

JACOB MEETS ESAU**Genesis 32-33**

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 38:18 "For I will declare my iniquity: **I will be sorry for my sin.**" (Grades 1 & 2 memorize portion in **bold print.**)

Lesson Aim: Teach the children to be so sorry for their sins that they will confess them and restore things that they have stolen and give back more than what they stole.

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

KEY (for Attention): What was the name of the little man that Jesus found in a tree in the city of Jericho? (Zaccheus) Did the people like him? (No) Why not? (He stole their money by making them pay extra money in taxes.) After Jesus saved him, he was a changed man. He said he would give four "dollars" back for every "dollar" that he stole from anyone. He also said he would give half of his property to the poor. Do you think he was sorry for his sin? (Yes) Why? (By giving his money back to the people he showed he was sorry for his sin.) That is what God wants you to do. He wants you to prove that you are truly sorry for your sins by confessing your sins to God and to the people that you hurt. And if you stole something, He wants you to give it back to them, and to give much more than what you took.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse also tells us to be sorry for our sins (Psalm 38:18). When we are sorry for our sins, we will stop doing them. If someone keeps stepping on your feet and then says, "I'm sorry," after each time, will you believe him? (No) For the same reason God expects you to stop sinning when you say you are sorry.

The first part of this verse says that we should admit our iniquity with our lips. "Iniquity" means sin. We should tell God what we have done wrong and tell others that we have hurt by our sins. Some people try to hide their sins, but God says He will not bless them if they do. God only blesses us if we confess our sins and then leave them alone (Proverbs 28:13). This is how we show that we are sorry for our sins.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our Bible story today we will hear the story of a man who finally became sorry for his sins against his brother. Listen carefully and see if you can tell how he showed he was really sorry for his sins.

I. Jacob Became Afraid of Esau (32:1-8)

Jacob heard that Esau was coming to meet him with four hundred men. Jacob thought that Esau might be coming to kill him and his family, and he became afraid.

WE: Usually we will draw closer to God when we are afraid. That is good. But we should learn to stay close to God even after our fears are gone. Some people leave God when their fears leave. This is wrong. Stay close to God.

II. Jacob Prayed to God (32:9-12)

Jacob told God he respected Him and trusted His word (v. 9). He said he was not worthy of God's help, but he was thankful for every blessing He had given him (v. 10). He then told God he was afraid of his brother, Esau, and asked Him to keep him safe (v. 11). Then Jacob reminded God of His promise to bless him (v. 12).

WE: When we pray to God we can learn some good things from Jacob's prayer about being sorry for sin.

1. Respect God. Tell Him how great He is.
2. Humble yourself. God helps the humble. This is a sure sign of being sorry for your sin.
3. Be thankful. God loves thankful people.
4. Be truthful. Tell God how you feel; He already knows.
5. Trust God. Ask God for the help you need and believe He will do it.
6. Tell God about His promises. God remembers them, but He wants you to recite them to Him to show your faith in them.

III. Jacob Repaid Esau (32:13-21)

Jacob gave 550 animals of various kinds to Esau. He had lied to get his father to bless him instead of Esau. He knew he needed to pay back Esau for the sin he had done against him twenty years earlier.

WE: We, too, must make things right if we lie or steal. We should give back more than what we stole. If we steal a candy bar, we should give back more than the price of one candy bar. Zaccheus gave back four times as much. That means he would have given back the price of four candy bars. Are we sorry enough to pay back that much?

IV. Jacob Wrestled with God (32:22-32)

Jacob had to get right with God before he could get right with his brother. He needed to deal with his sins. After he wrestled with God, he was a different person. This prepared him to meet his brother.

WE: We need to be right with God. Have you dealt with your sins? Is there any unconfessed sin in your life? If there is, you need to let God take that sin from you, no matter how much you love it. You may struggle inside as God pulls it away from you. You may even want to go after it once you have given it up to God, but give up once and for all time, and let God take it. When God wins the battle, you will win, too. You will be a different person. When God has your sin, you will be ready to meet anyone against whom you have sinned.

V. Jacob Humbled Himself Before Esau (33:1-17)

Jacob bowed seven times before Esau! And he had his whole family bow before him, too! Jacob never acted this way before. His meeting with God changed his actions before his brother.

WE: We need to be humble before our brother or sister that we have hurt. We must not sin against people and act proudly. This is shameful. God hates pride, but He helps the humble. If we humble ourselves, God will bless us and protect us. If we have sinned against someone, we must humble ourselves before them. Tell them we are sorry. If we took something from them, return it and give back much more than we took. Then God will be pleased with us, and He will bless us.

BE (for Action): Have the class tell you the different ways Jacob showed he was truly sorry for sinning against Esau.

1. His prayer to God showed he was sorry for the way he had acted against Esau.
2. His generous gift to Esau showed he wanted Esau to forgive him.
3. His wrestling with God until he got things right in his spiritual life showed he was truly serious.
4. His humility before his brother by bowing seven times before him showed that he was really sorry.

If you sin against someone, what will you do to show that you are truly sorry? One thing that you should do is to go to him or her and say you are sorry. Another thing is to give them a generous gift, especially if you stole from them. Prove that you are truly sorry for your sin by doing what Jacob did when he was sorry. Will you confess your sins and restore more than what you took? This is the only way that you can be right with God and have His blessings. Conclude with prayer.