

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church and can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: GOD IS PROVIDER

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 18: 21—22

God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Just before Abraham completes the act, the angel of the Lord stops him and provides an animal to sacrifice in place of Isaac.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD IS LORD

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19—34; 27

Rebekah gives birth to twins Jacob and Esau. The rivalry between the twins begins before they're even born. Later, when their father Isaac is on his deathbed, Jacob and his mother Rebekah plot to steal Esau's birthright.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- The birthright gave the oldest son, Esau, the privilege of a double portion of the inheritance as well as the title of priest, judge, and leader of the family.
- Esau cared so little for his spiritual heritage that he gave Jacob his birthright in exchange for a bowl of stew.
- Esau had hairy arms and Jacob did not. Rebekah helped Jacob dress in fur that would make Jacob feel like Esau. This tricked the blind and bedridden father, Isaac, into giving the blessing of birthright to Jacob instead of Esau.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Gather your children on your bed. **Read Genesis 27:18–25.** After you have finished reading the passage, explain to your children that receiving a blessing today is different from the blessing given to a firstborn son (in today's passage, Esau) in biblical times. Today, a blessing is a way of inviting God to work in our lives to make us more like Him. Encourage your kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. This posture is meant to symbolize a willingness of heart to respond to God's Holy Spirit and to receive what God has for them. As your children remain in this posture, pray a prayer of blessing over them.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- Why do you think Jacob wanted the blessing so badly?
- What was so important about the birthright blessing?
- How can you show thankfulness for God's blessings in your life?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God is Lord into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
Psalm 90:2

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may you know that God is Lord over all things, including your life. May you know His presence each day.**

For more information about blessing your child, talk to your ministry leader or see *Spiritual Parenting* by Michelle Anthony.