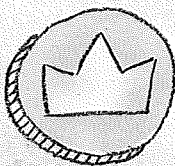


# THE GOSPEL

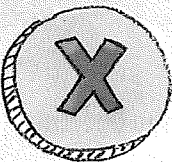
## GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



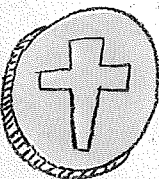
### **GOD RULES.**

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



### **WE SINNED.**

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



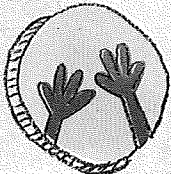
### **GOD PROVIDED.**

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



### **JESUS GIVES.**

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



### **WE RESPOND.**

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

# Bible Study at a Glance



## Leader Bible Study

Familiarize yourself with the content and context of the Bible story and how it relates to God's plan of redemption.

## Preparation

Pray for your kids and contact families during the week. Gather and prepare session materials.

Pray for your kids

Send a parent e-mail

Print/download printables

Assemble supplies

Prepare videos

## Opening Activities

Activity Page

## Small Group Opening

Engage kids and introduce the day's Bible story.

### Say what?

Use the suggested "Say" dialogue to easily move between segments.

## Large Group Leader

Communicate the day's Bible story and discover God's big story.

Sing

Big Picture Question

Giant Timeline

Key Passage & Bible Skill

Bible Story

Discussion Starter



### Suggested times

The times provided allow you to complete the session plan in an hour and fifteen minutes. Lengthen or shorten the session as needed.

but we know that God is in control and that He has given us the best blessing through Jesus' payment for sin on the cross and His resurrection three days later. Sometimes, we need a reminder of the greatness of God. In our story today, **God reminded Abraham's family that He always keeps His promises.**

### **Journal and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute each child's journal and instruct the kids to draw a picture of one way that they can remember God's faithfulness to Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. Writers may make a list of ways that God was faithful to Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. Guide kids to write *God is faithful* under their drawings or lists.

**SAY • God reminded Abraham's family that He always keeps His promises.** God also keeps His promises to us, and the promise He made to Abraham extends to all who follow Jesus. God is always faithful to us.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus as the ultimate blessing to the world. Thank God for being a faithful God who always does what He says He will do.

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons and markers
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*

## Unit 3: God the Covenant-Keeper

### Unit Description:

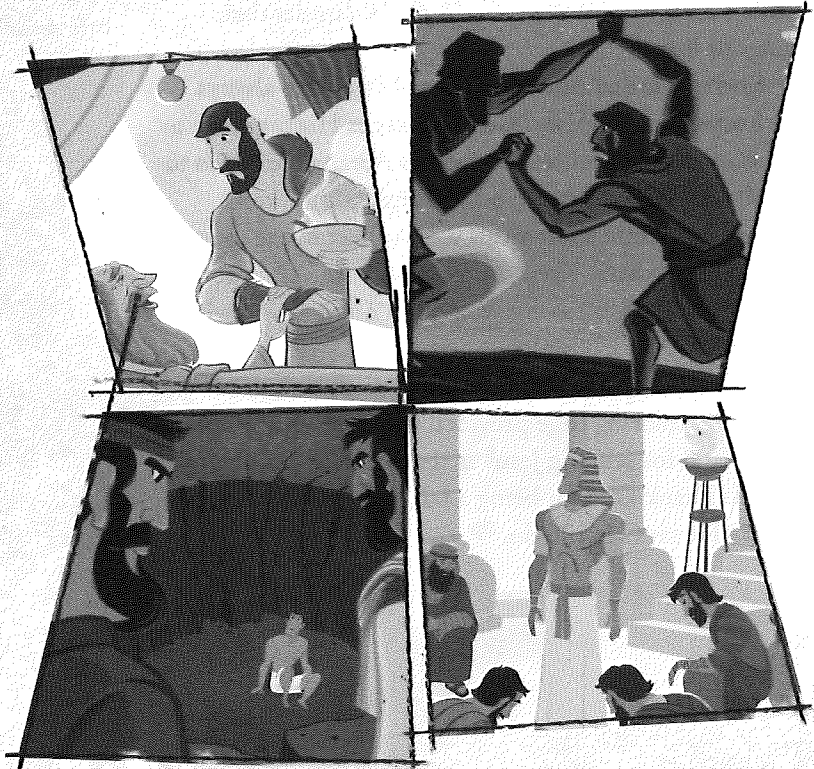
God remained faithful to the covenant He made with Abraham and renewed His promises to Jacob despite Jacob's sin. God used Joseph to provide for the people of Israel and bring them into Egypt, which also set the stage for a glorious demonstration of God's power to deliver.

### Unit Key Passage:

Genesis 26:24

### Big Picture Question:

What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.



# Unit 3: God the Covenant-Keeper

## Session 1:

### **Bible Story:**

The Stolen Blessing

### **Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45*

### **Main Point:**

Jacob stole Esau's blessing.

## Session 4:

### **Bible Story:**

Joseph's Dreams Came True

### **Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 42:1-46:34; 50:15-21*

### **Main Point:**

God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.

## Session 2:

### **Bible Story:**

Jacob's New Name

### **Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 32-33*

### **Main Point:**

God changed Jacob's name to Israel, the name of God's covenant people.

## Session 3:

### **Bible Story:**

Joseph Sent to Egypt

### **Bible Passage:**

*Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-41:57*

### **Main Point:**

God used Joseph's suffering for good.

# The Stolen Blessing

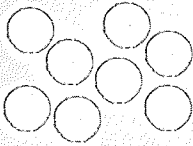
**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45

**MAIN POINT:** Jacob stole Esau's blessing.

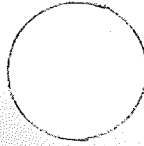
**UNIT KEY PASSAGE:** Genesis 26:24

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

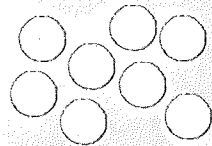
**SMALL GROUP OPENING**  
(10-15 MINUTES)  
PAGE 158



**LARGE BIBLE STUDY**  
(25-30 MINUTES)  
PAGE 160



**SMALL GROUP LEADER**  
(25-30 MINUTES)  
PAGE 166



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Isaac was the son of promise, a gift to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. By God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac was Abraham and Sarah's hope for descendants as numerous as the stars. When Isaac grew up, he married Rebekah. Then he prayed for a child.

Rebekah became pregnant with not just one baby, but two! Her twin boys wrestled inside her, and she asked the Lord, "Why is this happening to me?"

God explained His plan for the twins. The boys' families would become two nations (from Esau, the nation of Edom; from Jacob, the nation of Israel), one stronger than the

other. And the older son would serve the younger. Strife would still rule their lives outside the womb.

What God said came true. When the boys grew up, Esau sold his birthright to his younger brother, Jacob. The birthright was an important part of the patriarchal culture. Typically, upon the death of his father, the older brother would receive twice as much property and goods as the younger. But Esau gave it up for a warm meal.

Later, Jacob deceived his father to steal his brother's blessing—another privilege afforded to an oldest son. With his blessing, Isaac made his son master over his brother. Just as God said, the older would serve the younger.

Share with kids that nothing can stop God's perfect plan. Before Jacob and Esau were even born, God planned to bless Jacob's family. God kept His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to make their descendants as numerous as the stars. From their family would come the promised One—God's Son, Jesus.

Jesus is the firstborn over all creation (Col. 1:15), and He deserves all the privileges afforded to Him. But when Jesus hung on the cross, He gave up His blessing for us. Jesus took the punishment we deserve so that the Father would give us the blessing Jesus deserves.



**MINISTRY GRID**  
training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

# The BIBLE STORY

## The Stolen Blessing

*Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45*

Jacob and Esau were brothers. Esau was a hunter while Jacob worked at home. Their father Isaac favored Esau. Their mother Rebekah favored Jacob.

One day, Jacob was cooking lentil stew when his brother came home from the field.

“I am exhausted!” Esau said. “Let me eat some of that red stuff.”

Jacob answered, “First sell me your birthright.” The birthright usually belonged to the oldest child. Whoever had the birthright got more of his family’s belongings when his parents died.

“I’m so hungry, I’m about to die, so what good is a birthright to me?” Esau replied. So he agreed to give Jacob his birthright for stew and bread.

Now their father Isaac was getting old and losing his eyesight. Isaac called for Esau. “I want to bless you before I die,” Isaac said. Isaac asked Esau to bring back food from a hunt and cook it for him.

Rebekah heard Isaac and Esau talking, and she came up with her own plan.

“Go to the flock and bring me two of the best young goats,” Rebecca told Jacob. “I will make your father’s favorite meal. Then take the food to your father to eat so that he may bless you before he dies.”

Rebecca made her husband’s favorite meal. Jacob was worried that his father would know he was not Esau. Jacob had smooth skin, and Esau was hairy. Rebecca put Esau’s clothes on Jacob and covered his hands and neck with goat hair so that Isaac would think Jacob was Esau. Then



**Jacob took the meal to his father.**

**“Who are you, my son?” Isaac asked.**

**“I am Esau, your firstborn.** I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may bless me,” **Jacob said.**

Isaac asked Jacob to come closer. He felt Jacob’s hands.

“The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau,” Isaac said.

“It’s me, Esau,” Jacob said.

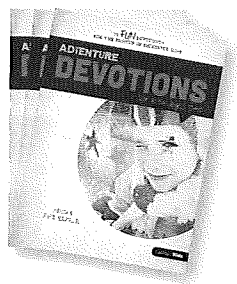
So Isaac answered, “Serve me, and let me eat some of my son’s game so that I can bless you.” Then Jacob brought his father food and drink, and he ate.

**After the meal,** Isaac told Jacob to come closer. He kissed him and, after smelling his clothes—Esau’s clothes—**Isaac offered him the blessing.** The blessing included land, riches, and power. Then Jacob left.

**About this time, Esau came home from his hunt and cooked a meal for his father. When he offered the food to Isaac, his father told him that he had been tricked and Jacob had been given the blessing. Esau cried and begged his father to bless him, too.**

**But Isaac had nothing left to offer his son Esau. Esau was angry at his brother Jacob, and he made a plan to kill him. But Rebekah sent Jacob away to her brother’s house, where he would be safe until Esau calmed down.**

*Christ Connection: Jesus is the firstborn over all creation. (Colossians 1:15) When Jesus hung on the cross, He gave up His blessing for us. Jesus took the punishment we deserve so that the Father would give us the blessing He deserves.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD’S  
WORD? GET  
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that sin cannot thwart God’s plan. God is just (Rom. 9:14) but He offers grace to all who trust in Jesus. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** The Stolen Blessing

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45

**MAIN POINT:** Jacob stole Esau's blessing.

**UNIT KEY PASSAGE:** Genesis 26:24

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

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## Welcome time

**ARRIVING ACTIVITY:** Pretending

Guide kids to describe a time that they pretended to be someone else. Ask them if they dressed up like that person, talked like that person, and acted like that person. Ask kids who they might like to dress like if they had the opportunity to do so.

**SAY** • We've probably all played dress-up at some point and maybe we imitated the way a person acted, talked, or dressed. Today, we are going to learn about a set of twins. One twin decided to dress up like the other. We learned their names in our last session. Do you remember? That's right. They were named Jacob and Esau.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

- "What's Different?" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Ask kids to complete the activity page by circling the differences between the two pictures.

**SAY** • Today we'll learn about a time that Jacob pretended to be Esau. Jacob went to his father and stole something that was supposed to be Esau's. Today, we'll see what Jacob stole from Esau and learn more about what happened.

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Two truths and a lie

Guide kids to think of two statements that are true about them and one statement that is not true. Explain that each child will tell his three statements, while other kids will try to guess which statement is not true of the three.

**SAY** • In today's story, Jacob didn't always tell the truth.

Jacob and Esau were twins, but, even before they were born, the two fought. Jacob lied to Isaac, his father, and stole a special blessing that was meant for Esau. This didn't surprise God. God was still working His perfect plan, even when it seemed really messy.

### OPTION 2: Paper bag trade

Place one trinket or a couple pieces of candy in each bag. Prepare one bag for each child, securing the bag shut by folding. Pass out one bag to each child, explaining that she must not feel what it inside. Guide kids to choose if they would like to keep the bags they have been given or trade with another child. All kids may trade as many times as they like. After all kids are satisfied with the bags they have, guide them to open the bags.

**SAY** • Did anyone keep the bag you had at first? Does anyone wish that you hadn't traded? Today, we'll learn about a time that Jacob traded with Esau, and then later took a blessing that was supposed to be Esau's. One of them definitely got the better end of the deal. We'll learn more about this today.

A circular badge with a dark background and a white border. The words "LOW PREP" are written in white, uppercase letters across the center of the badge.

- small brown paper bags
- small trinkets
- pieces of candy

## Transition to large group

# Large Group LEADER

**SESSION TITLE:** The Stolen Blessing

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45

**MAIN POINT:** Jacob stole Esau's blessing.

**UNIT KEY PASSAGE:** Genesis 26:24

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

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- theme background slide (optional)

**Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas:** Place sports equipment throughout the room, decorating the stage with goals, bleachers, or lockers. Project the theme slide as the focal point of your environment.

## Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

## Introduce the session (2 minutes)

- leader attire: mismatched sports gear (may include a catcher's helmet, shin guards, and elbow pads)
- basketball
- hockey stick

*[Large Group Leader enters in mismatched pieces of sports gear. She may have on a catcher's helmet, shin guards, and elbow pads, while moving a basketball on stage with a hockey stick.]*

**LEADER** • *[singing as if to get excited for a big game]* It's the eye of the tiger it's the thrill of the ... *[to kids]* Are you ready for the best day of your life? We'll play hard and go for the goal! GAME ON! *[calming down a little]* By that, I mean that we are going to learn some exciting stuff today, so you should get ready!

## Giant timeline (2 minutes)

- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

**LEADER** • Do you remember who we have been learning about? Let's start with Abraham. God made a

covenant with Abraham. **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.** God gave Abraham a son, but then God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son! **Abraham trusted God even when he didn't understand God's plan.** Abraham was about to do what God asked, when the Angel of the Lord stopped him. God provided a ram as a sacrifice instead. God confirmed His covenant with Isaac and with Isaac's son, Jacob. God reminded Abraham's family that He always keeps His promises. Today, we'll learn more about Jacob and his twin brother Esau.

### Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Jacob and Esau didn't have a great relationship between them. Jacob even took something that was very important to Esau. It might seem that Jacob's many mistakes would mean he wouldn't be used by God, but God's plan was still in effect. That brings us to our big picture question: *What can stop God's plan?* We'll answer this question today!

• Big Picture Question Poster

### Key passage (4 minutes)

**LEADER** • God was faithful to Abraham and Abraham's family. God's faithfulness was not affected by the way that Abraham's family acted or when they made mistakes. God made a promise, and He would keep it no matter what happened. Our key passage reminds us of this truth, that God would keep His covenant because He is a faithful God.

• Key Passage Poster  
• "I Am With You" song

Read Genesis 26:24. Guide kids to summarize the key passage in their own words. Sing "I Am With You" together.

- “Rest in His Promise” song

## Sing (4 minutes)

**LEADER** • Let’s praise God for His faithfulness to us, even when we mess up. God’s love and His promises are not changed by the way we behave. God is faithful and unchanging! We can rest in His promises for us because He will keep those promises forever.

Sing together “Rest in His Promise.”

- Bibles
- “The Stolen Blessing” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Main Point Poster

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

**LEADER** • Our story today comes from Genesis 25 and Genesis 27. God promised Abraham that his family would as numerous as the stars and that all the world would be blessed through his family. God kept this promise, and gave it to Abraham’s son, Isaac, as well as Isaac’s son, Jacob. Listen closely for the answer to the big picture question, *What can stop God’s plan?*

Open your Bible to Genesis 25. Show the video, or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read the bolded text.

**LEADER** • Can anyone tell me the answer to *What can stop God’s plan? Nothing can stop God’s perfect plan.*

Even when Jacob sinned and stole Esau’s blessing, God’s perfect plan continued. Jacob reminds us why we need a Savior. Jacob lied and tricked Isaac so that he could get Esau’s blessing that he didn’t deserve. God has given us a blessing through Jesus that we don’t deserve, but we don’t have to trick anyone to get it. God gives us this blessing through grace. It is something we do not deserve, but is a free gift from God. God sent Jesus to pay for sin by dying on the cross and rising again three days later. Jesus came

from Abraham's family, and God did bless all the world through Jesus. All who trust Jesus as Savior receive God's blessing of salvation and eternal life.

Remind kids that God has proven that He is faithful over and over again, and He proved in the story today that nothing can stop His perfect plan or His faithfulness. Ask the following review questions:

1. What work did Jacob and Esau have? (*Jacob worked at home and Esau was a hunter; Genesis 25:27*)
2. What did Esau trade for stew? (*Esau traded his birthright for stew that Jacob prepared. This means that Esau's right to more inheritance as the oldest son would go to Jacob; Genesis 25:27-34*)
3. Whom did Isaac intend to bless? Who was blessed instead? (*Esau was supposed to be blessed by Isaac because he was the oldest, but Jacob tricked Isaac and stole Esau's blessing; Genesis 27:18-30*)
4. ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.***

### **Discussion starter video (4 minutes)**

**LEADER** • Let's watch our discussion starter video and see what it might have to do with our story.

Show the "Unit 3, Session 1" video.

**LEADER** • What just happened? Will created a contraption to take Nell's sandwich. What would you have done in this situation if you were Nell? if you were Will? How would you feel if someone else got a better meal, or in Jacob and Esau's case, a better blessing than you? What are some things that we can be jealous of? Even when Jacob stole the blessing that

• "Unit 3, Session 1"  
discussion starter video

was rightfully Esau's, God continued His perfect plan and kept His promise to Abraham's family.

***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.***

### **The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)**

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

### **Big picture question and prayer (3 minutes)**

Show the big picture question poster.

• Big Picture Question  
Poster

**LEADER** • Before we go, let's review our big picture question. Say it with me. ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.*** What does this tell us about our lives? God is in control in every situation, and He will be faithful to us, no matter what happens or what mistakes we make. We may still have consequences for our sin, but God will continue to work out His plan.

Before transitioning to small groups, make any necessary announcements. Lead kids in prayer. Praise God for sending Jesus as the ultimate blessing from Abraham's family. Thank God for being faithful to us even when we sin.

### **Dismiss to small groups**



## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

# Small Group LEADER

**SESSION TITLE:** The Stolen Blessing

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45

**MAIN POINT:** Jacob stole Esau's blessing.

**UNIT KEY PASSAGE:** Genesis 26:24

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

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• Key Passage Poster

## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Guide kids to create hand motions for the words of the key passage. Explain that they will want to pick motions that will help them remember it and that you will review these motions over the next four sessions.

**SAY** • Our key passage reminds us that God would stay faithful to the promise He made to Abraham. This promise would continue to Isaac, Jacob, and the rest of His family. Even after **Jacob stole Esau's blessing**, God would still be gracious to him. Jacob would face consequences of his sin, but God would still use Jacob to carry out His perfect plan to one day send Jesus.

• Bibles, 1 per kid  
• Main Point Poster  
• Small Group Timeline  
• pieces of paper, 2  
• marker  
• tape

## Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Write *Jacob* on one sheet of paper and *Esau* on the other. Hang the signs on opposite sides of the room. Help kids find Genesis 25 in their Bibles.

Use the small group timeline to show kids today's Bible story. Review the stories that kids have learned from the beginning of God's promise to Abraham. Remind them that God has kept His promise to Abraham and will continue to long after Abraham. Read today's story provided using the

bolded text, or summarize the story in your own words.

Explain that you will read a statement, and if that statement is about Jacob, kids will move to the side of the room with the *Jacob* sign. If it is about Esau, they will move to the *Esau* sign.

Ask the following review questions:

1. He was a hunter and his father's favorite son. (*Esau, Genesis 25:27-28*)
2. He was the older son who should receive the birthright and his father's blessing. (*Esau, Genesis 25:25*)
3. He dressed like his brother and tricked his father into giving him the blessing. (*Jacob, Genesis 27:15-19*)
4. He traded his birthright for some stew. (*Esau, Genesis 25:29-33*)
5. He stole his brother's blessing and needed to go live with his uncle until his brother calmed down. (*Jacob, Genesis 27:43-45*)

**SAY • Jacob stole Esau's blessing.** He sinned, but Jacob's sin did not keep God from keeping His promise to Jacob's family. One day, Jesus would come from Jacob's family and all the world would be blessed!

### Activity choice (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** Obstacle course

Set up multiple obstacles around the room. These obstacles may include things to jump over, crawl under, weave between, or walk across.

Ask kids to line up so that they may walk through the obstacle course one at a time. Demonstrate how kids should maneuver through the course before allowing kids to participate. Help each child through the course, spotting



• random items from the resource room that may be used as obstacles

her for safety.

**SAY** • *What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.* No obstacle could stand in the way of God accomplishing what He planned to accomplish. God continued the promise that He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even when Jacob sinned and had to move away until Esau's anger went away, God's plan was still in action. One day, God would send Jesus through Jacob's family, which would be the best blessing the world would ever experience.

**OPTION 2:** Blessing mural

- newspaper or plastic tarp
- roll paper
- paint
- paintbrushes
- markers
- smocks

Place the tarp on the floor. Then, roll out a long sheet of paper onto the tarp. Guide kids to sit around the large paper. Provide smocks, paint, and paintbrushes or markers and ask kids to draw pictures or write words that show ways that God has blessed them.

**SAY** • **Jacob stole Esau's blessing.** He tricked Isaac by convincing him that he was Esau, so Isaac blessed Jacob. This didn't surprise God, though. He continued His perfect plan despite Jacob's sin.

One day, God would send Jesus through Jacob's family. Jacob had to trick Isaac to steal a blessing, but we don't have to try to trick God to experience the blessing that He sent through Abraham's family. We get to experience it only because of God's grace to us. God sent Jesus to pay for sin by dying on the cross and rising again three days later. Through Jesus, we get the ultimate blessing of God! Only through Jesus can we have eternal life and a right relationship with God.

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and instruct the kids to draw a picture of a time when they had a specific plan, but it didn't work out. Writers may write about a time instead of drawing a picture. If they need help, guide them to think about a time they wanted to do something, go somewhere, or get something and they weren't able to do so.

**SAY** • Even when things don't go like we think they should, *nothing can stop God's perfect plan.* We can trust that God's plan is better than any plan that we might have and that He is in control of everything.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for being in control and always faithful. Ask God to help kids trust that He will keep His promises and that He is in control. Pass out today's card from the set of *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*. Encourage kids to review the story with their families throughout the week.

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons or markers
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*