

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, *we want YOU to be the one to introduce* this part of The Big God Story to them.

**HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** This monthly magazine gives your family ideas for creating fun, spiritually forming times in your home—setting aside sacred space in the midst of your active, everyday lives.

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## GOD IS LORD

### Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19—34; 27

Rebekah gives birth to twins Jacob and Esau. The rivalry between the twins begins before they're even born. Later, when their father Isaac is on his deathbed, Jacob and his mother Rebekah plot to steal Esau's birthright.

## JUST FOR FUN

Gather your children on your bed. **Read Genesis 27:18–25.** After you have finished reading the passage, explain to your children that receiving a blessing today is different from the blessing given to a firstborn son (in today's passage, Esau) in biblical times. Today, a blessing is a way of inviting God to work in our lives to make us more like Him. Encourage your kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. This posture is meant to symbolize a willingness of heart to respond to God's Holy Spirit and to receive what God has for them. As your children remain in this posture, pray a prayer of blessing over them.

## REMEMBER VERSE

*But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. Galatians 5:22-23a*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The birthright gave the oldest son, Esau, the privilege of a double portion of the inheritance as well as the title of priest, judge, and leader of the family.
- Esau cared so little for his spiritual heritage that he gave Jacob his birthright in exchange for a bowl of stew.
- Esau had hairy arms and Jacob did not. Rebekah helped Jacob dress in fur that would make Jacob feel like Esau. This tricked the blind and bedridden father, Isaac, into giving the blessing of birthright to Jacob instead of Esau.

## YOUNGER KIDS

To help alleviate sibling rivalry, be sure to be equally affectionate and responsive to each of your children and avoid comparing them to one another.

## OLDER KIDS

Like Isaac's family, deep wounds and fractures may be a part of your child's family tree. Encourage your child to allow God to heal those wounds and bless your child in spite of them.

## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss the following together:

- **Why do you think Jacob wanted the blessing so badly?**
- **What was so important about the birthright blessing?**
- **How can you show thankfulness for God's blessings in your life?**

## BLESSING

A blessing can be a spoken prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance over your child. For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** @ [HomeFrontMag.com](http://HomeFrontMag.com)

**A blessing to pray over your child:**

(Child's name), **may you know that God is Lord over all things, including your life. May you know His presence each day.**