

Birth of Twins

Introduction

Good morning and welcome to the month of July for summer Sunday school! Today we continue learning about Bible stories found in the Old Testament. Do you remember at the end of June learning about Abraham and Sarah or last week hearing about God Blessing Abram's Choice? Let's continue hearing more about this family using our "Good Shepherd" curriculum written by Rev. Brenda Stobbe. As a reminder, this curriculum helps our children continue to grow cognitively, emotionally, and spiritually in their relationship with God.

A note for parents/guardians – Your job as the parent/guardian is to facilitate your child(ren) through this lesson. Enjoy watching & listening to the story all together, talk through the wondering questions (please try your best to not answer these questions - let your child(ren) truly wonder – some questions we don't have answers to anyway), and help guide them through the activity they choose for the day. Not answering the wondering questions might be the most challenging part of this curriculum, but that is how we help them grow.

Here is what's included in this lesson:

- **What's Going On** - similar to the parent overview section in our previous Sunday school materials which provides background to the Bible story.
- **The Bible Story** – time to watch and read the Bible story lesson.
- **Wondering Questions** – available for both our younger and older friends.
- **Daily Activities** – interactive ways to help your child dive deeper into our weekly lesson.
- **Prayer**

What's Going On

The Good Shepherd children's curriculum has a section called "Teacher Helps". This section will help give you our parent/guardians a deeper background to today's story.

Teacher Helps (written by Rev. Brenda Stobbe)

The emphasis of this story is that God chose to intervene in the lives of Isaac and Rebekah with the birth of Jacob and Esau. We are told in Genesis 25: 11 that after Abraham died God blessed Abraham's son, Isaac. God's promise to Abraham was continued through his son. Again, we find the promise of a great nation put in the womb of a barren woman.

In this story there is not the amount of disbelief put into the characters of Isaac and Rebekah as there was in Abraham and Sarah. Of course, they didn't wait as long, either. Isaac prayed to Yahweh to give Rebekah a child and the Lord granted his prayer.

But even during the pregnancy Rebekah was aware of something unusual about her unborn children. The words the Lord gave her when she asked about her concern were not comforting. Yahweh told her that there were two nations growing inside her and that they would be separate empires. The unusual thing was that the older child would serve the younger. We do not share this part of the story with the children at this time. In later stories, as these events transpire, they will be made known to the children.

When the children are born, Esau is first. He is red and hairy. The name Esau is a play on the words "Edom" and "Seir", both referring to a region and the people therein. Jacob, born second, is called a "heel grabber". From the beginning, Jacob was anxious to try to get that which belonged to Esau.

We stop the story at this point. But we suggest the next story told is that of the sold

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birthright and stolen blessing. Our objective in this story has been accomplished. The covenant is made sure once the children are born. The stories that follow stand on their own.

The first wondering question will give the children an opportunity to think about the prayer Isaac prayed when he asked God to give Rebekah a baby. Encourage their imaginative answers by having them suggest one or two words Isaac might have used. Don't be surprised if young children bring up "please" or "I really want" as some of their phrases.

The second question talks about Jacob's hair color. Since much is made in the story of the color of Esau's hair, it is fun to wonder what color hair Jacob had. It probably wasn't red, because we most likely would have been told that. Often children will respond by naming their own hair color or, in this case, that of a sibling.

Our story of "The Baby Named Laughter" sets the stage for loving, excited parents. Most young children respond to the third wondering question by saying, "Yes, the parents of the twins were as excited as the parents of Isaac." Some children may say that the parents were surprised because there were two babies. Those with twins in their family may say that the parents knew they would be tired or have a lot of work to do. The intent of this question is to encourage children to understand that babies are much loved and much wanted in this world, both now and in the time of Isaac. Even though, as adults, we know this is not always the case, I believe it is very assuring for children to understand that babies in families are a cause for celebration and joy.

The Bible Story

Please watch the story, using the link provided. The Bible lesson has also been provided too if you would like to read the story.

- **Watch the Story** (*Biblical adaptations written by Rev. Brenda Stobbe*)
Together, watch the children's story time found on Manchester UMC's website under Children & Families: Sunday Morning: <https://manchesterumc.org/sunday-morning/>
- **Scripture Lesson – Genesis 25:19-27**
Encourage your elementary kiddo(s) to find & read this story in the Bible. Assist as needed and take turns reading if you would like.

Wondering Questions

"Wondering Questions" are open ended discussion questions. Parents/Guardians, try as hard as possible to NOT answer these questions for your child(ren). 😊

Wondering Questions for Children (*written by Rev. Brenda Stobbe*)

1. I wonder what Isaac said when he prayed for Rebekah to have a baby?
2. I wonder what color hair Jacob had?
3. I wonder if Isaac and Rebekah laughed when their babies were born like Abraham and Sarah did?

Wondering Questions for Older Children (*written by Rev. Brenda Stobbe*)

1. Even though the brothers in this story were twins they were obviously very different. Think about the twins you know. Do they act alike or different? Is it easier to tell them apart by how they look or by how they act?
2. In this story Isaac prayed and God remembered Rebekah and gave her the babies. Do we have to pray for God to remember us? Does God ever forget us?

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3. What is your favorite story about you when you were a brand new baby? Was there something special about your birth? Share your story with the rest of the class, if you like.

Daily Activities

All Ages

Please find the attached puzzles, activities, and coloring pages. These can be used by all students participating in today's lesson.

All Ages – Sing "Father Abraham"

What you need: computer or other smart device

SAY: Let's have fun singing and dancing around to the song "Father Abraham." This song helps us remember our last few weeks of Good Shepherd stories. We've learned a lot about Abraham's family. What can you remember?

- Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASXowiv3FAc> to sing and dance along with the song "Father Abraham."
- Have fun and once you are done, go back through today's wondering questions.

Preschool – Isaac's Family Play Dolls / Play dough

What you need: baby dolls (at least 2) and/or play dough

SAY: Our story today tells us that Isaac and Rebekah were blessed with little boys named Jacob and Esau – they were twins. Now let's use our baby dolls and/or play dough to remember that Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys.

- *Option #1:* Using the baby dolls, talk to your child(ren) about twins. Are your baby dolls twins? What does it mean to be a twin? Now, pretend that your baby dolls are twins. Help your child(ren) take care of these baby dolls. Talk with them about how wonderful it was that God gave Rebekah two babies to love and care for. What do you need to care of a baby? Do you think Isaac and Rebekah had all of the items that we have in our houses today to take care of babies? What would be similar and what would be different?
- *Option #2:* Using play dough, create figures of Isaac, Rebekah, and the two twin babies. As you create, talk to your child(ren) about twins. Are your baby dolls twins? What does it mean to be a twin? Once all of your characters have been made, either reenact our story for today and/or talk about what it means to take care of babies. What do you need to take care of a baby? Do you think Isaac and Rebekah had all of the items that we have in our houses today to take care of babies? What would be similar and what would be different? Make sure to talk about how wonderful it was that God gave Rebekah two babies to love and care for.

Activity adapted from: http://www.sundayschoolbiblelessonsforkids.com/uploads/5/5/4/9/55490335/lesson_8_-_twins.pdf

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Elementary – Twin It to Win It (Game)

What you need: no supplies necessary; optional: have music playing for the game

SAY: Jacob and Esau were twins, but that didn't mean that they were just alike. The two brothers liked to do different things. Today let's play a game that uses something called "mimicry." Do you know what that means? Here are the instructions: one person is going to do a motion or dance move. The other person will mimic the movement. You cannot talk. You will have one minute to make the other person laugh.

- Have fun playing this game as long as you would like together as a family.
- Once you are finished with this game, go back through today's wondering questions.

Activity adapted from: Deep Blue Kids – Middle Elementary Fall 2018 Leader Guide - ©2018

3rd - 5th Graders – Genesis 25:19-27 (Diving Deeper – Bible Study)

What you need: Your Deep Blue Kids Bible

- Read **Genesis 25:19-27**
- As you go through your reading, stop at the "Did you know?" (page 29) – we will read this section again next week, but try to remember about birthright. This is very important for next week's lesson.
- Once you have finished reading, go back through today's wondering questions.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the stories of Abraham and Sarah. These stories remind us of the importance of family and showing love to one another no matter what. We are thankful that You made each of us beautiful, unique, and in Your image. Be with us this week and help us remember the blessing of the birth of twins (Jacob & Esau). Amen.

BKORMSEFVARSQ
 VRIWGZEGBRBJA
 QWSVRXZSOFERB
 VCAFBERIADEV
 XBABRSQXBFJYR
 NHCHILDTYOUNGGNTHZXFGWNAT
 JBHSDFRYNYTJFAVPBTNYINTSW
 DAFBTTHFSEAQXFBTRNYUJNYWI
 VBCFYBTJREBEKAHERAFHYHNQN
 CBTOTHSEEGDFHTJUJWYBRTSAS
 VRBTBQBBNTRGSEBTEDSREBBTJW
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 CTNMEUKERXDRVBRDRDXAWSBRB
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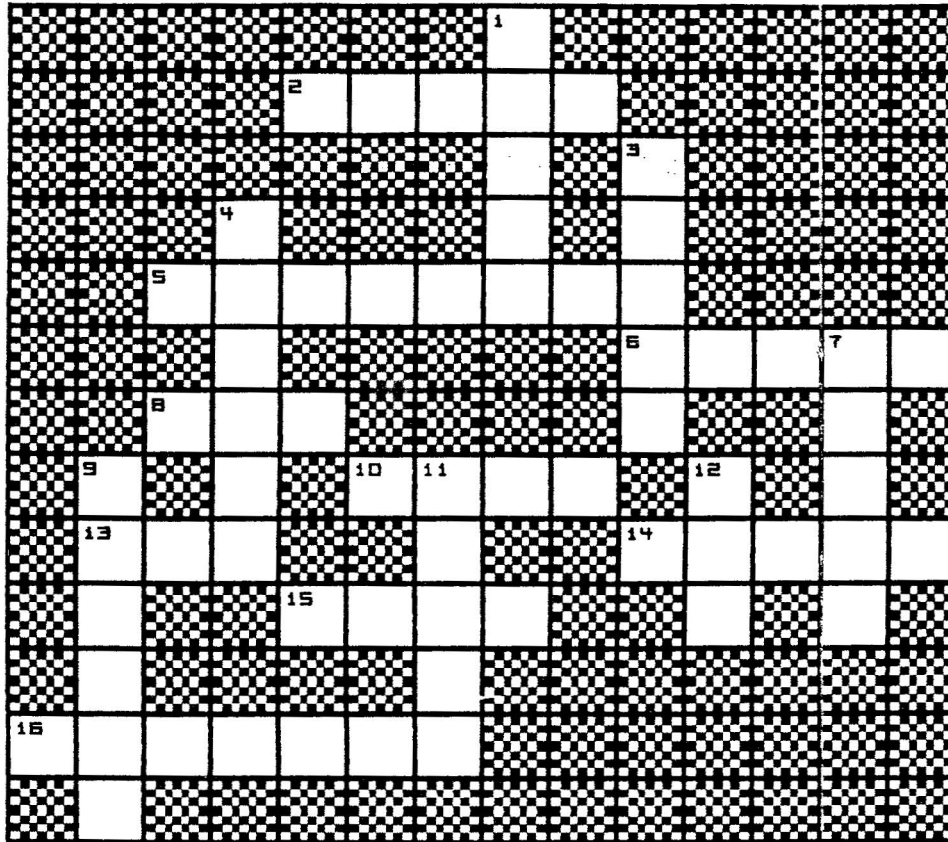


See if you can find these words.

Born
 First
 Jacob
 Red
 Second
 Young

Child
 God
 Prayed
 Remember
 Sixty

Esau
 Isaac
 Rebekah
 Sarah
 Twins



ACROSS CLUES

- 2. The baby named "Laughter".
- 5. The opposite of forget.
- 6. Isaac was ____ years old when his sons were born.
- 8. Isaac prayed to ____.
- 10. The name of the first child.
- 13. The color of the first son's hair.
- 14. Not old.
- 15. The second son was ____ holding onto the heel of his brother.
- 16. The wife of Isaac.

DOWN CLUES

- 1. The name of the second son.
- 3. Not the last.
- 4. First, ____, Third.
- 7. Two children born at the same time.
- 9. Isaac ____ that God remember Rebekah and give her a child.
- 11. Isaac's mother.
- 12. ____ did remember Rebekah.

Born
Jacob
Sarah

Esau
Prayed
Second

First
Remember
Sixty

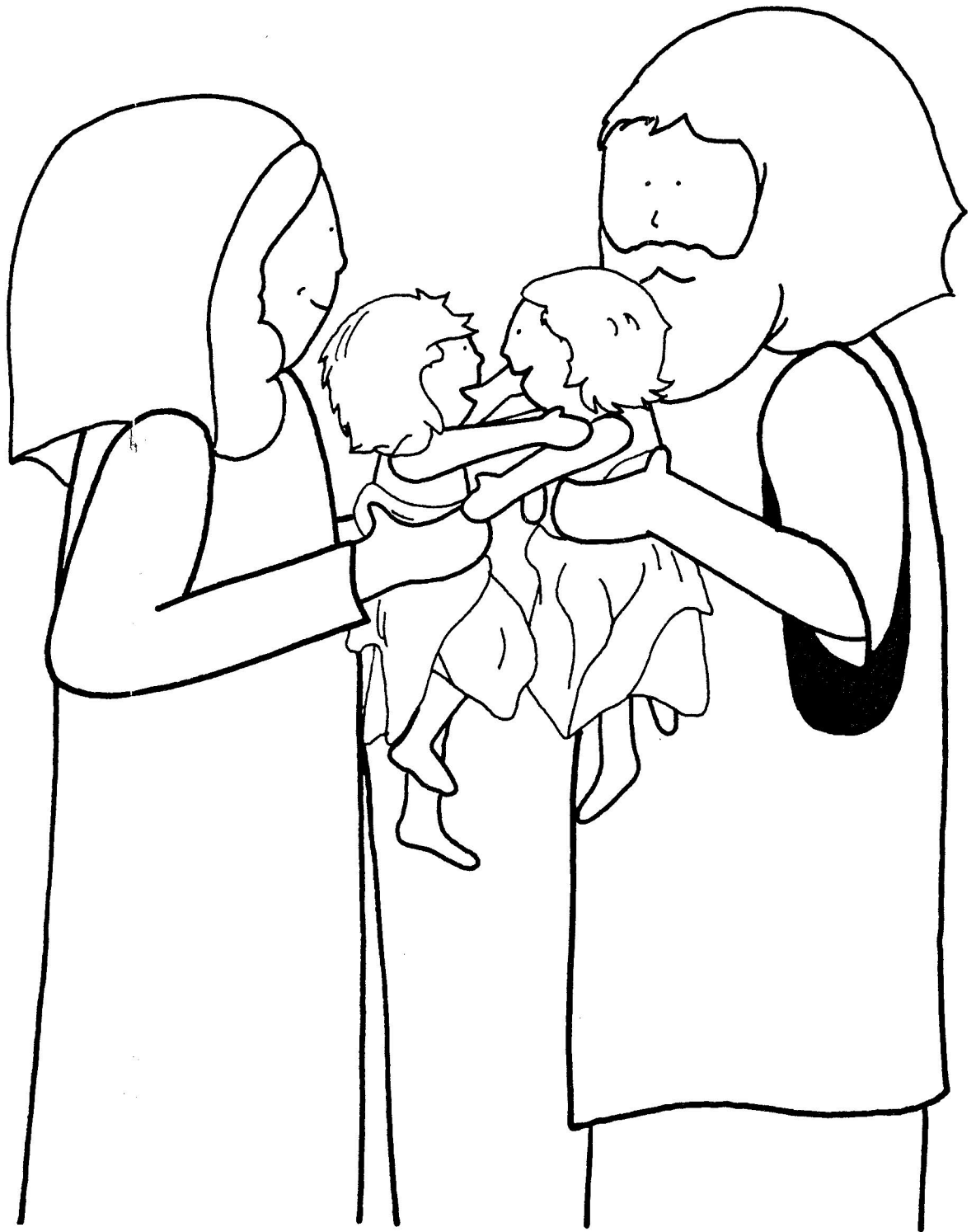
God
Rebekah
Twins

Isaac
Red
Young

*How many words can you make from
the letters in*

REBEKAH





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*Can you tell which twin is which?
(Hint: Jacob is holding Esau's heel.)*

