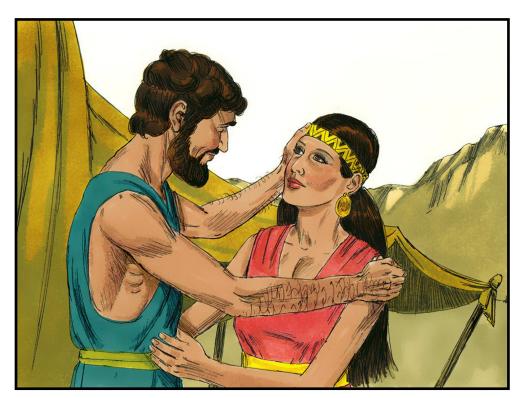
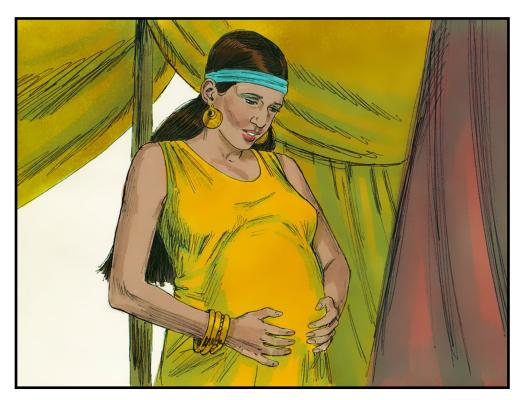




When Abraham was 175 years old, he died. Both Isaac and his half-brother Ishmael buried him in the cave near Mamre. This was the same cave where Sarah had been buried.



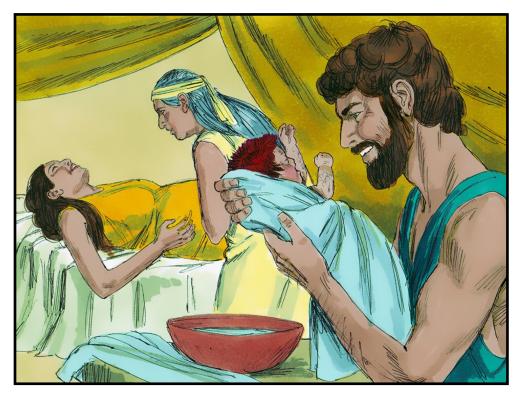
Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. For 22 years Isaac and Rebekah could not have any children. Isaac prayed to the LORD and asked God that they might have a baby.



The LORD answered Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant. She felt a lot of movement in her womb and asked God, "Why is this happening to me?"



The LORD told Rebekah that she would have twin boys. He said, "Two separate nations are in your womb; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older brother will serve the younger brother."

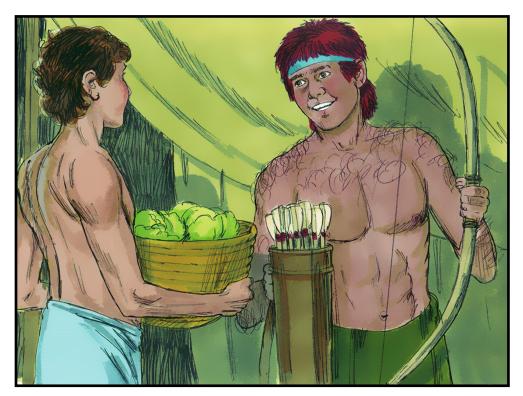


When the time came for her to give birth, she, indeed, had twin boys. The first one to come out looked red, and his whole body was hairy, so they named him Esau.

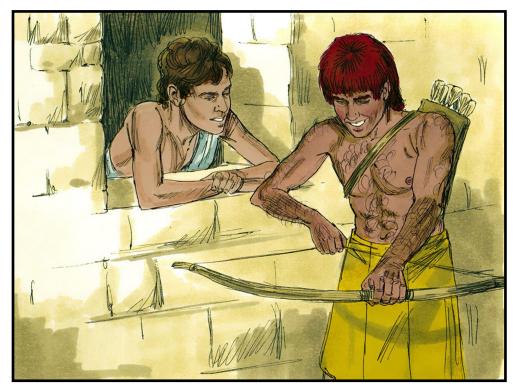


After this, his younger brother came out with his hand grasping Esau's heel. He was named Jacob.

Since Esau was the first baby to be born, he received something called the family birthright. The birthright meant that he would become the leader of the family as well as get twice the inheritance as his younger brother.



The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter who loved to be in the open country. However, his younger brother, Jacob, was content to stay at home among the tents.

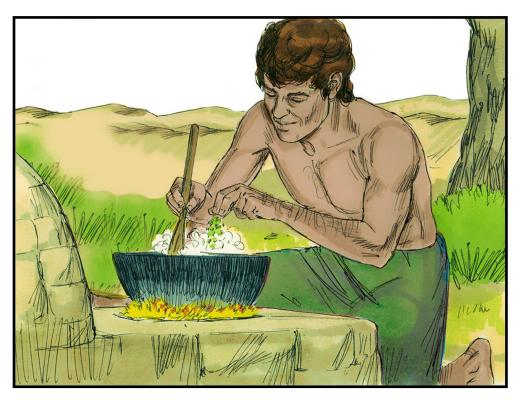


Their father, Isaac, loved to eat wild game—animals hunted in the open country.

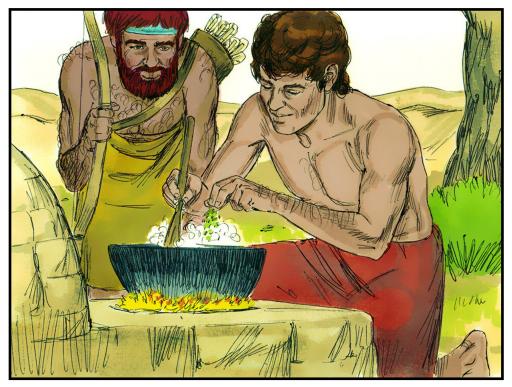
Because of this, Isaac loved Esau the most, but Rebekah loved Jacob the most.



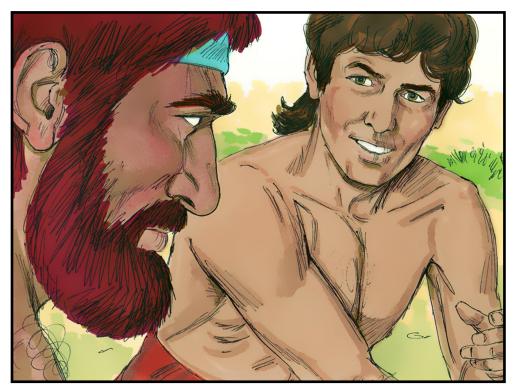
One day Esau set out on a long hunting trip.



However, Jacob stayed home and cooked a red stew.



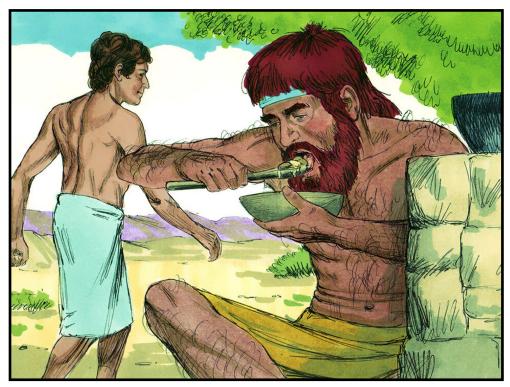
When Esau arrived, he was very hungry and tired from his hunting trip. "Quick," he said to Jacob, "Let me have some of that red stew! I'm so hungry I feel like I could die."



Jacob replied, "First, sell me your birthright that you were given as the older brother. Only then will I give you some stew in return."



"Look, I'm so hungry that I'm about to die," Esau said. "What good is my birthright to me then." Jacob made Esau promise to him that he would sell him his birthright.



So, Esau swore an oath to Jacob and sold him his birthright. Jacob gave Esau some bread and some stew. Esau ate and drank and then got up and left. Thus, he showed that he didn't care about his birthright and becoming the leader of the family. **kids** wants to thank American illustrator Jim Pagett and Sweet Publishing for their free distribution of the pictures used in this book.

