

# Families 3

## Jacob & Esau: The Place of Betrayal

### Preamble

This is the third of four assemblies on families.

The focus of this assembly is the story of Jacob & Esau where Esau is betrayed by his mother Rebekah. This assembly suggests that even when it seems like no-one else is with us, there will be.

### Preparation

Items for trust game to be prepared

Clothing items obtained for story/ spontaneous melodrama.

Cue cards to be prepared for story/ spontaneous melodrama

CD track: Fischy Music "Someone is with you" from Emotions album

**Ken Coulter & Jen Robertson: March 2008.**

<b>Rationale</b>	The stories common to Jewish and Christian faiths can help exploration of issues contemporary to pupils and staff today. This series on families raises such issues. This assembly on betrayal is based on the story of Jacob and Esau.
<b>Title</b>	Betrayal.
<b>Aims</b>	To explore and give opportunity for response to betrayal.
<b>Stage</b>	P 1 - 7
<b>Objectives</b>	1] At the end of this pupils will have experienced sense of mystery and been given opportunity to respond to the challenge.  2] At the end of this pupils will be able to state the facts of the second part of the story of Jacob and Esau.
<b>Link with ACfE</b>	Confident individuals: secure values and beliefs.
<b>Is this part of a series</b>	Third of Four
<b>Introduction</b>	Trust game
<b>Stimulus/ stimuli</b>	Story from Genesis chapter 27.
<b>Guided Reflection</b>	Use of Psalm 55, Fischy music song and comment
<b>Response &amp; Possible Next Steps</b>	Pupils and staff to consider sources of help, thankfulness and how they could make good choices for friends.
<b>Evaluation (a)</b>	Discussion with pupils
<b>Evaluation (b)</b>	RO team discussion
<b>Evaluation (c)</b>	Observation of pupils during the event

## Introduction

Betrayal is the opposite of trust.

Trust Game: two or three pairs of competitors at the front. One person is blindfolded. The other has to guide them from one side of the room to the other. In the middle are a number of safe obstacles.

We don't always get it right when other people trust us. Some times we let them down. But what is much worse is when somebody we trust chooses to let us down or hurt us.

## The Story

Tell the story as spontaneous melodrama. This requires four pupils and some dressing up clothes. As you tell the story, the pupils will repeat their lines after you and will perform actions to illustrate aspects of the story e.g. tired, hungry, cunning.

Use same outfits as previous week with different pupils.

For Esau: large red wig, over the shoulder plaid, spear, bow and arrow or some other hunting implement.

For Jacob: Chef's hat and apron.

In addition another red wig is needed or something that will give impression of hairy arms.

Dressing gown for Isaac

Coloured cloth for Rebekah

Get five pupils out with cue cards

Hssssssss

Booooooo

Awwwww

Cheer.

Huh

Isaac was now very old. His eyes were very weak and he could no longer see. He knew that soon he would die. Sitting in his tent he called out for his favourite son Esau. "Esau" (cheer)

Esau replied "it's me, here I am" (cheer)

"I want you to go out with your bow and arrows and go hunting. Bring me back and see that it is cooked the way I really enjoy. If you do that I will give you my blessing before I die." (awwwww)

The blessing that the father gave was a special prayer given to the oldest son. It could not be taken back and could only be said once.

Rebekah was listening in to this conversation. (hssssss) (Rebekah exaggerates listening pose)

As soon as Esau left, Rebekah got a hold of Jacob and said to him, "Your father has sent out Esau to hunt and get some really tasty meat for a special dinner. After that

your father is going to give him his blessing. (boooooo)

“Quick! Do what I say! Go out into the fields and bring me two young goats, and I will make your father’s dinner from them. Take it to him, and your father will think you are Esau, and he will bless you instead.” (booooo)

But Jacob said, “Esau is all hairy, and I am not! If my father touches me, he will know I am trying to trick him, and he will curse me instead of blessing me!” (huh)

“I’ll take the curse,” Jacob’s mother said, “Just do what you’re told.” (sssssss)

When Jacob brought the two goats, Rebekah cooked a delicious meal. She took some of Esau’s clothes and had Jacob put them on. She took the goatskins and put them on Jacob’s arms and the back of his neck so that he would be hairy like his brother. With this disguise, Jacob took the meal in to his father. (boooooo)

Jacob said. “Father it’s me, Esau, I have brought your favourite dinner, just like you asked.” (booooo)

“How did you do it so quickly?” his father asked. (cheer)

“Your God was with me, and helped me,” Jacob answered. (sssssss)

“You don’t sound like Esau,” Isaac said. “You sound like your brother Jacob. Come here. Let me touch you.”

Isaac felt the hairy goatskin on Jacob’s neck and arms. And then he said, “Your voice is Jacob’s, but your arms are Esau’s.” (huh?)

Isaac ate the meal he thought Esau had brought him. When he was finished he said, “Come here, my son, and then I will give you my blessing.” (booooo)

And so Isaac gave Jacob his blessing. But he thought it was Esau. (boooooo)

Jacob had barely left when his brother Esau came in from his hunting. He cooked the meal, just as his father had asked him to. He brought it in to him, so that he could get his blessing.

“Who are you?” his father asked. (huh)

“Why, I am your firstborn son Esau, of course!” Esau said. (awwwwww)

All of a sudden Isaac began to shake. He knew he had been tricked. “Then who was just here?”

Esau knew right away who it was. He cried out a terrible cry. (awwwwww)

Esau hated his brother Jacob. “After, my father is dead,” he said, “then I will kill him.

Esau’s words were told to Rebekah, and so she sent her son Jacob to run for his life. “I can’t lose both my sons in one day,” she said. (booooo and ssssss)

## Guided reflection

No wonder Jacob had to run away. His brother was angry like he had never been angry before. He really did want to kill him.

For Esau, it must have been very lonely. His mother had planned to steal the blessing from him. His brother had stolen the blessing. His father was about to die.

When people betray us, who do we turn to?

Many people believe that God is always there for them. God is someone who can be trusted and will never let us down. For those who believe this can be really powerful.

A famous king in the Bible is called David. He wrote some words when he was betrayed by a friend. He thought his friend was on his side but it turned out he was on the side of his enemies. David wrote this in Psalm 55 (selection of)

## Psalm 55 (New Century Version)

### *A Prayer About a False Friend*

- 1 God, listen to my prayer  
and do not ignore my cry for help.
- 2 Pay attention to me and answer me.  
I am troubled and upset
- 3 by what the enemy says  
and how the wicked look at me.  
They bring troubles down on me,  
and in anger they attack me.
  
- 4 I am frightened inside;  
the terror of death has attacked me.
- 5 I am scared and shaking,  
and terror grips me.
- 6 I said, "I wish I had wings like a dove.  
Then I would fly away and rest.
- 7 I would wander far away  
and stay in the desert.
  
- 20 The one who was my friend attacks his friends  
and breaks his promises.
- 21 His words are slippery like butter,  
but war is in his heart.  
His words are smoother than oil,  
but they cut like knives.
- 22 Give your worries to the Lord,  
and he will take care of you.  
He will never let good people down.

We are now going to listen to a song: Fischy Music: Someone is With you. Fischy Music "Emotions" album.

For all of us, even if we think that no-one cares there will be someone there. If things are very bad we can talk to teachers or phone Childline. Somebody will always be there.

### **Response and Next Steps**

As we go, think where we can find help if we need it. Think about how we can be thankful for the people who care for us and are our friends even if they do not always get it right. Let us make good choices to help our friends.