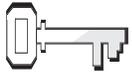


Sold for a Bowl of Stew



References

Genesis 25:19-34;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 177-179



Memory Verse

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that although people in God's family may be different from one another, He loves all of us.
Feel secure in God's family.
Respond by accepting people who are different from us.



The Message

I can love people who are different from me.

Monthly Theme

We belong to God's family.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Even before they are born, the twins, Jacob and Esau, struggle with each other (Genesis 25:22). After their birth the boys choose different paths. Jacob is quiet, likes to cook, and stays close to his mother. Esau loves the outdoors, enjoys hunting, and has a better relationship with his father. On one occasion Esau is so hungry after an outing that he gives Jacob his birthright in exchange for food.

This is a lesson about community.

Even in the same biological family people grow up pursuing different occupations and enjoying different activities. Jacob and Esau illustrate these differences within a family. In our community of faith we have people with even greater differences than Jacob and Esau. The story of their quarreling can help us learn how to get along with others in God's family.

Teacher Enrichment

"Esau grew up loving self-gratification and centering all his interest in the present. Impatient of restraint, he delighted in the wild freedom of the chase, and early chose the life of a hunter. Yet he was the father's favorite. The quiet, peace-loving shepherd was attracted by the daring and vigor of this elder son, who fearlessly ranged over mountain and desert, returning home with game for his father and with exciting accounts of his adventurous life. Jacob, thoughtful, diligent, and care-taking, ever thinking more of the future than the present, was content to dwell at home, occupied in the care of the flocks and the tillage of the soil. His patient perseverance, thrift, and foresight were valued by the mother. His affections were deep and strong, and his gentle, unremitting attentions added far more to her happiness than did the boisterous and occasional kindnesses of Esau. To Rebekah, Jacob was the dearer son" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 177).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 10.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Different, But the Same</i> B. <i>Mirror Image</i>	masking tape or chalk none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> "well" from Lesson 10 none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, two baby dolls, cooking pot, bow and arrows, tent from room decorations cooking pot, 14 pictures/plastic vegetables, Bible Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>You Are Unique</i> B. <i>Paper People</i>	quantity of salt dough (see activity), waxed paper, rolling pin(s), cookie cutters, small sealable plastic bags paper, scissors, pencil, crayons/markers
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>I Like . . .</i>	paper, crayons/markers, stapler

*Prayer and Praise me be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week's memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- masking tape or chalk

A. Different, but the Same

Make a line on the floor that is long enough for all the children to stand on, one behind the other. Stand at the end of the line facing the children. Say: **I have some questions for you. I want you to show me your answer by jumping off the line. If your answer is yes, jump on this side** (your right side). **If the answer is no, jump to this side** (your left side). **If you are unsure, sit down.** Ask the following yes/no questions or similar questions more suitable to your situation. Include some to which all the children will answer yes. Such questions are intended to show how people are different or alike.

- Do you have a stomach?
- Do you have blue eyes?
- Are you sleepy?
- Do you like Sabbath School?
- Are you a girl?
- Are you 7 years old?
- Do you have two ears?

Debriefing

Ask: **Were we all the same? What would life be like if we all looked the same and liked the same things?** (boring, no fun) **We all have many things in common, ways in which we are alike. But there are also many ways in which we are different. We don't all look the same, talk the same, or like the same things. That's all right. That's how God made us. There is one important thing that God wants us to remember. It's our message for today:**



I CAN LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME.

Say that with me.

B. Mirror Image

Have the children find a partner and spread out around the room. Say: **Face each other. Pretend you are a mirror and "reflect" (or copy) all the actions the other person makes. The tallest person starts.** Change places after two minutes.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to have someone copying everything you were saying and**

doing? (strange, uncomfortable, fun) **What was it like to have to try to be exactly like someone else?** (tough, not easy, hard, unpleasant) **Even identical twins don't act exactly the same, like all of the same things, or talk the same. God created us all to be different, and He wants us to care about one another. That's what today's message says:**



I CAN LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 12)
- "In His Time" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 42)
- "O, How He Loves You and Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 28)
- "Jesus Loves Children" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 37)
- "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 140)
- "We Are the Church" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 141)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize that although we are different in some ways and come from different countries, we all belong to God's family.



Offering

Say: **God's family is found all around the world. We all have different needs. When we give our offerings, we help support God's family in other places.**

You Need:

- well from Lesson 10



Prayer

Stand in a circle. Say: **God has made us all different. No two people are exactly alike. No two plants are exactly alike. As we pray I am going to say: Thank You, God, for the differences we see all around us. Thank You for the differences in _____.** (flowers, people, countries, mountains, plains, etc.) Go around the circle and encourage the children to name some differences in others that they appreciate.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- two baby dolls
- cooking pot
- bow and arrows
- tent from room decorations

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau

Setting the scene:

Isaac and Rebekah sit outside a tent.

Read or tell the story.

Isaac had been married to Rebekah for years. They were both very happy. *[Rebekah smiles and shakes head, as if remembering something from long ago.]* Rebekah loved to remember the day she had met the stranger at the well. She had offered to water his camels, and her life had changed forever.

Isaac loved looking at his beautiful wife. He praised the Lord for bringing her to him from so far away. Isaac and Rebekah loved each other very much.

But Rebekah was not able to have children. It made her very sad. Isaac knew God had promised Abraham, Isaac's father, that his family would become a mighty nation. *[Isaac paces up and down, then kneels in prayer.]* Isaac spent a great deal of time wondering how God was going to make a mighty nation from Abraham's family if he didn't have any children. It was a sad puzzle. One he wished he could solve.

Finally, Isaac talked to God. He begged that Rebekah would have a child. And God answered Isaac's prayer—in a surprising way. Rebekah had not one child, but two! *[Rebekah smiles.]* God gave Isaac and Rebekah twin boys!

Even before the twins were born, they struggled together inside their mother. Rebekah thought this was very strange. *[Rebekah goes to different people, as if asking a question.]* No one could explain what

was happening to her—not her husband, or her nurse, or anyone else she asked. So Rebekah went to the Lord. *[She kneels in prayer.]* She prayed and asked God what was happening.

The Lord answered Rebekah's prayer. He told her that the two children inside her were very different. They would be the beginnings of two different nations. Two nations that wouldn't like each other very much. And the younger twin would be stronger than his brother.

Isaac and Rebekah named their twins Esau and Jacob. *[Isaac and Rebekah each hold and rock a baby doll.]* And just as the Lord had said, the boys were very different. Esau liked to wander the fields and forests. He liked to hunt and often brought things home for his father. Esau was his father's favorite twin.

Jacob, on the other hand, liked to stay close to home. He learned how to take care of his father's flocks and herds. He learned how to cook. He was dependable and gentle to others. Jacob was his mother's favorite twin.

[Jacob stirs the cooking pot.] One day Esau came in from hunting. *[Esau holds bow and arrows and appears to be sniffing the air.]* He was very hungry, and he smelled something good. Jacob was cooking a pot of stew. Esau stood in front of his brother and pleaded, "I'm starving! Give me some of that stew."

Jacob answered, "I will give you some if you will give me something. Give me your rights as the firstborn son."

Esau said, "All right! I am about to die of hunger. What good will my rights do if I die?"

So Jacob gave his brother some bread and some stew. *[Jacob gives stew to Esau. Esau begins to eat.]* Esau ate and drank, then got up and left. He did not care about the future; all he cared about was now.

Debriefing

Ask: **What was the difference between Jacob and Esau?** (Jacob looked after the sheep and stayed home more. Esau was an outdoor person and hunter. He was impatient and wanted things right away.) **How well did they get along?** (They didn't.)

How would you feel if you were very, very hungry and your brother made you give him something important before sharing his food with you? (I would feel bad. This is not the way for people to act.)

How does Jesus want us to treat people in God's family? (He wants us to show love and respect for one another.)
Remember . . .



I CAN LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME.

Memory Verse

In advance, write the memory verse on the pictures or plastic vegetables, one word on each. Don't forget the text. Put these in the cooking pot. The memory verse is: **"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).**

Say: **Esau sold his rights as first-born for a bowl of stew. Let's put the vegetables together to make a verse that Jacob and Esau needed to learn.** Let the children take the vegetables out of the cooking pot and put them in the right order. Use the Bible as necessary. Have them repeat this several times until they know the verse. Large group—use several sets.

You Need:

- cooking pot
- 14 pictures/plastic vegetables
- Bible

Bible Study

Say: **God made us all different. That does not mean that we cannot get along together.**

Write the following texts where all may see, and ask for volunteers to read them and explain what the text tells about the way we should treat people who are different from us in some way, or what was so special about the people in each text.

1 Samuel 2:22-26 (Eli was old and Samuel young. They were different in age, but they got along well together.)

1 Samuel 20:1-3 (David and Jonathan)

2 Kings 5:1-3 (Little maid and Naaman)

Matthew 7:12 (Golden rule—"Do unto others . . .")

Matthew 18:21, 22 (Keep on forgiving.)

1 Thessalonians 5:13 [2nd part] (Live at peace with everyone.)

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (Try to be kind; do not pay back wrong with wrong.)

Debriefing

Say: **God's family is made up of different people. Is it always easy to get along with each other? Why?**

What advice does the Bible give us? (Be willing to forgive. Live at peace. Do not pay back wrong with wrong. Do to others as we would like them to do to us.)

In God's family there are many different people, but if we follow God's rules, we can learn to love all people, including those who may be different from ourselves. Let's say our message together:



I CAN LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- salt dough
- waxed paper
- rolling pin(s)
- cookie cutters
- small sealable plastic bags

Recipe for Salt Dough

4 cups of flour
 2 cups of salt
 2 cups of water
 2 tablespoons of oil
 4 teaspoons of cream of tartar

Mix flour, salt, and cream of tartar. In a separate container, stir oil and water. Add liquid to flour and salt mixture. Cook over low heat until very stiff. Knead on a floured surface. Store dough in a plastic container. Refrigerate.

A. You Are Unique

Prepare the salt dough in advance. Give each child some salt dough and a piece of waxed paper. Roll the dough out on the waxed paper and let the children use the cookie cutters to make as many “cookies” as they can. Ask: **How many shapes could you make with your cookie cutter? (one) Now, gather all your cookie shapes, make one big dough ball, knead your dough, and then form a person.** Have the class lay out all the dough people and look at them.

Debriefing

Ask: **What is the difference between our cookie cutter shapes and the people we made?** (The cutter shapes were all the same. The “people” are different.)

What would we look like if God used the same shape to make all of us? (We would all look the same.)

God makes each one of us unique. There is no one else like you in the world. Each one in God’s family is different, but in one way we are all the same—we all love Jesus. Because we love Jesus, we can learn to love others even though they are different from us. Let’s say today’s message together:



I CAN LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME.

Put the “people” in plastic bags for the children to take home. If they leave them in the air, they will harden.

B. Paper People

Say: **Fanfold your paper. Draw half a person and cut it out, leaving it attached at the hands and feet. Be careful not to cut along the fold!**

Unfold your paper and you should have a string of people. At the moment they all look the same. Decorate them so that all are different.

You Need:

- paper
- scissors
- pencil
- crayons/markers

Debriefing

Ask: **How are you different from people in your family?** (Different likes and dislikes, different facial features such as eyes and hair, different height.)

It is OK to be different. We learned from Jacob and Esau that two brothers born at the same time may be very different. God’s family has people from every part of the world. We may have differences, but we are all God’s children.

How does God want us to treat people in His family, even if they are different from us? (He wants us to treat one another with kindness and respect; like family members; as we would like them to treat us.) **Let’s say today’s message together:**



I CAN LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME.

4

Sharing the Lesson

I Like ...

Help the children make a booklet with eight pages.

Say: **On the cover of your booklet, write, "I like ..."** Inside, write or draw six things you like. On the last page write: **God made us all unique.**

When everyone has made their book, have them form pairs and share their booklets. Say: **Ask the person if they like the same things you like.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Did your partner like the same things you like? What were some things you had in**

common? What were some differences?

Differences do not have to separate us; they can help us learn new things. There are lots of different people in God's family, but, with His help we can learn to love them all. Let's say our message:



I CAN LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME.

Closing

Stand in a circle. Say: **Look around. We are all different. God has made each of us unique. Let's thank Him for our differences and ask Him to help us to love and respect all of His family.** Offer a short prayer.

You Need:

- paper
- crayons/
markers
- stapler

Sold for a Bowl of Stew

References

Genesis 25:19-34; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 177-179

Memory Verse

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10, NIV).

The Message

I can love people who are different from me.

Imagine that you have been outside all day. Maybe you were playing with friends or helping in the garden. You come into the house and smell something good. Someone is cooking in the kitchen. All of a sudden you are very hungry. That was just how Esau felt one day. Let’s find out what happened.

Isaac and Rebekah had been happily married for years. Rebekah loved to remember the day she had met the stranger at the well. She had offered to water his camels—and her life had changed forever. Isaac praised the Lord for bringing her to him from so far away. Yes, Isaac and Rebekah loved each other very much.

But they felt that something was missing in their lives. Rebekah was not able to have children. It made her very sad. Isaac knew about God’s promise to Abraham, his father. God had told Abraham that his family would become a mighty nation. Isaac spent a great deal of time wondering how that could be. How could a mighty nation come from Abraham’s family? Isaac didn’t have any children. It was a sad puzzle. One that Isaac longed to solve.

Finally, Isaac pleaded with God. He begged God to give Rebekah a child. And God answered Isaac’s prayer—in a surprising way. Rebekah had

not one child, but two! God gave Isaac and Rebekah twin boys!

Even before the twins were born, they struggled together inside their mother. Rebekah thought this was strange. No one could explain why this was happening. Her husband couldn’t. Her nurse couldn’t. Neither could anyone else she asked. So Rebekah talked to God. She prayed and asked God what was happening.

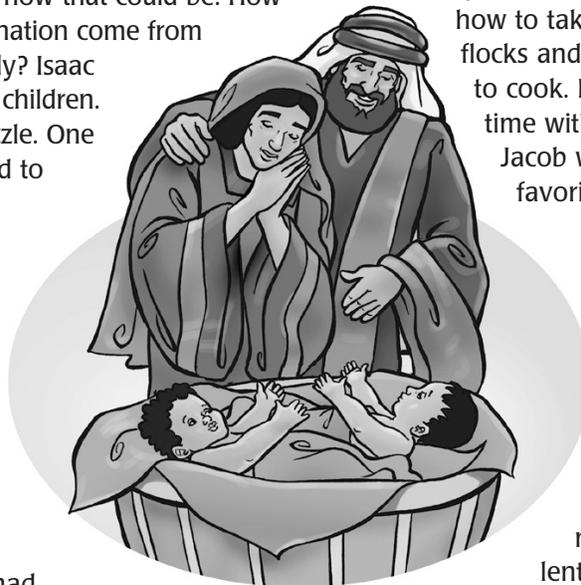
God answered Rebekah’s prayer. He told her that the two children inside her were very different. They would be the beginnings of two different nations, two nations that wouldn’t like each other very much. One twin would be stronger than his brother. And the elder would serve the younger.

Isaac and Rebekah named their twins Esau and Jacob. And just as the Lord had said, the boys were very different. Esau, the older, liked to travel away from home. When he wanted something, he wanted it right now. He liked to hunt and often brought his father things from afar. And he was his father’s favorite twin.

Jacob, on the other hand, liked to stay close to home. He learned how to take care of his father’s flocks and herds. He learned to cook. He spent a lot of time with his mother. And Jacob was his mother’s favorite twin.

One day Esau came in from hunting. He was very hungry, and he smelled something good.

Jacob was cooking something good. It might have been a lentil stew. Esau stood before his brother and



exclaimed, "I'm starving!" Then he demanded, "Let me have some of that."

Jacob replied, "Are you really so hungry? Hungry enough to trade me your rights as the firstborn son?"

Esau answered, "I am about to die of hunger! What good will my rights do me then?" So Jacob gave him some bread and some of the food. Esau ate and drank, then got up and left. He did not care about his rights as the firstborn son. All he cared about was how he felt at the moment. And because of that, he gave up something that would have been a blessing for the rest of his life.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Stand near the kitchen and close your eyes. Guess what you will have for lunch.
- Esau loved to hunt and be outdoors. If possible, spend some time outdoors in nature with your family today. Ask your family what they think Esau hunted.
- Thank God for food to eat.

Sunday

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 25:19-28. Which of the brothers was hairy? Compare arms with your family members. Who has the most hair?
- How old was Rebekah when Esau and Jacob were born? How old were your parents when you were born? Do you know someone that age?
- Cut out 14 different vegetable shapes. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Mix the shapes, then put them in the right order. Use this to teach the verse to your family.
- Ask God to help you to be kind to others.

Monday

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 25:27-34. Would Esau have died of hunger? Find out how long someone can live without food and/or water.
- Think of a time you were impatient like Esau. What was the result? Talk about it with your family. Ask God to make you patient.
- Ask if you can help make soup one day this week. Thank God for good food.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Matthew 7:12 during worship. What did you learn about treating people who are different from you? Put Matthew 7:12 into practice. Do something special for someone in

your family today.

- Make a chart to tell how you and your family members are different. Share it with your family. How are you different? How are you the same? Thank God for differences and variety.

Wednesday

- With your family, read 1 Thessalonians 5:15. How can this help us when we meet different people? Sing "We Grow in Many Different Ways" (*Sing For Joy*, no. 59).
- Draw a picture of Jacob and some things He liked. If He lived on earth today, what do you think He would like?
- Look outside. How many different colors can you see? Thank God for variety in nature.

Thursday

- Share your lesson story with your family. Draw a picture of Esau and the things he liked. What do you think he would like if he lived today?
- Think of your church family. Ask an adult to help you name countries some members come from. What does this tell you about God's family?
- Make a card together and send it to an older church member. Write "I'm glad you are part of God's family."
- Review your memory verse together. Then ask God to bless your church family.

Friday

- During worship today, reread Genesis 25:19-34. Ask your family to help you act out the story. Have each person name something they like about each family member. Do not say the same thing twice.
- Sing happy family songs, then ask God to bless your family.
- Say your memory verse for your family.