Act It Out:
Stealing the Blessing

At a Glance:
Students will act out the story of Jacob stealing Esau's blessing in groups of four. The teacher or student(s) read(s) the script while others act out the story.



Supplies Needed:
- 2 page play script for each reader (see following pages)
- "animal skin" to disguise Jacob, e.g. fake fur fabric, wool scarf, etc.
- *optional:* additional costumes and props

Directions:
1. Review the characters in the story. Encourage students to say something specific about each person, giving encouragement if they need help. For example: Isaac is old and cannot see; Rebekah encourages Jacob to deceive Isaac; Esau is a hunter, a hairy man of the field; Jacob does what his mother suggests, agreeing to disguise himself to deceive his father.
2. Divide students into groups of four actors and decide who will play Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob. Optional: Ask for volunteers to read the parts in the script.
3. Read and act out the story.

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Stealing the Blessing Script

Rebekah is listening at the door as Isaac calls Esau.

Narrator: Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him,

Isaac: My son.

Esau: Here I am.

Isaac: Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.

Narrator: And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. So Rebekah went to Jacob.

Rebekah: Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.' Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death.

Jacob: Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.

Rebekah: Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.

Narrator: And Jacob went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. So Jacob went to his father.

Jacob: My father.

Isaac: Here I am. Who are you, my son?

Jacob: I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.

Isaac: How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?

Jacob: Because the Lord your God brought it to me.

Isaac: Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not.

Narrator: So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him.

Isaac: The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.

Narrator: And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

Isaac: Are you really my son Esau?

Jacob: I am.

Isaac: Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you.

Narrator: So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

Isaac: Come near now and kiss me, my son.

Narrator: And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him.

Isaac: Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed. Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!

Narrator: Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father.

Esau: Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me.

Isaac: Who are you?

Esau: I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.

Narrator: Then Isaac trembled exceedingly.

Isaac: Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed.

Narrator: When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry.

Esau: Bless me—me also, O my father!

Isaac: Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.

Esau: Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing! Have you not reserved a blessing for me?

Isaac: Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?

Esau: Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!

Narrator: And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

Isaac: Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above. By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; and it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck."