

LESSON 6: GENESIS: GOD BRINGS JACOB AND ESAU BACK TOGETHER

Leader Guide for One Room

Classroom: My One Room Classroom

 Genesis 27; 32–33

05/24/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Genesis 27; 32–33
- In This Passage: Jacob is slightly younger than his twin, Esau. But Jacob tricks their dad into giving Jacob his dying blessing meant for his firstborn son. Esau is mad, and Jacob runs away. After years apart, the two reunite. Jacob sends a lot of gifts to try to make up, and Esau forgives him. God helps us make things right.
- Bible Point: God helps us make things right.
- Summary Verse: “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them” (Romans 8:28).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God helps us make things right.* Conflict comes up frequently for kids. It might be a squabble over what TV show to watch or who gets the last cookie. Use this lesson to help kids see that when they experience conflict, they can turn to God for help in making things right.
- Think About: What's the last conflict you had? Have you made it right yet? If not, ask God for help. Put this lesson into practice for yourself.

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God will help kids de-escalate situations that could result in unnecessary conflict.

Quick Tip

- When you ask kids to talk about conflict, be prepared. Kids live in a world of tough stuff involving family and friends. That's why this lesson is so relevant. Challenge kids to go to God for courage to make things right. Accept their stories, and follow up if you learn about a situation that needs further intervention.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible

Easy Prep

- Do an online search to learn how to say “happy birthday” in sign language.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids act out the Bible story by opening gifts in groups of four.

Supplies

- Bible
- gift boxes or gift bags (1 for every 4 kids)
- wrapping paper (if using boxes)
- uncooked rice
- snack-size disposable plastic bags (1 for every 4 kids)
- disposable plates (1 for every 4 kids)
- blue ribbons (1 for every 4 kids)
- paper
- tape
- yarn
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Put a small handful of rice into each snack-size disposable plastic bag.
- Roll and tape pieces of paper into megaphones, 1 for every 4 kids.
- For every 4 kids, place the following items in a gift box or gift bag: a bag of rice, a disposable plate, a blue ribbon, and a paper megaphone. Wrap the boxes, or tape the gift bags closed so kids can't see inside.
- Crumple 1 piece of paper for every 4 kids.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids look through water and see things turn the opposite direction.

Supplies

- drinking glass or clear vase (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- 8 ounce plastic cup (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- water
- index cards (1 per child)
- markers
- “Arrows” handout (1 per preschooler) ([download here](#))

Easy Prep

- Fill a plastic cup with water for each group.



CRAFT

Kids make blankets to donate.

Supplies

- fleece fabric
- scissors

Easy Prep

- For every 6 kids, cut two 3x4-foot pieces of fleece.
- Stack 1 piece of fleece on top of another for each set. Cut 4-inch slits into the sides of each set that are about 1 inch apart.
- For your demonstration, leave 1 side of 1 set uncut.
- Decide on a local charity that accepts blanket donations. You might consider homeless shelters, safe houses, or animal shelters.



MUSIC VIDEO

Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “One True God” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Stand Strong” (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Will Trust You” (watch or download [here](#))



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- “Trouble at the Lab” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



TAKE-HOME

Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

Supplies

- this week’s “Dig In @ Home” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the “Dig In @ Home” handout.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids write ideas of what they can give to make a relationship right.

Supplies

- plain white paper
- pens
- washable markers
- tape

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Easy Prep

- Do an online search to learn how to say “happy birthday” in sign language.

Welcome

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids give a foot-five (a high-five with a foot) to two friends.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” in sign language.

Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God helps us make things right. We’ll learn about two brothers in the Bible and how God helped them make things right.**

Share

Tell kids something *you* like about a sibling, neighbor, or cousin of yours.

Have kids form pairs and tell their partners something *they* like about a sibling, neighbor, or cousin of theirs.

After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Genesis 27 and show kids the passage. Say: **It’s great to have people we like in our lives. But sometimes it’s hard to get along with others. That’s what happened with Jacob and Esau, the brothers I mentioned from the Bible. They had a big fight. Let’s see what the Bible says about how God helped them make things right. The Bible is special because it’s full of true stories about what God has done. God can talk to us as we read and hear about his works. Let’s listen to God as we hear from the Bible today. Let’s talk to him right now.**

Pray, thanking God for helping us make things right.



Supplies

- Bible
- gift boxes or gift bags (1 for every 4 kids)
- wrapping paper (if using boxes)
- uncooked rice
- snack-size disposable plastic bags (1 for every 4 kids)
- disposable plates (1 for every 4 kids)
- blue ribbons (1 for every 4 kids)
- paper
- tape
- yarn
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Put a small handful of rice into each snack-size disposable plastic bag.
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- For every 4 kids, place the following items in a gift box or gift bag: a bag of rice, a disposable plate, a blue ribbon, and a paper megaphone. Wrap the boxes, or tape the gift bags closed so kids can't see inside.
- Crumple 1 piece of paper for every 4 kids.

Tip

- This Bible experience will work best if you have at least 6 kids (adjusting so there are only 3 kids in a group). If you have fewer than 6 kids, adapt it so that Jacob and the remaining kids not playing Esau just leave the group and live far away.

Form Groups

Say: **In today's true Bible story, we're going to learn about two brothers.**

Ask: • **Tell how many brothers and sisters you have and what their names are.** Tell kids about your family first. Then have kids share in pairs.

Say: **We'll talk about some brothers in the Bible as we learn about the story. Let's imagine we're the brothers. Form groups of four, and then I'll help you figure out who's who.**

Allow time for kids to form mixed-age groups. If it's necessary, groups of three will work. Ideally, you'll have at least two groups.

Say: **Figure out who's the *oldest* person in your group.** Allow time for groups to identify who is the oldest person. **Esau was the older brother, so you'll be Esau.**

Now figure out who's the *youngest* person in your group. That person will be Jacob, the younger brother. Jacob and Esau were twins, but Esau was born first, so Jacob was younger. Allow time for groups to identify who is the youngest person.

Say: **In Bible times, the oldest brother usually got a special blessing from his dad. Esau thought he would get that blessing.** Give the Esaus each a gift, but instruct them to not open it yet.

Guess the Person

Say: **Esau and Jacob's dad, Isaac, was about to die. So it was time to give Esau his blessing. Isaac asked Esau to make him a favorite meal, and when Esau brought the food, Isaac would give him the blessing.**

But Jacob was sneaky—and so was his mom! They both wanted Jacob to have the blessing, so Jacob dressed up like Esau. Esau was very hairy, so Jacob put goatskin on his hands, arms, and neck so he'd feel hairy. Let's put some hair on our arms.

Have all the kids cut short pieces of yarn and tape them to their arms.

Say: **Isaac couldn't see very well anymore, but he could smell and feel just fine. So here's what happened when Jacob showed up dressed like Esau.**

Read Genesis 27:21-24.

Say: **Let's see if you can tell who's who in your group just by touching their hairy arms.**

Have kids take turns closing their eyes and trying to guess who is who in their group. Other group members can rearrange themselves to make it harder to guess.

Ask: • **Tell about a time someone tricked you.** Share your own example first. Then have kids share in their groups.

Get a Blessing

Say: **Since Jacob felt and smelled like Esau, Isaac gave Jacob the blessing.**

Have all the Jacobs take the gifts away from the Esaus and then hold the presents.

Say: **As I read the blessing, the Jacobs will find things in their boxes that show what the blessing was.**

The first part of the blessing said: "From the dew of heaven and the richness of the earth, may God always give you abundant harvests of grain and bountiful new wine." Jacobs, open your gift. Find an item inside that you think represents grain. Pause for kids to pull out the bag of rice.

Say: **The second part of the blessing said: "May many nations become your servants, and may they bow down to you." Pause for kids to pull out the plate. Jacobs, give the plate to someone besides Esau. If you receive the plate, hold it up like you're serving Jacob.** Pause.

Say: **The third part of the blessing said: "May you be the master over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you." Jacobs, take out your blue ribbon and wave it because you'll be first place, ruling over your brothers.** Pause.

Say: **The final part of the blessing said: "All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed." Giving a curse or a blessing is saying something mean or nice about someone. Jacobs, give your megaphone to another group member, who'll say something nice to you through it.** Pause.

Say: **Just as Jacob left his father, Esau came in with the meal he'd made. Isaac realized he'd been tricked, but it was too late. Esau really wanted a blessing, but Isaac said he'd already told Jacob he'd get all the good stuff.**

When Esau started crying, Isaac gave him this blessing.

Read Genesis 27:39-40.

Ask: • **What do you think about this blessing?**

Give each of the Esaus a crumpled piece of paper. Say: **Esau's blessing wasn't nice. Isaac said he wouldn't live near good fields of crops and that he'd live by the sword and serve his brother. It was kind of like getting a piece of trash for a present.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time a sibling or friend got something you wanted.** Share your own example first. Then have kids share in their groups.

Run Away

Say: **After Jacob stole his blessing, Esau was really mad at Jacob and wanted to hurt him. So Jacob ran away.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time you were mad at a sibling or friend.** Share your own example first. Then have kids share in their groups.

Have the Jacobs each run to a different group. Since the Jacobs will mostly be preschoolers, you may wish to direct them on which group to go to. The new groups will still be groups of four, but each group will have a new Jacob.

Send Gifts

Say: **Many years later, God told Jacob to go back home. It was time for God to help Jacob make things right. Jacob was scared about what Esau would think of him. God helped him have a sorry attitude. Jacob sent Esau a lot of gifts to try to make him happy. Here's a list of what he sent.**

Read Genesis 32:14-15.

Have the kids in each group who aren't Jacob or Esau pretend to be some of the animals and go to their Jacob's previous group.

Say: **Jacob sent all these gifts with messengers. The next day, Jacob went to see Esau. He bowed seven times to show how sorry he was. Jacobs, go back to your original groups, bowing seven times on the way.** Allow time.

Say: **God was helping Jacob make things right with Esau. But Jacob was nervous about how Esau would react. Let's see how Esau reacted to seeing Jacob after all this time.**

Read Genesis 33:3-4. Have the Esaus give the Jacobs a high-five.

Say: **God helps us make things right. He helped Esau let go of his anger. Sometimes it's hard for us to let go of anger and hurt. It can be hard to forgive. But we can always ask God to help us. His love can work in our hearts, and his power can bring forgiveness. God is so amazing!**

Okay, back to the Bible story. Esau didn't think Jacob needed to give him so many gifts, and he told Jacob to keep them.

Have Jacobs and Esaus from the same group each stand a few feet apart, facing each other. Have the remaining kids move as animals from Esau back to Jacob.

Say: **But Jacob really wanted to make things right. He insisted Esau take the gifts.** Have the animals move back to Esau.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you resolved a problem with a sibling or friend.** Share your own example first. Then have groups sit back down together and discuss their responses.

Say: **Sometimes we get mad at our siblings, just like Esau did. Sometimes we don't treat our siblings right, just like Jacob did. But God helps us make things right. We can say we're sorry when we hurt our siblings or friends, and we can offer forgiveness when we've been hurt. God can help us fix our problems with other people.**



Turn It Around

Supplies

- drinking glass or clear vase (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- 8 ounce plastic cup (1 for every 3-4 kids)
- water
- index cards (1 per child)
- markers
- “Arrows” handout (1 per preschooler) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Fill a plastic cup with water for each group.

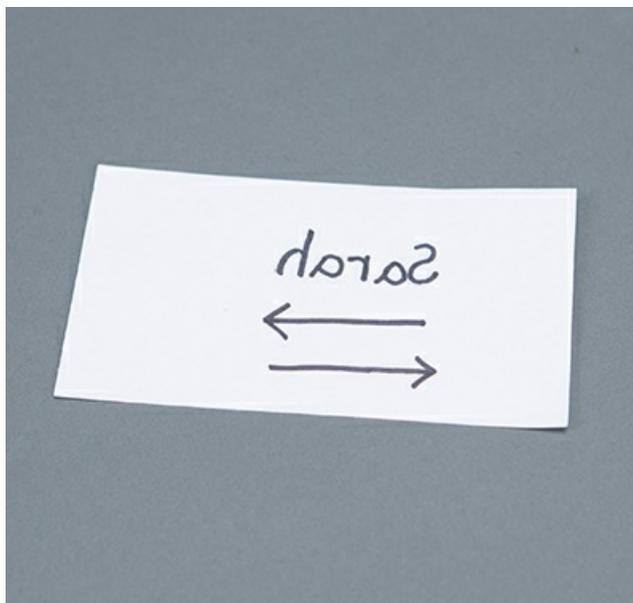
Tips

- Here’s a tip to help kids write their names backward. Kids can turn the index cards over and write their names on the back of the cards with a marker and then flip them over to the front and trace the letters that bleed through the cards.
- We found that wide drinking glasses or clear vases with straight sides worked best. But you could have kids experiment with different sizes and shapes of glasses to see which one flips the arrows most clearly.

Draw or Write Backward

Say: **Just like Jacob, sometimes we make choices that send our relationships in the wrong direction. But God can turn us around and help us make things right. Let’s explore that idea with an experiment.**

Form mixed-age groups of three or four kids, depending on how many glasses you have available. Give each group a glass and each older child an index card. Younger kids can each get an “Arrows” handout and color the sections in different colors. Have older kids draw two 1-inch horizontal arrows, one above the other, one pointing left and the other pointing right. Then have older kids write their names backward above or below the arrows using the tip above.

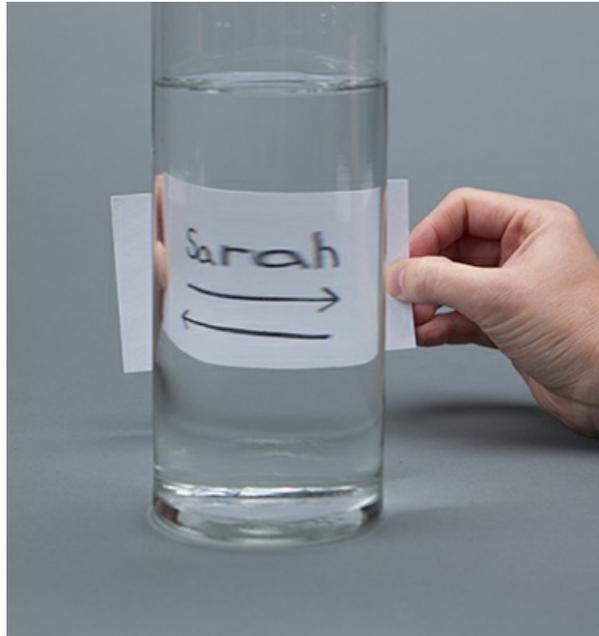


Fill the Glass

Say: **Now let’s see if we can turn these things around.**

Give each group a plastic cup of water. Show kids how to place their glass in front of one of the cards and then watch what happens to the arrows and name as another group member pours water from the plastic

cup into the glass. Encourage kids to see what happens when they move the index card closer and farther away from the glass. The arrows should appear to flip directions, and the name will read correctly. Allow all group members to take a turn looking at their arrows and names through the water.



Talk About It

Ask: • **What happened when you moved your index card closer to or farther away from the glass?**

Say: **We just saw something called *refraction*. That's when light goes through the glass and meets at one point—the focal point. If the card is placed in front of the focal point, the image stays the same, but if it's moved behind the focal point, the image appears to flip directions and you were able to read your backward name correctly.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time you wished you could reverse a choice you made because it hurt someone.** Share examples to start the conversation, such as wishing you had invited someone to your party after you saw how hurt she was, or wishing you hadn't picked on your little brother when you saw how mad he became.

Say: **We can't always go back and change our hurtful choices, but when we're heading in the wrong direction, God can turn us around and help us go the way he wants us to go. God helps us make things right.**



Supplies

- fleece fabric
- scissors

Easy Prep

- For every 6 kids, cut two 3x4-foot pieces of fleece.
- Stack 1 piece of fleece on top of another for each set. Cut 4-inch slits into the sides of each set that are about 1 inch apart.
- For your demonstration, leave 1 side of 1 set uncut.
- Decide on a local charity that accepts blanket donations. You might consider homeless shelters, safe houses, or animal shelters.



Introduce

Say: **Today we're discovering that God helps us make things right. Sometimes we mess up our relationships. Name some things people do that hurt friendships or relationships within our families.**

For each idea kids name, cut a slit in the side of the set you left uncut.

Say: **It might seem like I've ruined this fabric because I've cut all these slits in it. But God helps us make things right. Let's make this fabric right by turning it into a blanket.**

Tie Blankets

Have kids form mixed-age groups of six. Give each group a set of two pieces of fleece. Show kids how to tie the fringed pieces together so the two pieces become one thicker blanket. Kids will want to use double knots so the ties don't come apart. Preschoolers may not know how to tie, but they'll love to have the older kids teach them. Older kids in each group can secure the double-knot with the second tie.

As kids work, tell them about the charity they'll be donating the blankets to. Say: **God helps us make things right. When we make things right with people, we show kindness to them. So we'll show kindness by giving these blankets to people or animals in need who may have experienced conflict in their lives.**

Talk About It

Ask: • **We tied two pieces of fleece into one blanket. What helps you “tie” a friendship back together?**

• **How do you think your blanket will help someone?**

Say: **God helps us make things right. Esau and Jacob had separated, like the two pieces of fleece were separated in the beginning. But God helped Jacob make things right, and he gave Esau a forgiving spirit. God brought the relationship back together, just as you brought the two pieces of fleece together.**

Gather the blankets in a pile, and have kids touch them as they pray for the recipients.



MUSIC VIDEO

One True God

[10 min]

Supplies

- “One True God” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Stand Strong” (watch or download [here](#))
- “I Will Trust You” (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



Supplies

- “Trouble at the Lab” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “Trouble at the Lab”

Say: **We’ve been learning that God helps us make things right. In today’s Bible story, two brothers got in an argument. But God helped them make things right. Let’s watch a video where two brothers can’t seem to get along.**

Watch “Trouble at the Lab.”

Ask: • **Which brother do you think is right? Explain.**

- **How could the brothers solve their conflict?**
- **Why is it so hard to find compromises?**

Say: **God helps us make things right—even when it seems like we just can’t get along. If he could help Jacob and Esau get along, he can help us find solutions when we have conflicts with others.**



TAKE-HOME

Dig In @ Home

[0 min]

Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.



Supplies

- plain white paper
- pens
- washable markers
- tape

Write a Gift

Say: **When God helped Jacob make things right with Esau, Jacob sent Esau gifts. We're going to think of gifts we can give to make things right.**

First, think of someone you've had a conflict with this week. As kids think, distribute paper and pens.

Say: **Next, think of a gift you can give that person that could help resolve the conflict. A gift doesn't have to cost money. You might hug your mom because you were disrespectful to her this morning. Maybe you'll pray for someone at school you've had a fight with. You could say you're sorry or offer the gift of forgiveness. Ask God to show you what gift you can give. Then write or draw what that gift is on your paper.** Allow time.

Wrap It

Say: **Since these are gifts, let's make them look like gifts! Fold your paper, tape it shut, and then decorate the outside to look like wrapping paper.** Set out tape and markers.

Pray

Say: **Let's give the gift of prayer right now. Hold your gift in your hands and silently pray for the person you want to give the gift to.** Allow time.

Pray: **God, you know all the conflicts we've had. Help us make things right this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Take your gifts home as a reminder of what you decided to do this week.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week and tell you how God helped them make things right.