

UNIT #3

PATRIARCHS

UNIT DESCRIPTION

In the study of the Patriarchs we see God's sovereignty in individual lives, which has affected the whole world for eternity.

God chose Jacob, the schemer and deceiver, to be the heir to the promise given to his grandfather, Abraham. All the nations of the earth would be blessed through his family. God mercifully and graciously pursued and finally transformed Jacob from a schemer and deceiver into a man of God.

Through many hardships Jacob's son, Joseph, clung to God's trustworthiness; and as a result, experienced God's presence. God used the trials in Joseph's life to train him for the position of Prime Minister of Egypt. God's sovereignty in giving Joseph this position resulted in the preservation of the nation of Israel.

Throughout history we watch God turn the wickedness of man to the fulfillment of His redeeming purpose and promise. Jacob's wickedness concluded in his surrender and new name of Israel. The wickedness of others resulted in Joseph becoming second-in-command of Egypt and the savior of his family from the famine. God is sovereign over all!

UNIT 3#1

THE PATRIARCHS

2ND/3RD GRADE

I'LL DO IT MY WAY

CONCEPT

In His sovereignty God accomplishes His plan.

GOAL

Christian students will learn that God's plans will always happen and that He promises to give us a full life.

Non-Christian students will learn that God has a plan to give us eternal life if we will ask for His forgiveness.

PASSAGE: GENESIS 25:19-34; 27:1-17, 27-36, 41-45

Key Verse: "People can make all kinds of plans, but only the Lord's plan will happen." Proverbs 19:21 (NCV)

PLANNING AHEAD*

Lesson Supplies

Lesson:

- *Grandpa's Box*, Starr Meade

Craft Supplies

Activity Stations:

- "My Way – God's Way Maze," 1/student
- 4 transparencies of "My Way – God's Way Maze Solution"
- Pencils, 1/student
- Markers
- *Children's Guide to the Bible*, Robert Willoughby
- *Baker Bible Dictionary for Kids*
- "Jacob" worksheet, 1/student

* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION / TEACHER HELPS

Jacob's life is a story of God's patient and sovereign grace, as He slowly molds a deceptive schemer into a surrendered, godly man. It is also a story of the consequences of choosing not to trust God to fulfill His promises. Because Jacob didn't trust God to work out His promises, he forfeited the personal blessings God intended to freely give him.

"The ancient law of primogeniture provided that, under ordinary circumstances, the younger of two sons would be subservient to the older. God's election of the younger son highlights the fact that God's people are the product not of natural or worldly development but of his sovereign intervention in the affairs of men. Part of this verse is quoted in Ro. 9:10-12 as an example of God's sovereign right to do "whatever pleases him" (Ps. 115:3)--Not in an arbitrary way (see Ro. 9:14), but according to His own perfect will. In ancient times the birthright included the inheritance rights of the firstborn (see Heb. 12:16). Jacob was ever the schemer, seeking by any means to gain advantage over others. But it was by God's appointment and care, not Jacob's wits, that he came into the blessing. Esau in despising his birthright proved himself to be 'godless' (Heb. 12:16), since at the heart of the birthright were the covenant promises that Isaac had inherited from Abraham."¹

"The principal parts in this story are those which relate to the *birthright*, and the *blessing*, and the key to both is in ch. 25:23: 'The elder shall serve the younger'. Here is a Divine purpose and promise, and the meaning of it must have been plain to Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob.

(i) THE BIRTHRIGHT (Gen. 25: 29-34)

What followed was rooted in that knowledge. Though Esau was the elder of the two brothers, God purposed that Jacob should take precedence over him. The birthright included temporal and spiritual blessings; it carried with it a double portion of the paternal inheritance, and constituted the possessor of it the spiritual head of his people.

Both Esau and Jacob knew this; but Esau was indifferent to it, and Jacob coveted it. The wrong was not in Jacob getting the birthright, for God intended that he should do so, but in the way he obtained it. As Abram had tried to force the fulfillment of a divine purpose by marrying Hagar (Gen. 26), so did Jacob, by buying the birthright from his brother.

God's purposes must be fulfilled in God's time, and in God's way.

(ii) THE BLESSING (Gen. 27)

Deception followed cunning. What Jacob had stolen from his brother, he must secure from his father. Isaac and Rebekah were well aware of the prediction (25:23), but the attitude of each of them to it was wrong. Isaac planned that Esau should have the blessing (Gen. 27:1-4); and Rebekah plotted to get it for Jacob (27:6-10). Something can be said for each of the four persons in this drama, and much must be said against each; and in the background of it all is God.

A right thing was purposed by these four people in a wrong way. Each was to blame, and each suffered. Isaac was deceived; Esau was robbed; Rebekah lost her favourite son forever, for the last time we hear of her is when he left home (28); and Jacob was exiled for twenty years. 'The way of transgressors is hard'.

All this makes necessary the severe disciplining of Jacob, if he is to become the man God wanted him to be for the carrying forward of His redeeming purpose."²

Jacob's life is an example of God fulfilling His plan, often in spite of our actions. In His sovereignty, God has provided a solution to all mankind's' foolish choices by providing the way of salvation to all who turn to Him in faith.

And as believers, Jacob's life continues to sound familiar. All too often we set out to accomplish God's will in our way, forgetting about our blessings in Christ Jesus. The children and we can learn from Jacob's life the folly of not trusting God to accomplish what He has promised. As a result, we can experience His promised blessings as we learn to depend on Him to work out His Incredible Plan.

Additional Reading: Hebrews 12:16-17; Proverbs 3:5-6, 21:30

¹ *The NIV Study Bible*, Zondervan Press, 1983, notes on Gen. 25:23; 25:31; 25:34, pp. 43, 44.

² *The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*, W. Graham Scroggie, 1994, Kregel Publications, pp. 120-122.

LESSON PLAN

SET UP/ INCORPORATION 15-20 MIN	Activity Stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Craft – “My Way / God’s Way Maze” Instructions: Give each student a copy of the maze. Have them try to solve the maze by coloring the path of the water with marker, pen or pencil. After several attempts have been made to solve the maze, give a copy of the transparency with the solution. They will lay the transparency over the maze to see the correct path. ● Research – “Birthright” Instructions: Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Read about Jacob and Esau on pages 24-25 of <i>Children’s Guide to the Bible</i>. Look up “birthright” in the <i>Baker Bible Dictionary for Kids</i>. Discuss the concept of a birthright with the students. ● Missions Prayer Instructions: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign and adopted missionary child.
LEARNING ACTIVITY #1 – LG GROUP 10 MIN	DRAMA - "I'll Do It My Way" skit performed by the drama team. Today we are going to learn about a man who believed in God but didn’t trust Him to keep His promises. Let’s gather with the other classes to see a skit about Jacob.
TRANSITION – 2 MIN	We’ve seen that Jacob’s way and God’s way don’t agree. But God chose Jacob to be the one through whom He would work to carry out His plan. Our key verse is, "People can make all kinds of plans, but only the Lord’s plan will happen" (Proverbs 19:21) . Let’s go back to our classrooms and learn how we are often like Jacob and how we can learn to trust God.
INTRODUCTION/ INSTRUCTION -- LG GROUP 7 MIN	Instructions: As the students respond to the first three questions question, draw the corresponding symbol on the white board. Let’s do a quick review of God’s promises we have learned so far this year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Who remembers the promise God made to Adam and Eve? (He promised a Messiah to pay for their sin. Draw a cross.) ● To Noah? (He promised He would never destroy the earth again with a flood. Draw an ark – the symbol of salvation or a rainbow – the reminder of the promise that He would never again destroy the earth by flood.) ● To Abraham? (He made a covenant, promising land, descendants as many as there are stars in the sky and that all people of the world would be blessed through descendants. Draw a globe 🌍 w/lots of 😊 all over it.) ● Were any of these promises part of His plan to save us from our sin? (Yes, all parts were.) How? (Savior, Noah’s ark a picture of salvation, Messiah to come through Abraham’s descendants.) ● Some people have trusted God a little, some a lot and some not at all. Does the way people view God have any bearing on His ability to accomplish His plan? (No. God is able to accomplish whatever He wishes.) ● What does that tell you about God? (God is powerful, wise and in control.) This is what we call God’s sovereignty.
LESSON -- LG GROUP 7 MIN	Instructions: Read pages 46-51 of <i>Grandpa’s Box</i> . Some of you may be fighting and struggling like Jacob because you don’t even know that God has amazing promises for you. He promises to give you a full life, to provide everything you need and to be with him forever. All you must do is to tell him you know that you need his forgiveness

	<p>for all your bad choices and bad attitudes. Tell him you want to be his child. When you do that, he will forgive you because Jesus paid for your sin when He died on the cross. In John 10:10 Jesus said, "I came to give life—life in all its fullness." That is what God wanted to give Jacob. But because Jacob didn't depend on God, he was fearful, and separated from his family. "People can make all kinds of plans, but only the Lord's plan will happen" (Proverbs 19:21).</p>
TRANSITION – 2 MIN	Let's get into small groups to discuss this. Bring your Bibles.
<p>LEARNING ACTIVITY #2 -- SM GROUP 10 MIN Rationale: to apply scripture to real life.</p>	<p>Jacob schemed to accomplish God's plan his way. And Jacob experienced the consequences of his sin. But God chose to bring the Messiah to the world through him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what way is Jacob's life an example of God's grace? (Jacob didn't deserve God's acceptance or favor. He went about getting God's blessing in a very sinful way. Yet God was patient; He blessed, protected and pursued him.) • If God said it, He will do it <u>the right way</u>, even though it looks impossible to us. What promises has God made to us? • Where can we find these promises in the Bible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Those who aren't His children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He promises that He wants to have a relationship with you – John 3:16; ▪ that you can have a relationship with Him – John 1:12 ▪ He doesn't want anyone to go to hell – 2 Pet.3:9 ▪ He wants to know you – Jn. 12:32; Rev. 3:20 ○ Those who are His children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He will never leave us – Rom 8:38-39; Ps. 37:28; Heb. 13:5 ▪ He will always provide what we need – Matt. 6:8, 32; Lk. 12:22-30; Jn. 10:11-16; Heb. 4:16; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Peter 1:3 ▪ We will be in heaven with Him after we die – Jn. 14:2-3; Eph. 1:13-14. • Has there ever been a time when you couldn't see any way for things to work and yet God provided in a way you could never have guessed? Explain. (Teachers, be ready with an example from your life when you saw something as hopeless and told God you needed His help, then He supernaturally provided.) <p>In John 10:10 Jesus says "I came to give life—life in all its fullness." That is what God wanted to give Jacob. But because Jacob didn't depend on God, he did not live a fulfilled life. Instead he was fearful and alienated from his family. "People can make all kinds of plans, but only the Lord's plan will happen" (Proverbs 19:21).</p> <p>Let's pray and thank God for His plan, especially His gift of salvation. Pray that we will learn to depend on God and trust Him to do the seemingly impossible.</p>