

Junior Teacher Guide – November 2018



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Problems at Birth

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Discuss different types of families.

Begin the discussion by asking students what a family is. (The extended family includes all the descendants of a common ancestor. The immediate family includes parents and children living together in a household.) Limit the discussion to five minutes.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

When [Rebekah's] time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. (Genesis 25:24)

Tell students to decode the verse to remember. (Note: There may be printing errors in the student bifold for some of the coding.)

W h e n R e b e k a h' s
23 8 5 14 18 5 2 5 11 1 8 19

t i m e t o g i v e
20 9 13 5 20 15 7 9 22 5

b i r t h w a s a t
2 9 18 20 8 23 1 19 1 20

h a n d, t h e r e w e r e
8 1 14 4 20 8 5 18 5 23 5 18 5

t w i n s i n h e r w o m b.
20 23 9 14 19 9 14 8 5 18 23 15 13 2

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about a Troubled Birth aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about a Troubled Birth

Zaya – Has anyone ever tricked you? How were you tricked? In our lesson today, you will find out how Jacob tricked his brother Esau.

Zion – As you learned in last week's lesson, Abraham arranged for Isaac to marry one of his kin. Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. But for 20 years, Rebekah had no children. Isaac prayed to God that God would make it possible for Rebekah to have children. God answered Isaac's prayer, and at age 60, Isaac became the father of twins, Jacob and Esau.

Zaya – From the beginning, Jacob and Esau’s lives were unsettled. While in their mother’s womb, the boys *“struggled together within her”* (25:22). Rebekah questioned what was happening inside her. The Lord told her, *“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger”* (25:23).

Zion – When the time came, Rebekah gave birth to the twins. Although they were twins, they did not look alike. Esau, the firstborn, was red and covered with so much hair that it looked like a coat. *“Esau”* means *“red”* or *“earth-colored.”* Because Esau was born first, he was considered to be the older twin. God told Rebekah that the older twin would serve the younger twin. Jacob, born second, grabbed Esau’s heel as he was being born. Perhaps he was trying to be born first. *“Jacob”* means *“supplanter,”* or one who tries to replace another.

Zaya – As the boys grew up, they were a different as night and day. Not only did they look different, they had different attitudes. They thought differently. They were against each other – they did not agree on anything.

Zion – Esau was a skilled hunter, an outdoor boy, the athletic type. Esau was involved in physical activities and had no understanding of spiritual things. Jacob was a quiet man who loved the indoors. He was a mama’s boy. He did whatever his mother told him to do. (Read Genesis 27:1-17).

Zaya – Each parent was partial to one of the twins. Isaac loved Esau and Rebekah loved Jacob. Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating what Esau caught. Jacob was someone who liked to plot against someone, just like his mother.

Zion – The first incident that showed Jacob’s schemes dealt with food. Jacob made some soup while Esau was hunting. After a full day of hunting, Esau returned home, tired and hungry. Esau asked Jacob for a bowl of soup. Jacob saw his chance to get something he wanted – the birthright.

Zaya – Why did Jacob want the birthright? What would the birthright mean to Jacob?

Zion – It meant that the one who had it would be head of the family. It also meant he would be the priest of the family. Also, in this particular family, the one who had the birthright would be in the line that would lead to Jesus.

Zaya – As payment for the stew/soup, Jacob asked Esau to sell his birthright. Esau saw very little value in the birthright and readily agreed to give the birthright to Jacob in exchange for some stew/soup.

Zion – But what is so interesting, Jacob really did not have to trick his brother into giving up his birthright. Jacob was wrong. God had promised before his birth that *“the elder shall serve the younger”* (25:23d). The birthright would come to Jacob in God’s own time. But Jacob could not wait. He tried to help God, so he gained the birthright through trickery. So Jacob gave Esau some bread and stew/soup. Esau gave Jacob his birthright because it meant nothing to him at the time.

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Explain the difference between fraternal twins and identical twins. Fraternal twins come from two separate eggs. Identical twins come from one egg that splits. Fraternal twins will not necessary look alike. Research the origin of April Fool’s Day. (Allow students to use their smart devices.)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students Zion and Zaya know everything they want is not good for them. Then ask them to make a list of everything you want and cross out the things on their list that are not good for them.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a prayer chain.

Materials needed: construction paper strips (red, green, yellow, orange, blue, white), glue or tape, markers

Instructions: Before class cut the construction paper into strips that are two inches wide. Give each student a strip in each color. Then asks students to write a sentence prayer based on the colors.

Orange = a prayer to ask for help

Blue = a prayer for other people

Red = a prayer to say “I’m sorry”

White = a prayer for people you want to forgive

Yellow = a prayer of thanks

Green = a prayer praising God

Use glue or tape to connect the prayers in a chain.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, help us to appreciate the different ways you bless people. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Jacob Tricks Isaac

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Sing and sign “Jesus Loves Me.”

Before class watch “Jesus Loves Me {Sign Language} ASL (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTq-KBL2Rrc>) to learn the sign language for the chorus of the song. During class teach students the sign language to the chorus before showing the video and ask them to join in when the chorus is sung.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

“Are you really my son Esau?” [Isaac asked.] “I am,” [Jacob replied.] (Genesis 27:24)

Ask students to fill in the conversation boxes with the words from the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about How Jacob Receives Isaac’s Blessing aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about How Jacob Received Isaac’s Blessing

Zion – Jacob, with the help of his mother Rebekah, tricked his brother Esau again.

Zaya – Isaac was old and nearly blind. But Isaac liked the food that Esau prepared from the game he hunted and killed. So Isaac asked Esau to prepare such a meal for him. And Isaac promised to bless him before he died. So Esau set out to do what his father wished.

Zion – But little did Esau know that his mother was plotting against him for Jacob’s sake. So she prepared the meal from goats they already had. Then she prepared Jacob to deliver the meal to his father. Because Esau was hairy, Rebekah used the skins from the goats and put them on Jacob’s arms and hands and dressed Jacob in Esau’s clothes.

Zaya – Wow! Rebekah tried very hard to trick her husband so her favorite son would receive the blessing.

Zion – Yes, when Jacob took the meal to his father, he was disguised as his brother.

Zaya – But, you know, Isaac was suspicious. He asked: *“Who are you? How did you find and kill the animal so quickly” (27:18, 20)?* Then he asked Jacob to come close to him so he could touch him. Isaac said: *“Your voice is like Jacob, but your hands are hairy like the hands of Esau” (27:22).* Then Isaac asked again: *“Are you really my son Esau?”* to which Jacob answered, *“Yes, I am” (27:24).*

Zion – Satisfied with Jacob’s response, Isaac said, *“Bring me the food. I will eat it and bless you” (27:25).*

Zaya – But Isaac still not sure about this. He told Jacob to kiss him, and in so doing, Isaac smelled Esau’s clothes that Jacob was wearing.

Zion – So Isaac blessed Jacob and Rebekah’s desire was granted.

Zaya – Here is the blessing Isaac spoke:

The smell of my son is like the smell of the field that the Lord blessed.

May God give you plenty of rain and good soil,

*Then you will have plenty of grain and wine.
May nations serve you.
May peoples bow down to you.
May you be master over your brothers.
May your mother's sons bow down to you.
May everyone who curses you be cursed.
May everyone who blesses you be blessed. (27:27-29)*

Zion – Just as Isaac finished blessing Jacob, Esau came in with the food his father had requested. When Esau told Isaac to rise and eat, Isaac had more questions: *“Who are you?” “Who was it that hunted animals and brought me food before you came?” (27:32-33).*

Zaya – When Isaac realized he had blessed the wrong son, he cried bitterly.

Zion – Esau said, *“Bless me, too, my father. But Isaac said, “Your brother came and tricked me. He has taken your blessing” (27:34-35).*

Zaya – So it was that Jacob tricked/deceived his brother twice.

Zion – Esau begged his father for a blessing. To which Isaac said,
*“You will live far away from the best land, far from the rain.
You will live by using your sword and be a slave to your brother.
But when you struggle, you will break free from him” (9:27:39-40).*

Zaya – In his anger, Esau vowed to kill Jacob after his father's death.

Zion – So once again, Rebekah stepped in. She sent Jacob to live with her brother Laban in Haran for two reasons: 1) She didn't want to lose both sons. 2) She didn't want Jacob to marry a Hittite woman.

Zaya – Isaac did not want Jacob to marry a Hittite woman either. So he commanded Jacob to marry one of Laban's daughters.

Zion – Isaac further blessed Jacob: *“May God All-Powerful bless you and give you many children. May you become the father of many peoples. May the Lord give you and your descendants the blessing of Abraham. Then you may own the land where you are now living as a stranger. This is the land God gave to Abraham” (28:3-4).*

Zaya – Jacob went to Mesopotamia, the Land Between Two Rivers, to the home of Laban, Rebekah's brother.

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

Research the culture of Mesopotamia. (Allow students to use their smart devices)

Do you think it is okay to play tricks on others? (Answers will vary)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Tell students Zion and Zaya are trying to determine whether Esau was careless with his birthright or Jacob was conniving in his determination to obtain his father's blessing. Then explain the definitions of careless and conniving. (Careless means to act without showing enough care and attention. Conniving means to secretly plan to do something wrong.) Take a vote to see how many students think Esau was careless and how many students think Jacob was conniving.

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about How Jacob Formed a Relationship with God aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about How Jacob Formed a Relationship with God

Zaya – Have you ever seen the infomercial for “My Pillow?” This is supposed to be the best pillow for giving you the comfort you need for a good night’s sleep. The ad says, “Experience the most comfortable pillow you’ll ever own.”

Zion – Jacob slept on a different kind of pillow – a stone. While he was on the run from his brother Esau, Jacob stopped to get a good night’s rest before he resumed his journey to his uncle Laban’s house, located in the region of Mesopotamia.

Zaya – That stone pillow doesn’t sound very comfortable.

Zion – But the stone pillow was not so uncomfortable to Jacob that he couldn’t dream. And what a dream he had! Jacob saw a ladder on earth reaching heaven. On the ladder, Jacob saw the angels of the Lord. But more than that, Jacob saw the Lord standing above the ladder. And Jacob heard the Lord identify himself as “the God of Abraham, his grandfather, and Isaac, his father” (28:13). Like the covenant the Lord made with Abraham and Isaac, the Lord made the same covenant with Jacob. Here is the Lord’s promise: “I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are sleeping. Your descendants will be as many as the dust of the earth. They will spread west and east, north and south. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants” (28:13d-14).

Zaya – The Bible says that when Jacob awoke, he spoke these words: “Surely the Lord is in this place. But I did not know it. It is surely the house of God and the gate of heaven” (28:16-17).

Zion – Jacob set this place apart. He used the stone pillow on which he had slept as a marker. He set it on end, poured olive oil on it and named it Bethel. Its former name was Luz.

Zaya – Then Jacob made a promise: “I want God to be with me and protect me on this journey. I want God to give me food to eat and clothes to wear. Then I will be able to return in peace to my father’s house. If the Lord does these things, he will be my God. This stone which I have set up on its end will be the house of God. And I will give one-tenth of all He gives me” (28:20-22).

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

What was in Jacob’s dream? A ladder on earth that reached heaven

What is your vision of heaven? (Answers will vary)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Give each student a blank sheet of paper to draw a ladder. Tell students this game is like musical chairs. The difference is you do not sit in a chair when music stops. You freeze and hold up a picture of the word in the song instead of singing it. The movement for the game is below. (Optional: Pick a word in other verses of the song that students can draw on separate pieces of paper if you want to sing more than one verse.)

Form a circle and start marching clockwise.

Sing while moving in the circle: “We are, climbing, Jacob’s...”

Freeze and hold up the picture of the ladder instead of singing the word “ladder.”

Sing while moving in the circle: "We are, climbing, Jacob's..."

Freeze and hold up the picture of the ladder instead of singing the word "ladder."

Sing while moving in the circle: "We are, climbing, Jacob's..."

Freeze and hold up the picture of the ladder instead of singing the word "ladder."

Sing while moving in the circle: "...soldiers, of the, cross."

Anyone who sings or moves when they should be silent and still is out, and the song must be started again.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a stone pillow.

Materials needed: Newspaper, gray wrapping paper or brown packing paper, tape

Instructions: Give each student enough newspaper to make a ball that is the size of a small pillow and a piece of wrapping/packing paper large enough to wrap the ball. Place the ball on the wrapping/packing paper, wrap it, and seal it with tape. Students can write a word on the pillow that reminds them that God will keep them wherever they go.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, thank you for being with us wherever we go. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lesson 13 – November 25, 2018 | Genesis 30:22-32, 43

Jacob and Rachel Receive a Special Gift

Get Excited!

Below are the instructions for the warm-up activity – Barter for something you want.

Tell students what bartering is. (Bartering is the act of exchanging goods or services without using money. It is like making a trade.) Then ask students to pretend they are bartering with another student in the class. No goods should actually be exchanged.

Key Verse Exercise

Read the verse to remember aloud.

[Rachel] conceived and bore a son. (Genesis 30:23)

Ask students to color the spaces by number to highlight the words in the verse to remember.

Read and Learn!

Read Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Blessed Jacob and Rachel aloud.

Zion and Zaya Talk about How God Blessed Jacob and Rachel

Zion – After walking more than 400 miles, Jacob finally arrived in Haran in Mesopotamia.

Zaya – Jacob had to go a long way to get away from his brother, Esau.

Zion – Jacob stopped at a well where he inquired about his uncle, Laban. One of the shepherd's identified Laban's daughter Rachel who had come to water her father's sheep. Jacob helped Rachel by watering the sheep. Then he told her who he was– the son of Rebekah, Laban's sister. So Rachel ran home and told her father. Then Laban ran to meet Jacob and welcomed him to his home.

Zaya – After working for his uncle for a month, Laban asked Jacob what he wanted to be paid. Jacob asked for Rachel's hand in marriage. For seven years, Jacob worked untiringly because he knew that at the end of that time, Rachel would become his wife.

Zion – But when the time came for Jacob to be married, Jacob, who had who had been a trickster himself, was tricked by his uncle! At the wedding feast, Laban disguised Leah, Rachel's sister and brought her, heavily veiled, to Jacob. It was not until the next morning that Jacob realized he had married the wrong daughter! So Jacob confronted Laban, to which Laban responded: *"In our country we do not allow the younger daughter to marry before the older"* (29:26).

Zaya – Laban propositioned Jacob: *"I will give you Rachel to marry also, but you must serve me another seven years"* (29:27). So after seven more years, Jacob was allowed to marry Rachel.

Zion – Wow! Jacob must really have loved Rachel to work 14 years to be able to marry her.

Zaya – After having served Laban for more than 15 years, Jacob prepared to return home. Laban begged him to stay. But Jacob insisted on returning home. Laban asked Jacob what he should give Jacob. God had blessed Laban because of Jacob and Laban was now a wealthy man.

Zion – Jacob offered to take care of Laban's flocks. As pay, Jacob would take any black lambs and spotted or speckled goats. Laban agreed to Jacob's plan.

Zaya – Little did Laban know that Jacob had a plan for increasing his pay. Jacob cut green branches, peeled off some of the bark so the branches had white stripes on them. He put the branches in front of the watering places. When the animals came to drink, they also mated and their offspring were speckled or spotted. They were the stronger animals and became Jacob's pay. The weaker animals were Laban's. So Jacob tricked Laban! This was pay back!

Zion – Deceit and trickery were a major part of Jacob's life.

Zaya – Remember! If you do bad things, don't be surprised if bad things will happen to you. Instead, try to do good. And trust God!

Rise Up!

Answers to questions in What Do You Think are underlined.

How did God answer Rachel's prayer? God gave her a son.

Why did Laban want Isaac to stay with him? Isaac did a good job at taking care of Laban's flock.

Has anyone ever tried to keep you from receiving God's blessings? (Answers will vary)

Complete the Superhero Challenge if time permits.

Before class, check out a few juvenile books from the library on civil rights. Share how the civil rights era was a time in history when some people tried to keep African Americans from doing great things. Allow children to read excerpts or a chapter in the books in small groups.

Below are the instructions for the Time to Create activity – Make a character profile.

Materials needed: Copies of the Character Profile Template in Appendix A (one per student), pencils, crayons or markers

Instructions: Give each student a copy of the Character Profile Template. Ask them to pick a character in the scripture to complete the profile. Allow students to color the profile when all sections are filled out.

Close the lesson with prayer.

Lord, help to learn the many ways you answer prayers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

