



SERVICE ORDER

WEEK 1: Birthrights N Blessings

NOTES: Print out Series Summary and hand a copy to each SG leader. Meet with SG leaders before the service and go over the big themes of the series, how to discipline, tickets/candy, offering.

GAME TIME:

- **(A/V)** Have an upbeat song ready to go
- "Telephone Charades": See game for supply list

TUNE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect real song set)

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Song 3

REMIND TIME:

- **(A/V)** Opening series video, Powerpoints, and 1 video clip
- **(A/V)** Display the Trait-N-Tagline Powerpoint
- Go over OBEY – I can stop, pause, and make the right choice.

TEACH TIME:

- **(A/V)** Bring up first Powerpoint on screen
- **Engage Them:** Talking about garage sales, getting good deals and not-so-good deals
- **Teach Them:** About the story of the birth of Esau and Jacob, and Esau giving up his birthright
- **Challenge Them:** Explaining about inheritance, Spotlight verse

GIVE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect whatever campaign you're working on)

- Ex. Malaria nets in Africa
- **(A/V)** Bring up goal Powerpoint on screen

CLOSE TIME:

- Announcements, up-coming events, hand out flyers
- Ticket Drawing
- Closing Song: ??
- Keep Groups together: Do Relate Time Sheets until parents come

EXIT: Distribute Parent Take-Away card directly to parents

TEACH them

2nd Segment: (15 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **tell the Bible story** in a compelling, animated, and interesting way. A good communicator uses the following script only as a guideline to speak, but never reading from it, as children can lose interest. Make the story come alive with voice inflections, funny anecdotes and noises, and passionate emotion. We intentionally give great latitude for the speaker to make it 'their own', using props, involving kids...whatever you can do to help the kids remember the Bible lesson.

BIBLE text

Genesis 25 & 27 – Jacob and Esau

PROPS n things

- The Bible
- A bowl and a spoon

BEGIN speaking

Show slide (“Genesis 25 & 27”)

Today’s story about two twins: Esau and Jacob. However, it is also a story about the blessings of God because they were a part of the promise God made to Abraham.

BIBLES:

Who brought their Bibles today? Hold them up in the air and let me see! That is awesome kids. You know...it's so important to bring your Bible to church, but it's even more important to bring God's Word everywhere you go. And...since we can't always have our Bible with us, we must take the time to hide His Word in our hearts and heads. You never know when you're going to need it, and it's usually, it's when you least expect it!

You might need the right Bible at school when a bully comes along to give you a hard time and you need to remember that God's Word says to “*love your enemies and pray for those that hurt you.*” (Mat. 5:44) You might be sad or feeling worried and it's good to remember that the Bible says to “*cast all your (cares and worries) on (Jesus) because He cares for you.*” (1 Peter 5:7) When we hide God's Word in our hearts, it's

like He is right there beside us all the time, helping us, guiding us, teaching us, and loving us.

SETUP THE STORY:

So...let's turn to the book of Genesis. Leaders...help your kids find Genesis – the first book of the Bible. Genesis means “beginning”, and we are looking at some of the beginning stories of God reaching out to his people and teaching them to trust and obey Him. Today, we're going to look at Genesis, chapter 25 and 27.

This is a great story of trust and obedience. Now, the Bible says that Abraham lived a good, full life of 175 years. When Abraham died, he left everything he owned to Isaac. When a father leaves what he has to his son, that is called “the blessing.” The blessing was very important in this time, because it not only meant the giving of possessions, but in Abraham's case, it was the passing on of the promise of God from Abraham on to Isaac. It was a “spiritual” blessing. The ultimate blessing was that Jesus, the Savior of the world, would be born through their family line. What a great promise!

Isaac was the miraculous son of promise. We remember that Sarah, Isaac's mom, was barren, which meant that she couldn't have any children. But God stepped in and gave Sarah a son in her old age, and his name was Isaac. Isaac would carry forward the promise that God made to Abraham: that he would have more offspring, more heirs than the stars in the sky.

REBEKAH WAS BARREN:

However, in order for God's promise to come true, the promise had to continue, and just as with his father Abraham, there was a problem. Isaac married Rebekah and he loved her very much. But... just like Sarah, Rebekah was barren – unable to have children. Unlike his parents, though, who tried to fix the problem themselves by taking matters into their own hands, Isaac trusted God to fix the problem.

ISAAC'S PRAYER:

Show slide (“Entreat”)

In Verse 21, it says, **“Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless.”** Now kids...this was not just a quick bedtime prayer. The Bible uses the word “entreat” – E-N-T-R-E-A-T. Isaac “entreated” God - which means that he cried out to God in a long, continual, desperate crying out to the Lord. He didn't just pray some wimpy prayer and then wonder why God didn't answer, but in his desperation he cried out to God over and over and over and over....he prayed for God to intervene just as He had done for his father and mother.

Just as Jesus prayed in desperation until His sweat became as drops of blood in the Garden on the night he was betrayed, we must be willing to do the same when we

want God to help us. We've got to get desperate before God and cry out to Him. Isaac prayed this kind of prayer to God on behalf of his wife, Rebekah.

We know from the Bible that Isaac and Rebekah did everything right. We know that Isaac was the son of promise. We know that Rebekah was from the right family, and was handpicked by God himself to be Isaac's wife. And yet...she was barren; childless; unable to have children on her own. God had to get involved in order for the promise to come to pass. And you know what? God came through! Verse 21 says that ***"The Lord answered (Isaac's) prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant."***

(Share your own personal story or reference a story that you've heard about a friend getting pregnant)

When my wife became pregnant for the first time, it was a time of great celebration. You want to tell anybody will listen, "We're having a baby! We're having a baby!" Everything about the process of having a baby is so cool; when you hear the baby's heartbeat for the first time, when you see the baby's picture in the ultrasound, when the baby kicks for the first time. I used to sing songs to my wife's tummy so the baby would get to know my voice. We'd dream about how to decorate the baby's room and we even went and picked out furniture! We'd look at little dresses and little soft jammies with little footies. So cute! So fun! So exciting to have a baby!

THE CHILDREN STRUGGLE WITHIN HER:

But we learn in verse 22 that not all was rosy and happy during Rebekah's pregnancy. There were problems. Verse 22 talks about how the twins struggled and jostled within her. It was like the two brothers were already fighting over stuff. "I want this part of the umbilical cord!", "No, I want this part of the umbilical cord!" "You're on my side of the womb! Get on your own side!" The word "struggle" here means to "crush" or "break in pieces." This was not a small, mild pain that Rebekah was having. In fact, it was much worse than normal labor pains. She knew that something was wrong. She cried out to the Lord, "If all is well, why am I like this? What is happening to me?" There was literally a war going on inside of her, and how could God answer their prayers for children and then allow this to happen?

ACCORDING TO PLAN:

So she prayed to the Lord, and the Lord assured her that everything was according to his plan. Everything was as God wanted it to be. The Lord said "Two nations are in your womb. Two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

There was something very unusual about what the Lord told Rebekah. He said "the elder shall serve the younger." That's not the way it is supposed to be! The younger is

supposed to serve the older. How many in the room are the oldest brother or sister? **(Ask for a show of hands.)** Are you the boss among your brothers and sisters? That's right! It's the birthright to be boss (*giggle*). It's the oldest that's supposed to get the blessing. God's choosing of Jacob the younger over Esau the older was against the natural order. But you know.... God doesn't always do things in the way we would expect. All throughout Scripture God chooses the younger instead of the older: Joseph, Moses, David, and Solomon are just a few examples of God choosing the younger over the older to serve Him.

By God's own choosing, God decided that the promised line would belong to Jacob, the younger son. Now at first look, it kind of looks like God had made a mistake. Not only did He choose the younger son, but He also chose the one with bad character.

THE BIRTH:

(Bring a volunteer kid up to the front, and instruct him to face in the opposite direction of you and lift his foot behind him towards you.) The name Jacob means "to defraud, deceive...to overthrow a person by tripping up his heels." **(Grabbing the kid's heel)** Jacob was the "heel catcher" because when he came out of the womb, the Bible says that Jacob was holding the heel of Esau, which was a sign of things to come; Jacob would always be trying to trip up Esau and trick him. Jacob was a cheater and not always truthful.

Although twins, the boys didn't look at all the same. Esau was covered in red hair (in fact the name Esau means "hairy").

Show slide ("Hypertrichosis")

Some people believe that Esau had a disease called "Hypertrichosis", also known as the "werewolf disease". **(Looking at pictures on screen)** Isn't that crazy?! So, when the Bible says that Esau was born with hair all over him, this is what it might have looked like.

Jacob had smooth skin. Esau was not only hairy but had darker skin than Jacob, he was called "Edom" – Hebrew for "red." How would you like to be nicknamed "Big, hairy Red"? Esau loved the great outdoors and the thrill of hunting wild animals while Jacob stayed close to home caring for his father's flock and puttering around the kitchen with Mom.

THE BIRTHRIGHT:

Although Jacob was younger and the quieter of the two boys, God promised that he would be the dominant one, and the one to receive the birthright usually reserved for the eldest son. Receiving the birthright meant getting a larger portion of Dad's estate (his stuff), it meant enjoying all that God had promised to Grandpa Abraham, including that the Savior, Jesus, would come through his family line. The birthright was

something each boy should value and protect and never want to give up. Not Esau; he was thinking of his stomach first! How many of you are guilty of thinking of your stomachs first? *(Have a show of hands.)* “I’ll give you my Darth Maul double light saber for that last chocolate chip cookie?!”

THE TRADE:

One day, Esau came home from a hunting trip just totally hungry. There was a rumble in his tummy! As he drew near the tents his family called home, he smelled something delicious. He started walking faster to the outdoor kitchen where he found Jacob stirring a pot of lentil stew. Esau said to his brother: **“Quick, let me have some of that red stew!”** (Genesis 25:30a) That Bible translation doesn’t quite capture Esau’s desperation for the stew. Esau literally barked: “Let me gulp some of that red stuff; that red stuff there!” Esau didn’t care what Jacob had cooked up, he just needed something to fill his tummy tum tum.... and now!

Like at a garage sale, Jacob wanted to make a sale. He wanted to make a trade. Jacob answered his brother’s demand with a demand of his own: **“First sell me your birthright”** (Genesis 25:31). This is not a very even trade at all! Not only is the trade not fair, but Jacob is not being very generous; he’s being a stinker. He’s saying, “I’ll do something for you if you do something for me.”

While Jacob’s stew may have smelled tasty, his attitude stunk. When your brother is hungry and asks for food, you don’t say: “What’s in it for me? What will you give me for it?” You feed him, not asking for anything in return; that’s the right thing to do. What was Jacob up to anyway? Jacob was trying to secure the birthright that God had said would be his. The crazy thing here is that Jacob was trying to purchase something that God already had set aside for him! We do the same thing when we somehow believe that we have to “do” something to get into heaven. Jesus shouted from the cross: “It is finished!” (John 19:30). With that he assured us that everything has been done for sinners to enter heaven. Jesus paid for every one of our sins. There is nothing we must do to secure eternal life. God doesn’t need our help in the matter. He’s done it all through Jesus! Believe it!

ESAU DESPISED THE BLESSING:

While Jacob was guilty of thinking God needed his help to fulfill his promises, he at least knew what was worth getting and holding onto. His older brother Esau didn’t really care about what he was giving up. When Jacob demanded the birthright in exchange for a bowl of stew, Esau responded: **“Look, I am about to die here! I’m starving to death! What good is the birthright to me?”** (Genesis 25:32) And so after swearing to give Jacob the birthright Esau ate and drank and left with hardly a thought of what he had just given up. The Bible says that Esau despised the birthright (Genesis 25:34). To “despise” means to “hate” - Esau didn’t think the birthright to be

worth more than a couple of pennies you and I might throw to a sidewalk vendor selling corndogs.

PERSONAL STORY:

(Holding a bowl with a spoon in it) Just like that boy (*fill in your own example*) who traded his tortoise for half a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, Esau took his precious blessing and carelessly traded it all for a bowl of soup. God could see this attitude in Esau even when he was still in Rebekah's womb; this came as no surprise to God. Jacob was a cheater and conniver, but at least he desired the blessings of God.

(Show screen – “Take-Away Point”)

Let's go over our Take-Away Point of the day with our Action Hero, Obeyviator. Say it together with me: **“Esau despised his birthright and Jacob got Isaac's blessing.”**

Obeyviator is our action hero for the character trait of “obey.” Rather than super heroes, we have “action” heroes, because as Jesus followers, we are called to put our faith into action. Obeyviator is a pilot, and loves to fly! However, Obeyviator has a hard time sitting still or paying attention to details. He may find it hard to stay focused and listen for long periods of time. Can any of you relate to Obeyviator? I know I can! But you know – he knows this is something he has to continue to work on, and he doesn't get defensive or angry when someone smiles at how forgetful his is, or when he does something crazy without thinking through all the consequences. Obeyviator knows that he needs to surround himself with people who will encourage him, and give him good advice. And though it's hard, he asks God, daily, to help him to slow down, think things through, so he can make a wise choice.

It makes me wonder that if Esau acted like our friend, Obeyviator, and just stopped, paused to think it through before he traded his birthright for a bowl of soup – I wonder if he would have still done it, or whether he would have made a wiser choice.

EVALUATE their understanding

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 2 - EVALUATE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.

(While small groups are going, use this time to check your notes, reset your props, and walk around to some of the groups and listen to how it's going.)

CHALLENGE them

3rd Segment: (5 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **encourage and challenge the kids** to take a spiritual step forward this week. We want them to stop and think, make better choices, form new habits and bring God into their everyday world. This is a great time to speak from your heart and then pray for them.

PROPS n things

- Four balls of some kind – to represent portions of the blessing

BEGIN speaking

(Calling up three kids to the front) Later on in chapter 27, the prophecy in chapter 25 that the older would serve the younger is completed when Jacob steals the blessing from Esau. He tricked his dad in thinking that he is Esau instead of Jacob. While Esau was out hunting, Jacob cooked a fine meal for his father, Isaac. Rachel even helped Jacob put on animal skins on his arms to make him appear hairier like Esau. It worked and Isaac blessed Jacob instead of Esau. Jacob already had Esau's birthright, and now he had his blessing as well...just as God had ordered it be.

When the oldest child got their father's blessing, they got an extra portion of their father's stuff. **(Taking the 3 balls)** For example, if there are only two kids, the inheritance would be broken up into thirds. **(Using only two kids, give each of them one ball each, and then give another ball to the first kid, now holding two balls).** Each child would get one third, and then the oldest would get the remaining third – an extra portion. **(Holding up four balls)** If there were three children in the family, the inheritance would be broken up into fourths. Each child would get a fourth **(Give each of the kids one ball a piece, and then give the first kid another ball so he now holds two balls.)** and then the oldest child would get the remaining fourth. Does that make sense?

Jacob was all about the birthright and the blessing. Esau was mad that Jacob stole the blessing, but he already disobeyed his earthly father, Isaac, and his heavenly Father by marrying outside of the Jewish line. This was not allowed. His disobedience lost him both his birthright and his blessing. Esau was left with nothing. As a result, the older now served the younger, just as the Lord had told Rebekah before they were born.

Kids, sometimes because you are young, you may disobey your parents, and that disobedience causes you to lose out on something cool. When we disobey God, we can lose out on something great that He has planned for us when we are older. But you are not thinking about when you are older; you are only thinking about the “now.” God wants us to value what He has promised to us. He doesn't want us to throw it away or trade it in for something temporary and cheap.

What the most precious promise and blessing that God has offered to each and every one of us? **(Take answers)** It's the gift of salvation – the promise that if we believe and trust in the Lord, and obey His commands, we will live with Him forever in eternity.

Show slide (“Spotlight Verse”)

Say the Spotlight Verse with me from Psalm 119:10: **“I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.”**

Great job! Next week, we are going to talk more about Jacob and the crazy things we do for love! It would be a great week to invite your friends. Let's pray right now and ask God to help us to never take the blessing of salvation.

Let's Pray: **“Dear God, only You know what our “bowl of soup” is. What are we tempted to give up that is as important in exchange for some quick, cheap and temporary happiness? Search our hearts. For some of us, we might be giving up our parents trust in us when we tell a lie. For others, we might be giving up an important friendship when we choose to gossip about them to others. Whatever it is, help us to be strong and not give in to such temptation. To love You is to obey, and to obey is to value the things that you value; things that will last long after we're done living here on earth. Thank you for loving us and showing us what is truly valuable in life. In Jesus Name, Amen.”**

Until we see you next week, trust and obey God in everything you think, do, an say. Have a great week!

ENCOURAGE their walk

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 3 - ENCOURAGE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.



EXPLORE
their opinion
EVALUATE
their understanding
ENCOURAGE
their work

WEEK 1: Birthrights N Blessings

EXPLORE – their opinion

Have any of you ever had a garage sale or gone to a garage sale? What kinds of things did you sell? What kinds of things have you bought at a garage sale?

Have you ever done a trade with someone at school or with a neighbor? **(Tell a personal story of something you traded for as a kid. Talk about how stupid it was for you to make the trade. Then take answers from the kids.)**

Let's say our tagline together: **"I can stop, pause, and make the right choice."**



**I CAN STOP.
PAUSE. AND MAKE
THE RIGHT CHOICE.**



Stop at the Stop Sign, and wait for further instruction before moving to next segment.

Don't rush it! Remember, the goal is not to just get through it, but to **get it through.**

Your 2 goals: **relate** with them, **reinforce** the lesson.

EXPLORE – their opinion

(Locate the ball and explain to the kids) I'm going to ask you some questions about today's Bible story to see how well you remember. If you think you know the answer, just raise your hand and I'll toss you this ball. Only the person with the ball can speak. When you want to speak, just ask for the ball.

How old was Abraham when he died?

- A. 140 years B. 113 years **C. 175 years** D. 246 years

Isaac married Rebekah. What was Rebekah's big problem?

- A. She had arthritis B. She couldn't cook
C. She was forgetful **D. She couldn't have children**

When Rebekah was pregnancy, who was fighting inside her tummy? **(The twins)**

That's right! The boys were fighting, struggling, jostling. What does the word "struggle" mean? A. To giggle while clearing your throat **B. To break into pieces**
C. To keep 3 balls in the air all at once

God told Rebekah that the older would one day serve the younger. What were the names of the older and younger brother? **(Esau was older; Jacob was younger – by a few minutes)**

What was the meaning of the name "Jacob"?

- A. Bug catcher B. Dog catcher **C. Heel catcher, deceiver**

What did Esau trade is birthright for? **(A bowl of lentil soup)**

Even though Jacob was a stinker, what did God appreciate about Jacob?

- A. He was handsome B. He was a good cook **C. He wanted God's blessing**

Let's say our Take-Away Point for today: **"Esau foolishly traded his birthright for a bowl of soup."**





GRADES
1-3



EXPLORE
their opinion
EVALUATE
their understanding
ENCOURAGE
their walk

**I CAN STOP.
PAUSE. AND MAKE
THE RIGHT CHOICE.**



Encourage the kids to take a practical **ACTION** step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's **Spotlight Verse.**

Prepare to Give is for children's programs that take an offering.

ENCOURAGE – their walk

When we're about to give up a blessing, God wants us to stop, pause and make the right choice before we trade that blessing for something cheap and temporary. What are some blessings that God has given you that we should hold onto like treasures? *(Family, friends, love, health, etc.)*

Let's pray that the Lord will give us strength in those times when we're tempted to trade in something valuable for something that only gives us happiness in the moment: **"Dear God, thank you for the story of Jacob and Esau to help remind us of how much we should treasure the gifts of family, friendship, honesty, trust and obedience. Give us strength to fiercely protect these things, rather than giving into lying, gossip, or disobedience, because that just hurts relationship with You and those who care about us. It's Jesus' name we pray. Amen."**



To help you form good obedient habits, you have a new set of OBEY Action Cards to take home. I want to encourage you to pick one up and do it this week. Once you complete it, bring it back to me for a fun prize.

MEMORIZE – God's Word



SPOTLIGHT VERSE:
"I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands." ~ Psalm 119:10

The word "seek" is an action word. We must chase after the Lord, and once a week at church is not enough. We have to build into our daily routines a time where we read God's Word, so that we know His character and His commands. It's hard to obey a command that we do not know.

PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)

We impact the world through our giving.

We also show our love and obedience towards God when we give.

God is the owner of all that we have: our money, our toys, even our clothes and shoes.

Let's pray that God will give us a heart for the things that matter to God: **"Dear God, part of how we show our love for You is through our obedience to what You say to us through Your Word, the Holy Spirit, and our time in prayer with You. Your word speaks of giving so much that we can't ignore it. You say to give with a cheerful heart. I pray that these kids will always give with joy and abundance, and not just out of obligation. In Jesus' name, Amen."**