. Both Jacob and Esau were living independently of God; they 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 for Part 1:

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

Part 1: Have two campers act out Genesis 25 verses 29-32 with the materials listed above. One camper can be Jacob, and one camper can be Esau.

#### Supplies for Part 2:

Two campers

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

Picture cards (1 set per bin)

College tuition card (1 per bin)

"Older Sibling" sign (1 per bin)

"Younger Sibling" sign (1 per bin)

Part 2: Next, have them use the modern day examples to help them understand the principle better, with items that are relevant to their lives today.

Give one camper the "Older Sibling" sign and the "College Tuition" card. Let them know the "College Tuition" card represents money their parents have set aside for them to go to college. Give the other camper the "Younger Sibling" sign. Let that camper choose from any of the picture cards, but make sure he/she knows that the most desired thing is the college tuition card. Tell the older sibling that he/she doesn't care about the college tuition, but instead, wants whatever the younger sibling has.

Explain what each “modern day” thing represents and have them act out the passage again:

“Older Sibling” – Esau

“Younger Sibling” – Jacob

“College Tuition” – birthright

Card(s) with picture(s) – food

## Tie It Together



When Esau came to Jacob for the food, Jacob saw it as an opportunity to take advantage of Esau in a weak moment to gain money and power. Was Jacob greedy? 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 as well. He had the choice to give up the birthright or to keep it, but all he wanted was the food that would satisfy his hunger.

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 only for 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



God has blessed us all in so many ways. 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.) Why or why not? (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. He only cared about being satisfied in that moment, instead of what the birthright meant for his future. The blessings we have been given have much more value than anything we can get on our own. God gives us more than we deserve, and we should seek first His righteousness above all else. He

desires for us to live a holy life, and He has blessed us with the opportunity to live life with Him because of Jesus. Because we have been blessed, we can bless others by loving them as Jesus loves. 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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