

The Story

Jacob & Esau's Reunion

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

Week of October 12, 2008

Read Chapter 6 of "The Story." "The Story for Kids" doesn't contain this account, but you can find it in Genesis chapters 32-33 and 35

Family Activity Ideas

The following questions can be asked and talked about around the dinner table or in the minivan on the way to the pick-your-own-asparagus orchard.

OR

Just grab your Bible or a copy of "The Story" and talk about these questions:

Jacob and Esau were twin brothers. Anyone who knows anything about brothers and sisters can guess that they didn't always get along. Esau was just a few minutes older, and as the older brother he would be given special gifts from his dad when his dad grew old. But Jacob tricked Esau when Esau was starving, so Esau said that the gifts would be Jacob's in exchange from delicious soup.

1. **Can you tell of a time when you took (or received) something that wasn't yours.** (Perhaps you took it on purpose, or maybe someone gave you something that you knew was for someone else.) **Did you feel bad, happy or what? Did it make the other person sad, or happy?**

Well, the brothers didn't stay friends, and they ended up living far, far away from each other. When they were older and married and had children, Jacob traveled to Esau's land. When Esau heard that Jacob was coming, here is the message that came back: "*We went to meet your brother Esau. He's coming now to meet you. He has 400 men with him.*" Gen. 32:6

2. **The Bible says that Jacob was very worried and afraid when he heard this news. Why?**

3. Look at this list of gifts that Jacob sent ahead to Esau:

- 220 goats
- 220 sheep
- 30 camels with their little ones
- 40 cows
- 10 bulls
- 30 donkeys

Why do you think he wanted to give Esau these gifts?

4. Esau showed that he had forgiven his brother Jacob and they were friends and brothers again. **Is it easy or hard for you to be like Esau and forgive someone who has been mean or hurt you? And when you have done something that hurt someone like Jacob did, are you nice like Jacob to be so kind and giving when you apologize?**

You can pray using your own prayer, or saying one like this:

Dear God, help us to forgive AND to ask for forgiveness so that we can live in peace with our family and friends. You want us to get along with others because you want us to love others like you do. Amen.