



# JACOB & ESAU

GENESIS 25:19-34; 27:1-46

## GOAL

- ▶ **To teach children that lying and tricking people always results in problems. Children should be encouraged to be honest at all times.**
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## CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Isaac:** He was father of Jacob and Esau. He gave them their birthrights and blessings before he died.

**Rebekah:** She was the mother of Jacob and Esau. She helped her son Jacob trick his father.

**Jacob:** He tricked his twin brother, Esau, into selling him his birthright.

**Esau:** He was tricked out of his birthright by his twin brother, Jacob.

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## MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Exodus 20:16:** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
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## OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-46:** Through a series of events and manipulations, Jacob was able to trick his twin brother, Esau, out of the blessing and birthright their father, Isaac, had planned to give him. After Jacob had tricked Esau, Rebekah, the twin's mother, learned that Esau was planning to kill Jacob. To save Jacob from Esau's plan, Rebekah convinced Isaac that Jacob should go stay with her brother Laban so Jacob could choose a wife from his own people. Isaac agreed and sent Jacob to find a wife in the land of Haran.
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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** How were Esau and Jacob different?

**A1:** Jacob liked to stay inside, and Esau like to play outside.

**Q1b:** Do you have any siblings or cousins?

**TN:** Even though we come from the same family, we often have very different interests. No interests are better than another, but it can help us to have more in common with some people than with others. In this story, we don't hear about anything Jacob and Esau had in common, but it is likely that they weren't constantly fighting or disagreeable to each other as they grew up. Being kind and helping out our families is very important.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** Why was Esau so hungry?

**A2:** Esau had been out hunting all day.

**Q2b:** While hiking, your friend finds that a hole in his canteen has leaked out all his water. You agree to share your water in exchange for his boots. Is this right?

**TN:** No, we should be willing to share our water with our friend without getting anything in return. Our desire to help others should not come from a desire to gain anything. While Esau's need seems exaggerated, Jacob used this moment as a way to trick his brother out of something very valuable.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** Who overheard the conversation between Isaac and Esau?

**A3:** Esau and Jacob's mother, Rebekah, overheard the conversation.

**Q3b:** If you bought a ticket to see a movie, would you try to sneak into the theater through one of the exit doors?

**TN:** No, with a ticket, we can enter the theater through the doors like honest customers. There is no need for us to be sneaky. When Rebekah was pregnant with Jacob and Esau, God told her that the oldest would bow to the youngest. If she had shared that bit of information with Isaac, it is likely that Jacob wouldn't have had to resort to underhanded tactics and deceit to claim the blessing. If God truly wanted Jacob to have the birthright and blessing, God would have provided it in such a way that sin would not have been necessary. God keeps his promises and never tempts us to sin.

SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What did Rebekah and Jacob do to disguise Jacob as Esau?

**A4:** Jacob dressed in Esau's clothes and they tied goat skin to his neck and arms.

**Q4b:** If someone wanted to dress up like you, what would he or she need to wear?

**TN:** Would a wig be necessary? What kind of shoes or pants? Let the students come up with answers and have fun with this. Jacob went to great lengths to pass himself off as his much bigger and hairier brother.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** Did Isaac automatically believe that Jacob was Esau?

**A5:** No, Isaac asked to feel Jacob's arms and neck before he believed Jacob's lie.

**Q5b:** Have you ever played a joke on someone?

**TN:** If Rebekah and Jacob's trick hadn't led to something as serious as stealing Esau's blessing from him, it would have been a good joke played on Isaac. Playing jokes or tricking someone with the intent to hurt or harm is wrong. Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac with the intent to steal Esau's blessing, and they were very wrong to have done it.

SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** What did Esau want to do when he found out what Jacob had done?

**A6:** Esau wanted to kill Jacob.

### Extra Lesson Activities:

1. Make a big pot of soup or chili like Jacob.
2. Search for critters in the woods or the park like Esau enjoyed doing. Look for squirrels, birds and deer.
3. Sequencing Activity – cut out & glue the events from the story in the correct order. **You will need scissors & a glue stick.**







**MEMORY  
VERSE**

▶ **Exodus 20:16:** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**BIG IDEA**

▶ Being deceitful is a sin that hurts others and ourselves.

**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▶ Dear God, You have taught us to be honest. Help us to be honest and tell the truth at all times. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

# JACOB & ESAU

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ANSWER KEY

**Across**

2. Esau deserved the family birthright because he was the **(First Born)** son.
3. Jacob and Esau were **(Brothers)**.
5. Esau had a very **(Hairy)** body.
6. What did Isaac ask Esau to make him? **(Stew)**
8. What did Rebekah tie to Jacob to make him feel hairy? **(Goat Skin)**

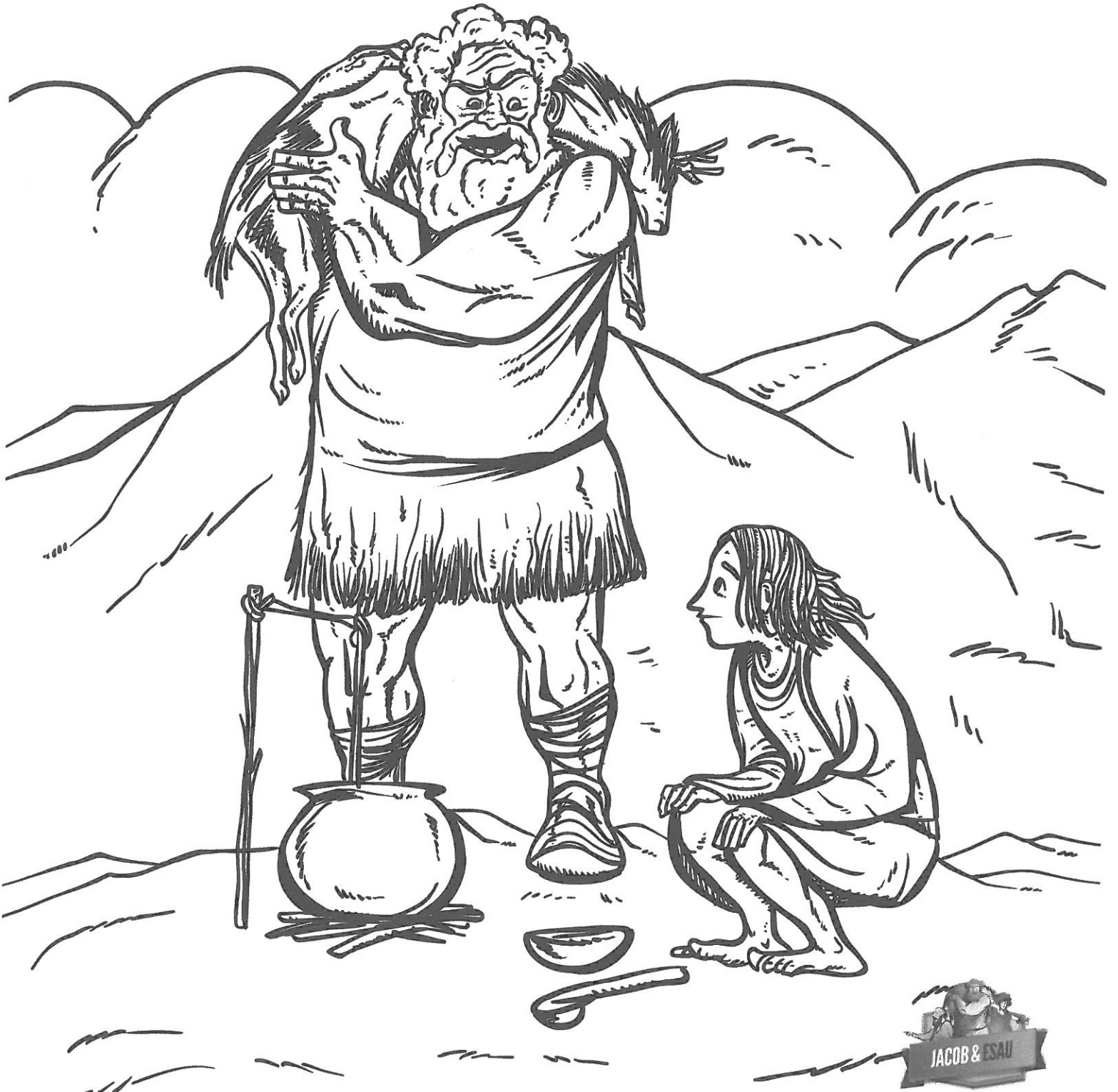
**Down**

1. Rebekah and Jacob tried to trick Isaac so they could get Jacob the what? **(Birthright)**
4. What was one of Esau's best skills? **(Hunting)**
7. Isaac loved which son the most? **(Esau)**

# JACOB & ESAU

Exodus 20:16

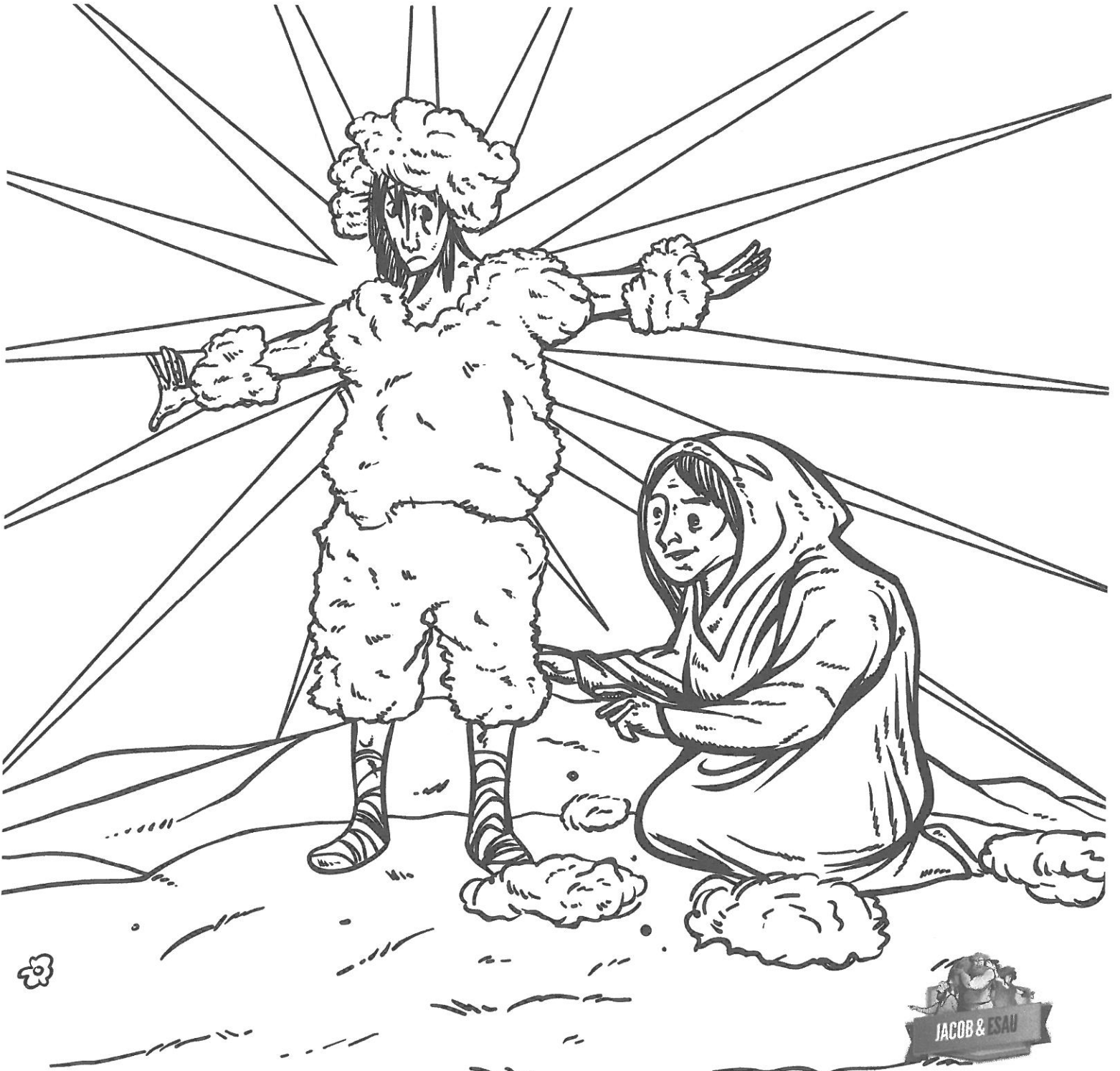
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.



# JACOB & ESAU

**Genesis 27:15**

Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.



# JACOB & ESAU

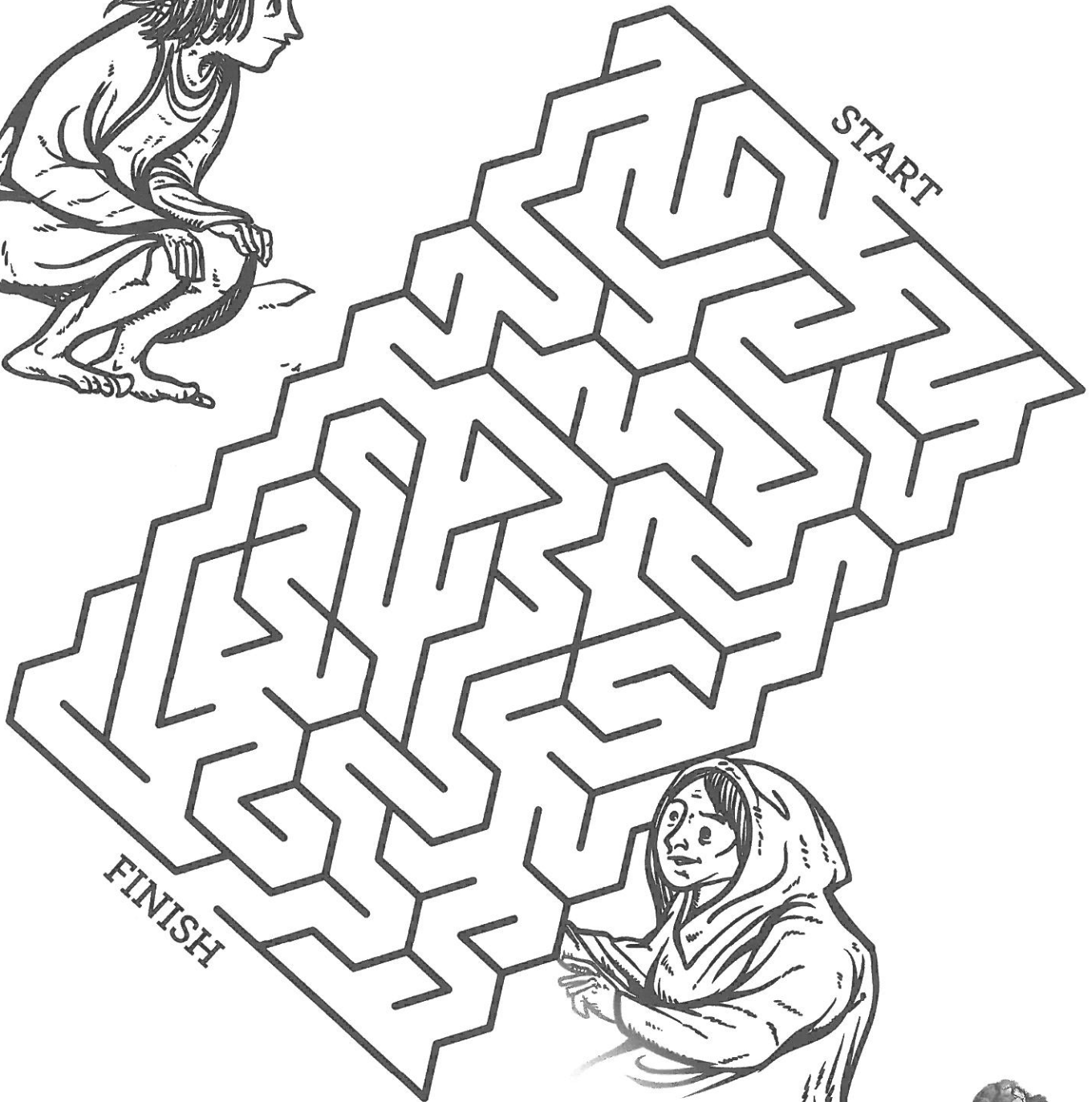
Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.





# JACOB & ESAU

Guide Jacob to his mother.





# JACOB & ESAU



Discover the hidden words.

B	R	O	T	H	E	R	F	S	E	D	N	N	S	D
M	R	I	F	T	T	D	A	B	V	X	N	S	V	T
G	O	E	G	A	V	Z	T	Q	L	Z	Z	D	U	H
L	R	T	B	K	T	R	H	W	E	W	A	S	R	A
E	G	K	H	E	K	H	E	U	W	Z	Q	I	E	I
M	N	F	Y	E	K	W	R	X	T	O	J	X	F	R
W	N	J	X	E	R	A	V	R	I	E	W	P	Q	Y
L	L	V	W	L	U	V	H	V	I	S	V	E	J	N
O	Z	E	X	E	K	G	E	G	X	P	A	W	X	Q
G	P	B	J	S	R	O	H	N	O	I	V	A	M	P
P	Y	N	Y	A	F	A	J	A	C	O	B	P	C	Z
V	H	M	X	U	N	T	C	E	N	K	C	J	S	N
I	H	G	B	I	N	H	U	N	T	I	N	G	V	V
B	I	R	T	H	R	I	G	H	T	N	E	O	Z	P
A	U	K	H	I	B	K	E	A	X	F	I	R	S	T

## Word Bank

BROTHERS  
FIRST  
HAIRY  
ESAU

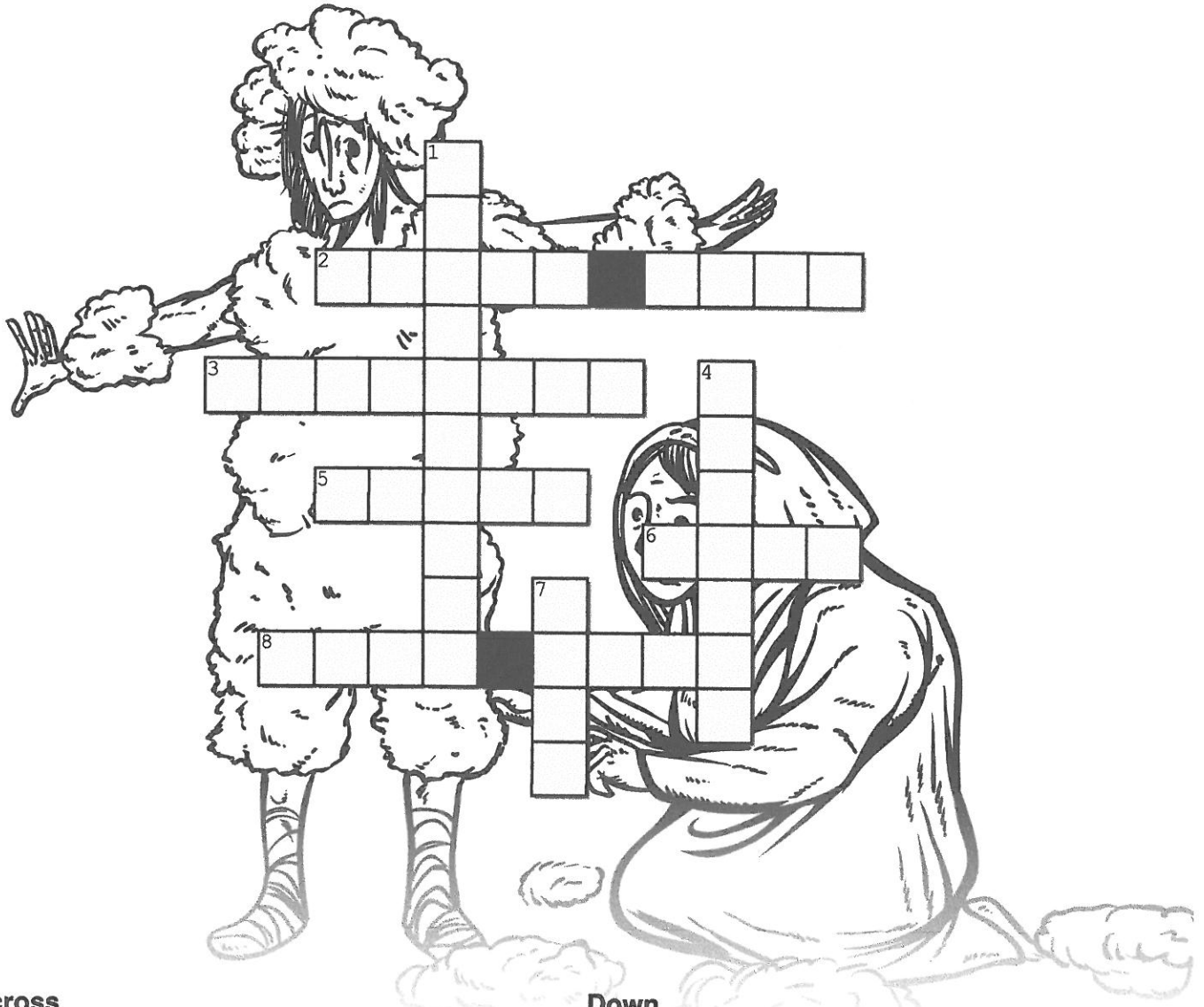
JACOB  
GOAT  
BIRTHRIGHT  
HUNTING

MOTHER  
FATHER  
REBEKAH  
ISAAC



# JACOB & ESAU

Genesis 25:19-34 and 27:1-46



## Across

2. Esau deserved the family birthright because he was the \_\_\_\_\_ son.
3. Jacob and Esau were \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Esau had a very \_\_\_\_\_ body.
6. What did Isaac ask Esau to make him?
8. What did Rebekah tie to Jacob to make him feel hairy?

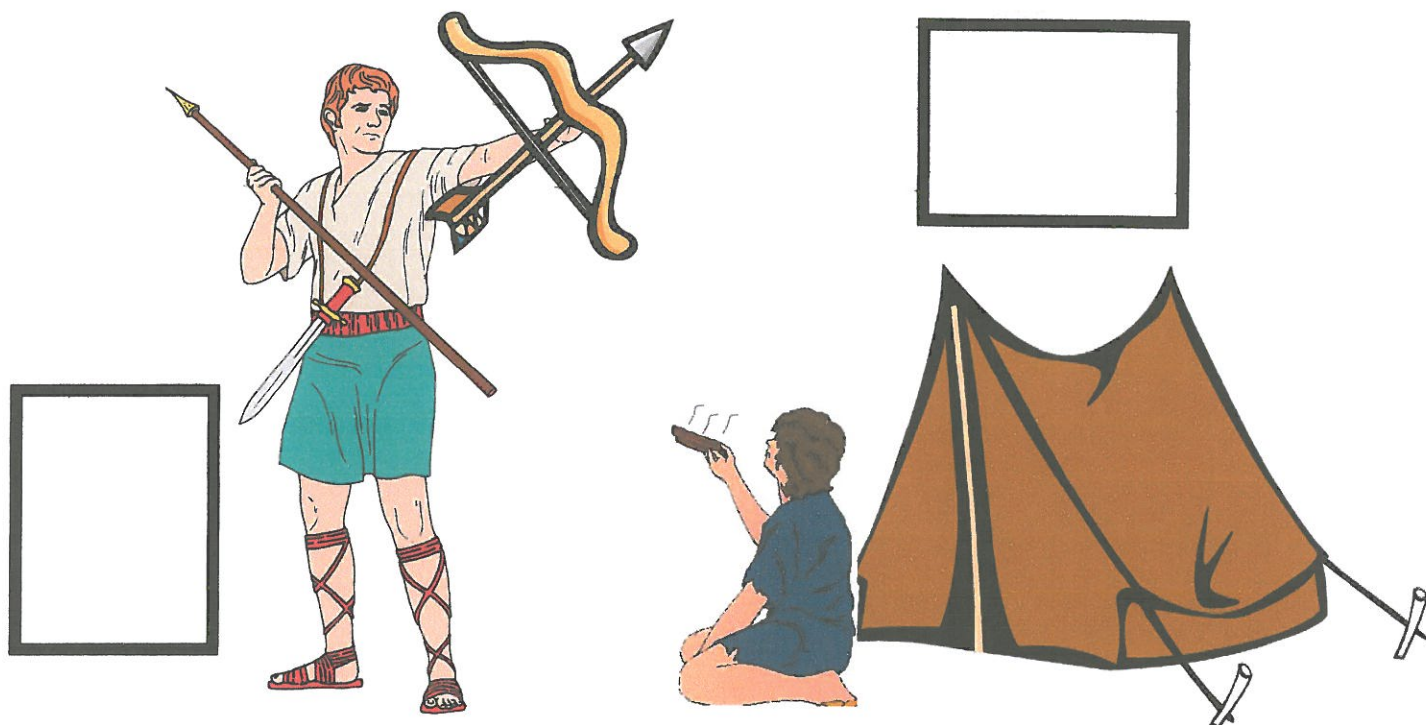
## Down

1. Rebekah and Jacob tried to trick Isaac so they could get Jacob the what?
4. What was one of Esau's best skills?
7. Isaac loved which son the most?



# Esau & Jacob

Put the events in the correct order.



1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8



