

Jacob



Intermediate Workbook
Manitoulin Youth Camp 2025

Dear Camper,

We are excited to be studying the life of Jacob this year at Manitoulin Youth Camp from July 19-26, 2025, God willing. This workbook is for children born in 2013 and 2014. It will help you to prepare for our week of studies together.

We would recommend that you try to listen to or read all the Bible readings listed at least five times before camp. This will help in understanding the story better and in preparing for the morning quizzes.

There are a variety of ways to do this. Here are a few suggestions:

- Visit this link: <http://christadelphianmyc.com/workbooks/memory-verses>
- Read the Bible passages together as a family.
- Listen to a dramatized version of the Bible passages using Bible Gateway, Podcasts, etc.
- Play the Bible passages while you are driving in the car together.
- Print out the Bible passages and have the children highlight important words and phrases in the stories.

Color in a box every time you read/listen to all the Bible passages for the week.



There are five parts to your pre-camp assignment:

- 1) Preparation for the morning quizzes and memory verses
- 2) Bible marking
- 3) A minute meditation
- 4) A special project
- 5) The workbook

Try to get started as soon as possible and do your best work!

If you have any questions about the workbook, please don't hesitate to call or send a note to:
Aunt Julie Snobelen (thesnobelens@hotmail.com) or 519-841-0512

This workbook is written using the King James Version of the Bible. This doesn't mean you can't use another version to answer the questions, but if it asks you to look up a word, it will be the word in the KJV although it may be translated using a different word in other translations.

How to look up a word in a Hebrew Lexicon.

1. **Using a Strong's concordance:** Look up the word in the alphabetically arranged list, find the verse the word comes from, write down the number beside it, and look that up in the Hebrew lexicon at the back of the book.
2. **Using a Bible App:** I use the *Blue Letter Bible* app which you can access on a phone or on a computer. This is instructions for the phone App, the computer version will be similar. Go to the Bible passage, click on the verse, choose Interlinear/Concordance, find the word in the list, and click on the number beside it. This will give you the Outline of Biblical Usage, or you can scroll down a bit and find the Strong's definition, and if you keep scrolling, you will find a list of verses where this word occurs.

Preparation for Morning Quizzes and Memory Verses

There will be Bible readings and a memory verse from the life of Jacob every day at camp. You will be quizzed on the verse and the readings each morning. Below is the list of readings and verses for the quizzes each day. We suggest that you memorize these verses and read over these readings before camp to help you in your preparation for the week.

Monday

Memory Verse:

Genesis 25:23 - “And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.”

Readings:

Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-29, 41-46; 27:30-40

Tuesday

Memory Verse:

Genesis 28:15 - “And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”

Readings:

Genesis 28:1-22; 1:1-18; 29:16-30:24

Wednesday

Memory Verse:

Genesis 32:28 - “And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.”

Readings:

Genesis 32:1-32; 33:1-11

Thursday

Memory Verse:

Genesis 35:11 - “And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;”

Readings:

Genesis 35:1-29

Friday

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 11:21 - “By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.”

Readings: Genesis 37:1-11; 46:1-7; 49:29-33; 50:1-13

Bible Marking

Why do we mark up our Bibles? To make it pretty to look at? Not at all. Marking your bible and coloring words or phrases helps bring your attention to important words, themes or information that brings God's message alive for you.

To help keep your Bible marking consistent and enhance the meaning it's helpful to have a color allocated for particular themes or categories. If you already have a Bible marking color scheme, please continue with that scheme (i.e. you highlight places with brown rather than the green that's listed here). You've already got a good thing going and the last thing we'd want you to do is start using different colors just because they're listed in this Bible marking exercise.

But if you don't have a color scheme set up (or even if you do), here are a list of the categories that you will need a color for in your Bible marking exercise for camp this year. Take a colored pencil and color the category name in that color to help you remember. You might even like to write these categories on a piece of paper, color them with your colors and keep it in the cover of your Bible.

People	Places	Time and Numbers
Themes	Key/Repeated Words	God
	Prophecy/Promises	

You will also need a pencil to underline phrases that don't specifically relate to a category but that you want to draw attention to when you read that passage again in the future. We recommend you have a mechanical pencil with a thin lead.

Monday: Jacob's Early Life

Genesis 25:19-34 Jacob's birth; Pottage story

People:

These are the generations of Isaac (25:19)
Two nations (25:23)
Esau (25:25)
Jacob (25:26)
Edom (25:30)

Places:

Padanaram (25:20)

Time:

forty years old (25:20)
threescore years old (25:26)

Themes:

birthright (25:31, 32, 33, 34)

Genesis 27:1-29,41-46 Deceiving Isaac

People:

Isaac (27:1)
Esau his eldest son (27:1)
Rebekah (27:5)
Jacob her son (27:6)
Laban my brother (27:43)

Places:

Haran (27:43)
the land (27:46)

Time:

old (27:1)
younger (27:42)
few days (27:44)

Themes:

Bless/blessed/blessing (27:4, 7, 10, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 33, 34, 38, 41)

Tuesday: Jacob in Haran

Genesis 28:1-22 Ladder vision

People:

Isaac (28:1)
Jacob (28:1)
daughters of Canaan (28:1)
Bethuel thy mother's father (28:2)
wife (28:2)
daughters of Laban thy mother's brother (28:2)
Abraham (28:4)
Seed (28:14)

God:

God Almighty bless thee (28:3)
God gave (28:4)
angels of God (28:12)
the LORD stood (28:13)
I am the God of Abraham thy father and the God of Isaac (28:13)
the LORD is in this place (28:16)
house of God (28:17)
If God will be with me (28:20)
then shall the LORD be my God (28:21)
God's house (28:22)

Places:

Beersheba (28:10)
Haran (28:10)
land (28:13,15)
Bethel (28:19)
Luz (28:19)

Time:

early in the morning (28:18)

Underline with a pencil:

And Jacob vowed a vow (28:20)

Promises:

(Don't highlight all the words in each verse. Instead it's easier to use a ruler along your margin and draw a box around each section of verses. These promises go beyond the section we're studying at camp. It is very helpful to have all of the promises outlined in your bible.)

Promises to Abram (12:1-3)
Abram promised the land (13:14-17)
Abram promised descendants (15:5)

Abram promised the Canaanite's land (15:18-21)
Abram to be a great nation (17:4-8)
Promises to Isaac (26:2-4)
Promises to Jacob as he leaves the land (28:13-15)
Promises to Jacob when he returns to the land (35:11-12)

Genesis 31:1-18 Summary of time in Haran; Leaves Laban

People:

Jacob (31:1)
Laban's sons (31:1)
Laban (31:2)
Rachel (31:4)
Leah (31:4)
angel of God (31:11)
sons and his wives (31:17)
Isaac his father (31:18)

God:

the LORD said (31:3)
God of my father (31:5)
God suffered him not (31:7)
God hath taken away (31:9)
the angel of God spake unto me (31:11)
I am the God of Bethel (31:13)
God hath taken away (31:16)
God hath said (31:16)
God came (31:24)
God of your father (31:29)
God of my father (31:42)
God of Abraham (31:42)
fear of Isaac (31:42)
God hath seen (31:42)
God is witness (31:50)
God of Abraham (31:53)
God of Nahor (31:53)
God of their father (31:53)

Places:

land of thy fathers (31:3)
land of Canaan (31:18)

Wednesday: Jacob Becomes Israel

Genesis 32:1-32 Prepares for Esau; wrestles with angel

People:

Jacob (32:1)
messengers (32:3)
Esau (32:3)
four hundred men (32:6)
a man (32:24)
Israel (32:28)

Places:

Mahanaim (32:2)

Seir (32:3)
Edom (32:3)
Jordan (32:10)
ford Jabbok (32:22)
Peniel (32:30)

Numbers and Time:

two (32:7)
night (32:13)
Two hundred, twenty, two hundred, twenty (32:14)
thirty, forty, ten, twenty, ten (32:15)
night (32:22)
two, two, eleven (32:22)

Genesis 33:1-11 Meets Esau

People:

Jacob (33:1)
Esau (33:1)
four hundred men (33:1)
handmaids (33:2)
Leah (33:2)
Rachel (33:2)
Joseph (33:2)
children (33:2, 2)

God:

God hath graciously given (33:5)
face of God (33:10)
God hath dealt graciously (33:11)

Numbers and Time:

seven times (33:3)

Thursday: Covenant Renewed

Genesis 35:1-29 Repentance; Benjamin's birth; Rachel's death

People:

Jacob (35:1)
Esau (35:1)
Deborah (35:8)
Israel (35:10)
Rachel (35:16)
Benjamin (35:18)
Israel (35:21)
Leah, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun (35:23)
Rachel, Joseph, Benjamin (35:24)
Bilhah, Dan, Naphtali (35:25)
Zilpah, Gad, Asher (35:26)
Isaac (35:27)

God:

God said (35:1)
God, that appeared unto thee (35:1)
God, who answered me (35:3)

terror of God (35:5)
God appeared unto him (35:7)
God appeared (35:9)
God said (35:10)
I am God Almighty (35:11)
God went up (35:13)
God spake with him (35:15)

Places:

Bethel (35:1)
Shechem (35:4)
Luz (35:6)
Elbethel (35:7)
Allonbachuth (35:8)
land (35:12)
Bethel (35:15)
Ephrath (35:16)
Tower of Edar (35:21)
Padanaram (35:26)
Mamre, Arbah, Hebron (35:27)

Numbers and Time:

When thou fleddest (35:1)
an hundred and fourscore years (35:28)

Friday: Restoration and Death

Genesis 37:1-11 Joseph's early life

People:

Jacob (37:1)
Joseph (37:2)
sons of Bilhah (37:2)
sons of Zilpah (37:2)
Israel (37:3)
brethren (37:4)

Places:

land of Canaan (37:1)

Numbers and Time:

seventeen years old (37:2)
old age (37:3)

Key Words:

loved Joseph (37:3)
father loved him (37:4)
they hated him (37:4)
they hated him yet the more (37:5)
they hated him yet the more (37:8)
his brethren envied him (37:11)

Genesis 46:1-7 Jacob to Egypt

People:

Israel (46:1)
father Isaac (46:1)
Joseph (46:4)
all his seed (46:6)

Places:

Beersheba (46:1)
Egypt (46:4)
Canaan (46:6)

God:

God of his father (46:1)
God spake (46:2)
I am God, the God of thy father (46:3)

Genesis 49:29-33 Jacob dies

People:

Abraham (49:30)
Sarah (49:31)
Isaac (49:31)
Rebekah (49:31)
bury me (49:29)
Leah (49:31)
sons of Heth (49:32)
his sons (49:33)

Places:

field of Ephron the Hittite (49:29)
cave (49:29)
field at Machpelah (49:30)
Mamre in the land of Canaan (49:30)

Genesis 50:1-13 Jacob is buried

People:

Joseph (50:1)
physicians (50:2)
Egyptians (50:3)
Pharaoh (50:6)
all the servants of Pharaoh (50:7)
house of Joseph, brethren, father's house (50:8)

Places:

Goshen (50:8)
Abelmizraim (50:11)
cave of the field of Machpelah (50:13)

Minute Meditation

You will need to prepare a Minute Meditation to present at camp. You will present it in your class or you can volunteer to present this in the main pavilion.

You will need to choose one verse on which to base your Minute Meditation. A Minute Meditation is an opportunity for you to meditate or think about a verse from the study and share what you have learned in approximately one minute. You will read the verse and then tell what you have learned from the verse. You can share what you have learned about God and His character, or what you have learned about the people in the verse, or how this verse relates to other verses in the Bible, or how it relates to your life or a combination of these ideas.

The passages are divided up by the first letter of your last name. **Please find the first letter of your last name below and choose a verse from one of the passages listed next to that letter to use for your Minute Meditation.**

A-C: Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-29, 41-46; 27:30-40

D-K: Genesis 28:1-22; 1:1-18; 29:16-30:24

L-Q: Genesis 32:1-32; 33:1-11

R-S: Genesis 35:1-29

T-Z: Genesis 37:1-11; 46:1-7; 49:29-33; 50:1-13

Special Project

Choose one of these to do either on your own or in pairs.

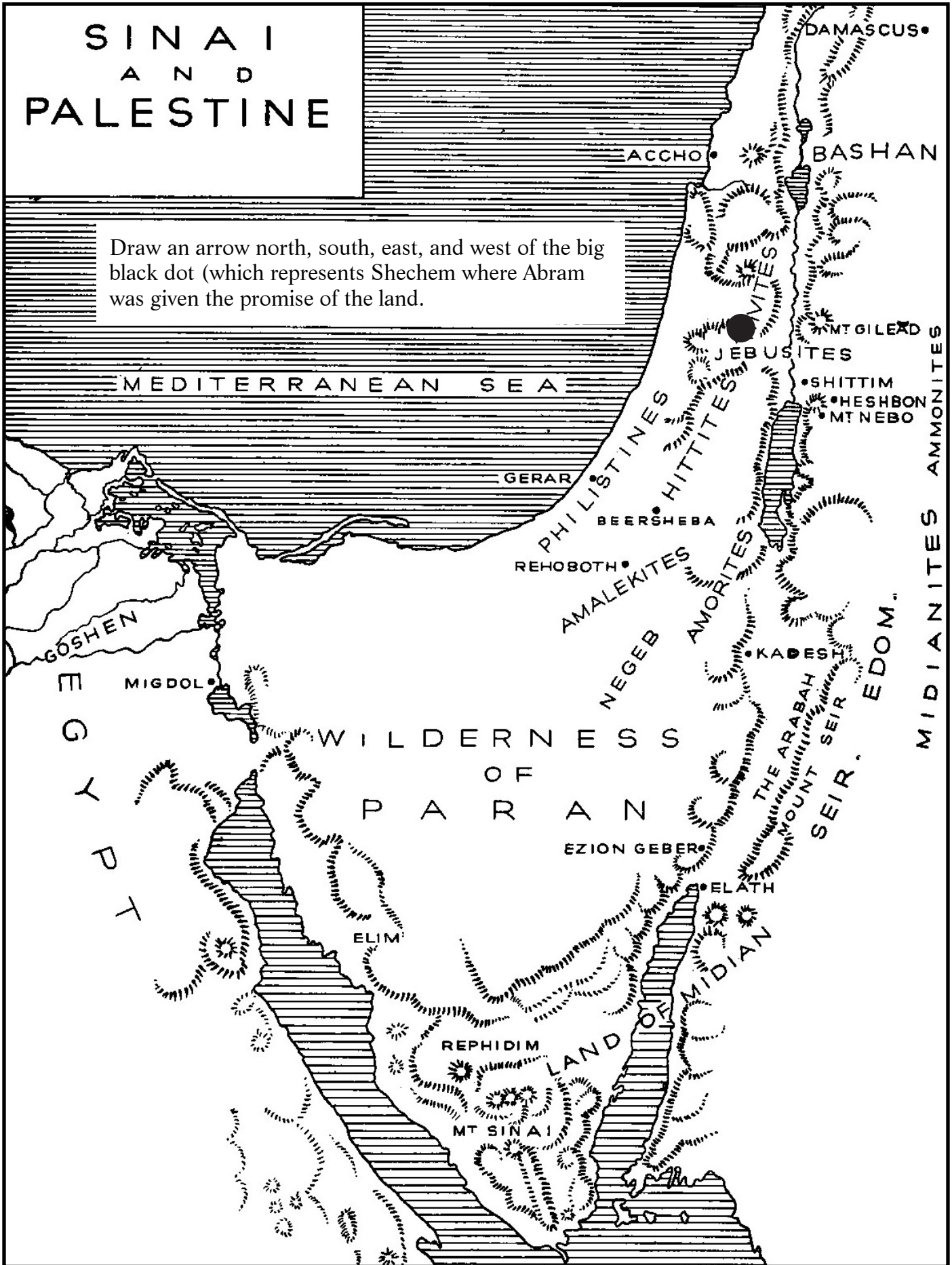
If appropriate, make a copy for your teacher, and copies for your classmates (about 40).

1. Create a large map on poster board, labelling all the locations mentioned during the life of Jacob. Trace his journeys from the time he left home until he died and was buried.
2. Draw a scene from the life of Jacob on a large piece of art paper. Make it colourful.
3. Outline some major lessons from Jacob's life and how they apply to our lives today.
4. Make a chart of the Promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

If you have your own idea for a project, check with Uncle Joe or Aunt Kate Abel to see if it is okay at joeandkate41203@yahoo.ca.

SINAI AND PALESTINE

Draw an arrow north, south, east, and west of the big black dot (which represents Shechem where Abram was given the promise of the land).



Ten years went by with nothing happening and Sarai began to doubt that Abram’s descendants would come through her. So she did what seemed more possible to her at the time and gave her servant girl to Abram to have a child with.

Who was the servant girl, and what was the name of her son? (Genesis 16:3,11)

A further thirteen years went by before Abram was given another visit by God where he was told that the servant girl’s son would not be the son of the promise, but the covenant that God had made to Abram would be established through a son born of Sarai. Their names were changed to Abraham (because he would be the father of many nations), and Sarah (because she would be the mother of nations). When Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah was 90, the promised son was born to them.

Who was this promised son? (Genesis 21:3)

When Abraham died, the promises made to him were passed on to his son. (Isaac was 75 when his father died). Write out the words of God in Genesis 26:3-4.

Circle each time God says “I will” in these verses.

Isaac was 40, he married Rebekah, who was his father Abraham’s niece, and they also experienced an inability to have children for the first twenty years of their marriage.

We tend to get impatient when things don’t happen right away because time in our mortal lives is limited and we may feel that time is being lost when we are waiting for something. However, God is never in a hurry. “When the occasion calls, He can deal a lightning stroke like the overthrow of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea, or the engulfment of a rebellious company of priests in the wilderness; but in the general proportions of His plans of operation, magnitude, deliberation, gradualness, are characteristics...Faith is honouring to God: and faith requires time for its exercise.” (R.Roberts, The Ways of Providence)

Faith, however, does not mean just sitting around waiting for God to act as the story of Jacob illustrates over and over again. Isaac knew the promises made to Abraham, if they were to come through himself, required children. So he prayed to God about it.

“[God] makes a promise: but He wills to be asked for the thing promised, and makes its individual attainment dependent upon our compliance with His will. In this way, the connection that exists in fact between God and His children is kept constantly before their minds, with the double blessedness of yielding God pleasure, and His people peace and joy and benefit.” (R.Roberts, The Ways of Providence)

Read Genesis 25:19-28.



God's answer to Isaac's prayer is not just one child, but two at the same time. Today it is possible to find out that a woman is pregnant with twins at the very beginning of the pregnancy. For Rebekah, however, her pregnancy would likely have been increasingly more difficult without really knowing for certain why.

Write out what she was told when she enquired of the LORD in verse 23. Underline what God says about the future of the two children.

Look up the Hebrew word for "stronger". What does it mean?
v23

There is another Hebrew word for "strong" (hazaq) which is associated more with violence and might. That doesn't seem to be the intention here.

Look up the following verses and note the different English words used to translate the word in v23:

Deuteronomy 2:30 _____

Deuteronomy 3:28 _____

Deuteronomy 31:6 _____

Joshua 1:7 _____

Ruth 1:18 _____

Psalms 31:24 _____

Isaiah 41:10 _____

Do you think there is a difference between strong in the sense of courage, and strong in the sense of mighty? Why or why not?

Look up the Hebrew word for “serve”. What does it mean? v23

Before the two boys were born, God knew which one He would choose. Paul talks about this choice in Romans 9. In this chapter he is explaining that being a descendant of Abraham did not automatically make a person a child of God. Abraham himself had a son born before Isaac, yet God chose to work through Isaac. It could be said that the reason for this was because Ishmael was the son of a servant, rather than the son of Sarah. But then there were twins born to Isaac, both of exactly the same parents, and God chose the younger over the older even before they were born and had done anything. Paul is insisting that God has the right to choose who He works through to bring about His purpose. We may think this is unfair because we think God’s choice of one over the other gave natural advantages to one, but this is actually not the case. He chose to work through Jacob to create a nation that would bring a blessing to the whole world, but anyone, at any time, has been free to come to God and follow His ways and be His.

Write out Romans 9:10-13.

Look up the word “election”. What does it mean? (Romans 9:11)

This passage in Romans contains a quotation from Malachi 1:2-3 where the people of Israel whose kingdom has been destroyed and its people taken captive ask “In what way have you loved us?”

How had God loved Jacob (in this case representing the whole nation of Israel)? (Deuteronomy 7:7-8)



Write out what you learn about Esau and Jacob from verses 25-28.

ESAU	JACOB

Look up the word for “plain” (v27). What does it mean?

Read Genesis 25:29-34.

What did Esau trade his birthright for? V34

Why did Esau trade it? v32

The birthright Esau thought so little of was the special privileges of being the firstborn. These included a double portion of the family inheritance and becoming the head and spiritual leader of the family should the father die. In this case, the birthright determined who would inherit the covenant God made with Abraham.

This story is really a story about trading future good for present satisfaction.

Can you think of some examples of when you were or might be tempted to do this?

How long do you think the pottage of lentils and bread satisfied Esau?

This is true about most things that we do to satisfy our present desires. They do not last very long.

Here is what Robert Roberts says about this incident in his book *The Ways of Providence*: (if there are words that you don't know, look them up in a dictionary).

“Some might say that it exhibits Jacob in an unneighbourly aspect, and that he ought not to have seized the moment of hunger to extort a bargain; but ought rather to have unconditionally ministered to his brother's need. The answer is, there is a time for everything, and that these men were in the hands of the special providence for the working out of a national purpose in their posterity,



and for the development of a spiritual allegory, serviceable for all time. Esau's character comes out, and he seals his own doom. Physical craving is more powerful with him than the perceptions of wisdom. For a moment's gratification, he bargains away a position germinally containing countless gratifications in the future. He stands before us as a man swayed by his senses, and not by the dictates of enlightened judgment; and, therefore, as the type of the class who love this present world, and have not faith sufficient to practise that self-denial by which the birthright of the future age is preserved and secured.”

Underline what you think are the important points in this quotation.

Robert Roberts goes on to say this:

“God put Esau to the proof by a common-place home incident, in which the hand of God was not visible. God may prove us by common-place incidents. The Spirit exhorts us: ‘Let no man take thy crown’. Esau illustrates failure of this exhortation. He would not be aware of the issues involved. Crowns are lost and won in the common ways of life. The general habit of man is to look upon these common ways as insignificant – a view which puts people off their guard.”

What do you think some of these common ways could be in your life?

Read Genesis 27:1-4.

What was wrong with Isaac? V1

Who did he call to him so that he could bless him? V1

In those days a father's blessing was a way of establishing the heir and giving him the privileges that went with this position. Unfortunately Isaac was biased toward Esau. He saw him as strong and a good provider and thought he knew better than God who should inherit the blessing. We don't really know why Isaac was opposed to the words God had spoken to Rebekah; it is possible that he was testing God to see what would happen.

Since Esau knew he had given the birthright away to Jacob, what should he have done at this point?

Read Genesis 27:5-10.

What does Rebekah send Jacob off to do to prevent Isaac blessing the wrong son? V9

Some people feel that this was an act of unfaithfulness on the part of Rebekah - that she should have waited for God to intervene. However, it is also possible that God chose to intervene through Rebekah. God had given this promise of the elder serving the younger to her, not Isaac, and she was determined God's will would be done despite what Isaac wanted. This can be seen as faithfulness on her part.

What does Hebrews 11:20 say about this event?

Whose faith do you think it is speaking of? _____

Read Genesis 27:11-17.

What was Jacob worried about happening with this plan? V12

How did Rebekah try to make Jacob seem to be Esau? V15-16

This was an intentional plan to deceive Isaac into thinking that he was blessing Esau and you may be wondering why Rebekah didn't just talk to Isaac about it. However, it is likely this conversation had taken place many times before without changing Isaac's mind.

Does it seem likely to you that Isaac would have been deceived by this pretense? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 27:18-29.

What four things did Isaac check before he gave Jacob the blessing? V20, 21-23, 24, 27

Write out the blessing Isaac gave to Jacob. V28-29

Although Isaac recited the words of this blessing, he thought he was giving all these things to Esau.

But this blessing was not from Isaac, but from God, and therefore not given to the man Isaac would have chosen, but to the man that God had chosen. God's will is done despite anyone's opposition to it!

Read Genesis 27:30-40.

What does Isaac do when he realizes he has blessed Jacob instead of Esau? V33

Although Isaac could have taken away the blessing he had given Jacob because of the deception involved, instead he realizes that he has been prevented from blessing the wrong man, and confirms that Jacob is indeed blessed.

What does Esau cry to his father when he realizes that Jacob has received the blessing? V34

Using a Hebrew lexicon, look up the word "subtilty" in verse 35. What does it mean?

Since Esau knew he had already given away the birthright to Jacob, do you think "subtilty" also describes Esau's actions?

Who does Esau blame for his loss of the birthright and blessing? Was this correct? V36

Look up Hebrews 12:16-17 and read it in the New International Version if you can. Why did Esau not get the blessing?

Why do you think Esau was crying about not getting the blessing now when he was so careless before?

Write out the blessing Esau receives. v 39-40

Read Genesis 27:41-46.

Using a Hebrew lexicon, look up the word “hated” in verse 41. What does it mean?

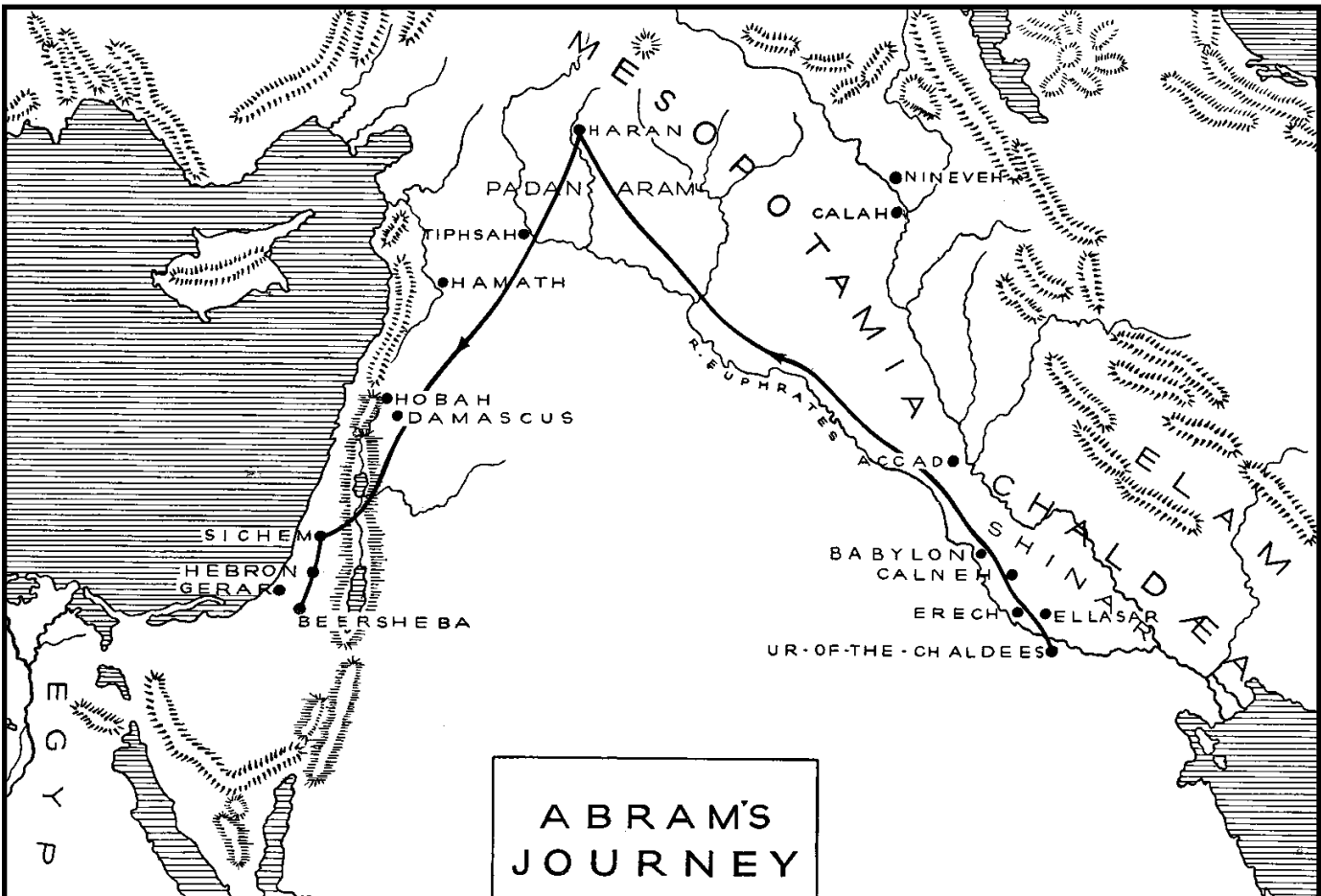
What did Esau’s hatred make him think of doing? V41

What did Rebekah decide would protect Jacob from Esau’s anger? V43-44

What reason did she give to Isaac for this plan? V46

Although it seems all this was carried out with some sense of urgency due to Isaac’s getting old, he ended up living at least 40 more years.

On this map of Abraham’s journey, mark where Isaac lived at this time, and where Jacob travelled to.



Read Genesis 28:1-5.

What did Isaac charge Jacob not to do? V1



As an heir to the promise given to Abraham, why do you think this was important?

Isaac here intentionally blesses Jacob with the promises made to him and to his father Abraham.

What was the blessing regarding descendants? V3

What was the blessing regarding land? V4

Who was Jacob sent to? V5

Read Genesis 28:6-9.

Although Esau already had two wives who were Canaanites, who did he also take as a wife? V9

What motivated Esau to do this? V8

Do you think this made Isaac and Rebekah happier? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 28:10-15.

Get your parents to help you use Google Maps to find the distance from Beersheba to Haran in Turkey. How many hours of walking would it take to get there?

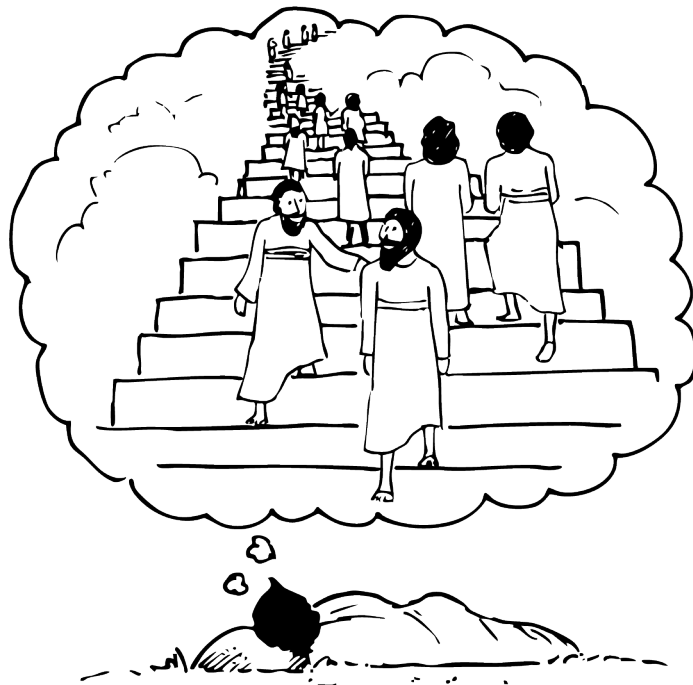
If you walked for ten hours each day, how long would it take you to get there?

The distance from Beersheba to Bethel, or what is known today as Baytin, is over 120 km which likely took him more than two or three days of walking to get to. By the time he reached this place he may have felt very much alone, tired and even homesick.

What did he see in a dream that night? V12

Sometimes we may think of God as being far away from us, or maybe that we are in a lineup for His attention and He may not get to us for another month or two. But this dream that Jacob had shows how near God is to His people. If Jacob thought himself alone, he wasn't. If he felt himself defenseless, he wasn't. If he thought he was leaving God behind with his father, he wasn't.

Write out the words God said to Jacob that night. V13-15



Circle all the “I” pronouns in these verses and underline what God says He will do.

You might think that if God is going to be with Jacob, then all should be pretty clear sailing for him from now on. If God is with a man, how can anything go wrong? However, you will find out that what happens to Jacob is true of our lives too. The way by which God brings all of us through life to reach the ultimate blessing is not one that is free of evil, or anxiety, or difficult circumstances. But He is with us through them all.

Read Genesis 28:16-22.

When Jacob wakes from his dream it seems that he is surprised to find out that God is in this place.

What did he say that it was? V17

What does he do in the morning? V18

This action was a way of creating a memorial to something significant. It was a significant point in Jacob’s life because it was the first time he heard from God himself.

Who else built an altar near this place? Genesis 12:8

What name does Jacob give to it? V19

Look this name up in a Hebrew lexicon. What does this name mean?

Write down the five things Jacob now expects God to do for him: v20,21

Ignore the checkboxes for now, we will come back later to discover whether or not God did do these things for him.

What does Jacob promise to do for God? V21,22

Read Genesis 29:1-9.

Jacob travelled on until he finally came to the homeland of his mother's family. It is perhaps not surprising that Jacob goes to speak to the shepherds to figure out where he is. These were his kind of people.

What were the shepherds and flocks gathered around? V2

Why do you think a well would have been an important location, perhaps even under guard?

When Jacob started on his journey, it is unlikely that he had any current information about the family he was going to find. Today we can stay in touch with people who live in far away places, but it was much harder to do then. For all he knew, Rebekah's brother could have moved away or died.

What do the shepherds tell him about Laban? V6

What are the shepherds all hanging around waiting for? V8

Read Genesis 29:10-14.



It wasn't uncommon for the younger members of a family to look after the sheep. David, the youngest son of Jesse, was also a shepherd. And maybe you remember the story of Moses, who helped the seven daughters of Jethro to water their sheep.

What did Jacob jump up to do when he saw Rachel?
V10

What did Laban do when Rachel ran home to tell him about Jacob? V13

How long did Jacob stay with Laban at this time? V14

Read Genesis 29:15-20.

What was the reason Isaac had given for Jacob to go to Haran? (Genesis 28:2)

Tell what you know about Laban's two daughters. V16,17

LEAH

RACHEL

LEAH	RACHEL

Read verse 17 in the ESV or NIV translation. What do you imagine this is saying about Leah in contrast to Rachel?

Who did Jacob love? V18

How long did Jacob agree to work for Laban in order to marry Rachel? V18

How did Jacob experience this passage of time? V20

What do you think it would be like to wait seven years for something? Why?

Read Genesis 29:21-30.

How did Laban trick Jacob at the end of the seven years? V23

What reason did he give for doing this? V26

Do you like to be tricked? Why or why not?

There are a few times in Jacob's life when he has to deal with the deception of others. Perhaps this was God teaching him about honesty and how deception feels on the other side. Truth is always a better tool to use in our lives.

Look up Zechariah 8:16-17 and write it out here.

Underline what it says about how we should treat each other.

How did Jacob feel about Rachel? V30

Read Genesis 29:31-35.

Imagine what this situation must have felt like to the two sisters. We don't know how well the sisters got along before Jacob came into the picture, but once they both became his wives, the relationship became one of competition and jealousy, especially as children were born.

What does Leah name her first son? V32

What does she think will happen now that she has had a son? V32

What does Leah name her second son? V33

What reason does she give for the arrival of another son? V33

What does Leah name her third son? V34

What does she hope will be the result of having had three sons? V34

What does she name her fourth son? V35

What does she say after this son is born? V35

Perhaps Leah has realized that even if Jacob does not love her, God does. Sometimes we have to learn the lesson that other humans will fail us at times and not give us everything we think we need. Even if Jacob would never love Leah, God was with her and gave her four sons. She could praise Him for that.

Read Genesis 30:1-8.

How did Rachel react to Leah bearing four children? V1

How does Jacob react to her demand that he give her children? V1-2

I think we can sympathize with Rachel and her desire to have her own children. It is a natural desire that most women have and a heart-wrenching disappointment when it doesn't happen. However, it was not something that was within Jacob's own power.

What was her solution to the problem? V3

As a few more years went by, Bilhah gave birth to two boys. What were their names? V6,8

What do the names Rachel gives these children tell you about the way things were going in this household?

Read Genesis 30:9-21.

The competition continues, and this time Leah gives Jacob her maid, Zilpah. Over the next few years, two more sons are born to bring the total up to eight boys.

What were the names of the sons of Zilpah? V11,13

What do the meanings of the names of the children tell us about what Leah is thinking?

What did Reuben find in the field? V14

Who wants the mandrakes? V14

Mandrakes were a plant that was thought to help barren women get pregnant. So Rachel trades Leah a night with Jacob for them.

What are the names of the three children Leah goes on to have? V18,20,21

Read Genesis 30:22-24.

What did God do for Rachel? V22

What did Rachel call her son? V24

How many sons does Jacob now have?

All these sons seem to have been added to him during the period of seven years that Jacob worked for the privilege of marrying Rachel. This would probably mean that the pregnancies of the various women were overlapping.



Read Genesis 30:25-33.

Jacob was with Laban looking after his flocks for fourteen years, and when his contract with Laban was over he was eager to head home. However, Laban noticed that Jacob was a hard worker and he had become used to having Jacob around.

Why did Laban not want Jacob to leave? V27

How had Jacob's care of Laban's flocks worked out? V30

What did Laban agree to give Jacob as his hire for staying a little longer? V32

How would Laban be sure that Jacob was not taking more than agreed on? V33

Read Genesis 30:34-43.

What did Laban immediately do with his flock? V35

What animals did Laban leave in the care of Jacob (from which Jacob would get his hire)? V36

What do you think Laban was trying to accomplish by doing this?

It's not clear what Jacob was about with the rods and sticks, but he was carrying out a breeding program with Laban's animals to build a flock for himself of strong, healthy animals.

What was the outcome for Jacob? V43

Read Genesis 31:1-13.

Meanwhile, Laban's sons were not very happy with Jacob. For years, all Jacob's hard work had been



for the benefit of Laban. Now that he was being paid for his work, they were jealous. Even Laban was not as friendly anymore.

What does Jacob say about Laban's treatment of him? V5-7

How had God cared for Jacob despite Laban's treachery? V8,9

What had God told Jacob to do? V13

Read Genesis 31:14-21.



When Jacob told Rachel and Leah about his plan to leave, what did they have to say about their father? V15

Were Rachel and Leah happy about the idea of leaving their home? V16

Where was Jacob planning to go? V18

Where was Laban while Jacob snuck away? V19,21

Rachel decided for some reason to take something that didn't belong to her. Along with all the usual stuff she would have packed to move to a distant land, she also took her father's images. Laban later refers to them as his gods. In ancient Mesopotamia, these were most likely representations of dead ancestors. It is possible they were used in a ritual to seek guidance from the dead. Later on these would be purged from their home.

Why do you think Jacob decided to sneak away without telling Laban?

It is not surprising that when Laban found out that Jacob had taken all that was his and left for Canaan, that he was not very happy. He set out to pursue Jacob and may have intended to harm him as Jacob had fears that Laban would have taken his daughters from him somehow. However, God sent Laban a dream to do neither good nor bad to Jacob - in other words, he was to leave Jacob alone.

Read Genesis 31:38-42.

This section tells us a little bit about what Jacob went through during his years of service to Laban.

How long had Jacob served Laban? V38

If an animal was stolen or killed, who had to pay for it? V39

What was the job of taking care of animals like? V40

How many times had Laban changed Jacob's wages? V41

Who had been with him through it all? V42

In the end, Laban and Jacob made a covenant with one another. They set up a pillar of stones as a reminder of this covenant to never pass by this place with the intention of doing one another harm. It became known as Mizpah which means "watchtower" because God would be watching between them to make sure that Jacob never mistreated Laban's daughters. After having a feast together, Laban blessed the family and left to return home,

Read Genesis 32:1-12.

Who did Jacob encounter on his way home? V1

Can you think of another example in the Bible where angels became visible to encourage or help someone?

Write out Psalm 34:7.

Underline the promises Jacob mentions that God had made to him. Underline Jacob's feelings. Circle Jacob's request.

Read Genesis 32:13-23.

Presents are often a good way to make someone more friendly towards you, and so Jacob arranges to meet Esau with a lineup of very valuable gifts.

How many of each of these did Jacob send to Esau?

- ___ she goats
- ___ he goats
- ___ ewes
- ___ rams
- ___ milch camels
- ___ milch camel colts
- ___ kine
- ___ bulls
- ___ she asses
- ___ foals



The value of these animals today could be around \$850,000. This was a very generous gift.

Look up the word “drove” in a Hebrew lexicon and write down what it means. V16

What were the servants handling each drove to say to Esau when they met him? V18

Look up the word “appease” and write down what it means. Note down also how this word is most often translated in the first few books of the Bible. V20

Making peace where we can is important. Jacob could have chosen to fight with Esau and trust that God would protect him, but he didn't. He chose to try to fix the relationship.

In the same Psalm that speaks of God's angels encamping around those that fear Him, there is also instruction about how to live your life.

Write out Psalm 34:12-14.

What did Jacob do with his family? v22-23

Read Genesis 32:24-32.

With a present on its way to Esau, and his family on the other side of the Jabbok river, he waited in the dark for Esau to arrive. No doubt he was anxious and expecting anytime to be set upon by his brother. Most likely he was praying harder than he had ever prayed in his life!

As he was waiting, who came and wrestled with him? V24

It is quite possible that in the dark Jacob thought that this wrestler was Esau. He wrestled with him until the day began to break.

What did the wrestler do to Jacob when he was not able to prevail? V25

Read this verse in the ESV translation of the Bible. What does it say happened to Jacob?

When the wrestler pleaded to be let go, what did Jacob demand from him first? V26

If Jacob thought this was Esau, then certainly he wanted to be certain of his safety and wished to extract a blessing - an assurance that there were no bad feelings - before he let him go.

What was the surprising answer? V28

Look up the new name “Israel” in a Hebrew lexicon and write down what it means. V28

The following is an interesting definition of the name Israel:

“This name has been translated several different ways including “he wrestles with God”, “Prince of God”, “he struggles with God”, and several others. The name “Israel” is actually a complete sentence in one word. The name has three components - Y, SR and AL. The “Y” is a prefix meaning “he”. The “AL” usually pronounced as “el” is the Hebrew word for “God”. The “SR” is the part that seems to cause most of the problems in translation.

The Hebrew word “SR” literally means “turn the head”. It is often translated as “prince” or “ruler”, one who turns the head of the people. The feminine form of this word is “SRH” or “Sarah”. Abraham’s wife Sarah was very beautiful and probably “turned the head” of the men who saw her. Another word related to “SR” is yasar meaning “discipline”. When you discipline your children you are turning their head from a path of bad to a path of good.

Because the “Y” is in front of the word “SR” we know that this is a verb and not a noun (this is standard Hebrew grammar) and can literally be translated as “he turns the head of God”. The way I like to understand this is that when Israel (either Jacob or his descendants) speaks to God, God, the father of Israel, stops what he is doing and turns to his son and says “What do you want my son?”. (Jeff A. Benner, ancient-hebrew.org)

Look up the word that is translated “as a prince thou hast power” in a Hebrew lexicon. Do you recognize this Hebrew word? Write down what it means.

Look up the word that is translated “prevail” in a Hebrew lexicon. Write down what it means.

Now Jacob knows that the man he is wrestling with is definitely not Esau. He asked for his name but instead received the blessing that he had asked for.

What does Jacob say of this encounter? V30

He was now in no shape physically to fight with his brother, but he knew that he did not need to depend on his own strength, but could go on in confidence that God was with him.

Apparently this episode was memorialized by a custom of not eating this part of an animal. As with most customs, it would make the children ask why and give the opportunity for a story to be told of God’s independence of human strength when it comes to preserving Jacob and his descendants.

Write out 2 Corinthians 12:10.

Read Genesis 33:1-11.

In the morning, Jacob returned to his family on the other side of the river to prepare to move on.

When Jacob looked up, what did he see? V1

He no longer seems as terrified as he organizes his family and crosses back over the Jabbok towards Esau, although he does put the handmaidens and their children before Leah and Rachel.

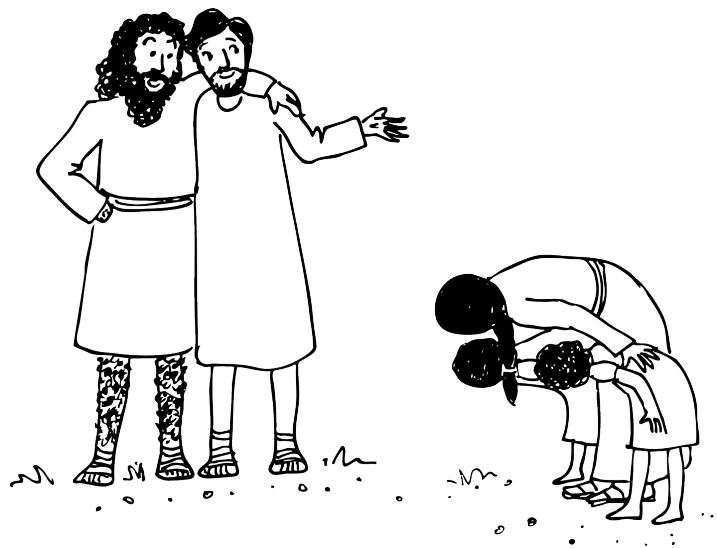
What does Jacob do as he goes to meet his brother? V3

How does Esau respond? V4

What do Jacob's wives and children do? V6,7

What does Jacob call Esau? v13

Part of the blessing that Jacob had stolen was to "be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee", and yet here is Jacob allowing Esau to take that position.



What does Jacob say when Esau protests at all the presents Jacob had offered to him? V11

Now that the two brothers had reconciled, Esau was eager to get back home. He seems to expect that Jacob will join him and follow him down to Seir, but that was definitely not Jacob's plan. He tells Esau that his plan is to travel very slowly on account of his family and flocks. When Esau offers to leave some of his men with him, Jacob is quick to assure Esau there is no need. So Esau leaves, and Jacob sighs with relief.

Where does Jacob journey to? v17 _____

Read Genesis 33:18-29.

Who did Jacob buy a parcel of land from? V19

What did Jacob name the altar that he built, and what does the name mean? V20

The last time Jacob built something like an altar, he was on his way to his uncle Laban's. Go back to page 26 and check off what God had done for Jacob.

Unfortunately, the family's time in this place ended unhappily. Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi brought shame on the family after tricking the men of Shechem and then slaughtering them all in an attempt to defend their sister Dinah who had been taken advantage of by a man from Shechem. Jacob and his family had to leave quickly.

Read Genesis 35:1-8.

Where did God tell Jacob to go? V1

The disaster at Shechem hung over them all, and in an attempt to have a new start, they all washed themselves and their clothing, and gathered the strange gods that had accumulated in their company and perhaps taken from their looting of Shechem so they could leave them behind. They also took off their earrings. In ancient Mesopotamia, earrings were often worn to protect the wearer from evil spirits. Jacob clearly wanted a clean restart, especially now that he had all the women and children taken captive from Shechem. He created distance between himself from the gods and superstitions of the surrounding culture so that his family could serve only the God of his fathers Abraham and Isaac.

Where did Jacob put these strange gods? V4

Although they had good reason to fear that the cities around Shechem might have come against them in retaliation for the massacre at Shechem, none did.

Why didn't they pursue the sons of Jacob? V5

Who died when they had reached Bethel? V8

It's an interesting question why Rebekah's nurse was with Jacob's company. One possibility is that Jacob had been back to visit his family previously although not mentioned in the Bible text, and since Rebekah had died, brought her nurse back with him to be with the women in his family. This woman had come with Rebekah when she left Padanaram to become Isaac's wife and was clearly much loved.

What did they name her burial place, and what does it mean? V8

Read Genesis 35:9-15.

Write out God's words to Jacob: V11-12

Underline what God said He would do. Underline God's instructions to Jacob.



What did Jacob pour on the pillar he set up? V14

We don't usually make offerings in this particular way today, but they were a way of showing honor and reverence to God. Oil was a necessary part of life used for light and in food, and required a good bit of work to come by, and wine was often part of joyful celebrations and seen as a blessing from God. When they were poured out as an offering it was like sharing part of your life with God.

How do you think you can show honor and reverence for God today?

Read Genesis 35:16-22.

Jacob and his family did not stay in Bethel long it seems but continued on south possibly because Jacob had heard that his father was dying. Along the way, Rachel, who was pregnant, went into labour and unfortunately not all pregnancies are simple.

What happened to Rachel? V19

What did she name the son that was born to her? What does it mean? V18

Why do you think Jacob changed it to Benjamin? V18

Where was Rachel buried? V19

This would have been a hard blow to Jacob since Rachel had always been his favourite. It may help explain Reuben's actions at this time, although they are despicable. Reuben was technically the first-born (the first son of Leah) and "laying" with Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid, was possibly a way of asserting domination of the family in surrounding culture. However, it had the opposite effect as it was the reason that Jacob gave for giving Joseph (the first son of Rachel) the firstborn blessings instead.

Read Genesis 35:23-29.

Who were the sons of Leah? v23

Who were the sons of Rachel? v24

Who were the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid? v25

Who were the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid? V26

Where does Jacob finally arrive with his family? V27

How old was Isaac when he died? V28

Who buried him? V29

Read Genesis 37:1-11

Who did Joseph think was behaving badly and speak to his father about? V2

Why did Jacob (Israel) love Joseph more than all his children? V3

What did he make him wear? V3

Most likely this garment was meant to signify that Joseph was the chosen firstborn in the family. However, it was also a sore point with the rest of the brothers who saw it as evidence that their father loved them less.

What dreams did Joseph tell his brothers about? V7-9

The brothers became jealous of Joseph and their jealousy led to him being secretly sold by them to traders who took him down into Egypt.

What did they tell their father about where Joseph went? (Genesis 37:31-32)

What was Jacob's reaction to this news? (Genesis 37:34)

It seems that Joseph was around 17 years old when he was taken to Egypt, and 30 years old when he was brought out of prison to interpret Pharaoh's dream. He then became governor over the land to gather in the abundance of the seven years of plenty in preparation for the seven years of famine. Consequently, over twenty years have passed when the famine starts being felt where Jacob and his family are living.

Read Genesis 42:1-7.

Why did Jacob send the brothers down to Egypt? V2

Why did Jacob not send Benjamin? V4

What did the brothers do when they saw Joseph? V6

When Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, how did he speak to them? V7

Although Joseph knew his brothers, the brothers did not recognize Joseph and were shocked when they were accused of being spies instead of just ordinary people come to buy food for their families.

How did Joseph say they could prove themselves to not be spies? (Genesis 42:19-20)

Joseph took Simeon and put him in prison, while the remaining brothers took their sacks of grain and returned to Jacob. On their way home they were afraid when one of them found that the money he had paid for the grain was in his sack. In fact, this was true for all the brothers - their money was back in their sacks. They all looked at each other, afraid.

What did they say to each other? V28

Eventually the grain in the sacks was gone and it was necessary to go back to Egypt. But Jacob did not want Benjamin to go with them.

Write out Judah's promise to Jacob regarding Benjamin. (Genesis 43:9)

When it seemed Benjamin was going to be taken from them, how did Judah prove himself with this promise? (Genesis 44:32-34)

Joseph then let them know that he was their missing brother Joseph. He encouraged them to go back to their father and bring him and all that was theirs to Egypt and he would provide for them there during the remaining five years of famine.

Read Genesis 45:24-28.

After years of thinking Joseph was dead, how did Jacob respond to the news that he was alive? V26

When he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to carry him back, what did he say? V28.

Read Genesis 46:1-7.

It could not have been an easy decision for Jacob to make to leave the land that had been promised to him and his fathers behind. Was it the right thing to do?

Write out the words that God said to Jacob as he came to the edge of the land of promise.
V3-4



Underline the things God says he will do.

Who came down into Egypt with him? V7

Read Genesis 46:26-34.

How many people came down with Jacob? V26

Where in Egypt did Joseph send them to? V28



Find Goshen on this map and circle it.

It was an emotional reconnection for Jacob and Joseph. Can you imagine not seeing your family for over 20 years? Do you think you would recognize them?

What did Joseph instruct the men of his father's house to say about their occupation? V34

Why do you think Joseph wanted his family to live apart from the Egyptians?

Read Genesis 47:1-12.

How many of his brothers did Joseph present to Pharaoh? V2

What did they ask to be able to do in the land of Goshen? V4

What did Jacob say that the days of his life (130 years) had been? V9

Why do you think he said that?

Jacob referred to his life as a pilgrimage. The word suggests that he did not feel that he had a settled place to call home and was instead a wanderer or a nomad. He was living in the land God had promised to Abraham, and Isaac, and him, but it was not yet his possession. It was still a distant promise.

Where did Joseph put his family? V11

Look up the word “possession” v11. Where else is this word used in Genesis?

Although they would seem settled in Egypt, it would not be their true possession. That was the one that God would give them.

From the time of Abraham left Haran and began his sojourn in the land of promise until the time that Jacob died in the land of Egypt was 232 years. We are told in Exodus 12:40 that this sojourning of God’s people was for a period of 430 years which means that the family of Jacob would live in Egypt for the next 200 years before God brought them out of Egypt and set them on the journey back into the land of Canaan to give it to them for a possession.

Read Genesis 48:1-7.

Who did Joseph bring with him to see his father when he heard he was sick? V1

Who did Jacob equate Joseph’s two sons with? V5

Read Genesis 48:8-16.

Before Jacob blesses the boys, what does he recount about how God has worked in his life? V15

Write out the blessing Jacob gives to the boys. V16

Read Genesis 48:17-22.

What did Jacob do with his hands that Joseph wanted to correct? V13-14, 17-18

Why did Jacob do this? V19

What promise did Jacob give to Joseph? V21

This piece of land that Jacob refers to is mentioned again in the Bible. Look up the following verses and write down what it says about the land.

Joshua 24:32 _____

John 4:5 _____

Before Jacob died, he gathered his sons so that he could speak to them about the future. To each of them he gave a blessing or prophecy as was fit for them. Judah was identified as the one to whom the other brothers and families would bow down to (Reuben, the actual firstborn, and Simeon, the second born had been passed over for this right due to bad behaviour). Joseph was identified as the one who would receive the blessings of the firstborn of fruitfulness and plenty. All of the brothers together would receive the blessing of the land.

Read Genesis 49:29-33.

Where did Jacob ask to be buried? V29,30

Why do you think Jacob wanted to be buried there?

Who else was buried there? V31

Write out Hebrews 11:13.

Read Genesis 50:1-14.



What did Joseph have the Egyptian physicians do to Jacob? V2

This process was something that was often done for wealthy people in Ancient Egypt. The things that they did to the body would dry it out so that it would be preserved as a “mummy”. Important people, like Pharaohs, would be then put in a sarcophagus (like a coffin) which would be put inside a burial chamber with lots of treasures.

How long did the Egyptians mourn for him? V3

Who went up with Joseph to bury Jacob? V7,8

What did they leave behind in Goshen? V8

How long was the mourning for Jacob in Canaan? V10
