
BIG IDEA: GOD HAS A PLAN FOR ME

DATE: OCTOBER 9-10, 2021 — **STORY:** JACOB & ESAU

BIBLE BASIS: GENESIS 25, 27

SERIES: MADE FOR MORE

God has made each of us for something more than we can ever imagine! We will be reading through passages in the book of Genesis.

MEMORY VERSE

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. —ROMANS 8:28

SCHEDULE

0:00–0:10	Welcome Activities/Check-In
0:10–0:15	Transition to Large Group (B100)
0:15–0:30	Large Group (Worship, Memory Verse, Global Partner Spotlight)
0:30–0:35	Transition to Small Group (Back to Classrooms)
0:35–1:05	Small Group (Storytelling, Questions, Big Idea Connection, Respond Activity)
1:05–1:15	Dismiss/Additional Activities (During Check-Out)

SERIES OVERVIEW

Date	Story	Big Idea	Bible Basis
September 25-26	Abraham	God Is A Promise Keeper	Genesis 15, 17, 18, 21
October 2-3	Isaac	I Can Always Trust God	Genesis 22
October 9-10	Jacob & Esau	God Has A Plan For Me	Genesis 25, 27
October 16-17	Joseph	Forgive Like God Does	Genesis 41-47
October 23-24	The Burning Bush	God Is With Us	Exodus 1-7
October 30-31	The 10 Plagues	God Is Almighty	Exodus 7-10
November 6-7	The Passover	God Is Our Rescuer	Exodus 11-13
November 13-14	Red Sea Crossing	Be Thankful & Don't Grumble	Exodus 13-17

OCTOBER 9-10

STORY: JACOB & ESAU

GENESIS 25, 27

DEVOTIONAL

Sometimes in my walk with God I find it so easy to take for granted the bazillions of blessings He bestows on me. Good health, food, family, friends, a church community—when you’ve had these things so consistently for so long, it’s easy to forget that these really are gifts straight from God. Unfortunately, it’s often not until I’ve lost them that I really begin to cherish them.

In a way, this is the malady that Esau suffered from. Two of his most cherished possessions should have been his birthright, which gave him an extra portion of his father’s inheritance, and his blessing, which established him as the eventual leader of the family. But this wasn’t the case for Esau. In fact, Genesis 25:34 says that Esau treated his birthright “with contempt.” The Greek word that is used for Esau’s attitude describes someone standing in front of a temple, the holy dwelling of God, rather than within it. The idea is that Esau was standing outside the place of true knowledge. He treated something sacred as if it were common. Did you catch that? He treated something sacred as if it were common. In the Old Testament Jewish culture, the sacred gifts of the birthright and the blessing almost always went to the oldest son. There were very few exceptions to this. Is it possible that Esau always assumed that these gifts would be his? Is it possible he began taking them for granted? If Esau is anything like me, that’s a distinct possibility!

There’s a good chance that, like Esau, we’ve all been treating sacred things like they’re common. Unfortunately for Esau, he didn’t really realize what amazing gifts he had until they were gone. More than that, it was in part because he took them for granted that he lost them. Let’s not make that same mistake. What have you been taking for granted? What blessings do you need God to open your eyes to? I’ll bet that if you stop and really think about it, the magnitude of God’s graciousness in your life will be absolutely overwhelming!

David Rausch

Go Tell It President and Founder

PROVIDED RESOURCES

Welcome Activities: Coloring/Activity pages; blank paper, coloring supplies

Storytelling: Envelopes (1-4)

Big Idea Connection: Question Cards

Respond Activity: Candy

Additional Activities: True/False Signs

***If you need any additional resources, please let us know so that we can provide that for you!*

WELCOME ACTIVITIES

OPTION 1: COLORING PAGE/ ACTIVITY PAGE

Allow students to color or do the activity page on the back.

OPTION 2: THIS OR THAT

An activity to get to know the kids.

Ask kids different “this or that” style questions and point to different sides of the room to represent the two options. They’ll walk over to the side that matches the answer they choose. (i.e. Pizza or Tacos? *Point to the left for pizza and to the right for tacos.* The beach or the mountains? *Point to the left for the beach and the right for the mountains*). Invite kids to suggest their own ideas for questions too.

OPTION 3: STUDENT CHOICE

Allow students to choose which option they would like to do.

STORYTELLING

****Be sure to pass out envelopes beforehand. Envelopes can be found in supply folder****

The Bible is filled with the most amazing stories of God's love for us. In last week's story, we heard about Abraham's son. Does anyone remember what his name was? *(Take answer.)* His name was Isaac. Well, in today's story Isaac is all grown up and married now. And he has some really big news. Let's see what it is. *(Invite kid with envelope #1 to open it and show twin baby picture. Read Genesis 25:21–22.)*

The twins haven't even been born and they're already fighting. In fact, God warned them there's more to come. He said their sons would become two nations who fight with one another and the older son will serve the younger son. Wait—time out! Did you hear that part? The older son will serve the younger son. In the Old Testament, it was supposed to be the other way around. If you were the older son, you'd probably want to yell, "That's not fair!" Can you yell that with me? *(Yell with kids.)*

When the twins were finally born, the older was named Esau. He was covered with thick hair like a fur coat. Isn't that interesting? A super-hairy baby! The younger son was named Jacob and thankfully, he wasn't nearly as hairy! As the boys grew up, Esau became a hunter. He was the rugged outdoorsman type. But Jacob was kind of quiet and crafty. Let's take a look at what Jacob does to Esau. *(Invite kid with envelope #2 to open it and show bowl and spoon picture. Read Genesis 25:29–33.)*

Let me explain what the birthright is. In the Old Testament, the birthright was supposed to go to the oldest son. That means the oldest son was supposed to get twice as much money and stuff. But God had a different plan. God's plan was that Jacob would get the birthright. That probably didn't seem fair to Esau, though. Can you imagine what he wanted to yell? *(Prompt the kids to yell "that's not fair!")* Jacob wasn't done, though. He had another trick up his sleeve. Let's see what it was. *(Invite kid with envelope #3 to open it and show bow and arrow picture. Read Genesis 27:1–4.)*

The Bible says that Rebecca overheard what Isaac had said. Jacob was her favorite kid, though, and she wanted him to get the blessing. So she told Jacob to take Isaac a special meal, pretend to be Esau, and trick his father into giving him the blessing instead of Esau. There was just one problem, though. Does anyone remember what was different about Esau? *(Call on kid.)* He was super hairy. So Rebecca took goat's skin and covered Jacob's arms and neck. She dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes and sent him in to his father's room with the

STORYTELLING (CONT.)

special meal. Do you think the trick is going to work? (*Kids respond.*) (*Invite kid with envelope #4 to open it and show hands picture. Read Genesis 27:21–23.*)

The blessing was supposed to go to the oldest son. It meant that the oldest son would be the leader of the family. But God had a different plan. God's plan was that Jacob would get the blessing. But can you imagine what Esau wanted to yell when he found out? (*Prompt kids to yell, "that's not fair!"*) Actually, Esau did more than just yell. He started to think about how to kill Jacob. So Jacob fled to another land to live with his uncle Laban. Even though Jacob went about it the wrong way and it seemed totally unfair, it was God's plan all along that Jacob, not Esau, would receive the birthright and blessing.

QUESTIONS

This can be done as a large group or in table groups

For Younger Kids:

1. It was God's plan all along for Jacob to get the birthright and blessing, but do you think what Jacob did to get them was fair? Why or why not?
2. If you were Esau, what would you have done when your brother tricked you?

For Older Kids:

1. If you were Esau, do you think you would have been upset with God's plan? Why or why not?
2. What do you think this story teaches us about God?

BIG IDEA CONNECTION

****Question cards are in your supplies folder, you'll need them for the game!****

In today's story, Esau got pretty mad about being tricked out of his birthright and blessing. Esau's not the only one who feels that way, though. In fact, we all kind of get a little upset when things aren't fair. And right now we're going to find that out by playing a game called "That's Not Fair"...yell it with me—"That's Not Fair!"

(Invite up two volunteers. Each contestant will take turns answering questions. If they get their question right, they'll receive a piece of candy. Contestant #1 will always receive difficult questions, whereas contestant #2 will receive easy questions. At the end, announce contestant #2 as the winner and have everyone applaud.)

Did it seem like that game was fair? *(Kids respond.)* No—it wasn't. The questions for contestant #1 were impossible to answer, but they were super easy for contestant #2. And you know what—that kind of thing happens to all of us sometimes and we just want to yell, *(prompt kids to yell with you)* "That's not fair!" So how do you respond when something seems unfair? Do you get really upset like Esau and yell, "That's not fair!" or do you trust that even unfair things can be a part of God's incredible plan for your life? Take a look at what our memory verse. *(Read Romans 8:28 together.)*

That verse tells us that God works all things for our good. Even when something unfair happens to us, we have to trust that God can use it as a part of His amazing plan. In fact, if we look hard enough, we might even see how what we thought was unfair was actually good for us.

Think about our two contestants for a second. It wasn't fair that contestant #1 got all of the super hard questions. But they probably didn't realize that there wasn't just a prize for getting the answer right. There's also a prize for having a good attitude! *(Give the rest of the candy bag to contestant #1 and have the kids applaud for them.)* In fact, the prize for having a good attitude was a lot better. Sometimes unfair things happen, but **we can trust God and know He has plans for our lives and works things out for our good!**

We can also trust that God's plans will work out even if we make mistakes. Jacob didn't make the right choices in our story, but that didn't stop God's plans and God still worked everything together for His will.

So what about you? Have you had some unfair or bad things happen to you? Do you need to trust that it's all a part of God's wonderful plan for your life? Have you made a mistake or felt like you messed up? Do you need to trust that God still has a plan for you and will work everything out for good? Let's pray together. *(Pray as you feel led by the Holy Spirit.)*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

In today's story, kids learned about how God has plans for our lives and we can trust them. We can trust that God's plans will not be stopped and that God can work together unfair situations and even our mistakes for His good.

CANDY QUESTIONS:

Say: We all have things happen in our lives that seem to be unfair. A lot of times we just end up getting mad about it, but there's another way we can respond. And sometimes, we make mistakes and don't do things the way that God wants us to. Those mistakes might make us feel really bad and might make us feel like we can't talk to God or that God can't bring good in our lives because of it. Whether something unfair happened to you, or you made a mistake, we can always trust that God still has a plan for our lives and God works everything out for good. Right now we're going to talk about different ways we could respond to unfair situations or to making a mistake, but we're going to do something fun to decide who gets to talk.

Directions: Hand each child a jolly rancher. Tell them they cannot eat it yet. Then, call out a color of jolly rancher and allow kids with that color to answer the one of the following questions with the group. (i.e. Anyone with a blue jolly rancher gets a turn to talk.) After, they can eat their candy.

Question 1: When is the last time you wanted to yell, "That's not fair!"?

Question 2: When was the last time you made a mistake?

After the kid tells about his situation, ask the rest of the group how God might want them to respond in that situation. For example, if a kid tells a story about how they got blamed for something they didn't do, God would want them to forgive the person who actually did it. Or if they were mean to a friend at school, God would want them to seek forgiveness.

***REMEMBER not every kid may feel ready or comfortable with sharing. Don't pressure them to. Maybe ask them one of the questions below or ask them something about the story or what they learned or liked.**

Repeat the process until every kid in your group has had a turn to share. If time remains at the end, ask your group the following questions:

Question: What do you think it means that God has a plan for your life?

Question: What are some of the wonderful things you think God might have planned for you?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

*These **additional activities** are completely optional. These activities are meant to fill any time that you may have left. Students can participate or finish their respond activity. Have your adult helper check-out students while you do one or more of the options with the students who are waiting to be picked up by their parents.*

TRUE/FALSE WALLS:

Bible Story Review Game

Tape up the "True" and "False" signs on opposite sides of the room. Read out the following statements and have kids walk over to which side they think is the right answer to help them remember today's story. Feel free to think of your own questions as well and ask kids to explain their answer choices!

1. Jacob was Esau's older brother. (F)
2. Esau was a hunter. (T)
3. Jacob was his father's favorite. (F, he was his mother's favorite)
4. Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of stew. (T)
5. Jacob was very hairy. (F)
6. Jacob tricked his father. (T)
7. Esau didn't care that he lost the blessing. (F)
8. God can't use unfair things or mistakes for good or to do His plans. (F, Romans 8:28)
9. Our current memory verse is John 3:16. (F, it is Romans 8:28)

ROLL CALL:

Bible Memorization Activity

Call out different characteristics about the kids. The kids who match that get to stand up and say the verse together. Keep going until the verse is memorized. Examples shown below:

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| 1. Everyone wearing blue. | 6. Everyone with siblings. | 11. Everyone with a jacket. |
| 2. Everyone who ate breakfast today. | 7. Everyone who likes pizza. | 12. Everyone who likes math. |
| 3. Everyone who plays sports. | 8. Everyone who likes tacos. | 13. Everyone who brought their bible. |
| 4. Everyone who likes to sing. | 9. Everyone who has a pet. | 14. Everyone who came to church today. |
| 5. Everyone wearing sandals. | 10. Everyone who likes camping. | |