

Jacob, a Man with Two Names

Jacob and Esau | from Genesis 25

Isaac grew up and married a lady named Rebekah. They had twin boys, Jacob and Esau. Esau was born first. He was all red and hairy. As the oldest boy, Esau would someday get most of his father's things and a special blessing. Jacob was born hanging on to Esau's heel.

When they grew up, quiet Jacob enjoyed staying home. Esau liked being outdoors and hunting wild animals. One day, Esau came home really hungry. Jacob had made a big bowl of stew. "Give me some of that!" Esau said. "I'm starving."

"Not so fast," Jacob answered. "I'll give you my stew if you promise that I will get Dad's things." That was not a good trade! But Esau was hungry, and so he agreed.

When Isaac grew old and it was time to give Esau the blessing, Jacob was tricky. Jacob disguised himself as his brother and covered his arms with furry animal skins so he would feel hairy. Because Isaac could not see well, he gave Jacob the blessing that should have gone to Esau.

Esau was very, very angry when he found out his brother had gotten their dad's things and his blessing.

