Preschool–Grade 5

Jacob and Esau Craft

A tent with red pottage · Genesis 25, 27 and 32–33 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



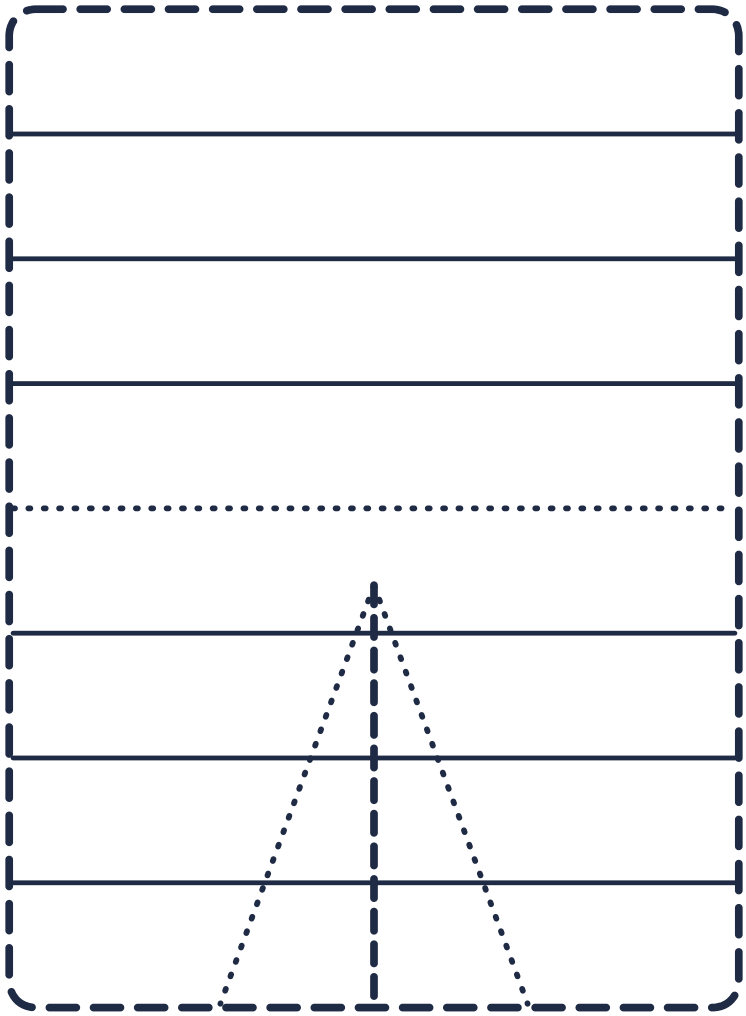
Harder

Medium (left): a paper tent with brown and tan bands stands on the table with its two door flaps folded back. Through the door you see the pottage picture glued on the back wall inside: a brown bowl of red pottage and a light brown loaf of bread. Harder (right): the same tent with a brown she goat, a white ewe and a tan camel from page 3 standing in a line in front of it, with a space between each one, like the present Jacob sent ahead to Esau.

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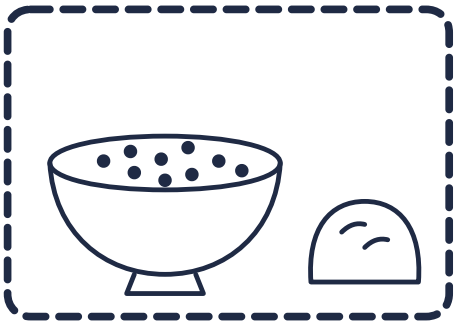
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Tent: color the bands brown and tan, every other band

Cut the middle slit for the door. Fold on the dotted lines.



Pottage picture

pottage red, bowl brown, bread light brown
Glue it inside the tent, on the back wall.

And be ye kind one
to another,
tenderhearted,
forgiving one another,
even as God for
Christ's sake hath
forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32 (KJV)

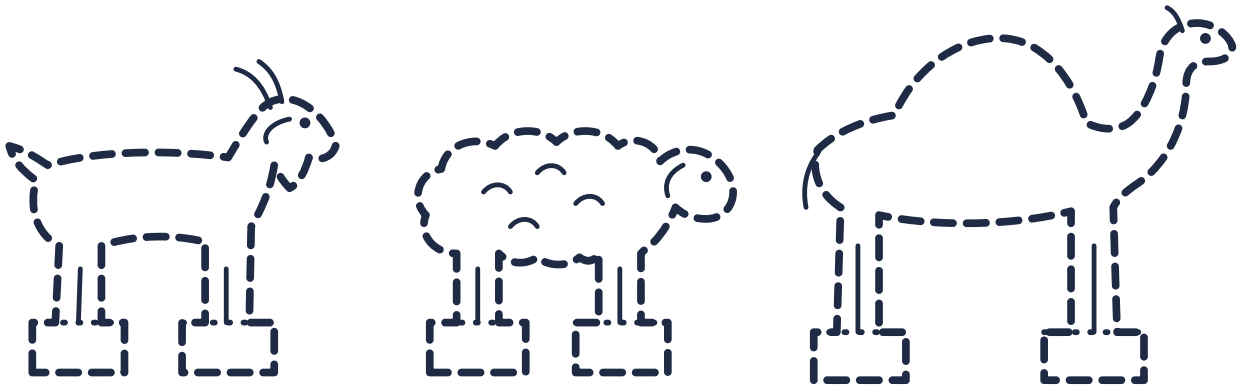
Verse card: glue it on the outside
of the back wall of the tent.

Color the tent bands brown and tan, the pottage red, the bowl brown and the bread light brown. Cut out every piece and cut the door slit. Fold the tent in half on the middle dotted line and stand it up. Fold the door flaps back, glue the pottage picture inside on the back wall, and glue the verse card on the outside of the back wall.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



She goat
brown

Ewe (a mother sheep)
leave it white

Camel
tan

Cut out each animal on its dashed line, with the two tabs under its feet.
Fold both tabs back on the dotted lines so the animal stands up.

How to add Jacob's present

1. Make the tent from page 2 with the pottage picture inside and the verse card on the back.
2. Color the she goat brown and the camel tan, and leave the ewe white.
3. Cut out each animal on its dashed line, with the two tabs under its feet. Fold both tabs back on the dotted lines so the animal stands up.
4. Stand the three animals in a line in front of the tent, walking away from it, with a space between each one. Jacob sent his present ahead of him to Esau and said, "put a space betwixt drove and drove" (Genesis 32:16).
5. Tell the story: Jacob was afraid of Esau, so he prayed and sent a present ahead (32:9–16). When they met, "Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him" (33:4).

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/jacob-and-esau-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), brown, tan, red and light brown crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's tent, pottage picture and verse card, cut the door slit, and fold the tent in half. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out and fold each child's tent and cut the door slit. Kids color the tent bands and the pottage picture. Help them fold the door flaps back, glue the pottage picture inside on the back wall, and glue the verse card on the back. Point to the pottage and say, "Esau traded something special for this red stew."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, cut the door slit, fold the tent and glue the pottage picture inside and the verse card on the back. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level, then add Jacob's present from page 3: a she goat, a ewe and a camel that stand in a line in front of the tent with a space between each one (Genesis 32:13–16). They say Ephesians 4:32 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there are no people: the craft draws no people. It shows things the Bible names: the tents where Jacob dwelt (Genesis 25:27), the bread and the red pottage of lentils (25:30, 25:34), and the goats, ewes and camels of Jacob's present (32:14–15). Tell the kids what Jacob and Esau said and did with each one.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the bands on both halves of the tent brown and tan, every other band. On the pottage picture, color the pottage red (Genesis 25:30), the bowl brown and the bread light brown.
2. **Cut:** cut out the tent, the pottage picture and the verse card on the dashed lines. Then cut up the short dashed line in the middle of the tent's bottom half to make the door.
3. **Fold:** fold the tent in half on the dotted line across the middle, colors on the outside, and stand it up. Fold the two door flaps back on their dotted lines.
4. **The pottage:** glue the pottage picture inside the tent, on the back wall, so you can see it through the open door (Genesis 25:29–34).
5. **Verse:** turn the tent around and glue the verse card on the outside of the back wall. Read it together.
6. **Tell the story:** Jacob was "a plain man, dwelling in tents" (25:27), and Esau sold his birthright for bread and red pottage (25:30–34). Later Jacob lied to his father to get the blessing (27:19), and years later Esau ran to meet him and embraced him (33:4).

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the tent. Which brother stayed home by the tents? *(Jacob, "a plain man, dwelling in tents," Genesis 25:27)* What was Esau? *(A cunning hunter, a man of the field, 25:27)*
- Point to the pottage. What color was it? *(Red, 25:30)* What did Esau sell for bread and pottage? *(His birthright, 25:33–34)*
- What did Rebekah put on Jacob's hands and neck so he would feel hairy like Esau? *(The skins of the young goats, 27:16)* Was it right for Jacob to say, "I am Esau thy firstborn"? *(No. It was a lie, 27:19, 27:35)*
- Point to the animals (harder level). Why did Jacob send a present ahead? *(He was afraid of Esau and wanted to find grace in his sight, 32:7, 32:20, 33:8)*
- What did Esau do when he saw Jacob? *(He ran to meet him, embraced him, kissed him, and they wept, 33:4)*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** pottage = a thick stew; sod = cooked; lentiles = lentils, small beans; birthright = the firstborn son's special place and share in the family; despised = treated as worth nothing; dwelling in tents = living in tents; subtilty = trickery; drove = a herd of animals driven along; betwixt = between; ewe = a mother sheep; embraced = hugged; tenderhearted = having a soft, caring heart; for Christ's sake = because of Jesus.
- **What the Bible says:** the pottage was red (Genesis 25:30) and made of lentils, and Jacob gave Esau bread with it (25:34), so the picture has red pottage and a loaf of bread. The Bible doesn't say what dish it was in, or what Jacob's tent looked like, so the craft uses a simple bowl and a plain striped tent. Each animal stands for a whole drove: the Bible lists 200 she goats, 200 ewes and 30 camels with their colts, plus other animals (32:14–15).
- **Tell the trick plainly:** don't make Jacob's lie sound funny or clever. It brought Esau's bitter cry, his anger and years apart (27:34, 27:41–43). The happy end is Genesis 33:4.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut and pre-fold everything ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Harder level:** cardstock helps the animals stand. If one tips over, fold its tab a little farther back.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Jacob and Esau Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/jacob-and-esau.

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