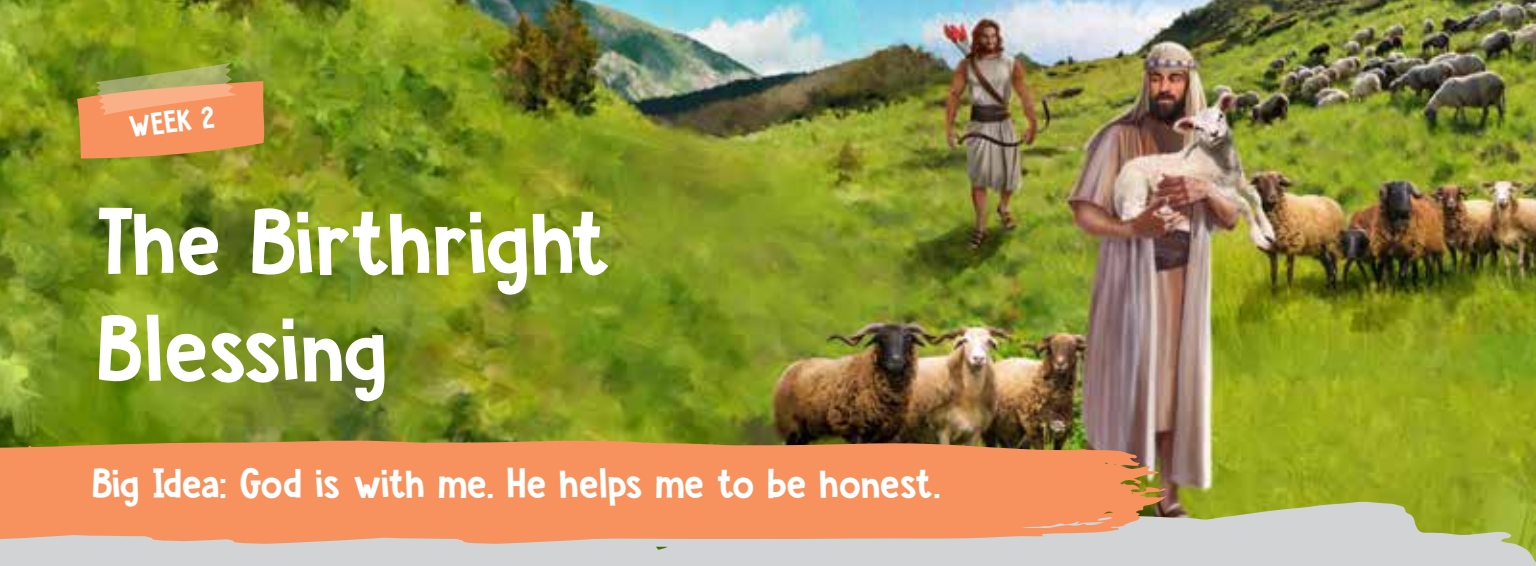
WEEK 2

The Birthright Blessing



Big Idea: God is with me. He helps me to be honest.

Memory Verse

***"Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth' "* (Ephesians 4:25).**

Word of the Week

"Honest" - Being honest means telling the truth. God is always honest, He never lies. When God lives in your heart, you can speak honest words and not lie or cheat.

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 27**; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 179-188; and *SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 1095, 1096.

Sunday

Time for the Blessing

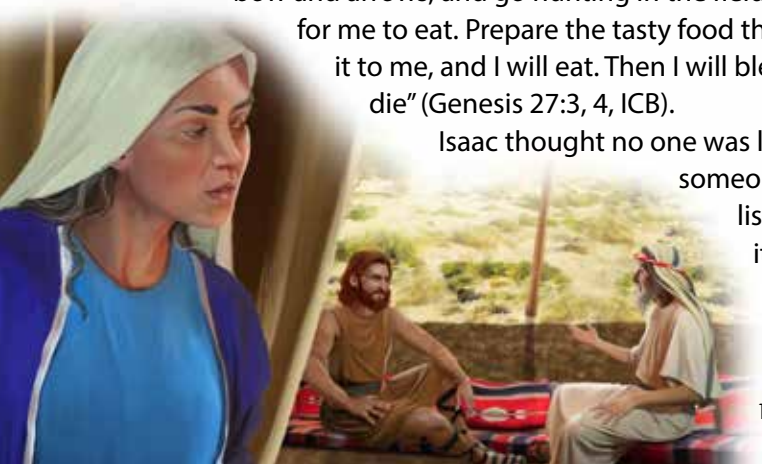
Isaac sat down with a sigh. He was very old now. In fact Isaac was so old his eyes "could not see clearly" (Genesis 27:1, ICB) and his feet moved slowly. He knew he wouldn't be alive much longer. But before he died, Isaac had something important to do. He must give one of his sons a special blessing and make them the new family leader. This son would lead everyone to love and follow God. Whom should it be?

Old Isaac smiled. Of course it should be Esau. He was the firstborn after all and birthright blessings were *always* given to the firstborn.

He knew Mother Rebekah did not agree. An angel had told her long ago: "The older will serve the younger" (Genesis 25:23, ICB). She knew the blessing was for younger brother Jacob, not Esau.

But Father Isaac wouldn't listen. He had made up his mind. He would choose Esau—while no one was looking!

Quickly Father called Esau to his side. Then he whispered, "take your bow and arrows, and go hunting in the field. Kill an animal for me to eat. Prepare the tasty food that I love. Bring it to me, and I will eat. Then I will bless you before I die" (Genesis 27:3, 4, ICB).



Isaac thought no one was looking, but someone nearby was listening! Who was it? Read **Genesis 27:5**.

So much sneakiness. If only they had been honest with each other and asked God what to do.

I Wonder

» Is it good to be sneaky?

» What do you think God thought of Isaac and Rebekah's dishonest plans?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to remind you to talk to Him in prayer about everything.

Do

Play a game of "Trust" with a grown-up. Have them guide you blindfolded around your home, telling you where to go. Did you need their help? You can trust God to always help you.

Monday

A Sneaky Plan

Oh no! Rebekah's eyes opened wide. Isaac was going to give the family blessing to Esau—today!

Rebekah's heart began to pound. *The blessing must be given to Jacob, not Esau.* She raced off to find Jacob. She would fix this—her way! "Listen," she whispered to her younger son, "I heard your father talking to your brother Esau" (Genesis 27:6, ICB). She told Jacob about the blessing Esau was about to be given.

"So obey me, my son. Do what I tell you," Rebekah said to Jacob (Genesis 27:8). She asked him to bring her two goats. "I will prepare them just the way your father likes them," she explained. "Then you will take the food to your father. And he will bless you before he dies" (Genesis 27:10, ICB).

Jacob couldn't believe it. His mother was telling him to pretend to be Esau and lie to his father. Jacob wasn't sure it was a good idea. He looked down at his arms, "My brother Esau is a hairy man. I am smooth! If my father touches me, he will know I am not Esau. Then he will not bless me" (Genesis 27:11,12, ICB). But Rebekah had a plan to trick old, blind Isaac.

What does the Bible say about lying? Read **1 Peter 3:10**.

Not once did Rebekah pray and ask God for help. Oh dear, things are only going to go from bad to really bad without God helping and guiding.

I Wonder

» Can you think of a time you were sneaky or lied? What should you have done instead?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you show honesty all the time.

Do

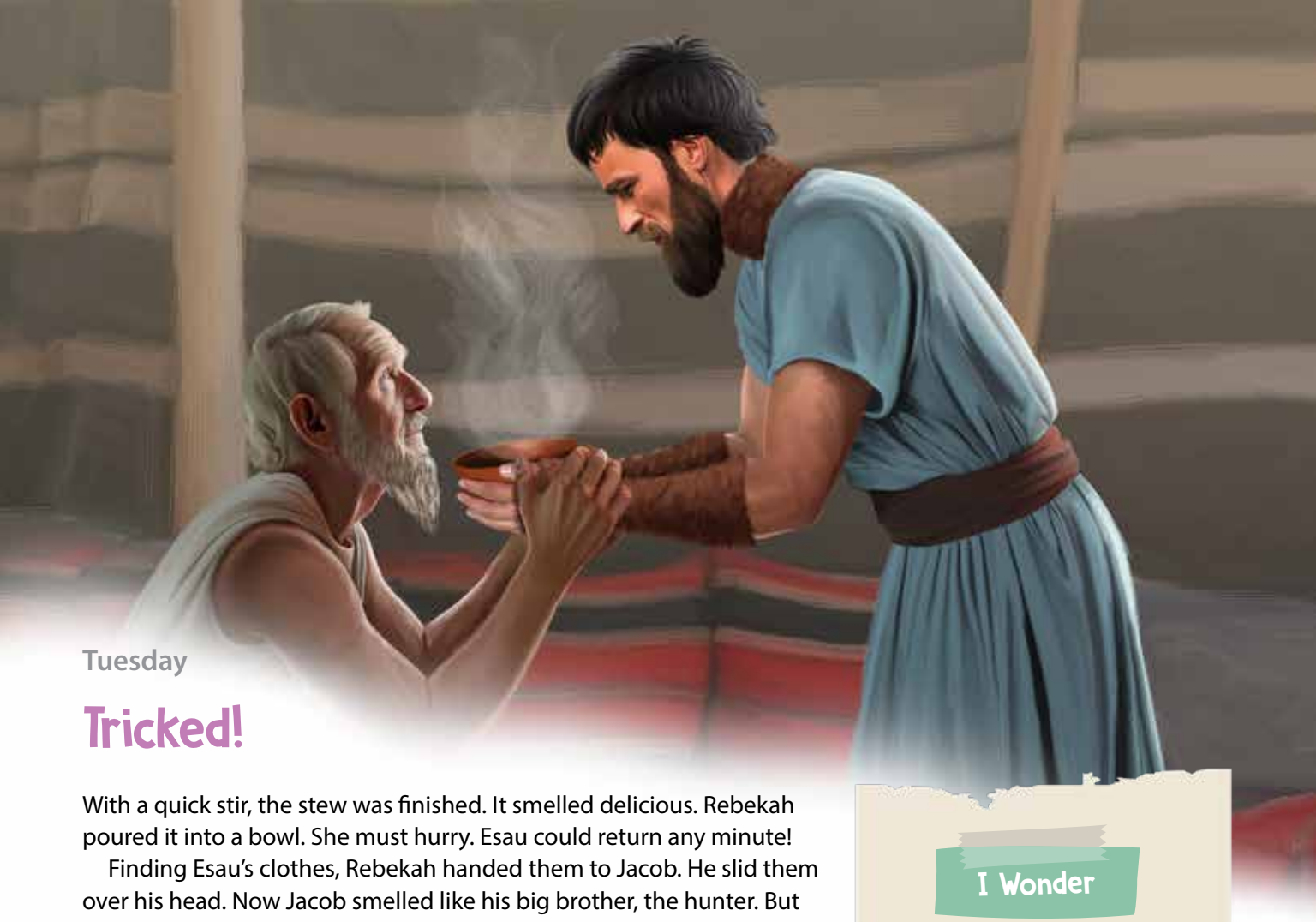
Pour lots of salt on top of a piece of bread. Cover it up with sandwich toppings. Can you really hide it? Can we really hide lies from God?

Mission Challenge

Make your home a welcoming place. What could you make or display to show that you love Jesus?

Memory Verse





Tuesday

Tricked!

With a quick stir, the stew was finished. It smelled delicious. Rebekah poured it into a bowl. She must hurry. Esau could return any minute!

Finding Esau's clothes, Rebekah handed them to Jacob. He slid them over his head. Now Jacob smelled like his big brother, the hunter. But there was still one big problem. Jacob's smooth skin didn't feel like Esau's hairy skin.

What did Rebekah do? Read **Genesis 27:16**.

Problem solved! Now Jacob smelled and felt like Esau.

Jacob held tightly onto the bowl and walked toward his father in the tent. "Father," Jacob said in his best Esau voice. "I am Esau, your first son. I have done what you told me. Now sit up and eat. . . . Then bless me."

Blind Father Isaac frowned. Something sounded very unusual. He asked his son to come closer. Then he reached out to touch his hand. "Your voice sounds like Jacob's voice. But your hands are hairy like the hands of Esau," he said. He still wasn't sure. "Are you really my son Esau?"

"Yes, I am," Jacob answered (Genesis 27:18-24, ICB).

So much lying! Jacob held a lying stew, he wore lying clothes, and had lying goat hair wrapped over his hands and neck. And now his words spoke lies too.

The Bible says, "Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth' " (Ephesians 4:25). God wants us to be honest. He knows that lying only causes trouble.

Old Isaac was tricked. He held Jacob close and spoke God's special blessing. Jacob would be the future leader of their family. The birthright was now his forever!

I Wonder

» How do you think Jacob felt, lying to his father? What should he have done?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to forgive you for the times you have selfishly done what you wanted without thinking of others.

Do

Put on dress-ups and pretend to be someone else. For example: a doctor, a builder, an old grandma. Have the family guess who you are trying to be. Who does God want you to be?

Memory Verse

Wednesday

Found Out!

Jacob stepped out of his father's tent. Just a few moments later, Esau stepped in. Esau was holding a bowl of freshly made stew. He couldn't wait to be given the special blessing from his father.

"Father, rise, and eat the food that your son killed for you. Then bless me," Esau said with a smile (Genesis 27:31, ICB).

What? Old Isaac was confused. "Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your son—your firstborn son—Esau," came the reply (Genesis 27:32, ICB).

Old Isaac began to tremble all over. "Then who was it that hunted the animals and brought me food before you came? I ate it, and I blessed him. And it is too late now to take back my blessing" (Genesis 27:33, ICB).

He had been tricked! Esau begged his father to bless him too. What did Isaac say? Read **Genesis 27:35**.

Esau was so upset he wanted to cry. He was so mad he wanted to hurt Jacob. In fact, the Bible says, "Esau hated Jacob" (Genesis 27:41, ICB). He never wanted to see his younger brother again.

Old Father Isaac hung his head and cried too. He knew that God had planned to give Jacob the blessing. But Isaac had wanted to do things his own way. Now, his family had hurt each other with lies and tricks.

I Wonder

» Were there any winners in this story? What does that teach us about lying?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you choose to do things His way.

Do

Make up actions for your memory verse, Ephesians 4:25, as you learn it in song.

Memory Verse



Thursday

The Wisdom of Waiting

Jacob had thought about getting the birthright for a very long time and now it was his! He thought he would feel so happy he'd be jumping up and down. But he didn't. He just felt bad, sad, and sorry all at the same time.

Jacob hid in the shadows. He watched Esau shaking his fist in the air and shouting angry words. He shouldn't have lied. He had hurt Esau. He had hurt his father, Isaac, and most importantly he had hurt God. What a mess!

Rebekah was sad and sorry too. Her lies had caused so much hurt in her family. If only she had trusted God to do things at the right time, in the right way!

What does the Bible say we need to do when we trust God? Read **Psalm 27:14**.

With a sorry heart, Rebekah asked God to forgive her. God always loves to forgive. But angry Esau was not ready to forgive.

Then one day, Rebekah heard some terrible news. Quickly she sent for Jacob. "Listen," she whispered, "your brother Esau is . . . planning to kill you" (Genesis 27:42, ICB).

Oh, no! Mother and son hugged each other tightly as tears spilled down their cheeks. It was no longer safe for Jacob to live at home. He must run far away!

I Wonder

» What do you think Rebekah might have said when she asked God to forgive her?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you be patient and work with God on your problems in His way.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share with your child a time you waited for God's help, and He worked things out His way.





Friday

Consequences

Esau's anger bubbled and hissed like a pot of boiling hot water. Esau did not have God's love and forgiveness in his heart. Instead, his hatred burned hotter and hotter until he wanted to kill his younger brother Jacob.

Rebekah knew it would be too dangerous for Jacob to stay. He must leave now!

"So, son, do what I say," Rebekah cried. "My brother Laban is living in Haran. Go to him at once! Stay with him for a while until your brother is not so angry" (Genesis 27:43, 44, ICB).

Father Isaac also called for Jacob. He had been thinking and praying. He now knew God had planned to give Jacob the special blessing all along. Isaac told Jacob to marry a woman from Rebekah's family who loved and believed in the one true God. Then Father Isaac gave Jacob one last beautiful blessing.

What did Isaac say? Read **Genesis 28:3**.

Jacob hugged his parents and cried. Isaac and Rebekah waved sadly as their son disappeared into the distance with only his staff and bag.

Although Jacob had made many bad choices, God was still with him. God loved him and forgave him for his mistakes. Did you know that God's love for you never changes either, even when you make really big mistakes?

I Wonder

» What words would you say to Jacob to encourage him?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that His love never ends —even when we make mistakes.

Do

Give a hug to someone you know at church this Sabbath. Tell them that God's love for them will never end.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Have everyone in your family draw a picture of what it means to be honest. Talk to each other, explaining what you drew. Glue them into your family journal. Finish by saying a prayer asking God to help you be honest. Then, if needed, spend some time asking God and each other for forgiveness for times when you may have been dishonest.

For You, Parents

"Reveal to [your children] the beauty and preciousness of truth. Lead them to behold Christ and His loveliness; then they will turn aside from everything that will draw their affections away from Him" (Ellen G. White, *Adventist Home,* p. 305).

Just a Little Hairnet



It was a beautiful hairnet. The young woman looked at it longingly. Oh, how she would love to have it! Her hair clips were so plain. In these times, long ago, women loved to cover their hair with a hairnet, and this one was very special.

She looked around the empty room that belonged to her friend, Mrs. White. Then she looked back at the hairnet. She was staying in Mrs. White's home with some friends. But right now she was the only one home.

It's not very big, she thought to herself. *Just a little hairnet. I don't think Mrs. White will miss it at all.* She quickly picked it up and put it in her pocket. Then she hid it in her trunk, a large box where she stored her clothes.

Later Mrs. White needed to go out. She looked for her hairnet, but couldn't find it *anywhere*!

In the evening Mrs. White asked, "Has anyone seen my hairnet? It was on my dresser, but now it's gone." There was silence. How strange!

The next day, when Mrs. White walked through the girl's room, a voice said, "Open that trunk." She recognized the voice as that of an angel. When she lifted the lid, there was her hairnet!

She left it in the trunk but asked everyone about it again that evening. She hoped the girl would be honest. But no one spoke.

More days passed. One morning Mrs. White was given a surprising vision from God, like an awake dream. In her vision she saw the hand of a girl burn her hairnet in a small flame.

Once more, with sadness, Mrs. White asked everyone about the hairnet. Still no one told the truth.

Finally she called the young woman to her room and told her about the angel's voice, what she'd seen, and her vision. The young woman's eyes filled with tears as she admitted she had taken it. "I am so sorry; please forgive me," she cried. Mrs. White gladly forgave her. She asked God to forgive her too.

This woman had thought that taking the hairnet was just a *little* thing, but she learned that little things are important because they grow into big things. Little good choices grow into big good choices. Little bad choices can grow into big bad choices. This was a lesson in honesty she would never forget!

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