

## Lesson 023

### Isaac Blesses Jacob

#### Genesis 27:1-46

##### MEMORY VERSE

HEBREWS 11:20 "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come."

##### **Introduction Activity:**

##### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A large piece of paper, a rubber band, and a red ribbon. Molding clay and cutting and molding tools.
- As many pieces of construction paper and lined sheets of white paper as the number of children in your class, glue, and crayons or markers.

##### **ATTENTION GRABBER! "What If?"**

On a large piece of paper write the following "what ifs":

What if you saw your friend steal some candy, then later offered some to you? Is it okay to steal if you intend to share what's stolen? What if you were late getting home and nobody knew? Later your mother asked you if you had come home on time, and you told her you were on time? Is it okay to lie if seemingly no one is hurt by it?

What if your teacher gave you the honor of taking up the offering, but during the prayer you took a dollar out and put it in your pocket? Is it okay to steal if no one knows how much is there?

Come up with other questions to add to these examples. Roll the paper up like a scroll and put a rubber band around it with a red ribbon tied to it. Using a music player with a CD or cassette of children's music, have the children in your class pass around the scroll as long as music is playing (similar to musical chairs). When the music stops, whoever is holding the scroll must open it and answer the next "what if" question.

Have a class discussion about the “what ifs” and the answers given. Be sure to conclude that sin is never right. We are going to look at some bad choices that were made by the people in our study, today, and the problems that resulted.

### **LESSON TIME!**

Lesson Goal: sin is never right

In our last lesson, we recall that Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. In our story today, we come back to the time Isaac is ready to pronounce the blessing on his firstborn son, Esau.

*Genesis 27:1-4*

*Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.” And he answered him, “Here I am.”*

*2 Then he said, “Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. 3 Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. 4 And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”*

Isaac, was old, realizing his days on earth could be limited. He is anxious to impart the blessing due the firstborn son before he dies. Actually, the Bible tells us Isaac would continue to live another 44 years. Yet, aware of his frail condition, Isaac calls his oldest son to come to him. The Bible notes that Isaac's eyes were "dim.

It seemed that Isaac favored Esau over Jacob. He certainly liked the fact that Esau was a hunter and could fix a nice meal for him. Isaac requested Esau to go and prepare him venison—his favorite meal. He would then give the blessing to Esau.

*Genesis 27:5-13*

*5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. 6 So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, “Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 7 ‘Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.’ 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. 9 Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. 10 Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death.”*

*11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. 12 Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."*

*13 But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."*

Here we see that Rebekah heard what Isaac had spoken to Esau, fearing God's purposes would not be accomplished, she devised a plan. When we take things out of God's hands and try to "make" them happen ourselves, we can create problems! Rebekah had a promise from God, but she did not wait for Him to fulfill it.

Have you ever done the right thing the wrong way? We need to "wait" on the Lord--to trust that He will do what is what is right and best in His time. Rebekah's failure to "wait" will have consequences. **Sin is never right.**

As Jacob raises an objection to his mother's scheme, we see a bit of his character revealed. His objection is not so much that he would be a part of a deceitful plan, but that he could suffer consequences if his deception were found out. It is not a fear of God, but a fear of man. Remember, **sin is never right.**

Rebekah foolishly says, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me." Rebekah's failure to trust the Lord resulted not only in her own disobedience, but in her son's disobedience. She taught her son to deceive his father. **Sin is never right.**

### **[Visual Aid activity]**

Molded in the Image of God

Bring molding clay and various molding tools to your class. Have your students use the tools to make various shapes and object. Discuss the process of molding the clay into the shape that is desired. In order to mold clay, we have to poke it, smash it and shape it. Does God have to do that to us sometimes in order to mold us into the image of Jesus? Can that be uncomfortable at times?

Discuss how Rebekah's deceit in gaining the blessing for Jacob goes contrary to the yieldingness we must have toward the Lord. What might Rebekah have done differently if she trusted that God would accomplish His promises His way? Trusting God is part of what it takes to be molded into the image of Jesus.

*Genesis 27:14-29*

*14 And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made [a]savory food, such as his father loved. 15 Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. 16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. 17 Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.*

*18 So he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"*

*19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."*

*20 But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."*

*21 Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." 22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.*

*24 Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I am." 25 He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. 26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son." 27 And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said:*

*"Surely, the smell of my son, Is like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed. 28 Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. 29 Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren and let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you and blessed be those who bless you!"*

Jacob agreed to carry out his mother's plan. She clothed him in Esau's clothes and put skins of kids on his hands and his neck. Jacob lied to his father deliberately. As his father was still unsure about how a meal could be found and prepared so quickly, Jacob said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me," now bringing the name of the Lord into his deception. We see how one sin leads to another sin; one "little" lie grows to a bigger lie. We must call sin what it really is--sin! We must not justify or excuse it. We must repent and ask for forgiveness. Sin is never right.

**Encourage the kids to confess and let them know that Abouna comes to our building and wait for us in Jesus's room.**

**One of our Coptic church's 7 mysteries is "repentance and Confession"**

Isaac's suspicions were dismissed; he ate and then proceeded to give to Jacob his blessing. He said "Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine (substantial produce). Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you (preeminence among the nations). Be master over your brethren and let your mother's sons bow down to you (preeminence among his kindred). Cursed be everyone who curses you and blessed (prosperous physically and spiritually) be those who bless you!

Jacob received this blessing from his father because of God's grace (Genesis 28:13-15). Isaac thought he was blessing Esau, but God caused the words of blessing to fall upon the man of His choice, Jacob. God ultimately still had control of the situation. The failure of faith leading to deceit will bring with it sorrow, as we shall see; but it cannot interfere with fulfillment of the God's eternal purpose. God has this way of turning things around for His purposes despite our sin and disobedience (see Romans 8:28).

*Genesis 27:30-40*

*30 Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me." 32 And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?"*

*So, he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."*

*33 Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed." 34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me—me also, O my father!"*

*35 But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."*

*36 And Esau said, "Is he not rightly named [b]Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"*

*37 Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"*

*38 And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. 39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above. 40 By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."*

Jacob left the presence of his father, and then Esau entered with the prepared venison [Meal]; he was prepared to receive the blessing of his father. Isaac realized what had happened and in verse three it says, "Isaac trembled exceedingly."

At this point, Isaac may have realized that he had been going against the divine plan of God. Isaac knew that the blessing actually came from the Spirit of God; and now that it was given, it could not be revoked. He now fully realized it was God's will that the spiritual blessing should fall on the line of Jacob. Instead of cursing Jacob, Isaac appeared to be gracious, understanding the will of the Lord had been done.

We see Esau exceedingly grieved over the situation, but we must remember that Esau sold his birthright for bread and stew of lentils--it meant nothing to him. He must have known that the blessing was not to be his, but Jacob's.

Esau begged and pleaded with his father for a blessing. Isaac did give Esau a blessing. "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above. By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; and it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck."

The blessing seems similar to Jacob's, but it is different. God would make Esau into a nation. His descendants would later become the people of Edom. The land of Edom was a comparative wilderness. He would live by his sword, preying upon others, and serving his brother. The history of Edom, revealed later in the Bible, was a continual struggle against the supremacy of Israel. Sin is never right.

### **[Application]**

Bless You

Have your students make blessing cards with blessings similar to that found in Numbers 6:24-26, "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD makes His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lifts up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." With construction paper folded in half, glue a 4"x7" piece of lined paper inside and have your class write an original blessing (if your children are smaller, you can have them trace their hands and write "God Bless You").

Instruct your class to find someone in their home, school, or neighborhood who needs to be blessed and pass the card along to them.

*Genesis 27:41-46*

*41 So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father [a]are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."*

*42 And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So, she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. 44 And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, 45 until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"*

*46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"*

It was Rebekah who sent away the son she so loved. She was the one to lead him into sin, and she was the one God used to send him away. What she thought would only be a few days, ended up being 20 years. She probably never again saw the son she so loved. How sad are the consequences of sin. Sin is never right.

From our lesson this week we can learn a few things.

1. We must not, like Isaac, allow our earthly passions to make us dull to God's plan and will for our lives.
2. We must not, like Rebekah, take matters into our own hands. We must trust in the Lord and "wait."
3. We must not, like Esau, give up our divine privileges (promised blessings) for the temporary satisfaction this world can offer.

4. We must not, like Jacob, deceive and sin against others in order to get what we want. Sin is never right.

Let us never forget Galatians 6:7-9, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart."

### **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to keep pure before the Lord and wait on Him for all of His promises.

