



Quick Multi-Age Torah Lesson: Jacob and Esau

Submitted by: *Sara Abrams*

Subject Area: Torah/Talmud/Values

Target Age Group(s): 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade

Materials: Lentil stew or dip prepared ahead of time (see *Tasty Bible Stories*), paper, pencils, attached worksheet, markers, Story of Jacob and Esau from any children's Bible (I used *A Child's Bible: Lessons from The Torah*).

Abstract:

Students will personally reflect on the relationship between siblings and whether they experience any similar feelings that Jacob and Esau did. Students will read and familiarize themselves with the text. Students will create their own depiction of the conflict between the twins. Students will reflect on the historical context of the story.

Procedure: The students will be seated in four different groups at four different tables where they will begin the center activities. We will review the story of Jacob and Esau and the four center tasks will be introduced. Students will spend 10-15 minutes at each station. The teacher will watch the clock for rotation time.

Station One:

In this station students will reflect with a teacher on their own feeling of birth order in their family. They will identify their role and the advantages or disadvantages of their role.

Station Two:

Students will read the story of Jacob and Esau, if there is a time they will highlight the most critical aspects of the text. Students will compare and contrast their respective qualities. See worksheet below.

Station Three:

Students will write a poem together from brainstorming adjectives and descriptive qualities about Jacob and Esau. Together they can weave together the language to create a funny poem about the rivalry. A teacher should be present at this station.



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Station Four:

With lentil stew (dip), pita, and a blessing students will reenact Esau's begging of Jacob's stew and the bargaining for the birth right. Afterward they will enjoy the snack.

Station One:

Your Role in Your Family:

Are you the youngest, oldest, middle, or only?

How do you view your relationship to your parents? Your brothers and sisters?

What are the advantages of being the (youngest, oldest, middle, only)?

What are the disadvantages?

Station 2

Reading of Twins and Tricks p.80-85

Station 3:

Make a poem with classmates and teacher using descriptive words about each character.



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Reenact the begging of Esau to Jacob

Eat the lentil dip after saying hamotzi

Station 2

Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of Jacob and Esau

Strength

Weakness

Jacob

Esau



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