#### Lesson 3:

#### Jacob and Esau Meet Again

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Genesis 32-33

MEMORY WORK:

Insert your own

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

It is important that I learn to forgive and not hold grudges against someone who has hurt me.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Do you remember how Jacob tricked his father Isaac so that he could get the blessing that should have been Esau’s? How did that make Esau feel? (Very angry) Jacob left his family and his home in Canaan to get away from Esau. After 20 years away from Canaan, working for his uncle Laban, God spoke to Jacob and told him to go back home. Jacob wanted to go back, but he was afraid of what Esau might do, even after all of those years. Today, we are going to talk about how Esau treated his brother when they saw each other again.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jacob had left his childhood home and family with nothing. He returned with many flocks, 12 children (11 sons, plus Dinah; Benjamin had not yet been born), two wives (Rachel and Leah), two women he treated like wives (Bilhah and Zilpah), and many servants.
2. As they got closer to Canaan, Jacob sent messengers to the land of **Seir** where Esau and his descendants lived. The messengers were to tell Esau that Jacob was coming and that he wanted to pass through that area peacefully. The messengers returned with news that Esau was coming toward Jacob with about 400 men!

**NOTE:** Seir, the homeland of Esau’s descendants, the Edomites, was a mountainous region which stretched eastward from the south end of the Dead Sea.

1. Jacob was frightened by the possibility of war with his brother Esau. So he divided his family and his animals into groups, putting Rachel and their young son Joseph farther away from danger than the rest. Jacob thought if Esau attacked one group, the others might escape. Jacob asked God for help and protection. The next day, Jacob gathered over 500 animals (camels, goats, donkeys, and others) to be sent as gifts for Esau. He hoped that all the gifts would help calm Esau so that he might not want to attack Jacob and his family.
2. Then Jacob made camp for Rachel and Leah, as well as Bilhah and Zilpah, and all the children on one side of a stream called Jabbok. He spent the night alone on the opposite side of the stream. That night a “man” came and wrestled with Jacob all night long. When the sun was beginning to come up, the “man” told Jacob to let go, but Jacob wouldn’t until the “man” blessed him. Jacob realized he was not a man at all but an angel from God (Hosea 12:3-4). The angel of the Lord told Jacob that his name wouldn’t be Jacob any longer, but “**Israel**.”
3. That morning, Jacob saw Esau and his 400 men coming at a distance. He decided to go out and face Esau and try to protect his family. Jacob bowed down to Esau seven times as a sign of respect and humility Thankfully, Esau did not come to fight his brother. He had heard that Jacob was coming and likely brought the men to give Jacob’s family protection as they traveled through the area. He ran to meet Jacob and hugged him and kissed him. The two brothers who had been apart for so many years cried together because they were so glad to see one another again and be at peace with one another.
4. Esau did not want to accept Jacob’s gifts, but Jacob insisted. It was good for Jacob to give gifts to Esau to try to make up for the deceitful way he stole from him. God wants us to try to make things right with others when we mistreat them (Matthew 3:8). He met Jacob’s wives and children for the first time. Jacob told Esau that they did not need his protection because he was relying on God.
5. So Esau went back to Seir, and Jacob went to **Succoth** where he and his family stayed long enough to build a house and “booths.” Jacob then went on to Shechem where he bought some land, and built an altar to worship God as his father Isaac and grandfather Abraham had done so many times before.

“Succoth” means “booths.”

1. Forgiveness is one of the main themes of the entire Bible. God is always willing to forgive us when we make mistakes, admit we’re wrong, ask for forgiveness, and make things right the best we can. He expects us to do the same. We must learn to say, “I’m sorry,” and forgive those who say, “I’m sorry” to us.
2. God has the right and the power to punish us for every mistake, but He is willing to forgive. He allowed His Son, Jesus, to die the death that we deserve so that we could have forgiveness of every sin we have ever committed. If God is willing to forgive me, should I hold a grudge (have bad feelings toward someone) or try to seek revenge? **No**! And, besides that, I will surely make mistakes and need the forgiveness of others. If I hold grudges and withhold forgiveness, others will more than likely not be willing to forgive me either.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “03” in the Visuals folder.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“THESE ARE THE** **SONS OF JACOB”**

Author: Traditional

(Tune: “1 Little, 2 Little, 3 Little Indians”)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher,

Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin,

These are the sons of Jacob.

**“Three Wandering Jews**

Once there were three wandering Jews. Once there were three wandering Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Once there were three wandering Jews.

The first one’s name was Abraham. The first one’s name was Abraham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

The first one’s name was Abraham.

The second one’s name was Isaac. The second one’s name was Isaac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

The second one’s name was Isaac.

The third one’s name was Jacob. The third one’s name was Jacob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

The third one’s name was Jacob.

They all went down to Canaan’s land. They all went down to Canaan’s land.

Canaan-Canaan, Land-land-land. Canaan-Canaan Land-land-land.

They all went down to Canaan’s land.

Any songs about love or forgiveness would be appropriate.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

##### Provide each child with four small red foam hearts and a piece of yarn long enough to make a necklace. On one heart write “I will;” on another write “have a;” on the third one write “forgiving”; on the fourth one write “heart.” Punch one hole in each heart. Help the children string the hearts together to make necklaces.

##### Have children role-play a few situations in which they need to forgive someone or situations in which they need forgiveness. Examples: Two children role-play someone breaking a toy and the other forgives him. A child breaks his mother’s favorite lamp and tells his mother what he’s done.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

INTRODUCTION:

Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Forgiveness is one of the main themes of the entire Bible. God is always willing to forgive us when we make mistakes and ask for forgiveness, and He expects us to do the same. We must learn to say, “I’m sorry,” and forgive those who say, “I’m sorry” to us.
2. God has the right and the power to punish us for every mistake, but He is willing to forgive. He allowed His Son, Jesus, to die the death that we deserve so that we could have forgiveness of every sin we have ever committed. If God is willing to forgive me, should I hold a grudge (have bad feelings toward someone) or try to seek revenge? No! And, besides that, I will surely make mistakes and need the forgiveness of others. If I hold grudges and withhold forgiveness, others will more than likely not be willing to forgive me either.
3. In the New Testament, when Jesus was teaching His disciples about the importance of forgiving others, Peter wanted to know how many times he had to forgive someone. Jesus’ answer indicated an unlimited number of times, which was very hard for Peter to understand (Matthew 18:21-35).
4. Describe situations where someone is hurt by the actions or words of another person.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

##### Heart review game: Cut out several hearts, and cut them in half. Write questions from the story on the left sides of the hearts. and put stickers or small pictures on the right sides that will indicate the answers. Put magnetic tape on the backs of each piece. Place the answers (right sides) on a magnetic board. Let each child draw a question (right sides), then read the question or help them read the question. Then see if the child can find the answer to match the question. Continue until every child has had a turn.

### Review Questions

1. Did Jacob and Esau ever meet again after Jacob left his father’s house?
   1. Yes
2. Where did Jacob send a messenger when he was approaching the land of Canaan?
   1. Seir
3. Who lived in Seir?
   1. Esau
4. What does the Bible call Esau’s descendants?
   1. Edomites
5. Why did Jacob send a messenger to Esau?
   1. To tell Esau that Jacob was coming and that he wanted to pass through peacefully
6. What did Esau do when the messenger came to him?
   1. Gathered up 400 men and headed toward Jacob
7. What did Jacob do when he heard that Esau was coming with 400 men?
   1. He divided his family into two groups
8. Who did Jacob ask for help and protection from his brother?
   1. God
9. By what stream did Jacob make camp?
   1. Jabbok
10. When Jacob and Esau met each other, what did Jacob do to Esau as a sign of respect and humility?
    1. Bowed down seven times

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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