

Parish of the Epiphany

Faith-at-Home for the week of January 23, 2022

Storymakers Stars Chapter 8: Soup

Overview:

This week, we jump back to our old testament zine, *Stars*. We remember the story of Abraham's family, and how God promised to make them into a great nation. Today we are introduced to Isaac's two sons, twins Esau and Jacob. We learn that Jacob does not like being second, and over the next few weeks we'll see how his feelings affect his actions, and his sorrow afterwards. We'll also see how God uses imperfect people like Jacob--and like us!--to help spread God's kingdom and message of love and peace.

Our takeaways this week include:

God loves us all, and God uses imperfect people to build God's kingdom of love. Whatever our feelings are, we can bring those feelings to God.

Stars Chapter 8: Soup

Did you know there's an important Bible story about SOUP?

Since we took a break for Advent, this might be a good time to review where we've been in our Adventure so far. *Can anyone remember where we've been on this journey?*

We learned about Babel, a city full of people who wanted to be as great as God, and how God spread the people all over the earth. Then God made a promise to a man who loved God very much; that man was Abraham. God promised him that Abraham would be the father of a great nation, and that Abraham would have more great-great-great grandchildren than he could count – like the stars. But Abraham and Sarah were very old and didn't have children. They were faithful and they believed God's promises, and they waited and waited and finally they had a son named Isaac. Abraham loved Isaac, and he remembered to love and serve God first.

Isaac grew up; and he married a woman named Rebecca, who he loved. And they wanted children - but they had to wait and wait. And finally, Isaac and Rebecca had twin sons. They grew up, and this is where our story pickups.

Start with the picture on page 63.

What do we see in this picture? Does this give you a clue about our story?

Read the story in parts or as a narrator. Then wonder about it together. *How would you describe Jacob? What about Rebecca?* This was a kind of crazy story today. It continues next time, and actually gets crazier for a while. *Does anyone want to suggest a place where they might be God in this story?*

Pages 67-70 help us explore this story—and our own feelings—a little bit more. *Have you ever felt jealous or wanted something that was not yours?*

What are your special ingredients?

You could think of this as a question about soup and draw carrots. OR you could think of this as a question about yourself. What is special about you? (Special doesn't have to be different; we could all have the same special thing about us; but it's something that you think is important. Something that helps you to be you.)

Hello Feelings exercise. P. 69-70

Can you name a bunch of feelings you sometimes have? What do they look like?

Whatever you feel, you can bring those feelings to God. God welcomes every feeling. Did you know, you don't have to wait until you feel thankful or calm to pray. If you feel upset, or sad, or ashamed, you can always tell God and ask God to help you carry those feelings.

Ending prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for being with us no matter what we feel. Thank you for loving people, when they are good and when they are not so good. Thank you for loving imperfect people like Jacob and for wanting everyone to know how much they are loved. Amen.