

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL K

LESSON 7



Esau and Jacob

ESAU AND JACOB

Our last lesson ended with the death of Abraham. He was 175 years old when he died. But before his death, Abraham wanted to make sure that Isaac did not marry one of the women from Canaan. So Abraham told a **trusted** servant, "Go to where my father's family lives and bring back a wife for Isaac." God led the servant to Rebekah, the daughter of Abraham's **nephew**.

The servant then returned home with Rebekah. Abraham was happy when Isaac married her. Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. For 20 years, Isaac and Rebekah could not have children. Isaac prayed to God about it and God answered his prayers. Rebekah would soon give birth to **twins!**

When the twins were born, they did not look alike. The first one born was red and hairy, but the second one born had smooth skin. Isaac and Rebekah named their firstborn son Esau and their second son Jacob.

As Esau and Jacob grew, they began to have different interests. Esau became a hunter, spending much of his time out in the woods. Jacob stayed closer to home and cared for the sheep.

Isaac loved Esau more than he loved Jacob and he liked the

Parents: Explain the meaning of the **boldface** words. Read to your child the story of Abraham's servant finding a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24). Be sure to explain why Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman from Canaan. Also explain that it was a custom then for parents to choose whom their sons and daughters would marry. Tell your child that Esau and Jacob would become the fathers of two different nations.

venison Esau brought home. But Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau.

Because Esau was the firstborn son, he had the **birthright**. This meant that he would receive a larger part of his father's wealth when his father died.

One day Esau returned home from one of his hunting trips, dirty, tired and hungry. He could not resist an offer Jacob made to him. Jacob offered to sell Esau a bowl of **delicious**-smelling soup for his birthright.

Since Esau thought he would die without the food, he could not see what good his birthright would be. So Esau sold his birthright! Jacob should not have made a deal with his brother to get something that did not belong to him.

When Isaac was old and blind and thought he might die soon, he called Esau to him. "Go out and get me some of the venison I love. Then I will bless you."

Rebekah heard what Isaac told Esau. She wanted her favorite son, Jacob, to receive the blessing instead.

After Esau had gone out to hunt, Rebekah quickly planned how to trick Isaac into blessing Jacob while Esau was away. Jacob went along with the plan. Rebekah first sent him out to kill two young goats. She cooked the meat and then covered Jacob's hands and neck with the skins so he would feel hairy like Esau.

When everything was ready, Jacob entered his father's tent. "The meal you asked for is ready," Jacob told his father. "I want you to bless me now." Isaac thought the voice he heard was Jacob's instead of Esau's. "Come closer to me so I may feel you," Isaac said. When he felt Jacob's hairy arms, Isaac believed he was speaking to Esau.

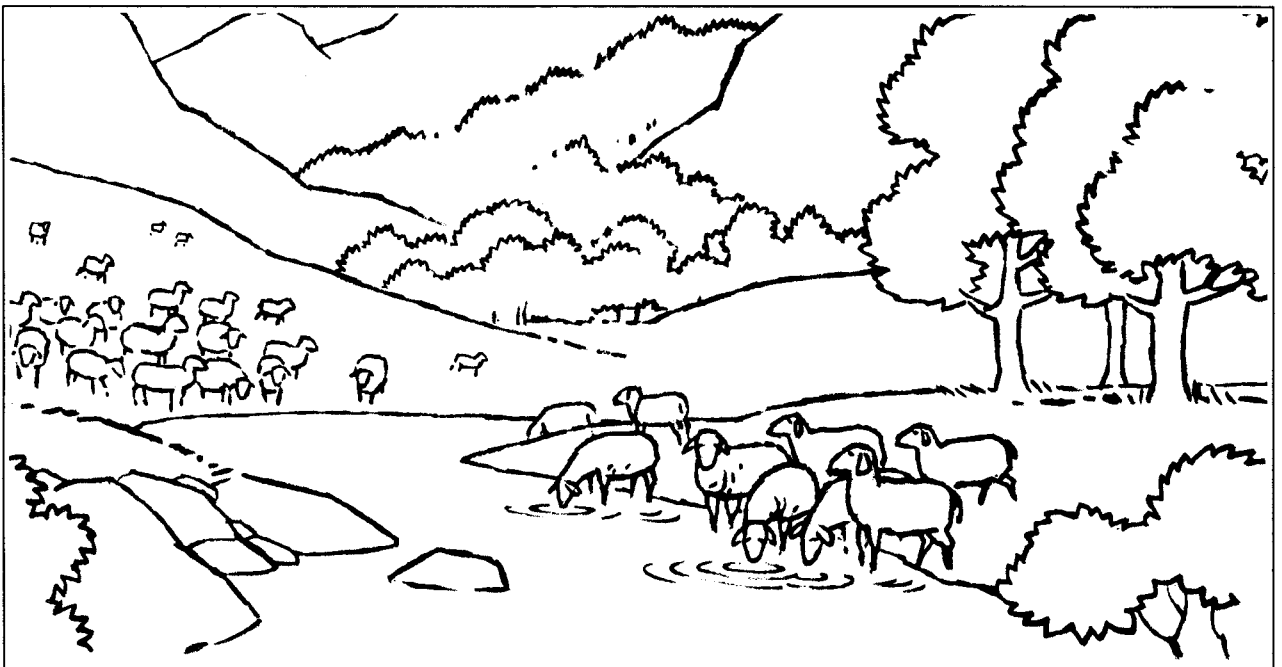
When Isaac finished eating, he blessed Jacob. He said, "May God give you well-watered fields that will grow much food. Let people serve you and nations bow down to you. May a curse

be on those who curse you and may a blessing be on those who bless you.”

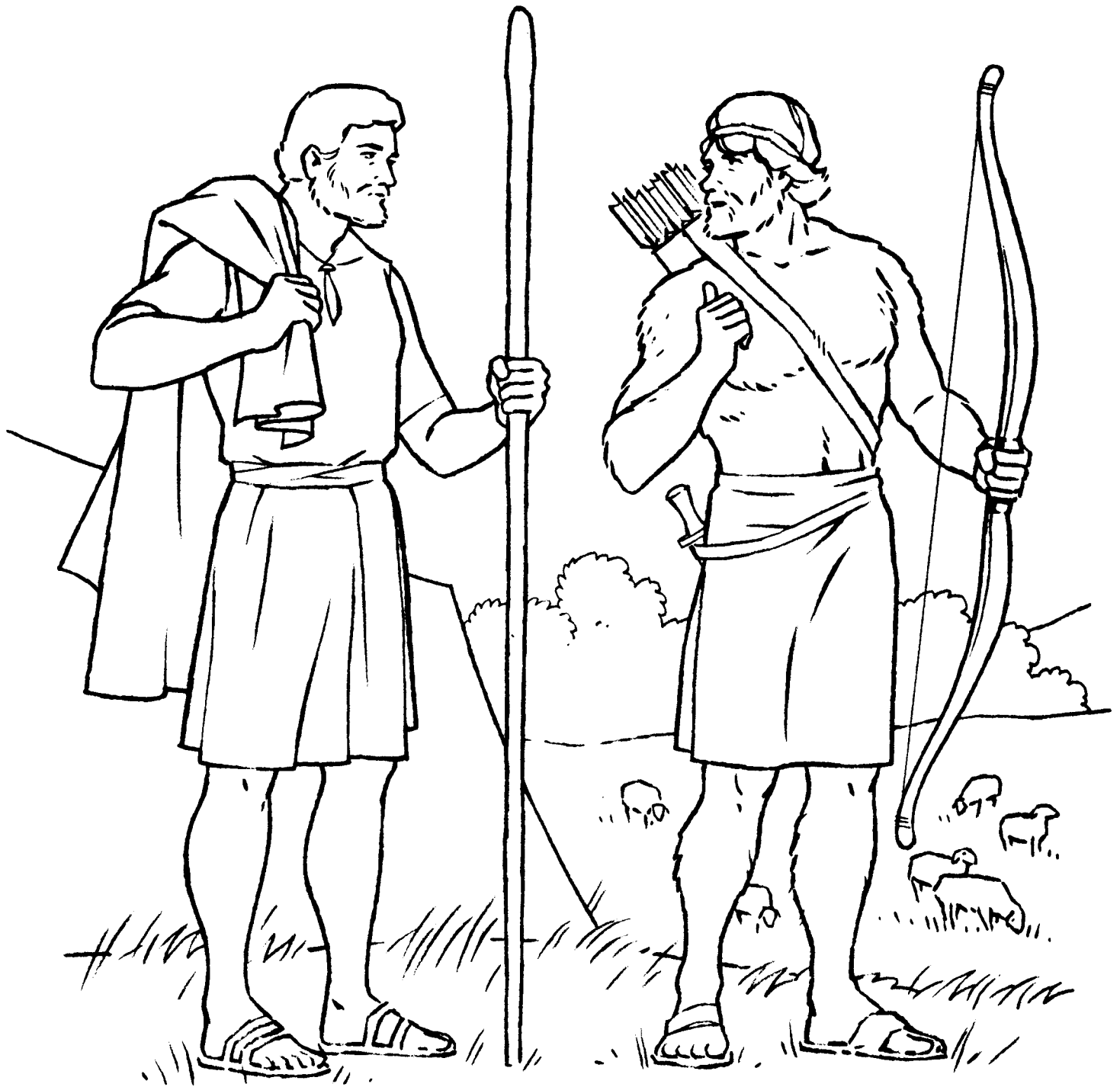
After the blessing, Jacob left his father and went outside. Sometime later, Esau came in with the meal of venison he had prepared. Esau was angry when he learned what Jacob had done. The blessing could not be taken back and given to Esau, now that it had been given to Jacob. Again, Jacob had taken something that belonged to Esau.

Not long after this, Rebekah learned that Esau planned to kill Jacob as soon as Isaac died. Fearing for her favorite son’s life, Rebekah asked Isaac to send Jacob far away to where her brother Laban lived, to find a wife. Since Isaac did not want his sons to marry women from Canaan, he agreed.

In our next lesson, we will look at the story of Jacob’s trip to his Uncle Laban’s home. Some important things happened during this trip.



Parents: Ask your child some of the following questions to prompt further discussion: Was it right for Jacob to ask Esau to sell his birthright for the soup? Why did Esau not tell his father that he had sold his birthright? How did Jacob know when Isaac was going to bless Esau? Why was the blessing so important—what would it mean for Jacob’s descendants? Why did Rebekah want Jacob to go to his Uncle Laban’s home?



**Esau liked to hunt in the woods.
Jacob stayed closer to home
and looked after the sheep.**



Esau sold his birthright
for Jacob's soup.



Jacob and his mother
planned a way to get
Esau's blessing.



Isaac was tricked into blessing Jacob.



Rebekah said good-bye to her favorite son, not knowing when she would see him again.

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Abraham chose a wife for Isaac. | T | F |
| 2. Esau was the firstborn twin. | T | F |
| 3. Jacob was Isaac's favorite son. | T | F |
| 4. Laban was Rebekah's father. | T | F |
| 5. Esau was a hairy man. | T | F |
| 6. Esau twice took something that was Jacob's. | T | F |
| 7. Isaac married Rebekah. | T | F |
| 8. Jacob loved to hunt. | T | F |
| 9. Isaac loved deer meat. | T | F |

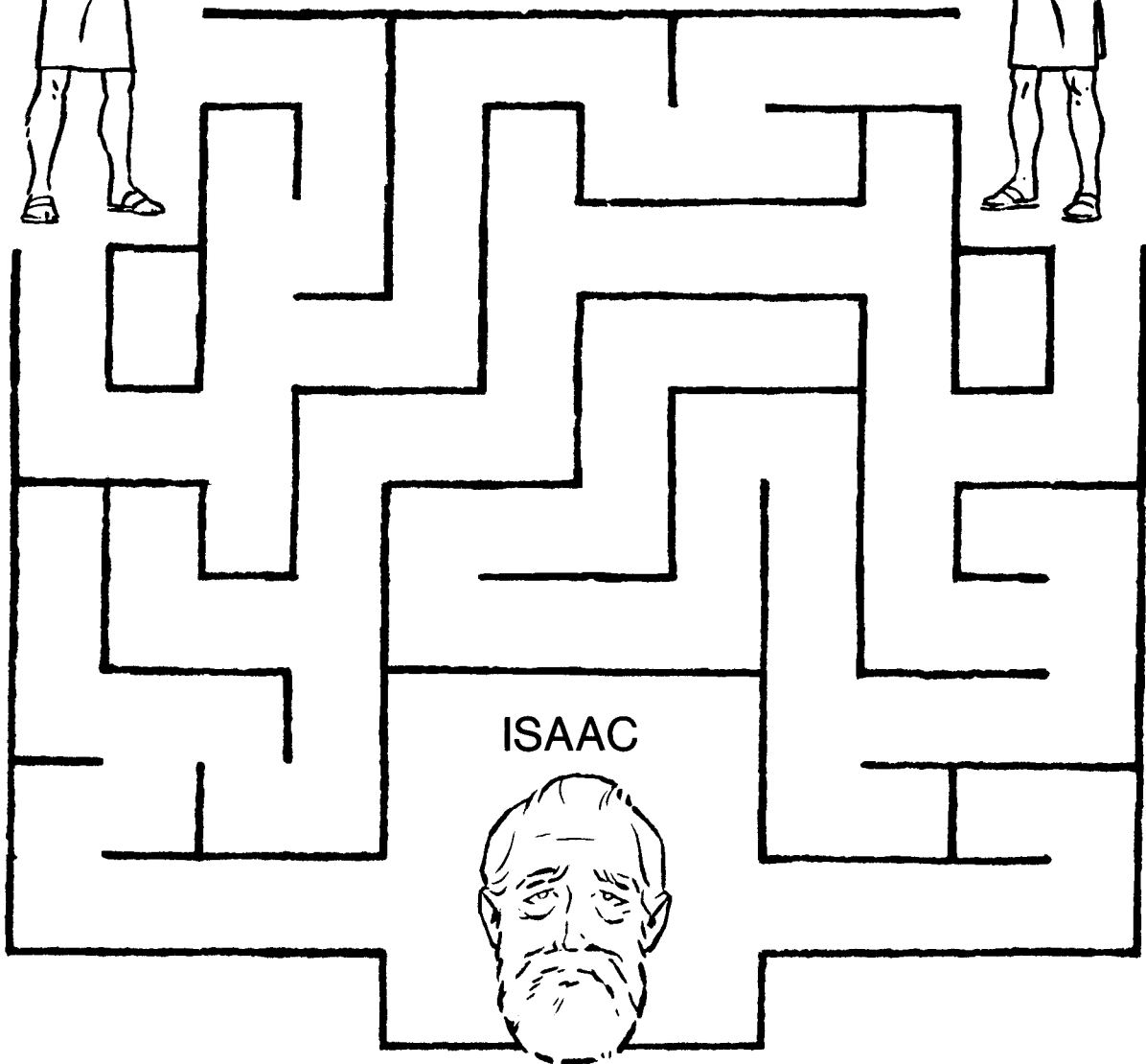
Parents: Read each sentence to your child and have him or her circle the "T" if it is true, or the "F" if it is false. You may need to explain the meaning of the word "false."

ESAU



WHO RECEIVED
THE BLESSING?

JACOB



With a crayon, take the son who received the blessing through the maze to Isaac.

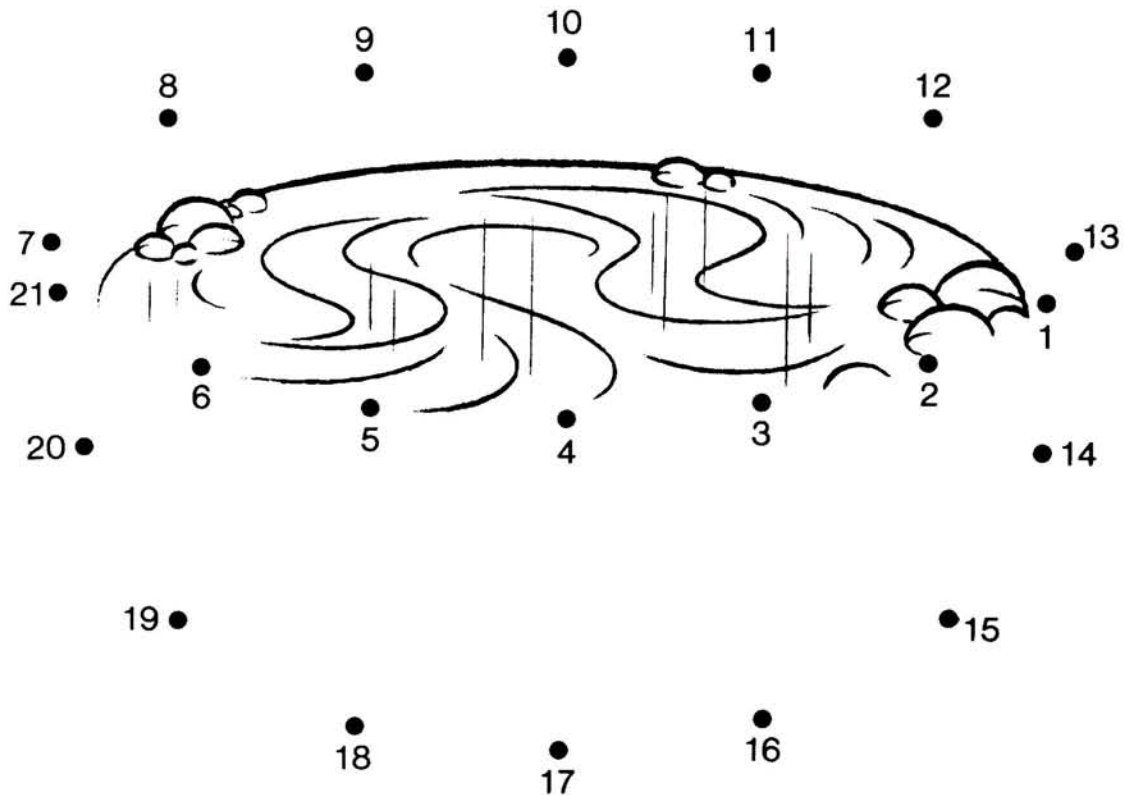
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BIBLE MEMORY John 15:17



Connect the dots to find out what
Jacob traded for Esau's birthright.