

#BLESSED**Materials:** (None)**OPEN UP:**

- How many children are in your family?
- How many aunts and uncles do you have?
- How many cousins do you have?
- Who has the biggest family? The smallest?
- Have you ever seen “#blessed” anywhere (social media, a t-shirt design, etc..)? What does it mean?

THE STORY:

Read Genesis 25:19-21

Read Genesis 25:24-28

[Leader's Note: Have students write down the main points of the story in the space provided (or the extra space on the next page.)]

Important things to note:*Isaac marries Rebekah and they have twins, Jacob & Esau.**Esau was a hunter and Jacob stayed at home.***Discussion Questions:**

What did God promise Abraham in the story from two weeks ago?

(That he would be the father of a great nation with descendants as many as the stars)

At this point, Abraham was dead, so how would his legacy of ‘being the father of a great nation’ continue?

(Through his children and his children's children and his children's children's children, etc...)

But pretty soon that's going to become a LOT of kids! How might that create problems for how the family was led and made decisions, etc...?

Read Genesis 27:1-35

[Leader's Note: This is a long passage, so one option is to assign “parts” and have students read what each character says. You can also assign a narrator or two to read the rest.)

Important things to note:*Isaac is old and ready to bless Esau (the oldest) as the new family leader**Jacob tricks Isaac into blessing him instead.***Discussion Question:****Why did Jacob and Esau both want the blessing?***(They wanted to be blessed! They wanted to be the leader of the family and inherit the majority of the wealth from their father)*

Turn to page 4 and fill in “Jacob & Esau” for this part of the story in the timeline.

What Does This Tell Us About God?

[Leader's Note: The point of this question/section is to help students start seeing that the Bible is how we know what God is like and how He interacts with human beings. Over the whole year, they'll start to see that the same characteristics of the same God appear over and over again. Don't worry about spending too much time here – you could probably find a way to see ALL of God's attributes in every story!]

God is FAITHFUL

(He provided Isaac with children to keep the family line going, just like He had promised.)

How Does This Point to Jesus?

[Leader's Note: The goal would be for the students to come up with these "answers" or "notes" on their own as a group, but I'm guessing they'll need some help at first. I would suggest they write something down for each verse – you can decide what's best for your group.]

Read Ephesians 1:3

What did Isaac do as a father in the story we read?

(He "blessed" his son Jacob by making him the leader of the family and giving him the largest portion of the inheritance.)

What does the "Father" do in verse 3?

(Blessed us!)

Read verses 4-5

How did we become His children, the ones He has given the blessing to?

(He chose us before the creation of the world and He adopted us as His children)

Read verses 6-8a

What's the most important way we've been blessed?

(We've been lavished with His grace because of Jesus which means our sin has been forgiven)

Read verses 13-14

What do you think our "inheritance" is?

(Eternal life with God)

What Does This Mean to Me?

[Leader's Note: It would be great if students came up with ideas on their own, so feel free to ask!]

In order for Jacob to receive a blessing from his father, he had to deceive and con his way into it. But, not only do I not have to deceive and "con" God into blessing me (with trying really hard to be religious or being a "good" person, as much of our world believes) - He has given me an even greater blessing simply because I've chosen to believe in Jesus.

- I'm blessed to be included in God's family as a child
- I'm blessed to be forgiven and have a relationship with God now and for eternity
- I'm blessed to be one of those "shining stars" that shines His love to the world