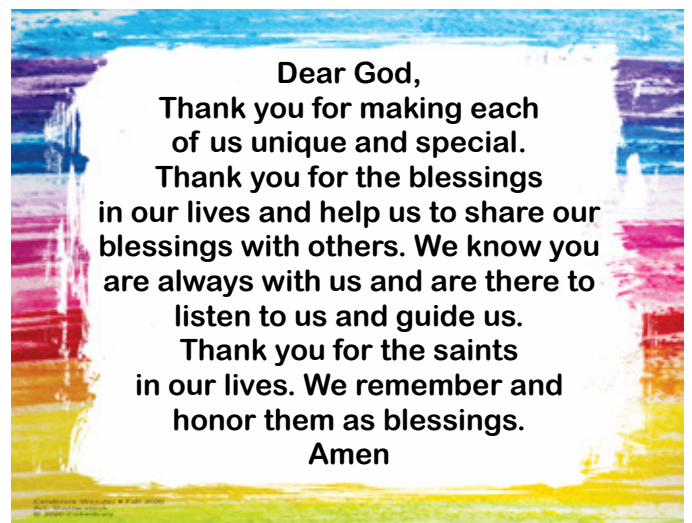


UNIT 3: BLESSING • LESSONS 9 & 10:

# “Jacob & Esau” & “The Birthright”

GENESIS 25:19-34



## BIBLE STORY:

As we move further into the book of Genesis we learn about twins Jacob and Esau. They were Isaac and Rebekah's children and Abraham's grandsons. They were always struggling with each other. Their story teaches us to **appreciate our differences** and our blessings and to know God can help us make good choices.

Baby Isaac grew up and married Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah wanted to have a family. They prayed to God for a baby. Rebekah became pregnant with twin boys! Their names were Esau and Jacob. They were born on the same day, but they were different. Esau was born first. He had red hair on his head and arms. Jacob was born second. He had dark hair. Jacob and Esau liked different things. Esau liked to be outdoors. He liked to hunt and fish and spending time with his father. Jacob liked being inside the tent where his family was. He liked to cook, and make lentil stew. Jacob enjoyed time with his mother. Esau and Jacob continued to grow up. One day Esau returned home from hunting. Jacob was making lentil stew, and Esau was very hungry. "Can I have some lentil stew and some bread, Jacob?" Esau asked. "Sure, if you trade me your **birthright** for some stew," Jacob said. Esau thought about this. His birthright made him the leader of their family when they became grownups. That was several years away. He was hungry now. Did he really need to be the leader and get all the family's treasures? Or did he need to eat? "You can have my birthright," said Esau. "One bowl of stew, coming right up!" said Jacob.



**Our uniqueness makes each person a special part of God's family. God claims us just the way we are and that is a blessing.**

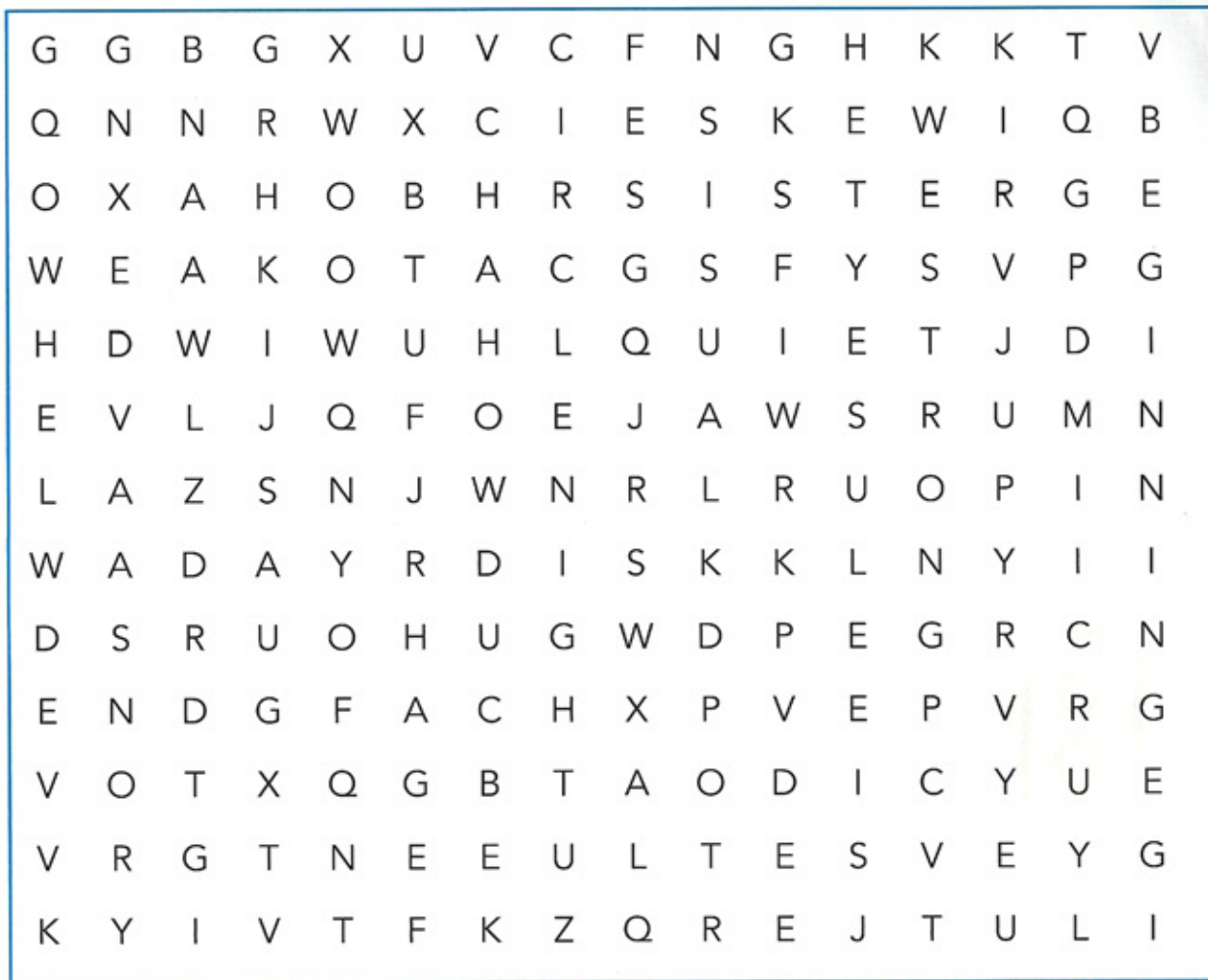
## WONDER QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

- What makes you unique?
- What things do you like to do that are the same or different from others in your family?
- If you had a twin, what do you think they would look like? Would you like the same things?
- Do you think Esau should have agreed to Jacob's deal and lose his birthright?
- Have you ever made a decision quickly and then wanted to change your mind? How would talking to God before making a decision help?
- **Today is All Saints Day**, where we honor those special to us who have died and gone to heaven. Who will you honor today?

# Jacob and Esau

## Different Words

Find all the words that are opposites in the word search.



**Love**  
**Hate**

**Night**  
**Day**

**Strong**  
**Weak**

**Beginning**  
**End**

**Circle**  
**Square**

**Brother**  
**Sister**

**Loud**  
**Quiet**

# Jacob and Esau

Family

What does your family look like? What makes your family special? Write or draw about it.

A large rectangular frame with a decorative border of small circles, intended for writing or drawing. The border consists of two concentric lines of circles, with the inner line being slightly offset from the outer line. The interior of the frame is blank, providing space for a response to the prompt above.

## Instructions

Read the article about birthrights below. Then answer the questions in the boxes.

Birthrights were special rights or privileges that automatically went to the firstborn son in a family after his father died. Birthrights could include land, houses, businesses, animals, money, or even a job. As part of the birthright, the eldest son also became the leader of his family after his father died. As a result of this system, the younger sons in a family typically received much less of their father's wealth than the eldest son. Because the firstborn son received so much, birthrights were important. This is also why it was so shocking that Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for something as small as a bowl of stew in the Bible story (Genesis 25:29-34).

What do you think of birthrights?

Do you think birthrights were fair or unfair. Why?

How would you have changed the birthright system?

