

Objective Aim:	God is sovereign in the midst of deception.
Subjective Aim:	Jesus, please help me to love You and want to please You so I will do things Your way and not my way.
Scripture:	Genesis 25: 20-34; 26: 34-35; 27:1-46
Memory Verse:	“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3: 5 -6

REALITY CHECK

(15 MT, this could be all Trek Teams together or a couple together – you decide)



MATERIALS : depends on game that is played

PREP

- Recruit responsible junior or senior high school students or college students
- Determine if you are going to have all Trek Teams together or not.
 - How many students do you have to lead the games?
 - How many kids?
 - Should you separate *Younger Kids* from *Older Kids*?
- Choose a game, a past recreation game the kids like, give the directions to the students.
 - Ask the Lord to guide you in this planning.
 - It should be a game that has at least two teams.
 - A game where strategy is important.
 - Students and disciplers meet to discuss how it will work – students should be required to attend monthly planning meeting of Children’s Ministry Staff.
 - This should be a game that the kids enjoy playing.
 - You are going to let them play one full game the right way – so it shouldn’t be a long game.
 - Some suggestions
 - ◆ Ping Pong Blow – first team to get ball off the table wins.
 - ◆ Steal the Bacon – first team to get two points
 - Students decide how they will alter the rules for the second part of the game.
 - Disciplers have final say.
- Explain to the students exactly what they are to do.
 - Give them the lesson so they will get the big picture of what they are a part of.
 - Suggested: an explanation of what a *Reality Check* is.



THE ACTIVITY

- As you finish up with the Nook game explain to the kids you have some things you have to take care of and name of student(s) who are going to be leading you in another game.
- Students come in, you introduce them to the kids, and you leave.
 - Disciplers out of the room but still observe what is going on without the kids seeing you is the best.
- The students put the kids into two teams and get the kids involved in the game.
- As soon as one team wins have each team sit down with the students who are leading them.
 - First ask the kids what they thought of the game.
 - Give no comments of your own.
 - Second tell them that you have a plan that will make the next game even better than the first.
 - You present a strategy to the kids that will create complete chaos.
 - Student leaders must be in agreement so the two teams are deceived into following completely different strategies that make it impossible to play the game.
 - If older kids question your directions convince them that you have done this before and you really know what you are talking about.
- When the game is resumed there should be utter chaos – it should be impossible to play the game.
- As soon as the kids experience that it is impossible to play the game Disciplers return.
- The students leave the room so the kids are free to share openly with their Disciplers.



DEBRIEFING

- 1. How did you like playing the game the first time?**
- 2. What about the second game?**
- 3. Why did you play such a different game?**
Have them tell you what the students told them. Did the students make any promises to them? Did they believe the students?
- 4. How do you feel about the time with the students?**
Let them know that you know that the students deceived them, the students lied to them. Challenge them to pay close attention to the Bible story today and they will get some clues as to why the students deceived them.

HEARING THE WORD

(25 MT Story Specialist leads, all Trek Teams together)

MATERIALS: Readers-theater script per kid, highlight markers per kid



- The kids are going to do a Readers Theater today.
 - If you are not familiar with Readers' Theaters see Addendum C.
 - The kids will read in unison with their group.
- Place the kids into four groups.
 - If you have a variety of ages place them evenly with older and younger kids in the same group.
 - Encourage the older kids to help the younger kids in their group.
 - The youngest children may not be able to read the script so encourage them to listen closely and to memorize what they can when you practice.
 - Give the non-readers simple actions they can do when the rest of their group reads their lines.
- Narrator is the Story Specialist
- The other four groups are:
 - Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob
 - After reading through the script consider which kids best fit which group.
 - Assign a Discippler to read with each group
- SUGGESTIONS FOR READER'S THEATER
 - Before you begin define the following for the kids:
 - Birthright: first born would inherit most of what his father owned, it was called his birthright. That God selects Jacob the younger son to receive the blessing was not the way Isaac and Rebekah had known it to be.
 - Quiver and bow – bow and arrow.
 - Game: animals that are hunted such as deer.
 - Jacob's name means "deceiver."
 - Esau was red all over when he was born his name means "red."
 - Each group reads through, with a Discippler, the entire reading.
 - Ask someone to highlight the scripts for each group.
 - You will need to have a script for each kid in a group.
 - Underline words the non-readers are to act out.
 - Demonstrate how to emphasize words or phrases, how to put feeling into the words.
 - E.G. "Why is this happening to me?" say with agony.
 - Practice the reading of their lines with your group.
 - If you have **Younger Kids** in your group explain the lines to them if need be.
 - Give them actions that relate to the script.
 - ◆ This will keep them engaged and listening.
 - Pair each **Younger Kid** with an **Older Kid**.
 - Readers' Theaters can be great presentations to do in front of the whole church, for an Adult Sunday School class, etc.
 - This is another opportunity to get the children in front of the whole church.
 - It can be videotaped and played the following Sunday for the congregation.



READERS THEATER

Narrator: Isaac the son of Abraham took Rebekah to be his wife when he was forty years old. Rebekah was barren, she could not have children.

Isaac: I prayed and asked God to give her a child.

Narrator: Rebekah became pregnant with two children. The children fought with each other inside of her.

Rebekah: Why is this happening to me?

Narrator: God said, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

Narrator: Rebekah gave birth to two sons.

Esau: I was the first born. I was red when I was born and I had hair all over me.

Jacob: I was born after my brother and I was holding onto his heel when I was born.

Narrator: When the boys grew up Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field exhausted.

Esau: Jacob, let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!

Jacob: Sell me your birthright now.

Esau: I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?

Jacob: Swear to me now.

Narrator: So Esau swore to Jacob and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew. He ate and drank and went his way. Esau did not care about his birthright.

Esau did not choose wives wisely. His wives made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah. Esau was forty years old.

When Isaac was old he called Esau his older son to him.

Isaac: My son.

Esau: Here I am.

Isaac: Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

Narrator: Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt Rebekah spoke to her son Jacob.

Rebekah: I heard your father speak to your brother Esau and tell him he was going to bless him. My son, obey my voice. Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.

Jacob: Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.

Rebekah: Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.

Narrator: So Jacob did as his mother commanded. Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son and put them on Jacob her younger son. The skins of the goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. She put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, in the hand of her son Jacob. Jacob went to his father.

Jacob: My father.

Isaac: Here I am. Who are you my son?

Jacob: I am Esau your firstborn, I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.

Isaac: How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?

Jacob: Because the Lord your God granted me success.

Isaac: Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.

The voice is Jacob’s voice but the hands are the hands of Esau.

Narrator: Isaac did not recognize Jacob because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands. So he blessed him.

Isaac: Are you really my son Esau?

Jacob: I am.

Isaac: Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you.

Narrator: So Jacob brought it near to him and Isaac ate; Jacob brought wine to him and Isaac drank.

Isaac: Come near and kiss me, my son.

Narrator: Jacob came near and Isaac kissed him. Isaac smelled the smell of Esau on Jacob's garments and blessed him.

Isaac: See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed! May God give you of the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!

Narrator: Jacob had barely gone from his father's presence when Esau came to his father.

Esau: Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me.

Isaac: Who are you?

Esau: I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.

Narrator: Isaac trembled very violently.

Isaac: Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.

Narrator: As soon as Esau heard this he cried out in a bitter voice.

Esau: Bless me, even me also, O my father!

Isaac: Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.

Esau: Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.

Isaac: Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?

Narrator: Esau hated Jacob. His hatred was so great he threatened to kill Jacob. Rebekah feared for Jacob's life and sent him to live with her brother.

Jacob would never again see Rebekah, his mother.

Deceit had destroyed their family.

God's desire to have the promise He made to Abraham be continued through Jacob was now fulfilled. Though Jacob cheated and lied as his own name conveys, and there were severe consequences for those lies, God's plan to bring a savior through Abraham would be done God's way. No one could change God's plan for He is all powerful, all knowing and all loving.

- Go right into *Chat 'n Chew*.

CHAT 'N CHEW DISCUSSION

(In Trek Teams discuss the scripture, 10 MT)

Objective Aim: God is sovereign in the midst of deception.

Subjective Aim: Jesus helps me to love Him and want to please Him so I will do things His way and not my way.



MATERIALS: Kids gather their Bibles and go into Trek Teams.

I am going to give each of you a piece of gum. Your participation in our discussion, will determine what you do with the gum at the end of Chat n Chew. If you participate in our discussion then your gum will go on this chart at the end. When the chart is full, the group will get to choose any dessert they wish to eat.

1. What had God told Rebekah about her sons?

That the younger would rule over the older. Tell the kids they can use their Reader-Theater sheets to help them find the answers. Have them open their Bibles to Genesis 25: 20, keep that spot and also find Genesis 27: 46. Have them hold those pages between their hands – tell them it is in these pages that the story takes place.

2. Does anyone remember what the promise was that God gave Abraham?

Land would be given, offspring as many as the stars, all nations of earth will be blessed by offspring. Today we know that this blessing would be fulfilled through Jesus. (*Genesis 12: 1-3*)

3. God wanted the promise to pass through Jacob, not Esau. God went against what the people had come to expect – that The Promise would be passed forward through the oldest son.

4. Who did Isaac love the most?

Esau (*Genesis 25:28*)

5. Who did Rebekah love the most?

Jacob (*Genesis 25:28*)

6. Have the kids find Genesis 25:23 and read it. Explain what it means.

7. How was Isaac's family deceitful?

Isaac, even though he knows that God has said that the younger would rule over the elder, wants to bless Esau. Rebekah, even though she knows God has said that the younger would rule over the elder, thinks she must be deceitful and make Jacob deceitful for him to get the blessing. Esau, told Isaac that Jacob had stolen his birthright from him when the truth was that Esau had sold it to Jacob. Jacob, deceived Isaac by going into Isaac for the blessing dressed in a way Isaac would think he was Esau.

8. When we love someone we want to please that person. Do you think that Isaac's family pleased God? Why or why not?

Everyone's actions showed they were more interested in pleasing themselves than in pleasing God. Their actions don't show love for God.

9. What was the consequence of all the deceit in the family?

Jacob had to flee for his life. Rebekah would never again see her favorite son. The family was broken.

10. How did it feel earlier when the students deceived you?

11. What was the consequence of the students lying to you?

Chaos, frustration, anger, disappointment.

12. When we lie we do so because we want something to be different than the truth is – or as the students did, we are just trying to cause trouble. The following aren't questions to answer they are just for you to think about. Think of a time when you have been lied to – how did it feel? Now think of a time when you have lied – why did you do so?

13. Do you think that God is sad when we lie?

Ephesians 4:30 tells us that we grieve the Holy Spirit when we sin. Esau didn't care about his birthright from God because he didn't have a relationship with God. (*1 John 5:3*) Our wanting to please God, to obey his commands, tells us about our relationship with God.

14. Have you ever done something and it hurt someone you truly love? How did you feel?

If someone wants to answer let them, otherwise just let them think about this.

That is how we feel if when we break one of God's laws if we truly love Him.

15. Despite our lying, cheating, being mean to others, doing the opposite of what our parents tell us – whatever the sin is that we struggle with, Jesus loves us. He desires to help us trust Him, love Him, please Him. The promise started through Abraham would be fulfilled in Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus does not like it when we break His laws, but when we confess and repent from our sin He is faithful to forgive us.

Let's pray and ask Jesus to help us love God and want to please Him so we will do things His way and not our way.