

I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go. (Genesis 28:15)

The Birthright – Genesis 25:29-34

Prepare to Wonder

Jacob and Esau were very different in character. Esau liked to hunt and eat game. Jacob was quieter and enjoyed home life and cooking. It is thought that Esau was Isaac's favorite son, while Rebecca favored Jacob.

One day Esau came in from the field very hungry and demanded food from his brother Jacob who was making stew. So Jacob agreed to feed his brother, but he first asked for his brother's birthright in exchange. A birthright was something given to the oldest son. It gave the firstborn the status of being the leader of the family and gave him the right to the family's inheritance.

Esau was very hungry so he gave Jacob his birthright for some food. He gave up his birthright, the right of property and blessing, for a bowl of stew. This seems like a very impulsive decision. Esau wanted his immediate needs met and may have forgotten about the importance of his birthright. He may not have considered the consequences of his choice.

In our society, we sometimes act like Esau. We want things right here and now! We do not always think about how our actions could affect the future. Children can understand this concept. Children often want something right way. Have you ever seen a child beg for a toy in a store? or insist on watching just one more cartoon? Sometimes, children have to learn how to wait.

Adults also have to make hard choices. It might be easier to make an impulsive decision that meets our immediate need. But, this story helps us to evaluate our actions and encourages us to take time to stop and think through our choices. If we take time to think, pray, and reflect *before* responding or deciding, we might just find the outcome is even better.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week practice **STOP**: **S** - stop, **T** - think through your actions, **O** - offer your choice to God, **P** - pray, and then proceed.

Welcome to Wonder

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

WONDER together:

- Do you have to make decisions? Is it hard or easy to choose?
- Are you blessed?
- Does everyone deserve to be blessed?

CONTINUE to Wonder:

- What does it mean to do the right thing?
- Is it hard to know what is the right thing to do? Why or why not?

PRAY together

- Dear God, guide me when I have to make hard choices.

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or Download "Everywhere You Go" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play "Everywhere You Go."
- Sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Wonder Cube (Digital Pack) optional, CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook

READ the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story, Genesis 25:29-34.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answers a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible Story

- Visit (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video>) to download and watch today's Bible story.

SHARE the Faith Word

- Faith Word: BLESSING - A blessing is all the things God provides.

Choose a Choice (Game)

SAY: In the Bible story today, Esau made a choice. Sometimes choices can be hard.

- Use the following scenarios and have each person decide which choice he or she might make.

Your parents ask you to clean your room, but you like playing with your toys. What choice do you make?

A classmate is sitting alone at lunch. You are sitting with your friends. What choice do you make?

You are using your favorite electronic, but your friend wants to play with you. What choice do you make?

You are reading at your desk, but your teacher asks you to help a classmate with her math. What choice do you make?

You are watching your favorite TV show, but your parents ask you to get ready for school. What choice do you make?

You are talking with your friends at church, but someone asks you to help hand out the bulletins. What choice do you make?

You want to go outside and ride your bike, but you still have homework to finish. What choice do you make?

Someone is mean to your friend in front of you. Your friend begins to cry. What choice do you make?

Spiritual Practice—Exploring God's blessings through prayer

Supplies: *Celebration Chart, Family Activity Book, (optional)*

SAY: In the Bible story Esau quickly decided to give up his birthright. He did not think through his actions.

WONDER: What might have happened if Esau had stopped and prayed to God before he made such a big decision?

Have all of the children stand up.

- Guide the children through the following body prayer:

Stop! (put hands out in front of you making a stop gesture)

Pray! (place hands together as if you are praying)

God is with me (wrap arms around your body)

Every day! (lift hands to the sky)