



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 13

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: God blesses beyond human ability when we walk with Him and put our trust in Him.
Humble reconciliation.

Scripture Reference: Genesis 30-33

Character(s): Jacob and Esau

ATTENTION VOLUNTEER: Today's lesson covers the topics of fear and forgiveness. Children from foster or adoptive homes or children who have experienced abuse or neglect of any kind could be very sensitive to this lesson. A child should not be forced or coerced into sharing a story unwillingly. There does not need to be the awkward silence waiting for a child to share if they are not ready. Should a child choose to share an experience of deep hurt, their response should be welcomed and heard, as well as communicated to the coach or children's director to further address the situation. Please don't hesitate to let your coach or children's director know if you need assistance at any time during this lesson.



PERSONAL PREPARATION:

Before this weekend, spend some time reading through Genesis 30-33. Jacob and Esau were both living independently of God when we left our last lesson. This weekend, we will see the heart change Jacob undergoes as he leaves his family to live with his Uncle Laban. He will work for Laban for 20 years, gaining lots of wealth for both Laban and himself, and then return to his homeland at God's command with the hope of reconciling with Esau. Jacob displays humility throughout the story, acknowledging God's faithfulness to him, submitting himself before God in prayer, and depending on God with his life. In reconciling with Esau, he humbly approached Esau in an effort to show realization of his sin. Esau provides us with an example of forgiveness through grace: he immediately forgave Jacob upon seeing him.

How do you humble yourself before God? Before others? Is there an area in your life where you have chosen not to humble yourself before God and put your trust in His plan? Is there someone you should forgive, or someone who you have hurt and you desire forgiveness? How do you see God's blessing in your life? Spend some time in prayer, asking God to humble your heart before Him. Meditate on your need for God's saving grace, and the blessings you have received through trusting God with your life.

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!

Broken Relationship

Give each camper a worksheet. This will be used many times throughout the lesson. Have them turn to "Broken Relationship" section and ask them to draw a picture or write the name of one person they are angry with and what made them angry. Offer suggestions to guide them in the right direction. (Brother/sister quarrels, neighbors that they are no longer playing with, a classmate who did something mean to them, etc.) Have each share about the situation.

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 are going to continue studying about Jacob. We will see Jacob turn from being independent of God to walking with Him, and the blessings he receives. We will also study the humble reconciliation between Jacob and Esau.

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 in Big Group? Why did the Staff Member send all of those animals? (Sent them as a present to ask forgiveness.) How did the storyteller respond? (Forgave the Staff Member right away.)

In our last lesson, we learned about God blessing Isaac and Rebekah by giving them twin sons. What were their sons' names? Jacob and Esau. What were the differences between Jacob and Esau? Esau was the first-born son, was a hunter, and was loved by Isaac. Jacob was the younger son who enjoyed cooking, and was loved by Rachel. Jacob and Esau grew up into two very different men. What happened between them? Jacob was jealous of Esau and tricked him into giving up the money and power that were his as the first-born son. Were either Jacob or Esau depending on God? No, both Jacob and Esau were living independently of God. Neither were living to bring glory to God.

Today we are going to continue in Genesis to see what happened between Jacob and Esau. After Jacob tricked Esau into giving up his birthright, Jacob then tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing that was meant for Esau. Isaac sent Jacob to live with Rebekah's brother, Laban, and to find a wife.

Jacob worked for Laban for 20 years. He knew that God had been with him through the 20 years he had been working for Laban, and when God told him in a dream to return to his homeland, Jacob obeyed. He and his entire household headed back to the land of Canaan.

Let's begin in Genesis 32 [NLT].

Genesis 32:3-5

3 Then Jacob sent messengers ahead to his brother, Esau, who was living in the region of Seir in the land of Edom. 4 He told them, "Give this message to my master Esau: 'Humble greetings from your servant Jacob. Until now I have been living with Uncle Laban, 5 and now I own cattle, donkeys, flocks of sheep and goats, and many servants, both men and women. I have sent these messengers to inform my lord of my coming, hoping that you will be friendly to me.'"

Jacob wanted to tell Esau he is coming home. After all he has done to Esau and the hatred Esau had for him, he could have just come home without saying anything. But he wanted to make up with Esau, and so he sent a message ahead to Esau out of respect.

Genesis 32:6-12

6 After delivering the message, the messengers returned to Jacob and reported, "We met your brother, Esau, and he is already on his way to meet you—with an army of 400 men!" 7 Jacob was terrified at the news. ...

9 Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my grandfather Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac—O Lord, you told me, 'Return to your own land and to your relatives.' And you promised me, 'I will treat you kindly.' 10 I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me, your servant. When I left home and crossed the Jordan River, I owned nothing except a walking stick. Now my household fills two large camps! 11 O Lord, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children. 12 But you promised me, 'I will surely treat you kindly, and I will multiply your descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore—too many to count.' "

Trust in God



The purpose is for the campers to recognize an area in their life where they have not been trusting in God. They have the opportunity to choose to trust Him from now on.

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Trust in God" section (1 per camper)

Markers/crayons

Have campers find the "Trust in God" section of their worksheets. In that area, have them draw something that worries them or brings them fear. Talk through the "Tie It Together" below and then spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help each of you overcome your fear(s) with His protection and comfort.

Tie It Together

 Jacob learned that Esau is on his way to meet him with an army of 400 men. He was scared because he thought Esau was seeking revenge. He prayed to God. Jacob had lived his whole life without God, and trusted only in himself. Now we see Jacob turn to God and depend on Him through prayer. Jacob knew that he was not worthy of the love and faithfulness God has shown him. His heart had changed; he understood that if he put his faith and trust in God, the life God offered him was better than any life he could live on his own. Is there something you are afraid of or worried about? How are you trusting God to take care of you? (Allow responses.) Let's pray now to ask God to help you overcome your fears and worries.

Let's see how Jacob reacted when he saw Esau.

Genesis 33:1-3

1 Then Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his 400 men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and his two servant wives. 2 He put the servant wives and their children at the front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. 3 Then Jacob went on ahead. As he approached his brother, he bowed to the ground seven times before him.

This act of bowing seven times (bowing, then moving a few steps closer, and continuing this pattern seven times) was a sign of great respect towards Esau. Jacob was completely humbling himself before Esau and asking forgiveness.

Let's take a look at what it means to humble ourselves.

Humble Bow



The purpose is for the campers to understand further how Jacob humbled himself before Esau.

Supplies:

2 campers

Ask for 2 volunteers. One camper can be Jacob, and one can be Esau. Have them act out the scene of Jacob bowing down to Esau seven times, each time moving closer. Let everyone have a chance to participate. (As time allows.)

Tie It Together

 Jacob bowed down to Esau seven times. In his culture, this was a sign of great respect. Jacob knew that he had wronged Esau. His heart had changed since that time, and he hoped Esau would forgive him. Do we bow to people to show them respect? (Allow responses.) What are some ways that we show respect to others? (Allow responses.) What can you do to show respect to your teachers, parents, coaches? (Obey, talk kindly, not whine, say "please" and "thank you," etc)

Humble Jumble



The purpose of this activity is to give the campers a better understanding of humility.

Supplies:

Humble Jumble poster (1 per session)

Ask for a volunteer to read each verse reference out loud (if no camper volunteers, a teacher or student helper should do the reading). Help campers look up the verses, and then read each verse reference aloud and unscramble the words below to fill in the blanks.

Tie It Together

 What did you learn about what it means to be humble? (Allow responses.) Being humble is to 1) love God and love others, 2) consider others more important, and 3) obey God's commandments. God wants us to love Him and love others. When we love others and consider them more important, we put them above ourselves. Jesus is our great example of what it means to love God and love others. He gave up His life for our sake so that our sins could be forgiven. Lastly, to be humble means obeying God's commandments. When we choose to do this, we humble ourselves by showing that we trust in God's plan for us. Jacob was now trusting in God instead of in himself, and he was asking Esau to forgive him.

Let's finish the story and see how Esau responded to Jacob.

Genesis 33:4

4 Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept.

Esau's act of forgiveness towards Jacob was incredibly powerful. Esau could have continued hating Jacob for what Jacob did, but he chose to show grace and forgive Jacob. Grace is being given something you do not deserve. Jacob did not deserve the forgiveness Esau showed him, but Esau chose to forgive Jacob and love him anyway. Esau is a great example to us in how to love others more than ourselves. God has blessed Jacob for his choice to trust in God and his desire to love Esau more than himself.

Steps of Forgiveness



The purpose is to show the campers the way God instructs us to seek forgiveness.

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Steps of Forgiveness" side (1 per camper)

Go over the six steps of forgiveness and have campers draw a line from what they should do to seek forgiveness to the numbered step at the bottom of the sheet.

1. Humble yourself
2. Recognize that your action is wrong (it is sin)
3. Accept responsibility (do not make excuses)
4. Ask your friend to forgive you
5. Ask God to forgive you
6. Accept God's forgiveness

Tie It Together

 If you choose to put your faith and trust in Jesus as Lord, your sins have been forgiven by God. Because God has forgiven you, you can forgive others. God wants us to have a heart filled with worship for Him, and part of worshiping Him means being able to forgive and seek forgiveness. It can be hard to forgive someone who has hurt you. It is also hard to ask someone you have hurt to forgive you. You must first humble yourself and understand that what you did was wrong. Next, you must admit that you did it, not make any excuses, and ask the person you hurt to forgive you. You can then ask God to forgive you, and God will forgive you if you are truly sorry and you can accept His forgiveness. Through learning to ask forgiveness, we also learn how to forgive those who hurt us.

Broken Relationship Prayer

 The purpose is to focus on the campers' broken relationships and ask God to help them have the boldness and humility to take the steps to reconcile their friendships.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Broken Relationship” section from earlier (1 per camper)

Have campers turn back to the “Broken Relationship” section of their worksheets and lead them in a prayer of silent confession and agreement with God that they have sinned and have a broken relationship.

Father God, we come before you lifting up these hurt relationships. We know that we have sinned and do not deserve anything. We come before You now asking forgiveness. You are a God who is faithful to forgive us when we come to You. We thank You for the grace that You show us when You forgive us of our sins, and we pray now that we will have courage to ask those we have hurt to forgive us. Thank you for your Son, Jesus, and the life we have because of Him. Amen.



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