



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for October 7, 2007
Released on October 3, 2007

"Trouble Between Brothers"

The Golden Text "The Lord said unto her, . . . the elder shall serve the younger" (Genesis 25:23).

Printed Text: Genesis 25:19–34.

Genesis 25:19–34

19 And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac:

20 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan-aram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.

21 And Isaac entreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the LORD.

23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

25 And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:

30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Isaac was forty when he married Rebekah (Gen. 24:67; 25:20). At first she was not able to have children. Isaac asked God to make her fertile, and God answered his prayer. Rebekah became pregnant.

Rebekah felt a struggle ensuing in her womb. This made her curious as to what was happening and why. She prayed to God for an answer. His answer was that there were two children in her, representing two nations that would struggle against each other. In the future, Esau's descendants, the Edomites, would be a thorn in Israel's (Jacob's descendants) side. Ultimately, Esau's descendants would serve Jacob's descendants.

In time, Rebekah went into labor and delivered Esau first, but Jacob was born with his hand holding "on Esau's heel" (Gen. 25:26). Whether Jacob actually grabbed Esau's heel or was born "on the heel" (immediately after Esau) is not as important as the foreshadowing of later events. The conflict between these two (and their descendants) was evident and would be fomented by parental favoritism and poor choices.

Esau was a rugged and hardy type. He became a skillful hunter. His father favored him because of the meat he would prepare for him. Jacob was more of a homebody. His mother favored him.

One day Jacob was cooking a stew. Esau came home exhausted and hungry. He smelled Jacob's stew and begged for some. Jacob should have given his brother some stew with no strings attached. Instead, he asked for Esau's birthright. Showing complete disregard for the honor and responsibility of being the oldest son, he agreed and gave it to Jacob.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

God is in control of everything. He has a plan for our lives. We should conduct ourselves properly so that we do not miss out on a blessing.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Pleasing God is more important than pleasing ourselves.
2. We should wait on the Lord and be patient for His blessings.
3. There is nothing God does not know about. We should behave, or we could miss out on a blessing.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, bring pictures of Esau and Jacob and a pot over an open fire. For Helping to Remember, bring to class enough 4-by-6-inch rectangles of black, red, white, yellow, and green construction paper for each student. Bring a stapler to class.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Today we will learn about two brothers, Esau and Jacob. Esau cared more about what he needed than about the blessings and honor he had. Jacob cared more about what he wanted than about waiting on God to give him blessings.

We can all be selfish sometimes, but we should do what God wants us to do. We should care about the needs of others before our own. Most important, we need to remember that the things of this earth are not as valuable as the salvation God has provided.

TELLING THE LESSON

After Rebekah agreed to go to Abraham's home to meet Isaac, she became Isaac's wife. Sometime later, she was going to have twins.

One day, she felt the babies inside her. It felt like they were wrestling. She wondered what was going on; so she asked God to tell her. God told her that she was going to have twins and that they would grow up to have big families. Their families would become nations. He also told her that the nations would fight each other. The nation of the younger twin would be stronger than the nation of the older twin. The people of the older twin's family would serve the people of the younger twin's family.

(Show picture of Esau and Jacob.) As the boys grew up, they were different in many ways. Esau became a hunter. He liked the outdoors. Their father, Isaac, favored Esau because he would bring his father meat from his hunting trips.

Jacob was the opposite. He liked staying at home. He stayed near the tents where they lived. Their mother, Rebekah, favored him.

One day Jacob was cooking a stew. (Show picture of a pot over a fire.) When Esau came home from hunting, he begged Jacob for some. He said he was starving to death. Jacob said he would give Esau some stew if he would give Jacob his birthright. The birthright meant that since Esau was older, he got the right to be the leader of the family when his father died. Esau would also get more money and possessions than Jacob.

Esau said that the birthright meant nothing to him. He was hungry. He traded his birthright to Jacob for some stew. Esau promised that every right he had as the older son was now Jacob's.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Esau lost his birthright because he was thinking only about himself. He did not think to pray to God for help with what to do.

We should always think about what God wants for us. Before you make any important decisions, pray to God. Put Him first in your life.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Jesus wants us to put Him first in our lives. Have the students put the 4-by-6-inch pieces of construction paper you have prepared in a stack in this order: black, red, white, yellow, and green. Staple them together and share with the class the meaning of the wordless book. Black is for sin. Red is for the blood of Jesus. White is for the cleansing from sin. Yellow is for the heavenly streets of gold. Green is for everlasting life.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"The Lord said unto her, . . . the elder shall serve the younger" (Genesis 25:23).

Rebekah's twin sons would start nations. They would struggle against each other for a long time. Esau's descendants would serve Jacob's descendants.

Lesson Summarized By:

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CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

1. When the first child was born, "he was like a (**HAIRY, SMOOTH**) garment all over; so they called his name Esau." **GENESIS 25:25**

2. When his brother was born, "his hand took hold of Esau's (**EAR, HEEL**); so his name was called Jacob." **GENESIS 25:26**

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

3. "So the boys grew. And _____ was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but _____ was a mild man, dwelling in tents." **GENESIS 25:27**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

4. "Now Jacob cooked a (**BURGER, STEW**); and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, 'Please feed me with that same red (**BURGER, STEW**), for I am weary.' Therefore his name was (**EDOM, STEW**)." **GENESIS 25:29-30**

5. "But Jacob said, 'Sell me your (**BIRTHRIGHT, SHOES**) as of this day.' And Esau said, 'Look, I am about to die; so what profit shall this (**BIRTHRIGHT, SHOE**) be to me?' Then Jacob said, 'Swear to me as of this day.' So he swore to him, and sold his (**BIRTHRIGHT, SHOES**) to Jacob." **GENESIS 25:31-33**

Trouble Between Brothers

T R O U B N L E B E D F T W E
I S A A C E A R N Y L A B R O
T H E R S G E T R Y E I R Z T
H E E L S G S I I T I N E H R
I B G E N T A J E O F T G Z J
W C R O W H B N H U N I H Y U
C V R O G Q T W P C R S N P S
E T R Z A S N N Y H M W P W E
S B V E Z P O T T A G E Z O L
C A G L B A G R I J A C O B P
B R O F T E I G X F H X B D O
V R X W S B K O N M O D E K E
D E I A E W J A S D W R Z J P
A N U W D D E R H P O V P W U
S U O N P J J Z X R W E M V C

BARREN

ESAU

HAIRY

JACOB

PEOPLE

REBEKAH

STRONGER

TWO

BIRTHRIGHT

FAINT

HEEL

LORD

POTTAGE

RED

TENTS

EDOM

FIELD

ISAAC

NATIONS

PROFIT

SERVE

TWINS

22 of 22 words were placed into the puzzle.

Trouble Between Brothers Solution

T R O U B N L E B E D F T W E
I S A A C E A R N Y L A B R O
T H E R S + E T R + E I + + T
H E E L S G + I I T I N + H +
+ + + E N T A + E O F T G + +
+ + R O W H + N + + N I + + +
+ V R O + + T + + + R S + + +
E T R + + S + + + H + + + + E
S B + E + P O T T A G E + + L
+ A + L B + + R I J A C O B P
+ R O + T E I + + F + + + + O
+ R + W S B K + + M O D E + E
D E I A + + + A + + + R + + P
+ N U + + D E R H + + + P + +
S + + + + + + + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

BARREN(2, 9, S)

BIRTHRIGHT(6, 12, NE)

EDOM(13, 12, W)

ESAU(6, 11, SW)

FAINT(12, 1, S)

FIELD(11, 5, N)

HAIRY(6, 6, NE)

HEEL(1, 4, E)

ISAAC(1, 2, E)

JACOB(10, 10, E)

LORD(4, 10, SW)

NATIONS(6, 1, SE)

PEOPLE(15, 13, N)

POTTAGE(6, 9, E)

PROFIT(13, 14, NW)

REBEKAH(3, 8, SE)

RED(8, 14, W)

SERVE(5, 4, SW)

STRONGER(1, 9, NE)

TENTS(10, 4, SW)

TWINS(5, 11, SW)

TWO(6, 5, SW)