

Story: **Jacob and Esau**

Bible Reference: **Genesis 25:29-34**

YOU WILL NEED: Signs that say: *Jacob, Esau, Birthright*

## **Jacob and Esau**

Show your class a paper sack that has donut holes inside.

Ask the students—**Can anyone guess what is inside the sack?**

Let them smell the bag and then try to guess.  
Whether they are right or wrong, show the class the donuts.

Have a couple of kids come forward to smell them.

Ask the students—**Does smelling this make you hungry? What would you trade to have some of these?** (Don't give the donut holes out yet. This comes later in the lesson.)

**SAY:** Today we will learn about a man who was so hungry that he traded away his birthright or inheritance to his brother for a bowl of red stew.

Ask the students—**What is an inheritance?** (It's what a person gets when someone dies.)

**SAY:** An inheritance would include the family house, the land it's on, and everything else including any money. In Bible times a birthright was very important. It was given to the firstborn.

Ask the students—**How many of you are the oldest child in your family?**

**SAY:** In Bible times, because you were born first, you would have been given the birthright, which means that you would get twice as much inheritance as any of your brothers and sisters—that's two times more than anyone else. That's what the "birthright" gave you and it was very important.

Choose 2 volunteers—Give them the *Esau* and *Jacob* signs.

**SAY:** There were two twins. The oldest was named Esau and the second born was Jacob. Esau was born just before Jacob and they were born so close together that Jacob was born holding Esau's heel. But because Esau was born first, he had the birthright. (Give Esau the *Birthright* sign.)

**Tell the Story:** Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from hunting in the open country and he was starving. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that stew!" I'm starving!" (Have the Esau volunteer repeat after you.)

Ask the students—**What do you think Jacob said?** (He said, "First sell me your birthright." Have the Jacob volunteer repeat after you.)

**SAY:** In other words, Jacob basically said, “I’ll give you a bowl of stew for the most important thing you have.”

**Ask the students**—**What would you trade for one of these donut holes? Would you trade a \$5 bill? Would you trade your shoes? Would you trade your house? Would you trade your most important possession?**

**SAY:** But that’s what Esau did. He was so hungry he let Jacob trick him into selling his birthright for a bowl of stew.

**Ask the students**—**How do you think Esau felt later? Have you ever done anything that you later regretted? What about when you do something wrong—do you regret it? How does it make you feel?**

**SAY:** Continuing to do things we know are wrong is like trading a great treasure for a bowl of stew. There is nothing greater in life than what God has planned for you, but you trade it all away when you don’t follow Him.

Leader: *Don’t get tricked* / Students: *Follow Jesus!*

**SAY:** Jesus doesn’t want you to get tricked by the things of this world. Some things in this life may seem great and some wrong things may even seem fun for a while but the truth is that there’s nothing this world has to offer that even begins to compare with what you get when you follow Jesus.