

## Jacob and Esau

Rebekah overheard what Isaac said to Esau. However, Jacob was her favorite son and she wanted *him* to receive the blessing. So she said to Jacob, "Go out to the flock and bring me two young goats so I can prepare a meal. Then take it to your father so that he will give you his blessing."

"But Esau is hairy and my skin is smooth," Jacob replied. "What if my father touches me? He will realize that I am tricking him and curse me instead of blessing me."

But Rebekah had a plan. She took some of Esau's clothes for Jacob to wear and covered his hands and neck with the goat-skins. Then she handed him the tasty food she had made.

Jacob took it to his father and said, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me."

Isaac was surprised that Esau had returned so soon and said, "Come here so I can touch you and make sure that you really are my son Esau."

Then he said, "Your voice is like Jacob's, but your hands feel like the hands of Esau." Even so, Isaac ate the special meal and then blessed Jacob, thinking that it was Esau.

After Jacob had left, Esau came in with the meal he had prepared for his father. Isaac, who could no longer see, asked him, "Who are you?"

"I am Esau, your firstborn," he replied.

Then Isaac realized that he had blessed Jacob instead of Esau, but he could not take back the blessing. This made Esau very upset, and from then on, he hated his brother Jacob because he had stolen his blessing.