



November Theme:
Thank God for His blessings!

Monthly Memory Verse:

"...Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!"

- **Psalm 144:15** (ESV)

Monthly Challenge Verse:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!" - **Psalm 103:1** (ESV)

November 13th | Life Application:
God blesses families who obey Him.



Parents: after listening to the sermon (or reading the Bible passage), take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids. Together, read **pages 91-92 in The Action Bible**. Refer to **Genesis 35-36** in your Bible as you lead your kids.

1. Jacob and his brother, Esau, reconciled after many years and then parted from each other. **Where did God tell Jacob to go, and why?** (God told Jacob to go to Bethel, the place where Jacob had seen angels and where he received a blessing from God. God told him to make an altar there in remembrance of what He had done and the promises He made to Jacob.) Obeying God no matter what the cost is the first step in receiving God's family blessings. It begins with dads and filters down from there.
2. **What did Jacob tell his people to do?** (To get rid of the foreign gods that they had brought with them and to purify themselves before going to Bethel.) We must remove any idols, anything we love more than God, to receive God's family blessings.
3. **What is the new name God gave Jacob?** (Israel.) Jacob grew in his faith and his trust in God, and God changed his name from "Trickster" to Israel, "Strength of God." Now, in **verses 9-12**, God reminds Jacob (Israel) of His promises; to give him the land he had promised to Abraham and Isaac, and to multiply him. God's family blessing comes when we know our new nature in Jesus. Our identity in him alone. Our old is gone. The new life in Jesus has come.
4. After this, Israel traveled toward Ephrath, and on the way, Rachel gave birth to her second son - Joseph's brother. After Rachel gave birth to Benjamin, she died, but as she was dying, she named her son Ben-Oni. Read **verse 18**. **What did Israel call his son?** (Benjamin, which means "son of my sorrow.") **Why do you think Jacob called Benjamin "son of my sorrow?"** (Because Jacob loved Benjamin's mother, Rachel, and didn't want his name forever to be associated with his mom dying in childbirth.) Even when God blesses a family there are still painful moments.
5. In **Genesis 35:23-26**, you will see the names of the 12 sons of Israel. Only 2 were from Rachel. We will find out more about the 12 sons of Jacob, and the jealousy the other sons had for Joseph and Benjamin, later. **Can you guess why the other brothers were jealous of Joseph and Benjamin?** (Jacob showed favoritism toward them because they were his sons by Rachel.)
6. **What happened when Jacob came to Mamre, his father's home?** (Jacob and Isaac were finally reunited, and Isaac died after a long life. His sons, Esau and Jacob, buried him.) Every family faces the death of their dad, as with Isaac here.

7. In **Genesis 36**, we see what happened to Esau and his family. They settled far away from Jacob- see **Genesis 36:6-8**. **Why did they have to live far apart?** (*Because they both had so many possessions that it was impossible for them to live near each other. Also, even though they had reconciled, they probably didn't trust each other.*) Esau did not love God with all his heart. In the future, his family did not experience God's blessing as Jacob's did.
8. Esau had many children and a great nation came from him. But, as He had chosen Abraham and Isaac, God chose Jacob and blessed him and his family (see **Genesis 26:13-15**). From Jacob would come the nation of Israel, the Jewish people, God's chosen people. God chooses and blesses people of great faith! Jacob had great faith in God's blessings. Esau was a man of his own strength and he did not.

Family Challenge:

1. Read this month's memory verse: *"...Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!"*
Psalm 144:15

God blesses families who obey Him, as Jacob and his family did. **How can we show that God is our Lord?** (*By obeying Him, talking with Him, praising Him, thanking Him, living our lives for Him, loving each other and having a strong family.*)

2. Give each person a large index card and ask them to **write the verse and decorate the card**. Have each person put the verse somewhere in their room where they will see it daily. At meal time, practice saying the verse together.
3. Teach your kids the habit of thankfulness. Together, **make a Thankful Jar**. Put it on your table along with several slips of paper and markers. Invite your family to write thank you notes to God for His blessings during November. Once a week, take the slips of paper out of the jar and read them together.

Prayer:

Dear God, Thank You for the many blessings You give us. We love You and want our family to obey You and honor You. Help us to have great faith in You as Jacob did. In Jesus' name, Amen.