

# Be Patient for God's Plan

## Sibling Rivalry

### Jacob & Esau

*Genesis 25:1- 28:22*

Ask students: Has anyone ever done something wrong to you? What did they do?

Has anyone ever lied to you or tricked you?

How did that make you feel?

(Tell about an appropriate time when someone hurt you this way.)

Well, we've been learning about Abraham and his family.

You remember that God told Abraham to leave his country and his friends and his family and go live in the country of Canaan.

Does anyone remember what promise God made to Abraham about the country of Canaan? *God promised that He would give the whole country to Abraham's children and grandchildren forever.*

Remember when Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were very old, God let them have a son named Isaac? When Isaac grew up, he married a young woman named Rebekah.

Today, we're going to learn about the time when Isaac and Rebekah had children.

It's one of the more unusual stories in the Bible. It's the story of two brothers who were fraternal twins.

Rebekah couldn't have children for a few years after she married Isaac. But Isaac prayed that she would have children, and God eventually let Rebekah have twin boys. The first boy was named Esau and he grew up to be a big, strong hunter. He was also very hairy. The second boy was named Jacob and he liked to stay at home.

Isaac liked to eat the food Esau hunted, so Esau was Isaac's favorite. But Jacob was Rebekah's favorite.

Dad loved the older twin. Mom loved the younger. And God had told their mother that the younger one would be very, very special. Sounds like a recipe for disaster, doesn't it?

This family was headed for a breakdown, and today, we're going to read about that breakdown. But beneath this story of a family torn apart is good news for all of us.

**Read: The Story of Jacob & Esau from the Action Bible (pages 72-82)**

I told you this was a dysfunctional family! Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Rebekah knew that Jacob, not Esau, was the one God wanted to use to raise a mighty nation, but rather than let God work things out on his own, Rebekah wasn't patient and decided to take control. She deceived her husband and got Jacob to go along with her plan.

**Rebekah made a bad choice.**

Jacob could have refused his mother's plan, but he went right along with it. He pretended to be Esau, he lied to his dad, and he stole the blessing that was meant for his big brother.

**Jacob made a bad choice.**

Esau was so angry with his mother and his brother, he vowed to kill Jacob.

**Rebekah and Jacob's bad choices had split their family in two.**

Twice Jacob lied to get what was not rightfully his from his brother.

He tricked Esau into giving up his birthright when he was very hungry by giving him bread and stew in exchange for his birthright and then he lied to his father about who he was to get the blessing from his father.

Did it work?

Esau went back out and said, "Jacob has done two things wrong to me.

He took my birthright when I was so hungry and now, he's stolen my blessing, too. When my father, Isaac, dies, I will kill my brother, Jacob, for what he has done to me."

Rebekah heard Esau say that he was going to kill Jacob, so Rebekah went and told Jacob, "You have to run away from here because Esau is going to kill you." So, Jacob ran away from home.

Why did Jacob have to run away? *He was afraid. He did some mean things to his brother, Esau, so Esau wanted to kill him.*

Choosing sin over what is right is not pleasing to the Lord.

Staying in sin and choosing to sin is not what God wants for His children. He wants us to walk in the Truth because Jesus is the Truth.

Whether we choose to sin, or we accidentally do the wrong thing, we should choose to mend the relationships with others and with God.

Belief in Jesus and asking Him to forgive us when we sin is the first action we should take. Second, we need to ask the person whom we wronged to forgive us.

**Jacob didn't do that and he ended up never seeing his father again.**

And it was years before Jacob and Esau would reconcile.

But without spoiling the story, I'm going to let you in on the good news.

In spite of all the bad choices this family made, everything turned out okay. It didn't happen because of the bad choices. It happened because down the road in this story, Jacob got right with God. He let God set him back on track, and he let God make things right!

We've all made bad choices, haven't we? When we make fun of someone, that's a bad choice. When we ignore or disobey our parents, that's a bad choice. When we lie, when we cheat, when we act selfishly, those are bad choices.

God loves us, in spite of our bad decisions. And even though we continue to make bad choices, he can use us to share his love with others. When we give our lives to Jesus, we are telling him, "I'm sorry. Please help me make this right." It's the first step in the right direction, the first step down the path God wants us to follow.

Many people get so down on themselves for their bad choices. They begin to think they are truly bad people, and they don't think anyone can forgive them. Jesus can! He forgave a liar like Jacob. He forgave other sinners in the Bible too. There's nothing you can do that Jesus can't forgive and make right.

**Pray:**

*Help us to get back on track when we take a wrong turn. Forgive our mistakes and make us new.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## Craft: Jesus Loves Us



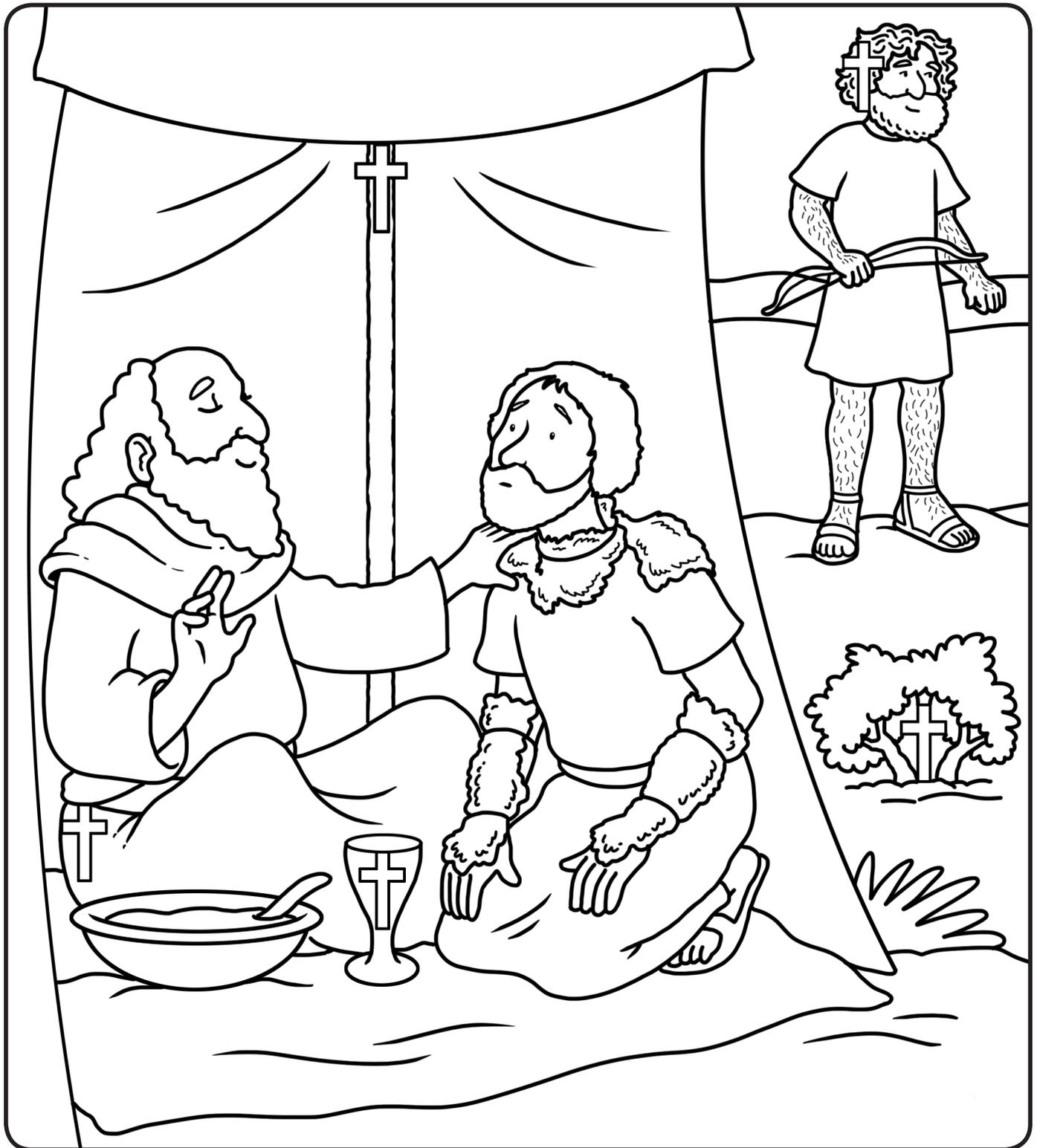
**Videos: Jacob & Esau** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNadcmhUjVQ>

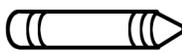
Veggie Tales: Lettuce Love One Another

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_YJiSgUC3I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_YJiSgUC3I)

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again  
~ Teacher Chrissy

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And <https://www.orientaltrading.com> for their generosity of resources.



 **Find & Color**

Jacob and Esau were brothers with troubles. I wonder . . . what were their troubles? When they were older, God showed them how to love and forgive each other. Find the 5 hidden crosses. Crosses remind us that Jesus forgives us too. He helps us forgive others.



For those who love God all things work together for good.  
**Romans 8:28**