

Jacob Deceives His Father: Good Choices

Scripture: Genesis 27-28:9

Key Verse: 2 Thessalonians 3:13 “And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.”

Make it Stick: Play “win and say”. Have the children sit in a circle. Choose a child to start. The child says the memory verse and then winks at another child who says the verse. Play continues until everyone has had a turn.

Bible Lesson

Lesson Goal: The children will recognize that if you are worried about getting caught, then you are in a position that is wrong. We should always make the good choice to do what is right.

Hook: Use the attached list of various situations. Assign groups of children a different situation. Have children discuss with their group and each other what the good choice would be in each situation and why. Why should we make the good choice and do what is right? Has there ever been a time in their life when they had to choose to do what was right? Was it easy or hard to make that choice? Why?

Scripture to Read: Genesis 27-28:9

You may want to have some of the older children help with the reading. It may also be helpful to read this passage from the New Living Translation. Be sure to let the children see you reading the Bible story from the Bible. It is important that they know that what you are teaching is from God’s word. Help the children follow along in their Bible as the passage is read.

Key Principles:

After reading the scripture passage, discuss and emphasize these key principles from Genesis 27-28:9 with the children.

- Although God had already told Rebekah that Jacob would be the family leader, Rebekah took matters into her own hands. She told Jacob to lie. (We should not do something wrong even if we think the outcome will help us.)
- Jacob was worried about getting caught. He was not worried about doing what was right. (If we are worried about getting caught, then what we are doing is wrong.)
- Although Jacob got what he wanted (father’s blessing), lying brought serious consequences.

Application:

The following questions are appropriate for older children.

1. What did Isaac tell Esau to do?
2. What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do?
3. After Rebekah told Jacob to lie, what was Jacob worried would happen?
4. Who did Isaac bless?
5. How did Isaac know that he had been tricked?
6. How did Esau feel about Jacob?
7. God told Rebekah that Jacob would be the family leader. Did Rebekah do the right thing by taking matters into her own hands?
8. What was Jacob's reaction when his mother told him to lie?
9. What happened to Jacob because he lied?

The following questions are appropriate for younger children.

1. What did Jacob do that was wrong?
2. How did Isaac know that Jacob lied to him?
3. How did Esau feel when he found out Jacob had taken his blessing?
4. Have you ever lied to someone? Was that a good choice?
5. How do you think that makes God feel?

Activity

Have the children act out the Bible story. Assign the parts of Jacob, Esau, Isaac and Rebekah. You may want to bring some props in to help.

Wrap Up

Go back and review the key principles. Review the memory verse. Role-play times when we need to make good choices.

Extension:

Have the children write or draw a picture showing what Jacob should have done when Rebekah told him to lie to his father.

Toddler Time:

Act out what to do in different situations. Bring in toys and practice sharing, saying thank-you and playing with others. Ask the children when you are finished how it made them feel when their friends did nice things.

Supplies:

Props, white paper, markers, attached list, toys (toddler time)

Situation #1

Jesse went to play basketball last night even though he knew he had a test. When he got home, he did not study for the test. At school the next day, his friend Kim told him she had studied half the night. She offered to let Jesse look on her paper to get the answers to the test. Jesse has two choices, what are they? What is the good choice? What should Jesse do? Why?

Situation #2

Beth made a new friend at school names Jennifer. Jennifer is older, a cheerleader and president of their class. Beth really looks up to Jennifer. One afternoon after school, Jennifer offers Beth some candy she had taken from the store down the street. Beth has two choices, what are they? What is the good choice? What should Beth do? Why?

Situation #3

Ted is riding bikes in the neighborhood with his friends. Ted's parents told him to be home before dark. His parents went out to dinner and a movie. Ted knows that his parents will not be home until later that night. It is now dark and Ted knows that he was told by his parents to go home. Ted's friends are trying to convince him to stay out later because his parents will never know. Ted has two choices, what are they? What is the good choice? What should Ted do? Why?