

Lesson 44

Jacob Returns to Canaan

Jacob returned to Canaan and reconciled with Esau.

Studying God's Word

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Introduction

Slide #3

Slide #4

Slide #5

Slide #6

Refer to Lessons 41–42 Theme Posters and the Genesis . We've seen a lot of deception in Jacob's family, haven't we? Jacob took advantage of Esau when he was hungry and got his brother to sell his birthright for a bowl of stew. Esau didn't care about his birthright, but he did care when Jacob stole his blessing by deceiving their father.

What did Esau threaten to do to Jacob? Kill him.

What did Rebekah want Jacob to do to escape from Esau? Flee to her brother Laban.

Yes. Rebekah had to send her favorite son away because she feared for his life. She and Isaac decided that Jacob should find a wife from Laban's daughters.

Refer to Lesson 43 Theme Poster. Jacob traveled to Haran and agreed to work for seven years to marry Laban's younger daughter Rachel.

But Laban deceived Jacob. How did Laban trick Jacob? He gave Leah instead of Rachel to Jacob to marry.

Jacob was deceived by Laban just like his father was deceived by him! Jacob did marry Rachel one week after marrying Leah, but he was obligated to work another seven years for Laban.

Having two sisters as wives caused problems in Jacob's family. What did the sisters fight about? Jacob's love and who could have more children.

That's right. Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah. Leah wanted his love, but Rachel wanted children. In the end, Leah had six sons, each sister's servant had two sons, and Rachel finally had Joseph. Remember, Benjamin wasn't born until much later.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. In today's lesson, we'll see how Jacob made some major changes in his life. It was time for him to leave Laban's home and move back to Canaan. However, when Jacob left Canaan after stealing Esau's blessing, he and Esau were like oil and water.

What do you think that means? Allow discussion.

Let's do a little experiment to help us understand. 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 water.

They are both in the same family, but when Jacob stole the blessing Esau became extremely angry. Put on the lid and shake the jar.

Esau hated Jacob and the two of them had to separate. Watch as the oil separates. See how the oil has separated from the water? The two can't mix together. Set the jar aside. You will continue the experiment later in the lesson.

Jacob knew he and his family wouldn't be safe in the land of Canaan unless he and Esau were reconciled.

Slide #7

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

Reconcile: to make two people become friends again after an argument or disagreement

To reconcile means to make two people become friends again after an argument or disagreement. In this case, Jacob wouldn't be safe in the land of Canaan unless Esau forgave him and the two of them were reconciled.

God Tells Jacob to Return to Canaan

But before Jacob could face Esau, he had to escape from his deceitful father-in-law Laban. Laban saw that God was blessing him with wealth because of Jacob, and he wanted Jacob to keep working for him. When Jacob wanted to return to Canaan, Laban said Jacob could take certain animals—but not others—from his flock as payment for all his years of work. But Laban kept changing his mind and switching the animals that Jacob could take. This went on for six years! God still blessed Jacob with flocks, servants, camels, and donkeys, even though Laban kept changing his wages to try to keep the best animals for himself.

Eventually, Laban and his sons became jealous of Jacob, and Jacob realized that they no longer liked him like they used to. That's when God spoke to Jacob.

Genesis 31:3

Slide #8

Let's read what God said. Who will read Genesis 31:3? Assign a reader. What did God tell Jacob to do? Return to the land of Canaan where his family was.

What did God promise Jacob at the end of the verse? I will be with you.

Yes. God promised to be with Jacob on his journey back to Canaan. But Jacob knew that Laban wasn't going to let him leave easily, so Jacob chose

to sneak away from him. Jacob called Leah and Rachel out to the field and told them that God wanted him to return to Canaan. They agreed to leave their father and their home. While Laban was away shearing his sheep, they packed up all their belongings—tents, animals, and servants—and left in a hurry.

Pass out the Class Notes (PDF) to the students.

When Laban found out they were gone, he gathered a bunch of his men and chased after them. But God spoke to him in a dream and warned him not to harm Jacob. Laban could have hurt Jacob or taken away his wives and children, but God protected Jacob. Laban and Jacob made a covenant, or promise, that they would not harm each other, and Jacob promised to take care of Rachel and Leah. They ate a meal together, and then Laban returned to his home.

Slide #9

Slide #10

Let's start our Class Notes (PDF). Our Class Notes (PDF) today have multiple choice answers that you will circle. Who will read #1 and give us the answer? Assign a reader. B. He was worried that Laban wouldn't let him leave. Have students circle B.

Right. God told Jacob to return to Canaan, but he didn't tell him to sneak away. That was Jacob's idea. What about #2? How did God protect Jacob from Laban? Assign a reader. C. He warned Laban in a dream not to harm Jacob. Have students circle C.

God Changes Jacob's Name to Israel

God protected Jacob from Laban, but Jacob was worried about seeing his brother Esau again. Was Esau still angry with him after 20 years? 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'd returned.

But Jacob's messengers reported that Esau was coming to meet them—with 400 men! Jacob thought that these men with Esau were going to attack him and his family. What was he going to do? He and his family and servants couldn't protect themselves against 400 trained men!

Genesis 32:7–8

Slide #11

Let's see what Jacob did. Who will read Genesis 32:7–8? Assign a reader. What did Jacob do with his people and animals? Genesis 32:7. He divided them into two camps.

Why did he do that? Genesis 32:8. If one camp were attacked, the other camp could escape.

Jacob was afraid. He divided his servants and animals into two groups. He thought that if one group were attacked, the other group could get away.

The next thing Jacob did was the best decision. He prayed! He was scared and turned to the Lord. In his prayer, he reminded the Lord of his

promises, he showed humility, and he begged God for deliverance from Esau.

The next morning, Jacob sent servants with groups of animals—goats, sheep, camels, cows, and donkeys—and told each servant to tell Esau that the animals were presents from Jacob and that he was coming behind them. He hoped that these gifts would please Esau and cool his temper.

That night, Jacob sent his family across a brook to camp on the other side, but he stayed behind, not knowing that what happened that night would change his life!

Genesis 32:24–29

Slide #12

Slide #13

Slide #14

Who will read Genesis 32:24–29? Assign readers.

Verse 24 says that a man wrestled with Jacob until the breaking of day, or dawn. Who was this man? Allow guesses.

This was God wrestling with Jacob! Because this was God appearing as a man, we can call him Jesus, God's Son. After wrestling with Jacob through the night, Jesus touched the socket of Jacob's hip and put it out of joint to show who he was. No ordinary man could dislocate a hip with a touch! But even with this injury, Jacob wouldn't let the man go until he blessed him. Jacob was persistent!

Why do you think Jesus asked Jacob his name in verse 27? Allow guesses.

Remember that Jacob's name means deceiver. God wanted Jacob to admit what kind of man he was. Before Jacob could change and follow God, he had to recognize that he was a deceiver, a sinner. Just as God gave Abraham and Sarah new names, God also gave Jacob a new name to show his new character as a follower of God.

Slide #15

What name did God give Jacob? Israel.

Israel: he strives with God

The name Israel means he who "strives with God." The word "strive" can mean to have power or to persevere, like how Jacob didn't give up when he wrestled but held on until he received the blessing from God. After this night, Jacob walked with a limp from where God touched his hip. His limp would be a constant reminder of his face-to-face meeting with God.

Jacob and Esau Reconcile

Jacob now had a relationship with God, but he still needed to fix his relationship with his brother. Jacob had wronged Esau, and he had to ask forgiveness. But was Esau still too angry to listen?

Genesis 33:1–4

Slide #16

Slide #17

Let's find out! Who will read Genesis 33:1-4? Assign readers.

What did Jacob do in verse 3 to show humility before Esau? He bowed himself to the ground seven times.

It was good for Jacob to be humble and bow down before his brother. He also showed humility in the messages he sent Esau because he called him "lord." When we have wronged someone, we should be humble when we apologize, too.

And how did Esau respond when he saw Jacob? Genesis 33:4. He ran to meet him, embraced and kissed him, and they wept.

What a relief! Esau didn't want to kill Jacob anymore. He and his 400 men didn't attack Jacob and his family. Instead, he forgave Jacob for what he had done by stealing the blessing. He hugged him as a brother, and they cried together.

Jacob introduced his wives and his children to Esau, and Esau accepted the animals from Jacob as a gift. Esau and his men returned to his home, and Jacob continued his journey into the land of Canaan.

How do you think Jacob felt after this meeting with Esau? Relieved. Happy.

Yes! He probably felt relieved that Esau didn't attack him and happy that they parted as friends. 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? The oil and water stay mixed. There's soap on top. The oil is not separating from the water anymore is it? What made the difference? The soap is causing them to mix.

There was a difference in Jacob, too. Jacob's heart was changed. God cleansed him and made him into a new person. Now he and his brother could be reconciled. They didn't have to be separated as enemies anymore.

Slide #18

Slide #19

Slide #20

Slide #21

Let's answer #3 in our Class Notes (PDF). What does the name Israel mean? Assign a reader. C. Strives with God. Have students circle C.

And #4? What did Jacob send to Esau? Assign a reader. A. Gifts of animals. Have students circle A.

Who will read #5 and answer how Jacob showed humility? Assign a reader. B. He bowed down. Have students circle B.

And #6, what Esau do when he met Jacob? Assign a reader. D. Hugged him. Have students circle D.

Remember God's promise to Jacob at Bethel? He promised to go with him on his journey and bring him back safely to the land of Canaan. God protected Jacob and his family from Laban and from Esau. Jacob fled to Haran with nothing, but he returned with wives, many children, servants, and animals. And Jacob wrestled with God! God came to Jacob when he was alone and afraid and gave him a new name—Israel. Jacob's descendants would be known by this name and call themselves the Israelites.

Application

Slide #22

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. Jacob had a lot to worry about in this lesson. He had to escape from Laban and then face his brother Esau, who had promised to kill him! God told Jacob when to leave Laban, and he kept Laban from harming Jacob and taking his wives, children, and flocks. When Jacob heard that Esau was coming with 400 men, he was afraid. He divided his people and possessions into two groups so that one group might escape. Then he sent presents to Esau, hoping they would make Esau receive him with kindness. Finally, when Jacob was alone and afraid at night, God came and wrestled with him. Jacob admitted that he was a deceiver, but God changed his name to Israel and blessed him. Jacob faced his brother the next day, and Esau forgave him.

This account of Jacob and Esau's reconciliation has some important lessons about how to ask forgiveness and how to make things right. First, Jacob had to be right with God and confess his sin. Once we ask God for forgiveness and repent of our sin and trust in Jesus, we become new creations in Christ. There will still be times when we sin, but the Bible tells us that if we confess our sins to God, he will be faithful to forgive us.

A second lesson we can learn is that Jacob had to reconcile with Esau in order to have a good relationship. We want to have good relationships with other people, too. Sometimes our family members are the hardest to get along with! But when we hurt someone else, it is our responsibility to make it right. Like Jacob, we should come with humility to the person we've wronged. We can't just say, "I'm sorry," and not mean it. True repentance is feeling sorrow over sin and turning away from it. We have to say what we did that was wrong and humbly ask for forgiveness. This can be scary and hard to do sometimes.

Does anyone have an example of a time that you hurt someone and had to ask for forgiveness? Share a personal example of asking forgiveness or allow discussion.

Sometimes we are the person who was wronged by someone else. If someone asks us to forgive them, we should do it. God forgives us of all our sins, and he expects us to forgive others who hurt us.

Does anyone have an example of a time you had to forgive someone? Share a personal example of giving forgiveness or allow discussion.

Forgiving others is hard, too, but God will help us if we ask him. When we are right with God and with other people, we will feel at peace. Just as Jacob probably felt happy and relieved after Esau forgave him, we feel better when our relationships are right with others and with God.

Lesson Review

We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

Review Questions
Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Box Toss

Students will answer review questions then toss the beanbag at the holes in the box to gain points for their team.

Materials

Review Questions
Medium-sized cardboard box
Scissors or knife
Four beanbags
Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use scissors or a knife to cut two or three holes in the bottom of the box. Make sure they are large enough for a beanbag to easily pass through. Label each hole with a point number: 5, 10, and 15. Use masking tape to make a tossing line several feet away from the box.

Divide the class into teams. Have the teams line up behind the line across from the box. Give each team two beanbags. Alternate asking each team a review question. Students who answer correctly will toss the beanbags at the target holes in the box to earn points for their team. If they answer incorrectly, they may toss the beanbags for fun without the points counting. Students will go to the end of the line after tossing the beanbags. Keep score for both teams. Continue play until all questions have been answered correctly and students have all had a chance to toss the beanbags.

Draw Dice

Teams will answer questions and complete a simple drawing to win. Who will finish their drawing first?

Materials

Review Questions
One drawing area for each team (paper, white board, etc.)
Pencils or white board markers
One die

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil, or divide the white board in half. Draw a mouse on the board as an example.

Ask the first team a question from the lesson. If they answer correctly, have them roll the die.

To begin drawing their mouse, each team must wait until they get a six. They will then draw the mouse's body on their paper or the board. After they have drawn the body, as they give correct answers to the questions, they can continue to draw the other parts of the mouse according to the numbers they roll.



They can draw according to the numbers below:

6 = body

5 = nose

4 = whiskers

3 = eyes

2 = ears

1 = tail

Continue giving each team a turn to answer a question and roll the die. Repeat the questions as necessary. The first team to finish their mouse wins.

You may choose to draw a simple object from the lesson, such as a crown, an open Bible, a fish, etc. Be sure to assign numbers (as above) to each part of the object to be drawn before the game begins.

Four in a Row

Students will answer questions and add a marker for their team onto the grid. Which team will be the first to get four in a row?

Materials

Review Questions

Masking tape

Red and black paper circles or other markers for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a 16-section grid on the floor. The grid should be four sections wide by four sections long. Each section should be equal in size. Use eight red circles and eight black circles cut from construction paper or other markers for the two teams.

Divide the students into two teams. Give each team eight markers. They will take turns answering the questions. If they answer correctly, they can put a marker in a square on the grid. The first team to get four markers in a row wins the game.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Oh No

Not every roll of the dice will be good for the team. Answer the question, roll the dice, and be prepared to say, “Oh no!”

Materials

- Review Questions
- Two dice

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams. Each team will take turns answering review questions. When a team

answers correctly, have them roll the dice to determine their points. If a team does not answer correctly, give the answer and repeat the question later. Keep track of team scores.

Numbers aren't always a winner! If students roll:

- 2 or 3 that team gives 5 points away to the other team
- 4 or 5 that team takes 5 points from the other team
- 6–10 face value
- 11 subtract 10 points from the team score
- 12 double the team score

(Note: no team can have less than 0 points.)

Pick a Point

Answer the questions correctly to earn the right to pick a point.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Small paper strips
- Cup or basket

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Write various numbers in increments of 5 or 10 on strips of paper to use as point cards. Put the point cards into the cup or basket. Divide students into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a review question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a point card from the cup.

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. Keep track of each team's points. If time allows, repeat the questions!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

- Review Questions
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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