

## THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** January 8, 2017

**SUBJECT: GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Jacob (1 of 5)**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40; Romans 9:10-16; Malachi 1:2-3; Hebrews 12:15a, 16-17

**AIM:** To help the children learn to appreciate and value all that God has given us.

**SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Ephesians 1:4 (Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love.); Psalms 65:4a (Blessed is he whom You have chosen and bring near to dwell in Your courts.); 2 Thessalonians 2:13a (But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning...); 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.); Philippians 4:6 (In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 7 (I am a Very Special Child); 192 (We are Different); 1013 (Always Rejoice); 9521 *BSS* Vessels Unto Honor Song #1 (V-v-v-vessel! I am a vessel!); 9533 *BSS* Vessels Unto Honor Song #13 (Giving thanks); 3427 (I'm Thankful); 9529 *BSS* Vessels Unto Honor Song #5 (Pursue Peace with All Men)

**CRAFT IDEA:** Glue lentils onto the bottom of a paper bowl. Or cut out a bowl traced from construction paper and glue onto a larger piece of construction paper. Glue lentils onto the top of the bowl. Add memory verse.

**BACKGROUND:** Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born. Almost forty years later, Sarah died. Some time after, Abraham made his servant swear to him that he would find a wife for Isaac from Abraham's country and family. Through God's sovereignty and provision, Isaac married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel, son of Nahor (Abraham's brother).

**CONTENT:** Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to be his wife. For many years, Rebekah did not have any children so Isaac prayed to the Lord for her. The Lord heard Isaac's prayer and his wife became pregnant. Rebekah gave birth to twins. At the time the babies were born, Isaac was already sixty years old, and Isaac prayed for many years before God answered the prayers and gave them children. Even before they were born, the twins were already fighting within Rebekah's womb. It seems they were struggling to see who would be the firstborn, for when the first child was delivered, the second was holding on to the heel of the first. The firstborn was reddish in color and very hairy. He was named Esau. The second-born was smooth-skinned. He was named Jacob, which means "heel-holder." Even beginning from his birth, Jacob was struggling to take the place of his older twin Esau.

As time passed, Esau grew up to be a skilled hunter and an outdoorsman. Jacob, however, was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. Isaac favored Esau because he had a taste for wild game (meat from hunting, i.e., venison) but Rebekah favored Jacob. Jacob's name in addition to heel-holder, also means supplanter. One day, Jacob was crafty and tricked Esau into giving his birthright to him. The birthright was the inheritance that belonged to the firstborn son. It included a double portion of the land which belonged to their father. Esau came home one day after hunting and was famished with hunger. He really wanted to eat something. Jacob was cooking some delicious lentil stew. Esau asked Jacob to give him some stew and Jacob gave it to him on one condition: "First, sell me your birthright." Do you think this was an even trade? Some stew in exchange for the very special birthright? This was Esau's answer, "I am now about to die, so of what use is this birthright to me?" Esau's answer showed that he despised his birthright; he considered it worthless. So he swore to Jacob and sold his precious birthright to his brother for some bread and lentil stew.

Many years later, when Isaac was old and he could no longer see, he wanted to bless his eldest son, Esau, before he died. Isaac called Esau and said to him, "Behold now, I am old, and I do not know the day of my death." Isaac asked Esau to go out to the field and hunt for him, and "prepare for me a tasty meal, such as I love, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die." (Gen. 27:2-4). Rebekah had been listening when Isaac was speaking to Esau. While Esau went to the field to hunt, Rebekah devised a plan to help her favorite son Jacob receive his father's dying blessing instead of Esau. Rebekah told Jacob to take two choice young goats from the flock. She would prepare a tasty meal for Isaac just the way Isaac wanted so Jacob could bring it into him and receive his father's blessing in place of Esau. She also gave him Esau's best clothing and kidskin coverings for his hands and around his

neck. Since Esau was a hairy man, this would help trick Isaac into thinking that it was really Esau bringing food to him. While Esau was still out in the fields hunting, Jacob went first to his father. His father asked, "Who are you, my son?" Jacob said, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Now rise up; sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may bless me." Isaac was surprised that his son had hunted and come back so quickly. Isaac then said, "Please come near that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." Jacob came near to Isaac his father, and Isaac felt him, saying, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are Esau's hands." He did not recognize it was Jacob, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands, so he blessed him. The blessing of the firstborn was full and included: "And may God give you Of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine. Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, And blessed be those who bless you." (Gen. 27:28-29)

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and just after Jacob had left his father, Esau came in from his hunting. Esau prepared a tasty meal and brought it to his father and asked his father to bless him. Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" and Esau said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." It was at that moment that Esau and Isaac found out what Jacob had done deceitfully. Isaac trembled very greatly and Esau cried with a very great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father." But it was too late. Although Isaac did bless Esau, it was not the full blessing of the firstborn son. Isaac said to Esau, "Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, And away from the dew of heaven from above. And by your sword shall you live, And you shall serve your brother. And when you become restless, You shall break his yoke from off your neck." (Gen. 27:39-40)

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Note to serving ones: Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not feel obligated to cover all the suggested applications.*

- **We need to appreciate that out of so many children God has chosen us to know Him.** God's choosing is not based on our behavior (good or bad), our status, our parents, our personality, our character, or anything else we are or can do. It is not that we are better than anyone else. He chose us before we were even born (Eph. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13). It is entirely up to God's mercy (Romans 9:10-16). How thankful we should be!
- **We should be thankful for everything God has given to us.** Esau was given the best but did not appreciate what was given to him (Heb. 12:16b ... Esau, who for one meal gave up his own birthright). We need to appreciate and value all that God has given us: parents, homes, food, music lessons, extracurricular activities, toys, an opportunity for a good education, etc. For example, we should appreciate how much our parents do for us and realize how hard they work for us. We can say "Thank you" to them, express our love by helping them. We can appreciate our education by doing our homework well and without complaining. We can do our household chores without being asked to do so. We can be careful not to waste food and other things that have been given to us, etc.
- **We should appreciate our birthright.** Today, all of God's chosen ones are entitled to the birthright. But for us, the birthright is not something physical or outward like land or position. Our birthright includes many wonderful things, including God, the Bible, and the church. Some children do not get to hear and learn about God so often like we do. We can come to children's meeting each week, and many of us can hear about God from our own parents, grandparents, and those who care about us. We have Bibles in our homes and can easily pick one up to read the Word of God. In many parts of the world, people do not have easy access to the Word of God. In fact, in some countries, people will be persecuted or even killed for having a Bible or believing into the Lord Jesus. We can be appreciative by praying and talking to the Lord every day, by reading the Bible and memorizing our verses well, and by making an effort to be on time for the children's meeting. We can sing to the Lord from our hearts and bring others to the Lord.
- **We should pray and wait patiently on the Lord.** Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah, but it was about 20 years later that God gave them children, answering Isaac's prayer for his barren wife. As children, we can also learn to pray for our needs and patiently wait on God. Sometimes He answers our prayer right away, and sometimes He waits. But His ways, His thoughts and His timing are always perfect and best for us (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Adapted from the Church in New York City's Children's Meeting lessons: 23/94; 1/16/00; 1/1/06; 1/15/12