

Lesson 4.10 – Jacob: Integrity and Deception

Topic: Peace in the Family

Subtopic: 3B: Integrity and Justice  
4D: Conflict Management

Class: IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will know that lying, cheating and stealing contribute to conflict.

**Attitude:** They will want to live lives of integrity and justice to help prevent conflict.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

References: Genesis 25-29

Memory Verse: Psalms 97:1a&2b

Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** Divide class into groups of four. Give each group one of these words to define: Integrity, Justice, Conflict and Deception.

Say: In the story today Jacob, Abraham's grandson, uses deception and lying to get what he wants. We will see how dishonesty causes conflict in the family.

**Bible Story:** Tell the story of Jacob and Esau. You can tell it in your own words or use the skits and questions in the Teachers' Notes

**Application:**

- Write words on the board that the students suggest.
- Use an illustration to show how favoritism, lying and deception led to unhappiness, conflict and violence.
- (Optional) Share a story of someone with integrity.

**Evaluation:** Do students understand the connection between dishonesty and conflict. Are they able to give examples from life experiences of the results for either lying or integrity?

Student Activities

**Introduction:** Define four words.

**Bible Story:** Participate in skits and discussion of the story of Jacob and Esau.

**Application:** Suggest words to describe Jacob's family and Laban's family. Offer examples of how deception leads to conflict but integrity leads to peace.

**Evaluation:** When asked, what caused conflict in Jacob's family, students will know that lying and deception led to conflict. They will be able to give examples that show they understand the relationship between lying, cheating, stealing and conflict.

**Extension Activities:** *Memory verse.* Discuss the memory verse. Since God is righteous and just, how does he feel about lying and stealing? How would He want His friends to act? Practice saying the verse to a partner.

*Share stories about integrity.* Choose one of the stories below to share.

*Integrity Story from the United States.* There was a farmer who had pigs to sell. This was before there were many trucks or cars and he had to walk his pigs to the farm of the person who was buying them. It was about a mile. He had to drive the pigs all that way. He finally got to the buyer and the buyer gave him his money. He walked home and then when he went to put the money away, he realized the buyer had given him too much money. He was tired from walking to the buyer and then walking home but he didn't want to keep money that was not his. He walked back and gave the buyer back the extra money. Then he walked all the way home. He wanted to be known as a man of integrity.

*Integrity Story from Kenya.* A Kenyan who was missionary to the Samburu people (and a Friend) was driving in the Samburu area and a small goat ran out in front of his vehicle. Even though the kid ran out in front of him, the missionary got out of the vehicle and took full responsibility for the goat. He had very little money but paid some that day to the owner. He went back later and paid more to the owner to repay for the loss of the goat. He did not have to do this since it was really the goat's fault, but it helped the people understand how a Friend of God takes responsibility of his actions.

*Integrity Story from England (Friends Connection):* George Fox is often known as the one who started the Friends Church or Quakers. He felt that being honest was very important so he always told the truth. He was put in prison because of his preaching but he was so honest that when he wanted to go to a funeral they let him go. They knew he would come back to prison after the funeral because he said he would and he never lied. Sure enough, after the funeral he came back to prison as he had promised.

### Notes for Teacher

The story of Jacob shows how conflict and unhappiness result from favoritism, lying, cheating and stealing. Help students relate this story to their own lives by encouraging students to share examples from their life experiences where someone has caused conflict by being dishonest, stealing or cheating. This would be a good time to talk about how bribes are unfair and partiality causes conflict and unhappiness. Encourage students to be just and righteous even when it is difficult.

Key Point: Lying, cheating and stealing lead to conflict while integrity and justice promote peace.

Introduction: Write these words on the board: Integrity, Justice, Conflict and Deception. Divide students into groups of four, assign each group one word, and give them three minutes to write a definition for their word. After students share their definitions; you will want to give the correct definition.

**Integrity** – Doing what is right even if no one can see you; being transparent; being honest inside and outside;

**Justice-** Being fair; doing what is right for others as well as yourself.

**Conflict** – disagreeing, arguing, fighting; the opposite of peace.

**Deception** – The act of deceiving; making things seem one way when they are really another way; being dishonest, a kind of lying. Point out that Deception is the opposite of Integrity.

Today we are going to learn about Abraham's grandson, Jacob. Jacob used deception and lying to get what he wanted. We will see how dishonesty causes conflict in the family.

Bible Story: *Tell the story of Jacob and Esau.* The story is in Genesis 25-29. You can tell it in your own words or use the guide and skits below

**Jacob and Esau were twins but Esau was born a few minutes before Jacob.** (If anyone in your class is a twin ask them if they are the oldest or not. Ask if they and their twin are alike or different.) **Esau was the oldest or firstborn. Jacob and Esau were very different. They looked different and acted different. Esau had red hair and his skin was hairy. Jacob's skin was smooth. Esau liked to hunt and wander around. Jacob liked to stay home and take care of the animals.**

**Jacob was jealous of Esau because Esau was the oldest. That meant he would inherit everything from his father. He would get his father's land and his father's animals and his father's servants when Isaac died. That was Esau's right as the first born son. Jacob wanted those rights.**

Narrator: One day Esau came in from hunting and he was very hungry. Jacob had just made some soup

Esau: Oh, that soup smells good and I haven't had anything to eat all day. Can I have some soup?

Jacob: No. I made the soup for myself. You can't have any.

Esau: Come on Jacob. I'm starving. Give me just one bowl of soup.

Jacob: I will make a deal with you. If you give me the rights of the firstborn, I'll give you a bowl of soup.

Narrator: Jacob was asking Esau to give up all his father's land, animals and servants in exchange for a bowl of soup.

Esau: Whatever you want you can have. Firstborn rights won't do me any good if I starve to death. Just give me some soup."

**Was Jacob being fair when he wanted to exchange a bowl of soup for Esau's firstborn rights?**

**Why do you suppose Esau agreed to his brother's request?** (Maybe he didn't think Jacob really meant it. Maybe he didn't care that much about his father's things. Maybe he was just really, really hungry and wasn't thinking. The Bible tells us he didn't care that much about his rights as first born - Genesis 25:34)

**Now Jacob was going to get the firstborn inheritance but he wanted something else. When God made covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless him and his family. He said there would be many children in the family and they would inherit the land Abraham saw all around him and they would be blessed. He said that Abraham's family would be special to God. At the same time Abraham promised to obey God and be His friend.**

**When Abraham died, He laid hands on Isaac and passed that covenant and that blessing on to Isaac. When Isaac was getting old and thought he might die, he called for Esau to come and let him lay hands on him so he could pass that covenant and blessing on to Esau as the first born son. Jacob wanted that blessing.**

**Jacob's mother liked Jacob best so she decided to help Jacob steal the blessing from his brother. If a mother or father likes one child better than the others, what happens in the family? (There is jealousy and hurt feelings and fighting.) God says He is without partiality. That means God is fair to everyone. He loves us all just the same. It doesn't**

**matter if you are a boy or a girl, a famous man or homeless woman, God loves us all the same and He will bless every one of us if we will be His friend.**

**Jacob's mother was not like that. She liked Jacob best. She told Jacob how to deceive his father. Isaac was old and he had become blind.**

Isaac (to Esau): Esau, go hunt an animal, cook it and bring it to me to eat. Then I will give you the blessing. (Esau leaves)

Mother (to Jacob) : Jacob, hurry. Your father is getting ready to give Esau the blessing. Kill a goat and I will cook it for you and your father will give you the blessing instead.

Jacob: Father will know it is me. My arms are smooth and Jacob's are hairy.

Mother: We'll cover your arms with goat skin so they'll feel hairy like Esau's.

Jacob: But Esau smells like the forest. Father can tell by the smell that I am not Esau.

Mother: You can wear Esau's best robe. It is here in the closet and it will smell like Esau.

Narrator: So Jacob killed the goat. His mother fixed the stew and Jacob went in to deceive his father and cheat his brother out of the blessing. When Jacob took the meat to his father. Isaac was suspicious.

Jacob: Hello, Father. Here is the meat you told me to fix. I am here for the blessing.

Isaac: "How did you find food so quickly?"

Jacob: "Your God helped me."

Isaac: "You don't sound like Esau, let me touch your skin." Jacob came close and Isaac touched the hairy goat skin.

Isaac: "You don't sound like Esau but you feel like him. Are you really Esau?"

Jacob: "Yes, I am."

Narrator: Isaac ate the meat. He still thought this son didn't sound like Esau.

Isaac: Come closer so I can smell your clothes. You smell like Esau. I will bless you: "May your fields produce a lot of grain. May you rule over all your relatives. May those who bless you be blessed and those who curse you be cursed."

Narrator: Jacob left quickly and then his brother, Esau came bringing meat and expecting a blessing from his father.

Isaac: "Who are you?"

Esau: I am your son, Esau. I am here for the blessing.

Narrator: When Esau told him who he was, Isaac began to tremble and shake.

Isaac: "Your brother has deceived me. He has taken away your blessing."

Esau: "This is the second time he has cheated me. Please give me a blessing, too."

Isaac: "What can I give you? I already said that you would be servant to your brother and he would have all the grain. Now there is nothing that I can do for you, son."

Esau: Please, Father. Give me a blessing, too.

Isaac: "No dew from heaven for you,

No fertile fields for you.

You will live by your sword but be your brother's slave.

Yet when you rebel, you will break away from his control."

Esau: (walking away from Isaac) I hate Jacob. I am going to kill him.

Narrator: Jacob's mother heard what Esau said and she sent Jacob to live with his Uncle Laban (who lived far away). The excuse she gave to Isaac for sending Jacob to Laban was so he could find a wife that was not a Canaanite. So Jacob fled from his brother and went to his Uncle Laban's family.

**Application:** **Was Jacob's family a very happy family?** Write on the board some of the reasons why it was unhappy as the students list them for you. There was favoritism (partiality), jealousy, envy, greed, lying, deceiving, cheating, stealing or theiving.

**How did people feel when these things happened?** Angry, hurt, cheated.

**What did Esau want to do?** Kill his brother.

**What did Jacob have to do?** Go away from home.

Point to the list of things on board that led to unhappiness; say, **These are some of the things that cause fighting and conflict today. They cause conflict in the family, in the community and in the nation.** Draw the illustration shown at the end of this lesson and explain how dishonesty leads to angry feelings and angry feelings lead to violence. Share examples that you are aware of or share some of the stories from optional extended activities.

**Was Jacob a friend of God?** Not at this time. He was not trusting God and he was not obeying God's commandments.

**God wants us to have INTEGRITY and He wants there to be JUSTICE.** (Point to the words on the board.) **Did Jacob have integrity? How do you know? Was he fair and just? How do you know?**

**Esau did not handle his feelings very well either. He let his hurt feelings and anger build up to where he was ready to kill his brother. We need to recognize when we are angry and talk about it or work it out before we get so angry we are tempted to become violent.**

Next week's lesson will tell what happened to Jacob at his Uncle Laban's house.

*Discuss the Memory Verse.* Psalms 97 says, "The Lord is King...He rules with righteousness and justice." God is a God of justice. Friends of God should try to be like Him.

### Illustration

