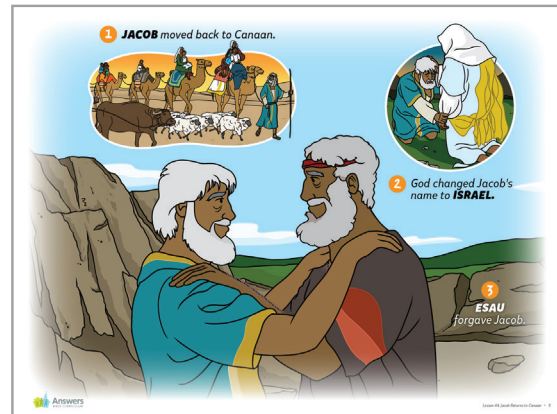


Jacob Returns to Canaan

Jacob returns to Canaan and reconciles with Esau.



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 43 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we heard how Jacob went to his uncle Laban's home where he met Rachel and Leah. He told Laban he would work for him for seven years if he could marry Rachel.

- But when the wedding day came, Laban tricked Jacob. What did Laban do? *He switched Leah and Rachel.*

Laban tricked Jacob by giving him Leah to marry instead of Rachel. Jacob did marry Rachel a week later, but he had to keep working for Laban—another seven years!

- How many sons did Jacob have? *12.*

Today we'll see how some things changed in Jacob's life. It was time for him to take his family back to his home, the land of Canaan. But remember, when Jacob left Canaan after stealing Esau's blessing, Esau was very upset with Jacob. You could say that Jacob and Esau were like oil and water.

- What do you think I mean by that? *Allow discussion.*

Let's do a little experiment to help us understand what that means. *Take out the jar with water.*

Let's say this water is Jacob. *Add a few drops of food coloring and shake to mix.*

And this oil is Esau. *Pour oil (about half the amount of water) into the jar of water.*

These two were brothers. But when Jacob stole the blessing, Esau became extremely angry with him. *Put the lid on the jar and shake it.*

Esau hated Jacob, and the two of them couldn't be near each other; they had to separate. *Watch as the oil separates. Look at how the oil has separated from the water. The two will not mix together. Let several students shake the jar to try and mix the oil and water, if time allows. Set the jar aside. You will continue the experiment later in the lesson.*

Since they couldn't live in the same place anymore, Jacob lived with his uncle for 20 years. Now it was time for him to go home. But Jacob thought Esau might still be angry. He was afraid his family wouldn't be safe unless he and Esau were reconciled.

- Does anyone know what the word reconcile means? *Allow guesses.*

To reconcile means to make two people forgive and become friends again after a fight or argument.

Before Jacob could bring his wives and children to live in Canaan, he needed to make sure Esau would forgive him for stealing the blessing.

God Changes Jacob

After Jacob had lived and worked for Laban for 20 years, God spoke to Jacob and told him to go back to Canaan. God promised to be with Jacob on his journey.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Jacob knew that Laban wanted him to stay and keep working, so he decided to sneak away. When Laban found out Jacob's family was gone, he gathered a bunch of his men and chased after them. Laban could have hurt Jacob or taken away his wives and children, but God spoke to Laban in a dream and warned him not to harm Jacob. God protected them just as he promised.

As Jacob and his family headed home to the land of Canaan, Jacob worried about seeing his brother Esau again. Was Esau still angry with him? Did he still want to kill him for stealing the blessing? When Jacob got close to Canaan, he sent messengers to Esau to tell him he was coming.

After a while Jacob's messengers came back and said that Esau was coming to meet Jacob—and he was bringing 400 men with him! This didn't sound good. Were they going to attack him and his family? What was he going to do? Jacob was really scared.

- So what do you think Jacob did? *Allow guesses.*

Jacob prayed! Jacob was afraid, and he turned to the Lord and humbly begged God for help.

The next morning, Jacob sent some of his servants ahead with animals like goats, camels, and donkeys as gifts for Esau. Jacob hoped these would please his brother and keep him from being angry.

That night Jacob sent his family across a river to the other side. Then while he was by himself, something strange happened.

- Let's read about it. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. *Have the student bring the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

Genesis 32:24

Listen to Genesis 32:24. *Read the verse.*

- What happened to Jacob during the night? *A Man came and wrestled with him.*
- What does that mean to wrestle with someone? *Allow answers.*
- How many of you ever wrestled with your dad or a brother or sister? *Show of hands.*

Wrestling with someone in your family is like play fighting. But a real wrestling fight is a lot harder. It's a struggle to see who is strongest or who can keep the other person down the longest.

- The Bible says this Man wrestled with Jacob until the next morning. Who do you think this Man was? *Allow guesses.*

This was God wrestling with Jacob! After struggling through the night, Jacob wouldn't let the Man go until he blessed him.

Genesis 32:27–28

Let's read what God said to Jacob. *Read Genesis 32:27–28.*

- Do you remember what Jacob's name meant? *Allow discussion. Deceiver or liar.*
- Jacob's name means deceiver. Does it please God when we lie or try to trick and deceive somebody to get our way? *No.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. When Jacob told God his name, he knew what it meant. Jacob understood that he was a deceiver, a sinner. He knew he needed to follow God and be changed. It's the same way for us; we have to understand that we are sinners and can't pay for our sins on our own. Then we can ask God for forgiveness, and he will clean our hearts and change us.

- God gave Jacob a new name to show he was now a follower of God. What name did God give Jacob? *Israel.*

Jacob would now be called Israel. He was changed because he had met God!

Jacob and Esau Reconcile

Later that morning, Jacob looked up and saw Esau and 400 men coming toward him and his family. He quickly put all the women and children behind him to keep them safe. Jacob didn't know what would happen next. Would Esau's army attack? Would Jacob be killed? Was Esau still angry because of what Jacob had done?

When we've done something wrong to someone, we need to be humble and show that we really

mean it when we apologize. Jacob knew this, and he decided to show honor to his brother by bowing before Esau as he walked toward him. Jacob wanted his brother to know that he had changed and that he was truly sorry.

- What do you think Esau did? He had 400 men with him. Do you think they attacked? Did Jacob and his family have to run for their lives? *Allow guesses.*

Genesis 33:4

Genesis 33:4 tells us what happened next. *Read the verse.*

- What did Esau do? *He ran to meet him, embraced him, and kissed him. The two brothers wept.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Wow! Esau didn't want to kill Jacob anymore. Instead, Esau forgave Jacob. They hugged each other as brothers and even cried together. They had been separated for a long time. It had been 20 years since they had last seen each other! Things were finally made right between Jacob and Esau. They were reconciled!

So what happened? What caused them to become friends again? Let's go back to our oil and water example. When we look at the jar with water and oil, it's still separated. But if we add some soap to the mix, let's watch what happens. *Add about a teaspoon of dishwashing liquid and shake. The oil and the water should mix and leave suds on top instead of oil.*

- What's happened? What do you see now? *The oil and water stay mixed. There's soap on top.*

The oil is not separating from the water anymore, is it? Now they mix together and stay together.

- What made the difference? Why do you think they are mixing now? *The soap is causing them to mix.*

We changed it by adding soap, and it made the water and oil stay together. There was a change in Jacob, too. God cleaned his heart and made him into a new person. Now he and his brother could be friends again. They didn't have to be separated—like oil and water—any more.

Jacob had wrestled with God and was changed and reconciled with his brother. Now he and his wives, children, servants, and animals could live in peace in Canaan. God had changed Jacob's heart and had given him a new name—Israel. We'll hear this name again when Jacob's descendants call themselves the Israelites.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

1 **JACOB** moved back to Canaan.



2 God changed Jacob's name to **ISRAEL**.

3
ESAU
forgave Jacob.