

Explore It

FOR LEADERS

MAY
SESSION 03

THINGS GO WRONG FOR ABRAHAM'S GRANDCHILDREN, ESAU AND JACOB

 **Genesis 25:27-28; 27:22-41**

 **Aim: To know the danger of jealousy**

Family life can get a bit complicated at times, and the family in today's story definitely has their fair share of issues. Abraham and Sarah's grandchildren are the focus of our story today and their jealousy caused a lot of problems. As we discover more about Esau and Jacob, we'll consider the damage that jealousy does in our relationships and ask God to help us overcome it.

Each child will need:

- Resources to do a creative retelling – see Action It section
- Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- Flipchart paper and pens – see Action It section

Bible questions

You may want to find time in the session for the children to feed back the answers they have discovered from last week's Bible questions.

Start It

 **Say:** In today's story one of the characters pretends to be someone else. To start our *Explore It* session today, we're going to play 'Let's Pretend'.

Using the list below, or the children's own suggestions, ask each child to pretend to be a character. They are not allowed to say the character's name but can use their catchphrases or act out scenes from their film or book. When the correct character is guessed, another child can have a go.

Character suggestions

- Hermione Granger
- Matilda
- Charlie Bucket
- Mickey Mouse
- Olaf
- Dory
- Buzz Lightyear
- Bruno (but don't talk about him!)

Sing It

 **Say:** Today's song reminds us that we don't need to pretend to be anyone else or compare ourselves to others. We only need to listen to who God says we are, his precious children.

'Who you Say I am' (Official Lyric Video) by YancynotNancy (3 mins 42 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUfwoUPTg68

Tell It

Say: In the previous two sessions we discovered more about the story of Abraham and Isaac. When Isaac grew up he married Rebekah and they had twins. Today we are going to hear about their two sons, Esau and Jacob. Read Genesis 25:27-28 to find out more about them.

Read:

'When the boys grew up, Esau became a skilled hunter. He loved to be out in the fields. But Jacob was a quiet man. He stayed among the tents. Isaac loved Esau. Esau hunted the wild animals that Isaac enjoyed eating. But Rebekah loved Jacob.'

— (Genesis 25:27-28 ICB)

Ask:

- What have you discovered about Esau and Jacob?
- How do Isaac and Rebekah feel about their two sons?
- Do you think this is a good or bad thing? Explain your answer.

Say: The two brothers had a difficult relationship that wasn't helped by their parents. Watch the clip to find out more about their story.

Video

Jacob and Esau by Saddleback Kids. Stop the clip at 2 mins 10 secs

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNadcmhUjVQ

Discuss:

- As the firstborn son, Esau had a birthright. What did that mean, and how did it make Esau special?
- Esau came back from a hunting trip and was very hungry. What did Jacob ask Esau to swap for a bowl of soup?
- Are you surprised that Esau agreed to the exchange? Explain why.
- When Isaac was near the end of his life, he wanted to bless Esau. What did Rebekah suggest that Jacob should do? Would you have gone along with the trick?
- How do you think Isaac felt when he realised he'd given the blessing to the wrong son?
- How did Esau react when he found out his brother had stolen the blessing? Do you understand his reaction? If so, why?

Say: Esau and Jacob fought with each other, from being tiny babies to grown men. They each wanted what the other one had and were competitive with each other, and their parents each had a favourite child. This caused a lot of problems within their family.

Ask: After hearing Esau and Jacob's story, how do you think jealousy impacts our relationship with family and friends?

Action It

Today's dramatic story is perfect for a creative retelling. Depending on the interests of your group, they could turn the story into a play, create a comic strip, or even retell the story in a modern setting. Using Genesis 27:18-41, recap the main events of the story and write them on a flip chart. The children can refer to these plot points as they retell the story. From experience writing this Bible study, it may also be helpful to write down the main characters and their relationships to avoid any name confusion!

- Isaac – Dad who loved Esau
- Rebekah – Mum who loved Jacob
- Esau – oldest son
- Jacob – youngest son

Once the children have created their retelling, they can share it with the rest of the group.

Ask: What does the story of Esau and Jacob teach us about jealousy?

Pray It

Say: In today's session we saw a family relationship spoiled by jealousy. Instead of focusing on what God thought of them, the two brothers kept comparing themselves to each other.

Ask: Do you have moments when you feel jealous because members of your family or your friends are treated differently? If you feel comfortable, then share how you feel about it.

Say: It can sometimes be difficult to acknowledge feelings of jealousy toward someone else. When we recognise those feelings, we don't need to keep feeling guilty about it. We can bring those feelings to God, ask for forgiveness, and remember how much he loves us. We don't need to compare ourselves to anyone else.

Prayer

Based on the discussions during the session, ask the children to write a prayer reflecting on the jealousy they may feel towards others. They could ask God to forgive their jealousy and focus on who he says they are. Use the song from the Sing It section as a background for this prayer time.

When the song has finished, remind the children that even though we may struggle with feelings of jealousy, God is always there with us, helping us to grow. Share the memory verse together to bring the session to a close.

Memory verse

'And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.'

— (Philippians 1:6 *ESV*)

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

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🎯 Aim: To know the danger of jealousy

FOR ME

TOGETHER



Grow

Watch the clip to discover more about the theme of jealousy.

Jealousy by The Superbook Show

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sK5c3DS126g

If you would like to find out more about Joseph's jealous brothers, then have a look at Genesis 37. We will be learning more about Joseph next month, so this activity will give you a head start.



Love

Today's session was all about family relationships and how jealousy can make things harder for everyone. As you go through your week, try and find ways to improve your relationships with the people you live with. What could you do to brighten their day? How could you help calm potential disagreements or help your home to be a peaceful place?



Song for the week

'Who you Say I am' (Official Lyric Video)
by YancynotNancy

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUfwoUPTg68



Memory verse

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— (Philippians 1:6 ESV)

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