

2024 Southern California Spanish-speaking Conference Stories—Elementary Level

Friday Session—Story 1 Isaac—Keeping Peace and Being Blessed for It

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who keep peace when others want to cause trouble.

Reference Reading: Genesis 26

Memory Verse: Seek peace and pursue it. (Psalm 34:14b)

Story Sample

Last Week 1we heard about how God arranged the best wife for Isaac. Actually, God cared for Isaac in so many ways. Isaac had a restful, happy life of enjoyment.

Eventually, Isaac began to move from place to place. Who can tell me what he would need in every place, not only for himself and his household, but also for his herds of animals? What is one thing we cannot live without? Right—water. So, whenever they would move to a new place, they would dig a well. With a well of water, they and their animal herds never had to be without water.

Eventually though, there was trouble over the wells of Isaac that were dug by his men. Men that lived nearby complained and said that the wells belonged to them. But, rather than fight with the men about who owned the wells, Isaac would move his household to another place. He had a very good attitude about this and did not want to cause trouble. This happened twice!

Now, I might give in and let them have their way once, but I just don't know if I would let someone get away with it twice. I had a friend who came to my house after school one day to play. When she was ready to leave, she had one of my dolls. I told her it was mine and she said, "Oh no. This is my doll." My mom had always taught me to be nice to my friends when they came, so I let her take it. Then the following week, she came again, and she did the same thing! This time I was really mad! I wanted so much to grab it out of her hands! *[Storyteller, add an example of your own.]*

I wonder if Isaac felt this way too when they claimed to own the well. Here they had done all the work of digging the wells, and now they would have to move on once again. And Isaac did it. He didn't argue or fight. He just moved on. He stepped right out of the way of trouble.

Sometimes we have to do this in order to avoid an unhappy situation. When I wanted to grab my toy back, I remembered my mother's words, and I just stepped back and let her take it. My mom saw it and later on told me how proud she was of me for keeping the peace. It made me feel so good to have my mom say that to me!

Isaac was blessed by doing the right thing. He would move and have his men dig a new well in a new place. And do you know what happened? It turned out that he ended up exactly where God wanted him to be all along. God had a particular place where he wanted Isaac to go, and Isaac was happy to get there by keeping the peace.

Because he was a part of God's household and didn't care so much about having the best well, he received the blessing from God and was able to keep the peace. I want to be like Isaac too, not caring for other things but only for what God wants.

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Saturday Night Session—Story 2 Jacob—Being Born the Second

Point to Emphasize: We can be thankful for God’s arrangement in our family.

Reference Reading: Genesis 25:19-27

Memory Verse: Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named. (Ephesians 3:15)

Story Sample

Today we are going to learn about a new person in the Bible, a man named Jacob. We have learned about Abraham and Isaac, right? Well, Jacob was Isaac’s son and Abraham’s grandson.

Actually, Isaac had two sons—he had twins! The older twin was named Esau, and Jacob was the younger twin. Esau was born first, and when he was born he was so hairy that they called him Esau, which means *hairy*. Jacob was born second. His name means *heel-holder*. Isaac and Rebekah gave him that name because when Jacob was born he was holding onto Esau’s heel—as if he wanted to pull ahead of Esau. He wanted to be born first.

Jacob and Esau were really different from each other. Esau was strong in some ways—he was physically strong and he liked to be outdoors. Jacob was strong in other ways—he was a quiet person who had a strong mind and liked to stay indoors. Esau spent his time hunting, while Jacob was always thinking up ways to get what he wanted.

Even while he was being born, Jacob was trying to get his own way—he was holding Esau’s heel because he wanted to be born first. But God had a different plan. God arranged that Jacob would be born second. That was no accident. God knew exactly what Jacob needed—He knew that Jacob needed to have a father like Isaac, a mother like Rebekah, and a brother like Esau. He even knew he needed a grandfather like Abraham. Jacob was placed in exactly the right family.

We too, have been placed by God in the right family. Sometimes this might seem hard to believe. Did you know I have three younger brothers? Three! My youngest brother was born when I was seven, and when my parents brought him home, I thought they had made a mistake. How could one girl have three brothers and no sisters? Shouldn’t I have at least one other girl to grow up with? But it was not a mistake. As I grew older, I realized the Lord gave me the best family. He planned out who would be my brothers and who would be my parents, and He put me with those ones. *[Storyteller, insert your own story about God putting you in the right family.]* God knows what parents we need, what brothers and sisters we need, even what grandparents, aunts, uncles, and more. He put us in exactly the right family.

I’m thankful for my family. Aren’t you thankful for yours? Every night we can thank God for our family!

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Lord's Day Session—Story 3 Jacob—Chosen by God

Point to Emphasize: God will take care of all of our needs. We just need to follow Him.

Reference Reading: Genesis 28

Memory Verse: Behold, I am with you and will keep you... (Genesis 28:15)

Story Sample

Have you ever had to worry about not having anything to wear? Not having food to eat for dinner? What about not having a snack to bring to school? Today we'll hear a story about Jacob. And we will learn that, like Jacob, God will take care of all of our needs.

Jacob had an older brother, an older twin, Esau. At that time, the custom was for the older child to get all the blessing from their father. Jacob was born second, but he wished he was born first so that he would get the blessing. But God arranged for Jacob to be born second, after his brother. I was born second, and I just accepted it. Not Jacob though. He thought of ways that he could get what rightfully belonged to his brother. And one day, he just did that. Do you think Esau was happy with him? No way. If my sister got something that belonged to me, especially without my permission, I would be very angry with her.

So because Jacob took something that belonged to his brother, his brother Esau got very angry. As a result Jacob had to leave his house and his family. But he was not alone. No. One night, when he was trying to find a place to sleep, God appeared to him, just like God appeared to Noah and to Abraham. God would appear to people to speak to them.

When God appeared to Jacob, God told him that He was the God of Abraham (Jacob's grandfather) and the God of Isaac (Jacob's father) and that He had chosen him, too. God promised to give Jacob three things: land for him and his family; seed, which means a large family; and for all the families of the earth to be blessed through him. That meant God would take care of all of his needs. And what did Jacob have to do to receive all these promises? Nothing, except to follow God.

When I was younger, my parents would take my brother, my sister, and me on vacations. At those times I didn't have to worry about anything regarding our trip. I didn't have to pack my clothes or food or sunscreen or pajamas. Whatever I needed, my mom took care of. If we were going to the pool, she'd have my swimsuit ready. If we got hungry, she would buy or prepare food for us. All I needed to do was follow my parents. *[Storyteller, insert your own story of God caring for your needs by following your parents.]*

Jacob was away from home and his family. But God promised to be with him. Even though he did something wrong, he was still chosen by God. God said He would not leave him. God even promised him land, seed, and blessing of all families through him.

God also chose us to be those who love Him and to have parents who love Him, trust in Him, and follow Him. That's why He placed us in the family we are in. God will take care of all of our needs. We don't have to worry about anything. All we need to do is follow God by following our parents.