Lessons for the Leader

Week of February 13, 2011

Have you seen a family almost destroyed because of sibling rivalry? The Bible gives us an example. Imagine the dynamics happening within Jacob and Esau’s family.

- Read Genesis 25:19-26. These verses provide the background of Jacob and Esau’s births. Notice that the struggle between the brothers began before they were born.
- Read verses 27-34. How much did a pot of stew cost Esau? A birthright was ‘a special right based on order of birth and inheritance.’ Typically, the firstborn Hebrew son received a double portion of the inheritance as well as a major blessing from the father. Do you think Esau understood the implications of his agreement with Jacob?
- Read Genesis 27:1-45. What type of relationship did Rebekah and Isaac share? How would present-day psychologists describe the environment in which the family lived? Do you see love and forgiveness demonstrated in this family?
- Glance over Genesis 28–31. Notice how the choices made by Jacob and Esau not only affected them, but also their families and people around them.
- Read Genesis 32:1-23. How would you feel if you were preparing to be reunited with your sibling?
- Read Genesis 33. If this were the first time you had heard the story of Jacob and Esau, would you have imagined this is how it would end?
- Think about your own family. What types of relationships are present in your family? Do your family members know you love and forgive them? Does each person in your family feel he has the love and respect he deserves? Spend time praying for your family members by name.

What do these symbols mean?

1 ➔ Application Activities Format: Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.

1 Large Group Only Format: Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.

Jacob and Esau

Bible Passage: Genesis 25:24-26; 27:35,41a; 32:1-7,13-21; 33:1-5,8-11

Key Bible Verse
Do all you can to get along with others.
Romans 12:18

Life Application
I can show love to others by recognizing when I hurt them.

Level of Biblical Learning (Self)
I can begin to recognize when I hurt others.

Session at a Glance

Introduction to Worship (6 to 8 minutes)
Greet Children
Toss Balls

Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)
Welcome Children and Pray
Sing “Jesus Was a Loving Teacher”
Sing “Jesus Loves Children”
Learn New Words
Find It!
Tell the Bible Story
Make Application
Learn Today’s Bible Verse
Review the Bible Story
Sing “Jesus Is All The World to Me”
Present Offering and Pray
Use Worship Guides
Play a Game
Transition

Application Activities (20 minutes)
Wrap-Up (10 minutes)
Introduction to Worship

1 ➔ Greet Children

Pull It Together
Offering container

• Show children where to place their offerings.

2 ➔ Toss Balls

Pull It Together
Various soft balls or beanbags (1 per group)

• Create groups of three children.
• Give each group a ball.
• Set parameters about how the ball can be used, such as how high it can be tossed or how it can be thrown (underhanded, over the shoulder).
• Encourage children to toss the ball and create their own throwing styles (throw with left hand, catch with fingers intertwined, etc.).
• Direct: "Now roll the ball to each person in your group. The ball must stay on the floor."
• Change the way the ball is moved through the group (bounce, pass, toss) every minute.
• Collect balls as you comment: "I like how everyone got along as we played with the balls."

Worship

3 ➔ Welcome Children and Pray (1 minute)

• Say: "I'm glad you are here. Let's pray we have a good time while we learn."
• Pray.

4 ➔ Sing "Jesus Was a Loving Teacher" (DVD, 2 minutes)

5 Sing "Jesus Loves Children" (DVD, 2 minutes)

6 ➔ Learn New Words (5 minutes)

Pull It Together
Paper lunch bag, scissors, whistle
• Print "Blessings" (CD), cut apart, and place in bag.

Definitions

Blessing: special words that a father told his children; saying or wishing good for others
Inheritance: items a person gets usually after another person dies; examples include land, livestock, money

• Explain and talk about the words.
• Instruct: "Let's hear some blessings. We'll pass the bag around the group. When I blow the whistle, whoever is holding the bag will pull out a blessing for me to read."
• Direct children to pass the bag, stopping when the whistle is blown.
• Read aloud each blessing.
• Comment: "We wished good for each other with the blessings I just read. In our Bible story, the father gives a blessing to his son. This blessing is more special than just wishing good for his son. This blessing means giving his son his inheritance—his part of his father's land, animals, and money."

7 ➔ Find It! (2 minutes)

Pull It Together
Print Genesis from "Bible Books" (CD).

• Display and read aloud the title Genesis.
• Say: "Open your Bible to the Book of Genesis."
• Guide children to close their Bibles and quickly open to the Book of Genesis.
• Explain: "Our Bible story is from several chapters in the Book of Genesis."

8 ➔ Tell the Bible Story (7 minutes)

• State: "Our Bible story is about twin brothers, Jacob and Esau. What is the first letter of the name Jacob? (J) What is the first letter of the name Esau? (E) Esau was older than Jacob. E comes before J in the alphabet. Let's learn how the younger brother hurt the older brother."
• Open your Bible to Genesis and tell the story.

Jacob and Esau

Based on Genesis 25:24-26; 27:35,41a; 32:1-7,13-21; 33:1-5,8-11

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons—Esau and Jacob. Since Esau was born first, he would receive a bigger inheritance and a special blessing from his father Isaac.
Jacob wanted the special blessing for himself. Rebekah planned a way for Jacob to get it. Isaac was old and could not see well. Jacob pretended to be Esau and asked his father for the blessing. Isaac gave Jacob the blessing. Esau was mad at Jacob and wanted to hurt him, so Jacob had to leave home.

Many years later, Jacob wanted to go home. He took his family and flocks and started walking home. He wondered what Esau would do. Jacob knew his brother had been angry and upset after he had been unkind. Before Jacob reached home, he sent gifts ahead to Esau. The gifts included hundreds of animals—donkeys, goats, cows, and camels. The Bible lists the exact numbers of the animals given.

Esau took 400 men with him to meet Jacob. Esau saw Jacob coming. He ran to his brother, hugged him, and kissed him. Esau was not mad at Jacob anymore. "Who are these people with you?" Esau asked. "This is my family God has given me," replied Jacob.

Esau was surprised by all of the gifts. "I don’t need any gifts," Esau said. But Jacob answered, "God has been good to me. Please take the gifts." Esau accepted the gifts. He wanted to show love to Jacob, his family, and servants.

9  Make Application (3 minutes)
  • State: "Sometimes we act mean or say unkind things to our family and friends. We do things that hurt them. What does hurt mean?" (cause physical pain; cause sadness with ugly words)
  • Ask: "Has a friend hurt you?"
  • Invite a few responses.
  • Say: "Jacob took the inheritance that belonged to Esau. Jacob realized he hurt Esau and left. We can show love to people when we recognize we hurt them. If what we say or do will hurt someone, we do not need to say or do it. If we have hurt someone, we need to tell that person we are sorry. We should get along with people."

10  Learn Today’s Bible Verse (5 minutes)
    Pull It Together
    Print "Romans 12:18" (CD).
  • Display and read aloud the verse.
  • Lead children to repeat the verse several times.
Wrap-Up
(Large Group Only Format)

17 Sing "Great Big Praise" (DVD, 2 minutes)

18 Review (3 minutes)

Pull It Together
"Teaching Picture 11 Jacob and Esau" from step 11

- Display the teaching picture.
- Invite children to retell the Bible story.
- Ask: "Did Jacob hurt Esau? (yes) Did Esau forgive Jacob? (yes) We should think about our words or actions before we say or do them. Our words and actions should make people happy and not sad."

19 Review the Bible Verse (3 minutes)

Pull It Together
"Romans 12:18" from step 10

- Display the verse.
- Direct children to jump as they say each word of the Bible verse.
- Point to each word as it is said.
- Say it slowly, then faster.

20 Apply (2 minutes)

- Ask: "What did we learn from our Bible story?"
- Encourage responses.
- Close: "We are to show love and get along with others. Let’s show some love this week."

21 Dismiss the Children to Their Parents

Review Questions
1. What were the names of the twins in today’s story? (Jacob and Esau)
2. What did Jacob want that Esau had? (his father’s blessing)
3. What did Jacob do to get the blessing? (pretended to be Esau)
4. Why did Jacob have to leave his home? (Esau was angry with him about the blessing.)
5. When Jacob wanted to go home again, he thought his brother might still be angry with him. What did he do? (sent gifts ahead to him)
6. What did Esau do when he saw Jacob coming? (ran to him, hugged, and kissed him)
7. How did Jacob show love to his brother? (gave him gifts)
8. How did Esau show love to his brother? (accepted the gifts and forgave Jacob)

Wrap-Up
(Application Activities Format)

17 Sing "Great Big Praise" (DVD, 2 minutes)

18 Review Application Activities (2 minutes)

- Call on several children to tell what they did in their Application Activities.
  - Arts and Crafts—Make Door Hangers
  - Dramatic Play—Decide How to Get Along
  - Games—Find the Twins
  - Exploration and Discovery—Count How Many
- State: "In our activities we learned we show love to others by recognizing when we hurt them. We should think before we say or do things."

19 Review the Bible Verse (3 minutes)

Pull It Together
"Romans 12:18" from step 10

- Display the verse.
- Direct children to jump as they say each word of the Bible verse.
- Point to each word as it is said.
- Say it slowly, then faster.

20 Apply (2 minutes)

- Ask: "What did we learn from our Bible story?"
- Encourage responses.
- Close: "We are to show love and get along with others. Let’s show some love this week."

21 Dismiss the Children to Their Parents

Truth to Include for "Isaac Was Kind" Bible Story:
- Say after completing step 9: "We can learn getting along with others shows love."

* Giant Game Floor Mat (001114564) may be ordered through LifeWay Christian Resources Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-2772 or online at www.lifeway.com.
Select from the following choices. Each choice is designed for 20 minutes of small group time.

**Application Activities**

**Make Door Hangers**
- Ask: "What did Jacob do to let Esau know he was sorry for hurting him? (sent gifts to Esau) Did Esau forgive Jacob?" (yes)
- Talk with the children about how they get along with their own siblings.
- Listen to the experiences and acknowledge good choices the kids made.
- Display a door hanger paper and read aloud the verse.
- Instruct: "We are to get along with people. Let’s make door hangers to help us remember to get along. Add the foam shapes to the hangers, then draw the arms, legs, and faces for people. Use circles for heads and rectangles for bodies. Draw pictures of your family members and friends."
- Distribute supplies.
- Demonstrate how to draw faces and arms to make people.
- Talk about ways we hurt others with our words and actions.
- Conclude: "The Bible says, 'do all you can to get along with others.' Romans 12:18. We show love to people by recognizing or knowing when we hurt them. We can also learn to stop our words or actions before we hurt someone. Display your door hangers at home as reminders to get along with others."
- Lead children to clean the area.
- Pray.

**Worship Through Arts and Crafts**

**Worship Through Dramatic Play**

**Decide How to Get Along**
- Direct children to sit in a circle.
- Give two children the animal figures.
- Instruct: "We will pass the animals around the circle in opposite directions. [Say child's name], pass your animal to your right. [Assist child with passing to the right.] [Say child's name], pass your animal to your left. [Assist child with passing to the left.] When I call 'Freeze,' the kids holding the animals will come play out a situation for everyone else to guess what is happening. Then we will decide the best way to get along with others in that situation."
- Guide children to pass the animals and freeze.
- Lead children to play out the situations [see margin for situations].
- Direct children to state how to properly get along with others in the situations.
- Continue to pass and play.
- Conclude: "The Bible says, 'do all you can to get along with others.' Romans 12:18. We show love to people by recognizing or knowing when we hurt them. We can also learn to stop our words or actions before we hurt someone. Let's do all we can to get along with people this week."
- Pray.

**Pull It Together**

Foam shapes (basic shapes), thick construction paper or heavyweight paper, glue, pens, scissors, narrow ribbon, tape
- Print "Door Hanger" (CD). Print 1 per child.
- Cut out door hangers.
- Fold door hangers along solid lines.

**Teacher Tip**

Listen to the children as they discuss their own relationships and guide children to think of ways to get along.

**Pull It Together**

2 animal figures or beanbags

**Situations**
- Knock down other kids' buildings when playing with blocks.
- Color on or tear someone’s paper as he colors.
- Take a doll away from someone.
- Call someone a name.
- Tell a teacher no.
- Talk when the teacher is telling the Bible story or talking.
- Pull someone’s hair or hit someone.
- Play and making a mess in the bathroom.
- Yell loudly in class.
- Push someone out of the way.

**Pull It Together**

Foam shapes (basic shapes), thick construction paper or heavyweight paper, glue, pens, scissors, narrow ribbon, tape
- Print "Door Hanger" (CD). Print 1 per child.
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**Teacher Tip**

Listen to the children as they discuss their own relationships and guide children to think of ways to get along.
Worship Through Games

Find the Twins

- Review: "Jacob and Esau were twins even though they did not look alike. These brothers did not always get along. Jacob stole from Esau. Jacob realized that he had treated Esau badly. Jacob asked Esau to forgive him and Esau did."
- Ask: "What did Jacob send to Esau as a way of saying he was sorry? (herds of goats, sheep, camels, cows, and donkeys) Let’s match pictures of things that go together. We’ll match pictures of the animals and the men."
- Play one or more of the variations noted on the CD item.
- Guide children to state ways they hurt or get along with others.
- Conclude: "The Bible says, 'do all you can to get along with others.' Romans 12:18. We show love to others by recognizing or knowing when we hurt them. We can also learn to stop our words or actions before we hurt someone. Try to get along with others this week."
- Pray.

Worship Through Exploration and Discovery

Count How Many

- Comment: "There were a lot of numbers mentioned in our Bible story today. Let’s study these numbers to see how big or small they are. How many make up twins?"
- Count to two and name the brothers, Esau and Jacob.
- State: "A fact stated in Genesis 33 is that 400 men came with Esau to meet Jacob. Let’s see how big 400 is. Let’s spread 40 plates on the floor. We will each count out 10 beans and put them on the individual plates."
- Help the children count groups of 10 beans and place them on the plates.
- Teach: "Forty groups of 10 make 400. That is why we put 40 plates on the floor."
- Listen as children discuss the number.
- Review: "Jacob realized he had hurt Esau. Jacob wanted to send Esau a gift as a way of showing love. Let’s see how big Jacob’s gift was by focusing on the various numbers of animals Jacob sent to Esau."
- Read aloud Genesis 32:14-15 to discover the number of each animal.
- Invite the children to count the number of beans for each animal and place the beans on the animal picture plate. For example, 200 beans will be counted and placed on the plate with the picture of the nanny goat. Twenty beans will be counted and placed on the billy goat plate.
- Encourage the preschoolers to look at how many beans are on the plates.
- Add the beans to discover the total number of animals given. (550)
- Remark: "Jacob realized he had hurt Esau. Jacob decided to give Esau this gift as a way to show Esau love. When we hurt someone, even when we hurt someone’s feelings, God wants us to find a way to show that person love. Can you think of some ideas of how to show love to someone we hurt? (Answers will vary, but some suggestions are: saying "I’m sorry," doing something kind for them, or praying for them.)"
- Pray.

Pull It Together

Chairs, scissors, tape
- Print "Twins" (CD).
- Print 1 picture per child.
- Cut apart cards.

Teacher Tips
- Glue pictures to construction paper for durability.
- Be mindful of girls in dresses if they lay on the floor.
- Emphasize the pictures go together somehow and kids are not matching identical pictures.

Pull It Together

Bible, dried pinto beans (1 bag), 50 paper plates, scissors, glue, construction paper
- Print and cut apart "Twins" (CD).
- Place each animal picture on a paper plate.

Teacher Tips
- Estimate about 100 dried pinto beans per ¼ cup.
- Explain the terms: "jenny" and "jack" and "nanny" and "billy" are the proper names of female and male donkeys and goats.
Color all of the spaces with dots.

Draw lines to connect the opposite pictures.

Color On Your Own Paper
Build with a Friend
Say Nice Things
Take Turns
Keep Hands to Yourself
Say Mean Things
Hit or Pinch
Mark on Someone Else's Paper
Knock Down Other's Buildings
Take Things from Others

I can show love to others by recognizing when I hurt them.

Do all you can to get along with others. Romans 12:18
Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:24-26; 27:35, 41a; 32:1-7, 13-21; 33:1-5, 8-11

Week of February 13, 2011

Draw lines to connect the opposite pictures.

- Color On Your Own Paper
- Build with a Friend
- Say Nice Things
- Take Turns
- Keep Hands to Yourself
- Say Mean Things
- Hit or Pinch
- Mark on Someone Else’s Paper
- Knock Down Other’s Buildings
- Take Things from Others

Color all of the spaces with dots.

I can show love to others by recognizing when I hurt them.

Do all you can to get along with others. Romans 12:18

Genesis 25:24-26; 27:35,41a; 32:1-7,13-21; 33:1-5,8-11
Genesis
I wish happy days for you.

I wish healthy food for you.

I wish good things for you.

I wish for you to help many people.

I wish for you to be loved by others.

I wish for you to have teachers who love you.

I wish many hugs for you.

I wish good friends for you.
Do all you can to get along with others.

Romans 12:18
How Can You Move?
Foot
Arm
Do all you can to get along with others.

Romans 12:18
**Human Match**

- Choose two children to be the players. Direct these two children to turn away from the other children.
- Tape a card, faceup, to all the other children’s shirts.
- Direct children with cards taped to their shirts to lie facedown on the floor in two or three rows.
- Inform players to take turns choosing two “cards.” A player calls out the names of two children. The two children roll over revealing their cards. If the cards match, the children get up and stand by the player who called their names. If the cards do not match, the children roll back over.

Option: Tape cards to the backs of the children and allow them to stand and turn around to reveal their cards.

**Foot Match**

- Line chairs up in a long row.
- Choose two players to stand in front of the chairs.
- Direct the rest of the children to sit in the chairs and remove one of their shoes. *[Put removed shoes under the chairs. These shoes will not be used.]*
- Tape one card, faceup, to the bottom of each child’s shoe. Tape another card, faceup, to the bottom of his sock or foot.
- Instruct the children with taped cards to sit with their feet flat on the floor.
- Direct the players to take turns choosing two feet looking for matching cards. For example, a player could say, “Chris’s shoe and Michael’s foot.” The people named reveal the cards by lifting the foot or shoe and showing the pictures.
- Give matching cards to the player who asked for them. Return feet flat on the floor for non-matched cards.

**Normal**

- Place cards facedown in rows on the floor.
- Prompt children to take turns turning over two cards at a time to search for matches. If the cards match, the child picks them up. If the cards do not match, the cards are turned back over.
Ewe

Ram
**Cow**

**Bull**
Nanny Goat

Billy Goat
Camel
Jenny

Jack