

ESAU AND JACOB

Genesis 25 – 27

Lesson Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:28 - **“Let him that stole steal no more:** but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs.” (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion printed in **bold.**)

Lesson Aim: To show that stealing and lying cause trouble because they are sins against God, and to teach the children to confess their sins both to God and to those people that they have sinned against.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever had anything stolen from you? I had a (bicycle, knife, purse, etc.) stolen from me. What have you had stolen from you? (You may have to explain the word “stolen” and then let the children share their experiences for a few minutes.) What do children your age steal? Why do children steal? (They are sinners.) Why is stealing wrong? (God says it is wrong.) God hates stealing, and He will punish those who steal.

HE (for Authority): What does God say about stealing? Let us look at the memory verse (Eph 4:28) and ask some questions to see what He says. (Have verse printed on a large card.) (1) What is a thief to stop doing? (Steal no more.) (2) What is he to do instead of stealing? (“Work with his hands.”) “Labor” means to work hard. (3) Why is he to work? (“That he may give to him that needs.”) That means he is to use some of the money he earns from work to help others who are needy. God commands us not to be stealers, but to be givers.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today’s Bible story we will learn how some people got into much trouble because they did some stealing and lying.

I. An example of stealing (Gen 26:17-33)

A. Isaac’s men dug two wells (Esek and Sitnah).

However, the men of Gerar fought and stole them from Isaac (26:19-21).

B. Isaac’s men dug another well (Rehoboth) and the men of Gerar left him alone (26:22).

C. The leaders of Gerar came to Isaac and wanted peace.

They could see that he was blessed of the Lord (26:29). He made peace with them as they wanted, and God blessed him with still another well at Sheba (29:23-33).

WE: Even though thieves may steal things from us at school, in our yard, in our neighborhood, or even at church, we must not get discouraged. God will bless us with more riches if we put Him first in our lives (Gen 26:26, 31-33). We must not steal to get even with the person who stole from us. Isaac did good things with his hands instead of using them for stealing, and God blessed him. We should do the same.

II. An example of lying (Gen 25:19-28: 27:1-45)

A. Jacob got Esau’s blessing (Gen 25:19-28; 27:1-29).

1. Esau and Jacob were twin brothers, and Esau was the older (25:21-27).
2. Isaac loved Esau, but his wife, Rebekah, loved Jacob (25:28).
3. Isaac wanted to give Esau a special blessing before he died. Before Isaac would give his son the blessing, he wanted Esau to make a special meal that he liked to eat. Then, after he was satisfied, he would bless him (27:1-4).
4. Rebekah, Isaac’s wife, overheard Isaac’s instructions to Esau. She thought of a plan to help Jacob get this special blessing instead of Esau (25:5-17). Jacob’s mother told Jacob to lie to

his father, Isaac, and say that he was Esau in order to get the blessing. As a result Jacob's mother was later punished by God.

5. Jacob obeyed his mother and lied to his father. Since Isaac was blind (27:1), he thought Jacob was Esau. So Jacob received the special blessing from his father (27:18-29). Jacob was wrong for obeying his mother and lying to his father, so he, too, was punished by God.

B. Esau discovered Jacob's lying (Gen 27:30-40).

1. Esau brought his meal to his father shortly after his father had eaten Jacob's meal and had blessed him (27:30-32).
2. Then Esau learned that his father had already blessed Jacob, thinking that Jacob was Esau (27:33-37).
3. Esau wept and asked his father to give him a blessing, too. He did, but it was very little compared to the blessing that he gave to Jacob (27:38-40).

C. Sin caused much trouble (Gen 27:41-45).

1. Esau hated Jacob and planned to kill him after his father's death (27:41). Jacob's lying caused much trouble for him.
2. Jacob's mother, Rebekah, heard of Esau's plan to kill Jacob. She told him to go to her brother's house in a far country. She planned for him to be there only a short time and then return when Esau's anger was gone (27:42-45). Rebekah did not know that Jacob would stay in the far country for twenty years and that she would never see him again. This was the punishment she received when she told Jacob to lie to his father.

WE: We must never lie, like Jacob did, nor even make plans to lie as Rebekah did. If we lie or help someone lie, we will soon find ourselves in great trouble, like Jacob and his mother. "Why?" you ask. Because our sin of lying is not hidden from God. Also, our lying makes Him angry; it causes other people much grief and sadness. We will be punished like Jacob for lying no matter who tells us to do it, even if our parents tell us to lie!

BE (for Action): There are two things to do with the sins of stealing and lying: confess and forsake them. First, we must confess them to God and then to the person against whom we sinned. Second, we must forsake them. This means we will not go back to stealing or lying. If we stole something, it means we should be willing to give back to the person more than what we took from him. This is what Zacchaeus did (Luke 19:8-9).

Have you ever stolen anything? A pencil, a ball, a bike, a cookie, a toy, a dollar, or anything? Have you ever lied? Are you ready to confess these sins and leave them? If you have stolen something, are you ready to return it to the person who owned it? (Encourage them to do this right away and not wait for an "easier" time to do it.) When you stop stealing and lying, you are to start doing good things with your hands, as our memory verse says. You can do favors for your friends; do errands for your parents, brothers and sisters; and help your neighbors, classmates and teachers.