

All Things Made New



Lesson 8

Jacob: A Man Who Wrestled with God

Theme: Obedience—Working with God and not against Him

Memory Verses:

“Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go forth from your country, And from your relatives, And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;...And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”

Genesis 12:1-3

Daily Bible Readings

- 1 Genesis 28:1-4, 10-17; 29:9-30
- 2 Genesis 30:1-24
- 3 Genesis 31:1-13, 17-23, 36-37, 43-55
- 4 Genesis 32:1-12, 22-32; 33:1-11, 17-20
- 5 Genesis 35:1-4, 9-20, 22b-29

Jacob was a man of faith, but at times in his life he didn’t act like it. God even changed Jacob’s name to Israel, a name that meant “fighting with God.” Let’s think about Jacob’s life and how he wrestled with God.

After this lesson you should be able to ...

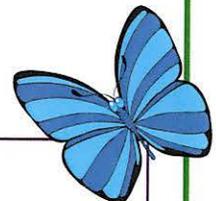
- List the three promises God repeated to Jacob
- Identify how many years Jacob had to serve for Rachel
- Name Rachel’s first son
- Identify who Jacob wrestled with
- Describe Jacob and Esau’s reunion
- Tell the new name God gave Jacob

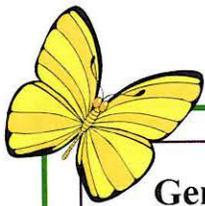
Genesis 28:1-4, 10-17; 29:9-30

What did God promise to Jacob in his dream?

land money large family
friends great nation

How many years did Jacob serve so that he could marry Laban’s daughter Rachel?





Genesis 30:1-24

Rachel's son was named...

Jacob Leaves Canaan

Because Esau was angry with Jacob for stealing his blessing, Jacob left Canaan to protect himself. He went to Paddan-Aram, which is also called Haran, where his mother's brother lived. This was also a place Jacob could find a wife who was an Israelite.

Remember that Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman from the land of Canaan. In the same way, Isaac wanted Jacob to marry someone from among their relatives who loved and obeyed God.

While traveling, Jacob stopped for the night to sleep and, during the night, had a dream. He saw angels going up and down a ladder that reached from earth into heaven. God appeared to Jacob in the dream and gave him the same promises He gave to Abraham many years before. Though Jacob was then leaving Canaan, God promised He would give the land to Jacob and his family. God would also give Jacob a large family and through him would bless the whole world.

Jacob Lives in Haran

In Haran, Jacob met his uncle Laban's daughter Rachel and fell in love with her. Jacob wanted to marry Rachel and asked Laban for her. Jacob said he would work seven years for Laban if he could marry Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel so much that the seven years seemed to pass quickly.

Laban agreed to give Rachel as Jacob's wife, but he tricked Jacob and gave him his other daughter Leah instead. Several years before, Jacob had tricked Isaac to steal Esau's blessing. Now, Jacob was tricked into marrying Leah instead of Rachel. Laban said Jacob could marry Rachel also, but to do this he had to work another seven years. Jacob gladly agreed, because he loved Rachel so much.

In those days, men often had more than one wife. God allowed this as He worked out His plan, but what he really wants is for a man and woman to marry and stay married as long as they live. Jacob's having two wives caused trouble. Rachel and Leah were jealous of each other and did not always treat each other kindly.

Over several years, Jacob had twelve sons. Can you name them? They are Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, and Benjamin. In time, Jacob's sons had large families that are known as tribes.

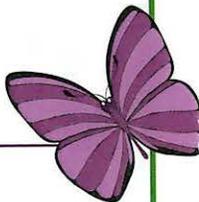
Genesis 31:1-13, 17-23, 36-37, 43-55

In another dream, Jacob learned that God wanted him to return to what land?

Egypt

Ur

Canaan





Genesis 32:1-12, 22-32; 33:1-11, 17-20

Why was Jacob afraid as he traveled toward his homeland Canaan?

Jacob wrestled with someone all night. To help Jacob remember the wrestling match, God changed his name to _____.

How did Esau feel about his brother Jacob when he saw him and his family?

happy angry bitter

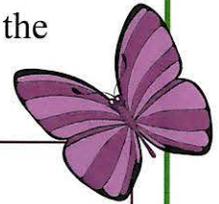
By blessing Jacob’s sons with many children, God was keeping His promise to make Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob a great nation.

Jacob Returns to Canaan

One day, God told Jacob it was time to return to Canaan, where his father Isaac lived. What would Jacob’s brother Esau do when they met? Jacob was afraid Esau was still angry. The night before the two brothers met, Jacob

wrestled with a “man” for a long time. This “man” turned out to be God. Jacob was strong and “forced” his opponent to bless him. God blessed Jacob and also made him limp. As Jacob limped for the rest of his life, he would always remember how he wrestled with God.

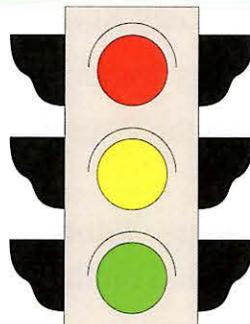
The next day, Jacob and Esau met. Instead of being angry and bitter about the past, Esau was happy to see Jacob after so many years and forgave his brother. Esau welcomed Jacob and his family back to the land of Canaan.



Genesis 35:1-4, 9-20, 22b-29

What did God say to Jacob that He has also said to Abraham and Isaac?

I try to be honest with my parents, my teachers, and my friends.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

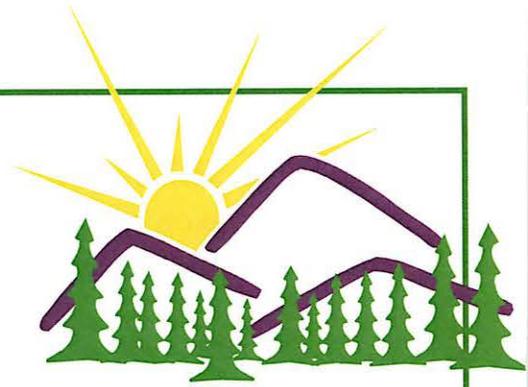
Red — usually not

Yellow — sometimes

Green — all the time

Think About It...

Describe a time when your parents or someone else made a promise to you and you had to wait patiently for the promise to be kept. How did you feel? Was this hard or easy?



Brush Up on Bible Facts

How many books are in the New Testament?

Using numbers, put the major stages of Bible history in the proper order:

- ___ Punished by Captivity
- ___ Promise to Abraham
- ___ Salvation in Jesus Christ
- ___ Slavery in Egypt
- ___ Law at Mount Sinai
- ___ Wilderness Wanderings
- ___ Living in the Promised Land

On a map, locate Israel and the Nations—Edom, Ammon, Moab, Philistia, Assyria / Babylon / Persia. What mark do you find on these places from another lesson?