

LITTLE GEMS

Toldot

Shalom children! Today we will continue talking about Yitshaq and Ribqah. **(Put Yitshaq and Ribqah on board.)** Yitshaq and Ribqah had no children yet, so Yitshaq prayed to Yahweh and asked Him to please let them have children. Yahweh answered his prayer and let Ribqah have twins.

When the babies were born, the first one was red and hairy. They called his name Esaw, which means "hairy." **(Put baby Esaw on board.)** The second baby had smooth skin **(put baby Ya'aqob on board)**, and he was still holding on to Esaw's ankle, so they named him Ya'aqob, which means "holder of the heel." Esaw and Ya'aqob grew up, and Esaw became a hunter. **(Put hunting Esaw on board.)** Ya'aqob liked to learn about things. **(Put Ya'aqob and table with scrolls on board.)** I wonder what Ya'aqob liked to study best.

(Take all characters off board.)

One day after Esaw had been hunting for many hours, he came back home very tired and hungry. **(Put standing Esaw with spear on board.)** Ya'aqob had been cooking. **(Place Ya'aqob, cooking pot, and fire pit on board.)** Esaw asked Ya'aqob for a bowl of the food he was making. Ya'aqob told him he would give it to him if Esaw gave him his birthright. Now, a birthright is the right of the son that was born first, and it allowed him extra privileges. Do you know what that word means? **(Have children discuss it and give examples.)** Because Esaw was so very hungry, he didn't stop and think about those privileges; he only thought of what he wanted right then, so he told Ya'aqob yes. **(Put small bowl near Esaw's hand.)**

(Take all characters off board.)

Some more time passed, and a day came when Yitshaq was in his tent. **(Put older Yitshaq on the board in front of a tent.)** Ribqah was standing nearby. **(Put Ribqah on other side of tent.)** Yitshaq told Esaw **(put standing Esaw with spear on board)** to go catch some game and make him the special stew that he really liked, and when he got back with the stew, Yitshaq would give him a blessing. Esaw left to go hunting **(remove standing Esaw with spear off board)**, but Ribqah heard the whole thing. She went secretly to Ya'aqob **(put Ya'aqob on board)** and told him she was going to make her husband's special stew. He was to take it to Yitshaq and pretend he was Esaw so that he would get the blessing from Yitshaq. Ya'aqob was scared. He reminded his mom that he didn't sound like Esaw, and wasn't hairy like his brother either. Ribqah told him he would have to disguise himself and pretend. Children, do you know what the word disguise means?

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(Have children discuss it and give examples.) Ribqah got a goat and took the skin from the goat. She wrapped it around Ya'aqob's arms and neck so he would feel hairy like Esaw. Then Ya'aqob put on some of Esaw's clothes so he would smell like Esaw, too. Now Ya'aqob was disguised. **(Put dressed up Ya'aqob on board.)**

(Take all characters off board.)

Now Yitshaq was old and almost blind, so when Ya'aqob came in, he knew it was Ya'aqob from the sound of his voice. **(Put dressed up Ya'aqob on board in front of older Yitshaq with a small bowl near his hand.)** But Ya'aqob said he was Esaw. Yitshaq wanted to feel his skin to make sure he really was Esaw. Yitshaq was confused, because he sounded like Ya'aqob but felt like Esaw. Ya'aqob brought the dish to his father Yitshaq. **(Put small bowl near older Yitshaq's hand.)** Yitshaq ate, and the dish tasted just the way Esaw always made it. Then Yitshaq asked Ya'aqob to come close to him and kiss him. When Ya'aqob leaned close, Yitshaq smelled him. Since he smelled like Esaw and had hairy arms like Esaw, and had brought a tasty dish like Esaw made, Yitshaq decided it had to be Esaw. So he blessed him.

Right after Ya'aqob left, Esaw came back. **(Swap Ya'aqob for standing Esaw with spear.)** Esaw told Yitshaq he was back with the stew. Yitshaq was confused, because he was sure he had just talked to Esaw. Yitshaq explained to Esaw that he had been tricked by his brother and had given away the blessing. Esaw was sad because now he had no birthright and no blessing. Esaw asked Yitshaq to please give him a blessing too. Yitshaq gave Esaw a small blessing, but it spoke of hard times to come. Esaw then became angry with Ya'aqob and actually hated him. This made Yitshaq and Ribqah very sad. They had to send Ya'aqob away until his brother calmed down. Not a very happy time for anyone, was it?

Well children, we have come to the end of our story for today. We will see you next week for another exciting Little Gems story!