

## Lesson #4-3

# JACOB STEALS A BLESSING

Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

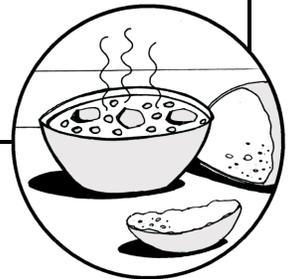


### Key Verse:

“Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.”  
Genesis 28:15

### The Point:

God can turn even deceptions into occasions to provide blessings.



## INTRODUCTION

This week, we move from narrative focusing on Abraham and his son, Isaac, to focus on Isaac and his sons, Jacob and Esau. Esau was the first-born, and therefore earned the right to his father's blessing and birthright, which meant he would get twice the inheritance upon his father's death than any other son. But Jacob and his mother, Rebekah, came up with a scheme to steal the birthright from Esau. Jacob dressed as his brother and tricked Isaac, who was now blind, to give him the blessing that ought to have been Esau's. The narrative continues, with Esau threatening his brother's life. This is why Jacob leaves and flees toward Haran. When Jacob stops to rest, he receives a vision and a blessing from God. When he awakes, he builds an altar to the Lord and names the place Bethel.

### The Point

**God can turn even deceptions into occasions to provide blessings.** People can often be heard to say, “God works in mysterious ways” when trying to explain what appears to be God's blessing, or even orchestrating tragedy or sinfulness. In fact, God is perfection and love, and would never facilitate or even condone sin or hurt. But God does work in those tragedies and sinful acts, and brings good from them. God sees a much bigger picture than we can, and can sometimes help us see where the blessings lie hidden, so that we may uncover them to God's glory. Jacob's theft of his brother's birthright and blessing led to his escape and vision of God in the wilderness. It led to his development into the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, and the ancestor of Jesus.

# ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

## ACTIVITIES

## SUPPLIES

### INTRODUCTION

#### BUILDING LADDERS

Build ladders and discuss their purpose.

- 10 MIN.**
- † Pretzel sticks
  - † Carrot sticks
  - † Cream cheese
  - † Waxed paper, tinfoil, or large paper plates

### LEARNING THE STORY

#### STOLEN BLESSING, BLESSED BY GOD

Depict the story with a human slideshow.

- 15 MIN.**
- † Bibles

### ACTIVITIES

#### JACOB'S LADDER

Create a Jacob's ladder bookmark.

- 15 MIN.**
- † Embroidery floss
  - † Round beads
  - † Safety pins
  - † Long beads about the same length as the pins

#### DECEPTIVE BLESSINGS

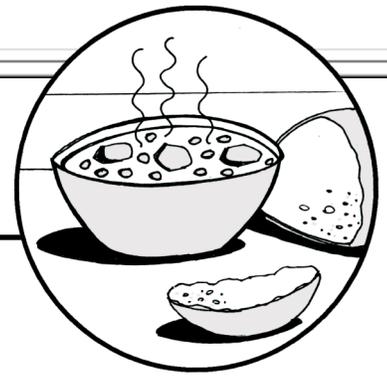
Practice blessing those who aim to deceive.

- 10 MIN.**
- † Activity Sheet #4-3.A

### PRAYER



# GOD'S STORY @ HOME



## INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

### BUILDING LADDERS

Build ladders and discuss their purpose.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Pretzel sticks
- † Carrot sticks
- † Cream cheese
- † Waxed paper, tinfoil, or large paper plates

#### *Instructions:*

1. **What do ladders do?** [*Accept all answers.*] Ladders raise you to a higher level for a specific purpose, usually to reach something.
2. Today we will build ladders, and then we will get to eat them! We have food materials from which you can build a ladder. You can choose either pretzel sticks or carrot sticks for the rungs, and use cream cheese as the adhesive to hold the whole thing together .
3. While you build your ladder, discuss this question: How can a ladder be compared to the way we bless each other? Make sure you give everyone a chance to speak. When you have given your answer, feel free to eat your ladder!

## LEARNING THE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### STOLEN BLESSING, BLESSED BY GOD

Depict the story with a human slideshow.

*Supplies:*

† Bibles

*Instructions:*

1. Read Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17
2. **We are going to tell this story by creating still shots (like a photo) of the verses. We will begin by creating a still scene, like a photo, that depicts the message of Chapter 27, verses 1-2. Next, we will create a scene from verses 15-23, and finally from chapter 28, verses 10-17. We will reread each section, and then create our scene. The rules are: we must use every person, and we cannot say anything or move.**
3. Read each section and create a scene. When you have created each scene, perform them in sequence.
4. After performing the story:
  - **What do you think Jacob thought about his vision? How did he see God at work?**
  - **Why do you think God blessed him, even though he did not deserve the blessing**
5. **Many of us have probably taken something that did not belong to us. How could God work through our deceit just like he worked through Jacob's? What an amazing God, who could continue to love us even when we mistreated the blessings that we have been given!**

## ACTIVITY (15 MINUTES)

### JACOB'S LADDER (15 MINUTES)

Create a Jacob's ladder bookmark.

*Supplies:*

- † Embroidery floss
- † Round beads
- † Safety pins
- † Long beads about the same length as the pins

*Preparation:*

1. Prepare a set of materials with 20-30 round beads, two safety pins, and two long beads for each person. Set aside.
2. Read through the instructions and create a sample, if you would like.

*Instructions:*

1. **Jacob's vision of angels ascending and descending a ladder is well known, and is the inspiration for a children's toy made of wood and ribbon and even a scientific tool that creates an electrical arc. Today we are going to make a Jacob's ladder bookmark to help us remember the story and Jacob's experience of God's blessing.**
2. **Each person needs to start with two pieces of embroidery floss. Knot one end of each piece of floss so that the beads will not fall off.**
3. **Choose 10-15 beads to string on the first piece of floss. Knot the other end. Repeat with the other piece of floss.**
4. **Push one pin through the knot of the first piece of beaded floss. Put a long bead on the pin, and then put the pin through the knot of the second piece of beaded floss. Close the pin.**
5. **Repeat at the other end with the other pin and long bead. The long beads help keep the two strings of beads separated, and create somewhat of a "ladder" appearance to the bookmark.**
6. **As you are working, talk about your dreams. Does God speak to you in dreams? What do you imagine a vision of angels would look like?**
7. **Put your finished bookmark in Genesis 27.**

## ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

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### DECEPTIVE BLESSINGS (10 MINUTES)

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Practice blessing those who aim to deceive.

*Supplies:*

- † Activity Sheet #4-3.A.

*Preparation:*

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet #4-3.A for each person.

*Instructions:*

1. **Jacob received a blessing through deception and even received a vision of God in the wilderness. God took a sinful man who was running from the consequences of his sin and blessed him, despite his circumstances.**
2. **We will work together to create a short, two- to three-minute scene based on one or more of the scenarios listed on Activity Sheet #4-3.A. Everyone will have a role in each scene. The key is to take this situation in which someone is being deceptive, and find a way to bless the deceiver despite their actions. This does not justify or excuse their actions, but shows how God finds a way in, past our sinful nature.**
3. When finished, discuss:
  - **In what ways was the deceiver blessed?**
  - **What was difficult about performing this scene?**
  - **Where did you see God?**

## PRAYER

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Before ending, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Encourage everyone to hold hands. Begin and end the prayer, but leave enough silence in the middle for people to participate.

**Forgiving God, thank you for revealing yourself in amazing and mysterious ways. Thank you for the many times that you see our sin and bless us anyway. We are sorry for the times that we deceived you or each other.** Invite individuals to add their confessions here. **Please restore our relationships, and make us whole again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**And now, turn to your neighbor and offer them words of blessing. Make the sign of the cross on their forehead or hand, saying "God blesses you, even when you sin."**

**Find a way to bless someone this week, whether it is through words, actions, or in some other quiet way.**



# DECEPTIVE BLESSINGS

*Practice blessing those who aim to deceive.*

Scenario #1: A student decides to cheat on a test. Several of the students around her are aware of her cheating, including the person whose test she is using to cheat, but the teacher does not know.

Scenario #2: An employee is unprepared for a presentation he must lead in the morning, so he makes the excuse that his child is ill and calls in sick for work that day.

Scenario #3: A person finds \$20 on the sidewalk. She is pretty sure it belongs to her neighbor, because she saw him get out of his car, and drop several things, but she does not go ask him if he lost any money.

Scenario #4: A worker is working in someone's house and drops a tool. It breaks a fragile piece of art on the homeowners' bookshelf. Other workers see it happens, but no one admits to it or points a finger when the homeowner asks how it broke.