



Abraham's Half-Truth

Read Genesis 20:1-18, first!

After the destruction of the cities of the plain, Abraham and Sarah journeyed south and dwelt in Gerar (a city of the Philistines (descendants of Ham) near the border of Egypt and closer to the coast than Mamre). It was between the two cities of Kadesh, and Shur. Abimelech was the king of Gerar, and he was attracted to Sarah's beauty. He didn't know that Sarah was Abraham's wife because Abraham told everyone that Sarah was his sister out of fear for his own life. Remember what Abraham told Sarah in Genesis 12:11-13? He said, "...*Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance, therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, "This is his wife"; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.*"

The Egyptians too, had seen her beauty and thought Abraham was her brother! Because of that, she landed in Pharaoh's home and God plagued him and his household because of her! Sarah was returned to Abraham and Pharaoh sent them away! Sarah was Abraham's half-sister, but that was only half of the truth! Their half-lie caused trouble for a whole nation!

King Abimelech sent for Sarah and took her, but through a dream, God told him that he was a dead man because

he had another man's wife! Those who consider adultery need to remember what God told Abimelech! Abimelech pleaded his case with the Lord and said, "*Lord, will you slay a righteous nation also?*" Abimelech must have known about the destruction of the wicked cities of the plain and he feared that God would also destroy Gerar. Abimelech called all his servants, and told them about Sarah and his dream. They were very much afraid. The fear (respect) of God *was* in the people of Gerar!

In spite of Abraham and Sarah's half-truth, God was able to preserve them from Pharaoh, as well as the king of Gerar. He was able to keep Abimelech from sinning, too. God had promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son, and that their descendants would be as numerous as the stars and the sand! God is able to keep us from stumbling! "*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.*" - Jude 24 & 25

Abimelech returned Sarah and gave them sheep, oxen, servants, and a thousand pieces of silver to vindicate Sarah. Abraham prayed for Abimelech, and his wife, and all his female servants were able to bear children again. Abimelech let them dwell where they pleased in his land, and God continued to bless Abraham and Sarah!

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Genesis

Chapter 20

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 20:1-2; what happened to Sarah? What did Abraham say?

Note: *This isn't the first time Abraham used this same lie. Twenty-four years earlier he said the same thing to the king of Egypt (Gen. 12:11-13).*

2. God was faithful to keep His promise to Abraham that He would establish His covenant through him. Read Gen. 20:3, what did God do?

3. Read Gen. 20:4; what was Abimelech's response? Is it similar to Abraham's response to God in Gen. 18:23-25?

4. Read Gen. 20:5-7; did Abimelech know that Sarah was Abraham's wife? Did God know that Abimelech's motives were honest?

5. Read Jeremiah 17:10; Who alone knows everything in our hearts?

6. Who protected Sarah from Abimelech? (Gen. 20:6)

7. Read Psalm 105:14-15; what does it say about God's faithfulness?

8. What did God say Abraham would do for Abimelech? (Gen. 20:7)

9. Read Gen. 20:8; did Abimelech fear God?

10. It's sad to see that a heathen feared God and God's chosen one was caught in a lie. What kind of witness was Abraham? Are there times when non-believers show more Christ-like character than those who are truly Christians?

11. Read Gen. 20:9-11; what excuse did Abraham give to Abimelech? Did he show that he had faith in God to protect him?

12. Read Gen. 20:12-13; what was the half-truth that Abraham used? It was 24 years ago that he used the same half-truth to Pharaoh, did he learn from it?

13. God will never let us get away with anything, He sees everything we do. Read Numbers 32:23; can we hide our sins from God?

14. Read Gen. 20:14-15; what did Abimelech do for Abraham and Sarah?

15. Read Gen. 20:16; what did Abimelech do to Sarah? Do you think it was humbling for Abraham and Sarah to be rebuked by a non-believer?

16. Read Gen. 20:17-18; what happened to Abimelech?

17. Why do you think God had Abraham pray for Abimelech? Do you think it was more for Abraham to learn from than for Abimelech?

Memory Verse

"... 'and be sure your sin will find you out.' "

Numbers 32:23 (NKJV)

Take the Genesis Test (if you can)

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____What is the half-truth that Abraham told for 24 years? | A. he rebuked her |
| _____How did God speak to Abimelech? | B. gave him money, cattle and servants |
| _____What was Abimelech's reaction to God's warning? | C. prayed for him |
| _____What did Abimelech do to Sarah? | D. healed him, his wife, his children and his wives bore children |
| _____What did Abimelech do to Abraham? | E. he was afraid |
| _____What did Abraham do for Abimelech? | F. in a dream |
| _____What did God do for Abimelech? | G. Sarah was his sister |

The Son of the Flesh Scoffs at the Son of Promise and is Sent into the Wilderness with His Egyptian Mother

Read Genesis 21:1-34, first!

Abraham had two sons, but only Isaac was the son of promise. Ishmael was Abraham and Sarah's idea, through Hagar, Sarah's bondswoman, or servant. Hagar was from Egypt, and Egypt is a type of "the world." Ishmael represents those who are of the flesh, or "the world" and not born again. Isaac represents those who are born of the Spirit (born again). Those who are born again have a new nature, a new relationship with the Lord, are citizens of a new world and another Kingdom! Their citizenship is not of this world, but is heavenly. Like Abraham, they are only sojourners and pilgrims in this world, waiting for their inheritance, their promised land, their eternal city, the New Jerusalem, and their King, Jesus Christ; by faith. Those who are born of the flesh will persecute those who are born again of the Spirit of God (Galatians 4:29).

A great feast was prepared on the day that Isaac was weaned (two or three years old). Sarah saw Ishmael, the son of Hagar, the Egyptian bondswoman, scoffing. Isn't that what the world does to the children of promise (those who are born again)? The world scoffs at us for believing!

Hagar and Ishmael were sent away into the Wilderness of Beersheba. God heard them there, just like many years before when Hagar was pregnant with Ishmael (Genesis 16). God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. God sees and hears, do you know Him? He is the Living Water--sure to quench a thirsty soul. Have you been in the wilderness? That is a place where you come to the end of yourself and finally call on Him. When you call, He hears and sees!

Because he was Abraham's son, God promised to make Ishmael a great nation, and God was with him. He became an archer. Remember what God told Hagar about her son? *"He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."* - Genesis 16:12 Ishmael represents the flesh, and the flesh is like a wildman that acts against every man, and every man battles his own flesh nature because it makes him do things he doesn't want to do! The flesh dwells in the presence of all his brethren. The flesh influences us all, but if we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of it (Galatians 5:16). Those without the Spirit try to harness their fleshly nature with laws, regulations, and willpower. But that only works for a season because the old nature is still there! You must be born again to obtain a new nature! The flesh is unruly and a wildman. Ishmael is also the father of the Arabs, who hate and persecute Israel, Isaac's children. Abraham had dug the well at Beersheba. Hagar and Ishmael were in the Wilderness of Beersheba when God opened her eyes so she could see a well. Was it the same well? Hmm. The Bible doesn't say.

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Genesis

Chapter 21

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 21:1-2; what does this tell us about God? Is He faithful to keep His promises?
2. Read Gen. 21:3-5; what was the name of the baby born to Sarah and Abraham?

Remember the name Isaac means laughter.

3. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? Is anything too hard for God?
4. Read Gen. 21:6-7; what was Sarah's reaction to having a baby at her age?
5. Read Gen. 17:17 and Gen. 18:12; what was Abraham's and Sarah's response every time God told them He would give them a child? Is Isaac a fitting name for this child?
6. Read Gen. 21:8-9; what was Ishmael, the son of Hagar, doing?
7. Read Gen. 21:10-13; what did Sarah tell Abraham to do?

Note: Remember that Hagar and Ishmael represent those who are of the flesh or the world. Isaac represents God's covenant and promise and symbolizes those who are born again.

8. Sarah wanted Abraham to "cast out the bondwoman and her son." Read Gal. 5:24-25; what are we as born-again Christians told to do? Is this the same thing Abraham was supposed to do?
9. Read Gen. 21:14-21; what happened to Hagar and Ishmael? Did God forget about them?
10. Read Gen. 17:20; what did God promise a long time ago about Ishmael? Is God faithful to keep His promises?
11. This is the second time that Sarah wanted Hagar to leave (Gen. 16:5-12). Ishmael (the flesh) and Isaac (those who are born again) would never get along. Read Gal. 5:17; is the same struggle still going on today?
12. Read Gen. 21:22-23; what was Abimelech's concern? Do you think Abraham had become powerful and important during his time?
13. Read Gen. 21:24-27; why did Abraham rebuke Abimelech? Do you think Abimelech was honest with Abraham?

Note: Remember Gen. 20, when God appeared to Abimelech in his dream and Abimelech feared God because of what God had told him about Abraham and Sarah.

14. Read Gen. 21:28-34; what did Abraham do with Abimelech?
15. Even though Abraham made a treaty to keep peace between Abimelech and himself; Who did he call upon and trust to bring peace? (Gen. 21:33)

Memory Verse

" ... 'Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.' "

Galatians 4:30 (NKJV)

Take the Genesis Test (if you dare)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| _____ What does Isaac mean? | A. the flesh |
| _____ How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? (Gen. 21:5) | B. He would make him a great nation |
| _____ What does Ishmael represent? (Gal. 4:23) | C. 100 years old |
| _____ What does Isaac represent? (Gal. 4:28) | D. laughter |
| _____ What was God's promise to Hagar about Ishmael? (Gen. 21:18) | E. the promise |

Genesis

Chapter 22

Discussion Questions

Before we read this chapter, keep in mind that these are real people, with real feelings and emotions; they're not just "Bible characters."

1. Read Gen. 22:1; what are "these things"? Review Chapter 21 where Hagar and Ishmael were cast out into the desert and God promised Hagar He would make a great nation from Ishmael.
2. Isaac was probably in his twenties at this time and Abraham and Sarah were enjoying every day with him. What did verse one say God did to Abraham?

Note: *Test means to prove or try. It is used in the same way Jesus was tested in the desert for forty days and forty nights. God tests our faith to show US where we're at with Him.*

3. Read Gen. 22:2; how do you think Abraham felt in hearing this?
4. How many sons did Abraham have? Remember Ishmael was from the flesh, so God did not recognize him. Isaac was from faith and was the son of promise.
5. Read Gen. 22:3-4; what did Abraham do? Did he obey in faith despite how he felt? Do you think it was very difficult for him?
6. Read James 2:20-23; how is our faith "proved"?

Note: *In times past Abraham didn't trust God and took matters into his own hands by lying that Sarah was his sister because he was afraid for his life. Ishmael was a result of Abraham not trusting God.*

7. Why do you think God specified a certain place?

Note: *This is the same place that Solomon built the temple and also the same place Jesus would be sacrificed on the cross. God always has a reason why He does everything, He doesn't waste any detail.*

8. Read Gen. 22:5; what did Abraham tell his servants? Whom did he say would come back?
9. God promised a long time before Isaac was born that Abraham's descendants would be as the sand of the sea. Do you think that Abraham believed that in some way God would bring him and Isaac through this test?
10. Read Gen. 22:6; what was laid on Isaac's back? What did Jesus carry on His back on the way to Calvary?
11. Read Gen. 22:7-8; Who did Abraham say would provide the lamb? Who did God eventually provide as a sacrifice for us? What does John the Baptist call Jesus in John 1:29?
12. Read Gen. 22:9-10; what do you think Isaac was thinking about now? He could have overpowered his father and run away, but instead what did he do?
13. Compare what Isaac did to how obedient Jesus was to His Father. (Luke 22:42; Phil. 2:5-8)
14. Read Gen. 22:11-14; did Abraham pass the test? Did God provide the sacrifice?

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15. Read Gen. 22:15-17; God tested Abraham's faith and when he was "proved," God once again confirmed His promise. What was it?
16. Read Gen. 22:18-19; it's interesting to note that verse 18 says "seed," singular. Who is that seed?
17. All of this came about because Abraham obeyed God in faith. What does Hebrews 11:17-19 tell us?
18. Read Gen. 22:20-24; here we have a genealogy. Isaac is yet to be married and have children to fulfill God's covenant. Verse 23 has a very important name that we will see in the upcoming chapters, do you know who it is?

Isaac is the foreshadowing, or type of Jesus, and what He would do for all of mankind. Look at the front of the lesson and see the comparisons of Jesus and Isaac.

Memory Verse

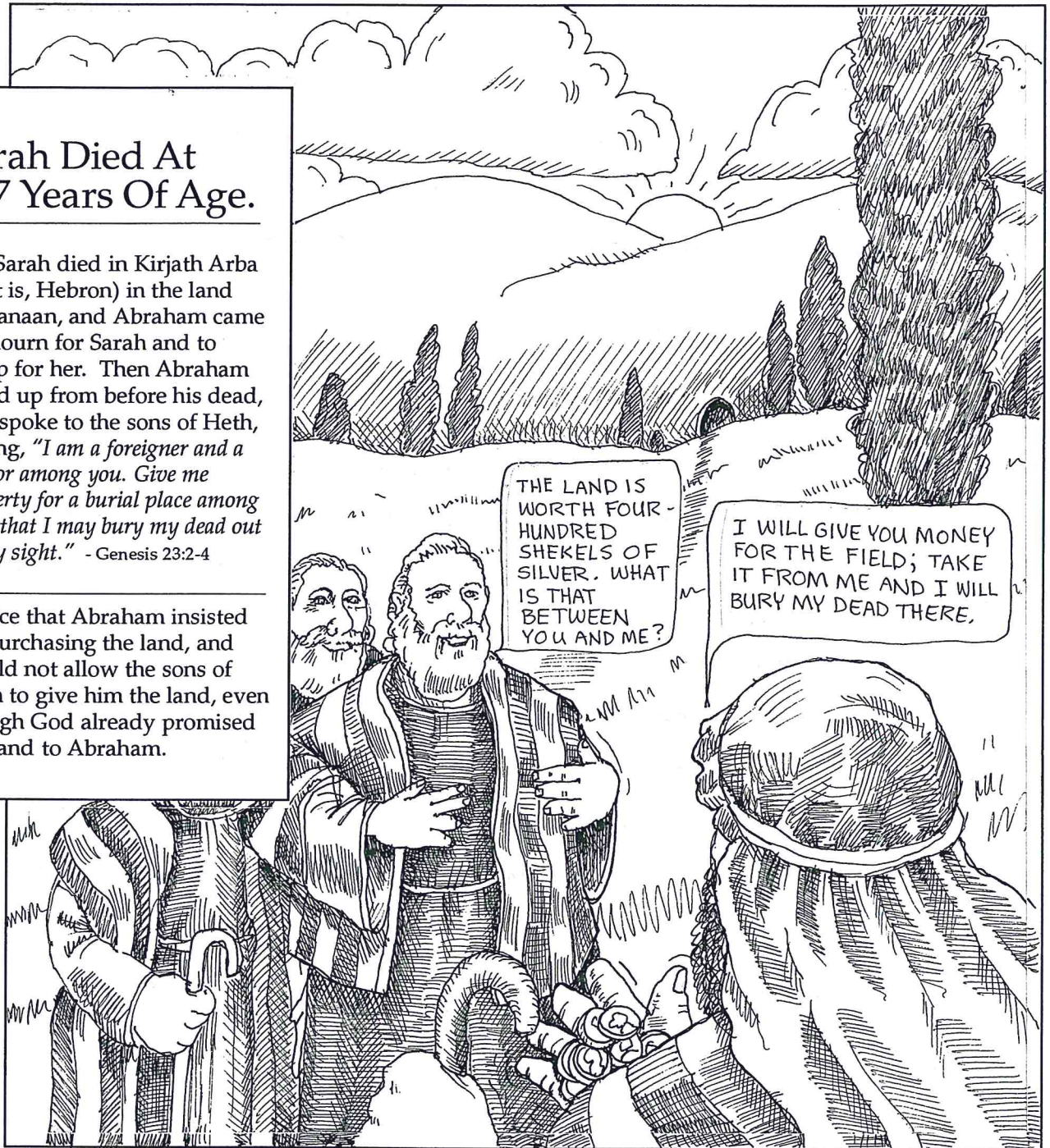
"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,"

Hebrews 11:17 (NKJV)

Sarah Died At 127 Years Of Age.

So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying, "I am a foreigner and a visitor among you. Give me property for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." - Genesis 23:2-4

Notice that Abraham insisted on purchasing the land, and would not allow the sons of Heth to give him the land, even though God already promised the land to Abraham.



Abraham did not go backward and return to his former home to bury Sarah. He continued in the land where God called him and waited, believing God's promises of a future inheritance.

Hebrews 11:8-10 says, "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out (from Ur, of the Chaldees, his birthplace), not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Hebrews 11:13-16 says, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

Genesis

Chapters 23 and 24

Discussion Questions for Chapter 23

1. Read Gen. 23:1-5; what does Abraham call himself in verse four? Wasn't this the land God promised him?
2. Read Gen. 23:6-9; what did Abraham insist on doing for a burial plot? (Gen. 23:9)

Note: *Even though this was the land God promised Abraham, it still wasn't his. Abraham showed great faith by purchasing the land to bury Sarah.*

3. Read Gen. 23:9-20; what was the price Abraham paid for the land? (Gen. 23:16)

Note: *Notice that Abraham made the transaction legal (verse 17 and 18), so there would be no question as to who the land belonged to in the future.*

Discussion Questions for Chapter 24

1. Read Gen. 24:1-4; where was the servant to go to get Isaac a wife? Why do you think it couldn't be a Canaanite?
2. Read Gen. 24:5-9; Isaac was not to go, but the servant was to bring the bride back. This is a good comparison to Isaac as a type of Jesus, and us (the Church) as the bride. What does Jesus say to His bride in Matt. 11:28?
3. How could Abraham be certain that the bride would come back with his servant? (Gen. 24:7)
4. Read Gen. 24:10-14; Whom did the servant pray to for help?
5. Read Gen. 24:15-27; how long did the servant have to wait for God to answer his prayer?
6. Does God hear and answer according to His will, the prayers of those who belong to Him? (Matt. 21:22)
7. Read Gen. 24:28-33; although it was customary to wait until after a meal to do business (Gen. 18), what did the servant do? How did the family react? Why?
8. Read Gen. 24:34-49; the servant gave his testimony concerning Abraham and Isaac, Whom did he give credit to for all of Abraham's wealth? (Gen. 24:35)

Note: *Isaac is a type of Jesus and Rebekah is a type of the Church, the servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. The servant went out to find a bride for Isaac just as the Holy Spirit draws people to Jesus, a bride for the bridegroom.*

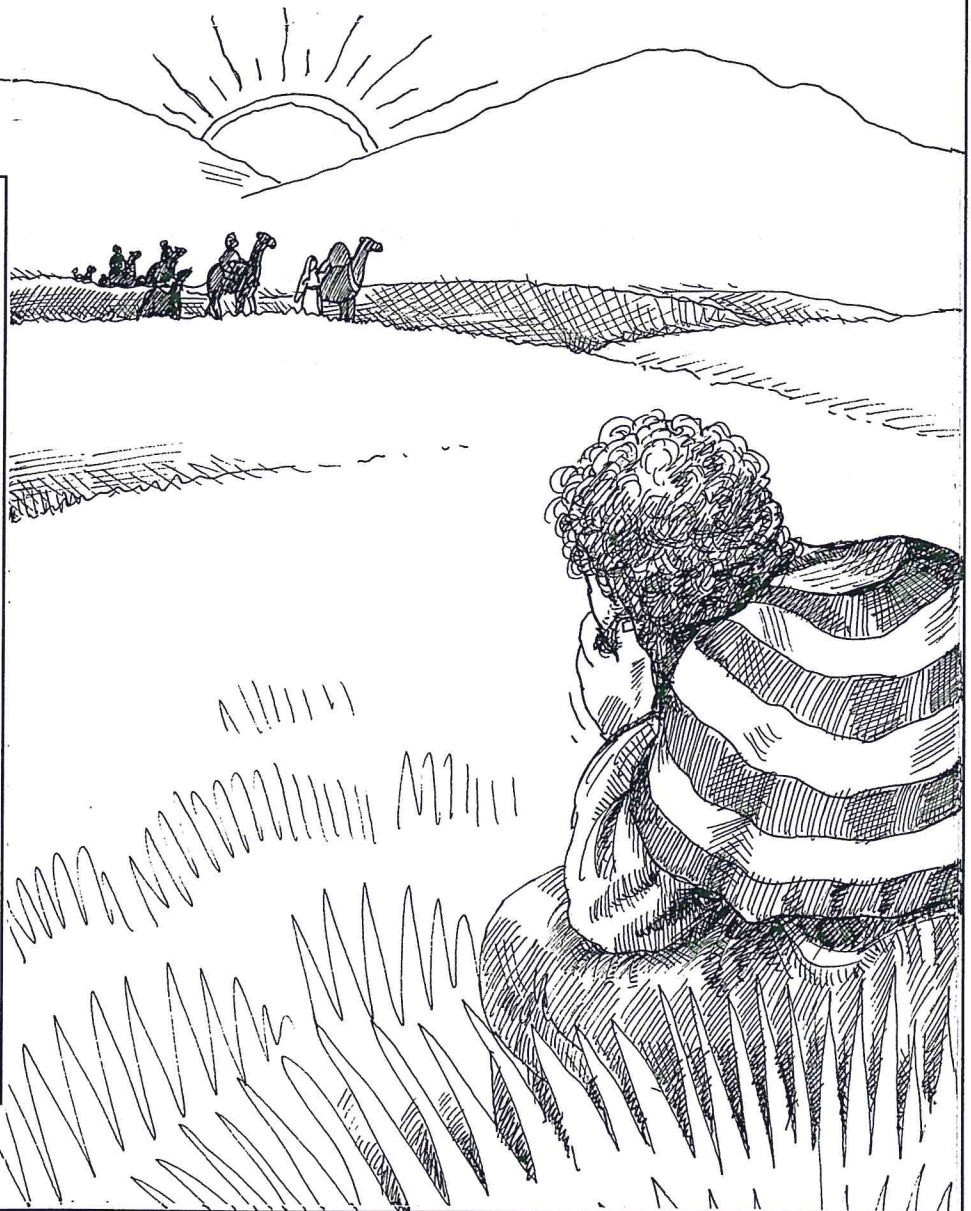
9. Read Gen. 24:50-52; hearing the answer to his and Abraham's prayer, what was the first thing the servant did?
10. Read Gen. 24:53-61; what did the servant do for Rebekah and her family? What are we as the bride of Christ promised? (Eph. 3:8)
11. What was Rebekah's response to the servant when asked if she would leave the next day? (Gen. 24:58)
12. Read Luke 9:59-62; when Jesus calls His bride to follow Him, how does He expect us to respond?

Finding A Bride For Isaac.

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, *"Please, put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; But you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."*

- Genesis 24:1-4

And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; for she had said to the servant, *"Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?"* And the servant said, *"It is my master."* So she took a veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. - Genesis 24:63-67



13. Read Gen. 24:62-67; where was Isaac when he saw the camels coming?

Note: The last time that Isaac was mentioned, he was at the place of sacrifice (Gen. 22:13,16). And now he's here to meet his bride. Just like Jesus, the last time we saw Him was after the crucifixion when He ascended into heaven. The next time we see Him is when He comes to get His bride (I Thess. 4:16-17).

14. What was Rebekah's reaction when she saw Isaac? (Gen. 24:64)

15. What do you think our reaction will be when Jesus comes to get all the Believers to forever be with Him?

Memory Verse

"...For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

II Corinthians 11:2

Rebekah-The Mother Of Two Nations; Jacob & Esau.

Esau, The Oldest, Sold His Birthright To Jacob
For A Pot Of Stew.

Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife,
because she was barren; and the Lord granted
his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.
But the children struggled together within her;
and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?"
So she went to inquire of the Lord.
And the Lord said to her;
"Two nations are in your womb,
Two peoples shall be separated from your body;
One people shall be stronger than the other,
and the older shall serve the younger."

- Genesis 25:21-23

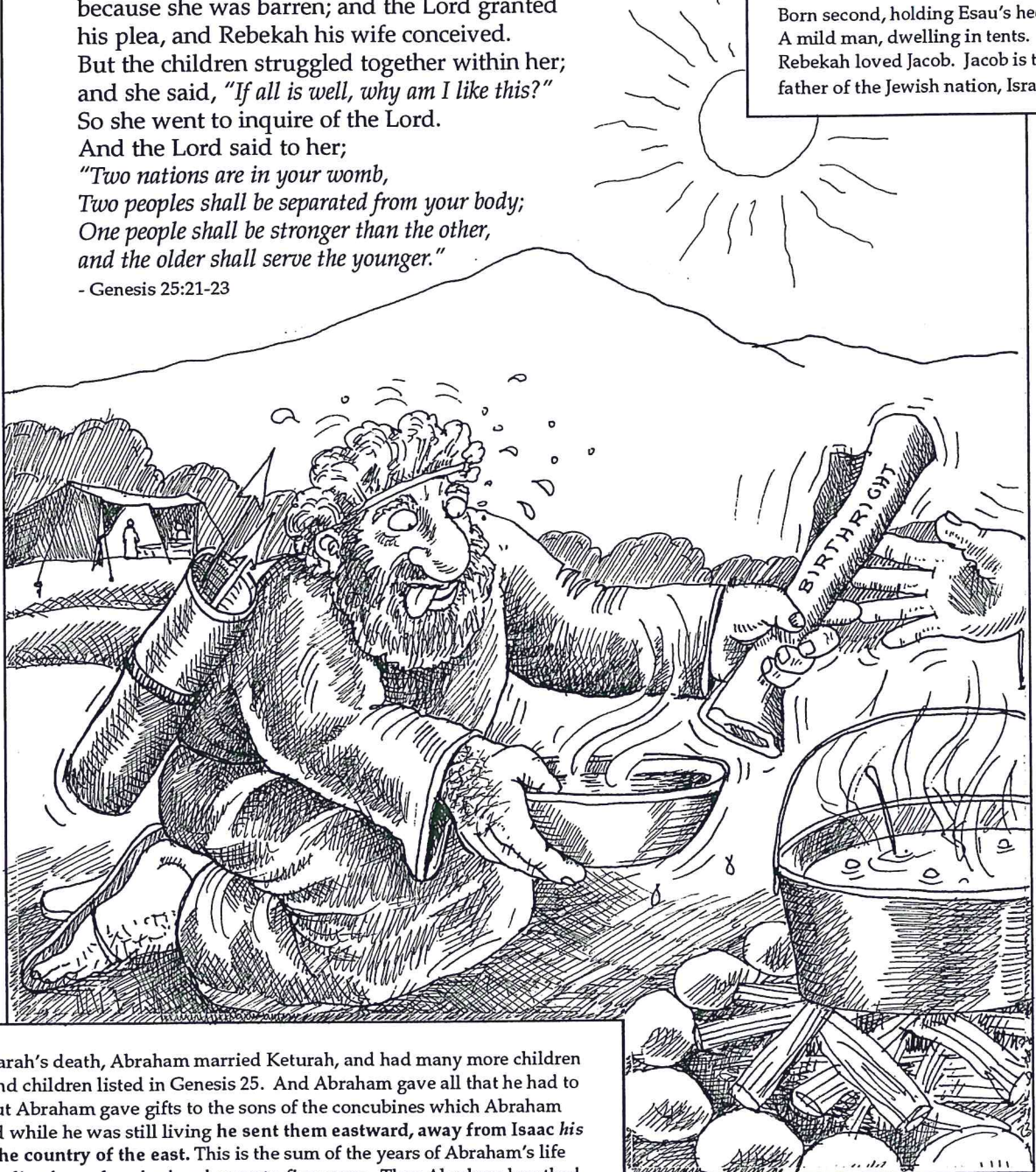
Esau

Born first. He was red and hairy.
A skillful hunter, a man of the field.
Isaac loved Esau because he ate of
his game. Esau sold his birthright
to Jacob, for a pot of red stew while
he was famished.

Esau is the father of the Edomites.

Jacob

Born second, holding Esau's heel.
A mild man, dwelling in tents.
Rebekah loved Jacob. Jacob is the
father of the Jewish nation, Israel.



After Sarah's death, Abraham married Keturah, and had many more children and grand children listed in Genesis 25. And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac, but Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east. This is the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived; one hundred and seventy-five years. Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. And his sons Isaac and Ishmael, buried him in the cave of Machpelah. (The same cave that Abraham bought from the sons of Heth for the burial of Sarah.) -Read Genesis 25:5-9.

Genesis

Chapter 25

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 25:1-6; what happened to the sons of the concubines? What did Abraham do for Isaac?
2. Why do you think Abraham sent the other sons away? Remember Hagar and Ishmael, what happened to them? (Gen. 21:14)

Note: *Isaac was the son of promise, the one God promised to fulfill His covenant. All others were sons of the flesh and had to be put away. Just like we are to crucify the flesh. (Gal. 5:24)*

3. Read Gen. 25:7-11; how old was Abraham when he died? Where was he buried?
4. Isaac was the only surviving link in the Messianic line, what was God doing in his life? (Gen. 25:11)
5. Read Gen. 25:12-18; whose genealogy is this?
6. Where was Ishmael "gathered" when he died? Is it the same place Abraham was gathered? (Gen. 25:9)

Note: *Even though Ishmael wasn't the son of the promise, it is still possible for him to have followed the Lord and go to heaven.*

7. Read Gen. 25:19-21; what did Isaac do on behalf of Rebekah? Why do you think God waited for Isaac to pray before he let Rebekah become pregnant?
8. Read Phil. 4:6-7; what are we, as Believers, supposed to do for all things?

Note: *Prayer doesn't change God, it changes us. When we pray and seek the Lord He conforms us to be more like Him.*

9. Read Gen. 25:22-23; did God answer Isaac's prayer?
10. What was God's prophecy about Rebekah's pregnancy?
11. Read Gen. 25:24-25; who was born first?
12. Read Gen. 25:26; who was born second and what was he doing?

Note: *Esau means hairy and Jacob means heel catcher.*

13. Read Gen. 25:27-28; what was the difference in the two boys? Whom did Rebekah favor? Whom did God say would be the stronger of the two? Do you think Rebekah remembered God's word and knew that Jacob would carry the lineage of the promise?
14. Isaac had great wealth, wealth in those days was in the flocks and herds that were acquired. Do you think that Esau had to hunt for food? The Bible says he was a "skillful" hunter, read Gen. 10:9; who else was said to be a mighty hunter?
15. Read Gen. 25:29-34; what did Esau want Jacob to do?

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Note: *The birth right was a custom at the time that the first born would get a double portion of the inheritance. It would become Biblical law in the future (1 Chron. 5:1-2).*

16. What was the price that Esau paid for a bowl of lentils? Do you think he cared much for his birth right, or the things of God?
17. God already said that the older would serve the younger (Gen. 25:23). Do you think that Rebekah and Jacob lacked faith by obtaining the birth right as he did?

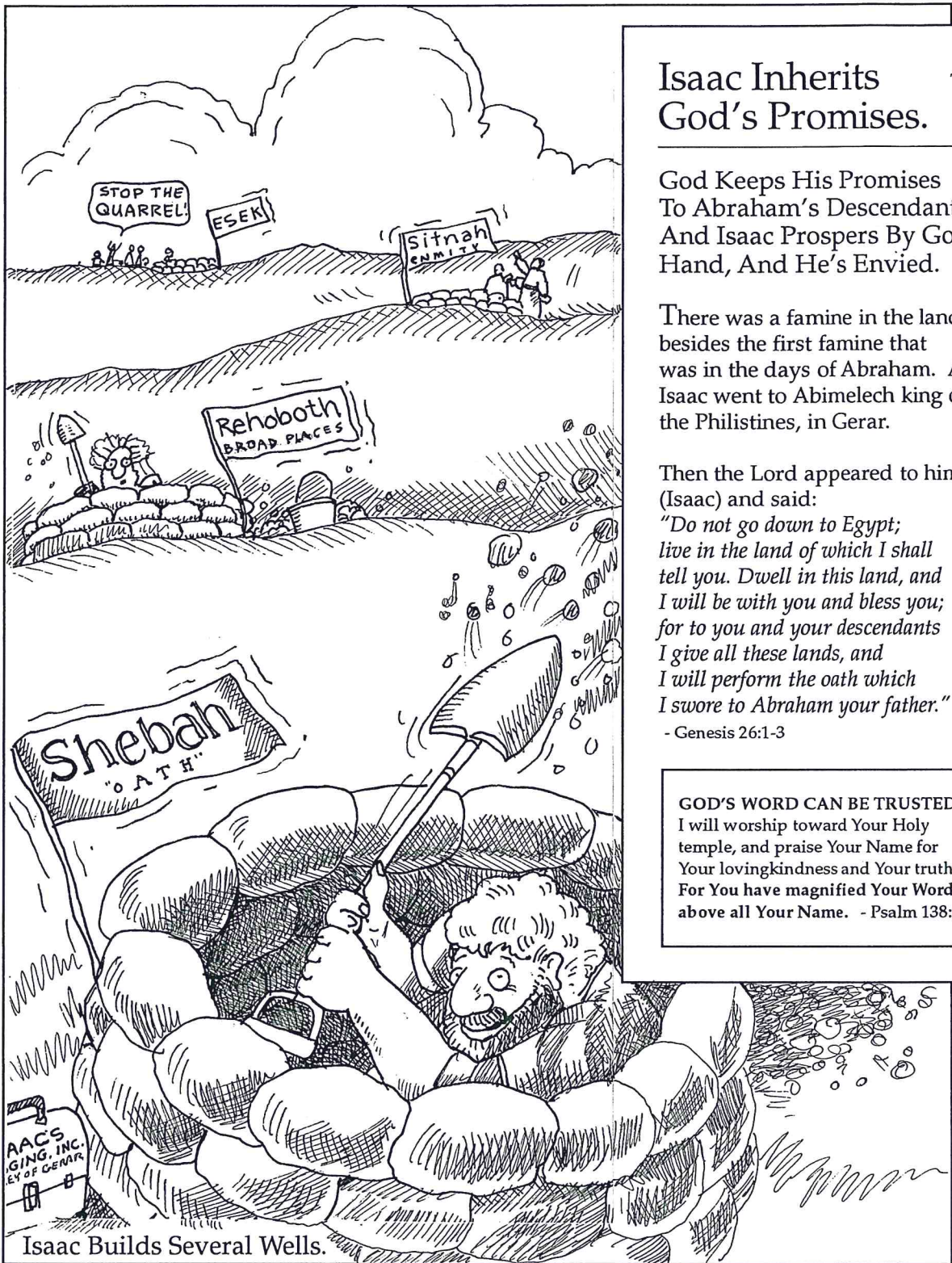
Memory Verse

"Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant..."

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NKJV)

Take the Genesis Test

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ What did Abraham do with the sons of the flesh?
(Gen. 25:6) | A. hairy |
| _____ Who buried Abraham? (Gen. 25:9) | B. he sent them away from Isaac |
| _____ What did Isaac do because Rebekah was barren?
(Gen. 25:21) | C. a pot of lentils |
| _____ Why was Rebekah troubled about her pregnancy?
(Gen. 25:22) | D. heel catcher; deceitful |
| _____ What does the name Esau mean? (Gen. 25:25) | E. the babies struggled from within her |
| _____ What does the name Jacob mean? | F. he prayed to God |
| _____ What did Esau sell his birth right for? (Gen. 25:33-34) | G. Isaac and Ishmael |



Isaac Builds Several Wells.

The man (Isaac) began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth. And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we." - Genesis 26:13-16

Isaac Inherits God's Promises.

God Keeps His Promises To Abraham's Descendants, And Isaac Prospers By God's Hand, And He's Envied.

There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.

Then the Lord appeared to him (Isaac) and said:

"Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father."

- Genesis 26:1-3

GOD'S WORD CAN BE TRUSTED.

I will worship toward Your Holy temple, and praise Your Name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name. - Psalm 138:2

Genesis

Chapter 26

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 26:1; who was the king that Isaac went to?
2. Read Gen. 20:1-2; who was the king that Abraham encountered during the famine of his time?

Note: *The King Abimelech of Isaac's day is the son of Abimelech of Abraham's day. Note the similarities between Isaac and Abraham's situation and how they both handled it.*

3. Read Gen. 26:2; where did God tell Isaac **NOT** to go?

Remember Egypt represents the world. Every time Egypt is talked about in the Old Testament we can compare it to the world in our lives.

4. Read Gen. 26:3-5; God reminded Isaac of His oath. Why was God going to fulfill His promise? (Gen. 26:5)
5. Read Gen. 26:6; where did Isaac dwell?

Note: *Gerar is as close to Egypt as Isaac could get without actually going in. It was controlled by the Philistines.*

6. Read Gen. 26:7; what was the lie Isaac told Abimelech?
7. Read Gen. 20:2; what was the lie Abraham told to Abimelech in his time?
8. Abraham and Isaac both showed a lack of faith by lying. Read Hebrews 11:6; how can we please God?
9. Read Gen. 26:8-11; what happened to Isaac and Rebekah?
10. Read Numbers 32:23; can we hide anything from God?
11. Read Gen. 26:12-14; once Isaac confessed his sin and repented (turned away from it), what did God do?
12. Read Gen. 26:15-16; what was the Philistine's response to how God prospered Isaac?
13. Read Gen. 26:17-22; who did the wells originally belong to? Did Isaac have a legal right to them? (Gen. 26:18)
14. Instead of demanding the rights to the wells or going to battle over them (Isaac was much stronger than the Philistines) what did he do?
15. Read Rom. 12:18; what does God tell us to do?
16. Read Gen. 26:23-25; Isaac returned to Beersheba, where God had given His covenant to Abraham, and there God renewed His covenant with Isaac. What was the first thing Isaac did? (Gen. 26:25)
17. Read Gen. 26:26-33; why did Abimelech go to Isaac? Who did they see as the One blessing him? (Gen. 26:28)

18. What news did the servants bring to Isaac after he made the oath with Abimelech? (Gen. 26:32)

This is the same place God confirmed His oath with Abraham many years before. (Gen. 21:31)

19. Read Gen. 26:34-35; who did Esau take as wives? Where were they from?

20. God didn't want His people to marry anyone from Canaan because of their pagan life style. They were supposed to drive them out of the land and for good reason, otherwise His people would fall into the same life style as the Canaanite's. That's why Abraham sent his servant back to his land for a wife for Isaac. Was Esau reaping the consequences of his disobedience?

Memory Verse

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

Jacob's Deception And The Stolen Blessing.

Jacob wears Esau's clothing, attaches goat hair to his hands and his neck (to feel like Esau), and fixes Isaac's favorite stew (the kind Esau made).



Jacob's Blessing.

"Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed. Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!" - Genesis 27:27-29

Esau's Blessing.

"Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above. By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; and it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck." - Genesis 27:39-40

*Remember Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a pot of stew.

NOTE: Esau is the father of the Edomites

Genesis

Chapter 27

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 27:1-4; who did Isaac call to his bedside? Why?
2. What did Isaac ask Esau to do?
3. Who did God say was going to get the blessing? (Gen. 25:23-27)

Note: *In the ancient days, the first-born son would get the blessing, which included a double portion of all that there was, have authority over the household, and bear the honor of his father's name.*

4. Read Gen. 27:5-10; how did Rebekah react when she heard Isaac talk to Esau? What did she tell Jacob to do?
5. Rebekah reacted in the flesh and took things into her own hands. She lacked faith in God, not trusting Him to carry out His plan. How are we to walk? (2 Cor. 5:7)
6. Read Prov. 3:5; when things seem to go differently than what we think, how should we react?
7. What did Esau do with his birthright? Did he really care about his position in the family or his relationship with God? (Gen. 25:31-34)
8. What did Esau sell his birthright for? What did Isaac tell Esau to do before he would bless him?

Note: *Isaac and Esau were very much alike, no wonder Isaac favored Esau (Gen. 25:28).*

9. Read Gen. 27:11-17; Rebekah and Jacob had to keep lying to cover the lies. In verse 12, is Jacob afraid of lying or afraid of being caught?
10. Read Gen. 27:18-27; Isaac's eyes were blind so he relied on his senses to figure out if this was Esau. Was he deceived?
11. Compare this to our spiritual walk, if we rely on our senses can we be deceived? It's interesting that Isaac knew it wasn't Esau's voice, read 1 Kings 19:12-13; how do we hear God?

Note: *Satan is a deceiver and we can easily be led astray if we rely on our senses to guide us. God speaks to us when we read His Word and also through prayer.*

12. Read Gen. 27:27-29; what did the blessing include? Do you think Jacob could have obtained the blessing without lying? Is anything too hard for God?
13. God does not like lying, but there are instances in the Old Testament where people lied to accomplish the will of God. Can you name any? (Rahab in Josh. 2:1-21; the story of Moses in Exodus 1 & 2)
14. What did Jacob risk by lying?
15. Read Gen. 27:30-40; what happened when Isaac discovered it was Jacob whom he blessed? What was Esau's reaction?

Genesis Chapter 27, page 2

16. What did Esau beg Isaac to do? Why do you think he wanted to be blessed? Do you think Esau really cared about God's covenant?
17. Read Hebrews 12:16-17; how does the book of Hebrews look upon Esau and those like him?
18. Read Gen. 27:41-46; what was Esau's attitude toward his brother? What did he want to do?
19. What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do when she heard of Esau's plan? Do you think running away was the answer?
20. Through this whole chapter we hear of lying, hating, running away. Who was left out? At anytime did anyone ever think of turning to the Lord? God shows us His longsuffering because in spite of everyone and everything He was still faithful to give Jacob the blessing.

Memory Verse

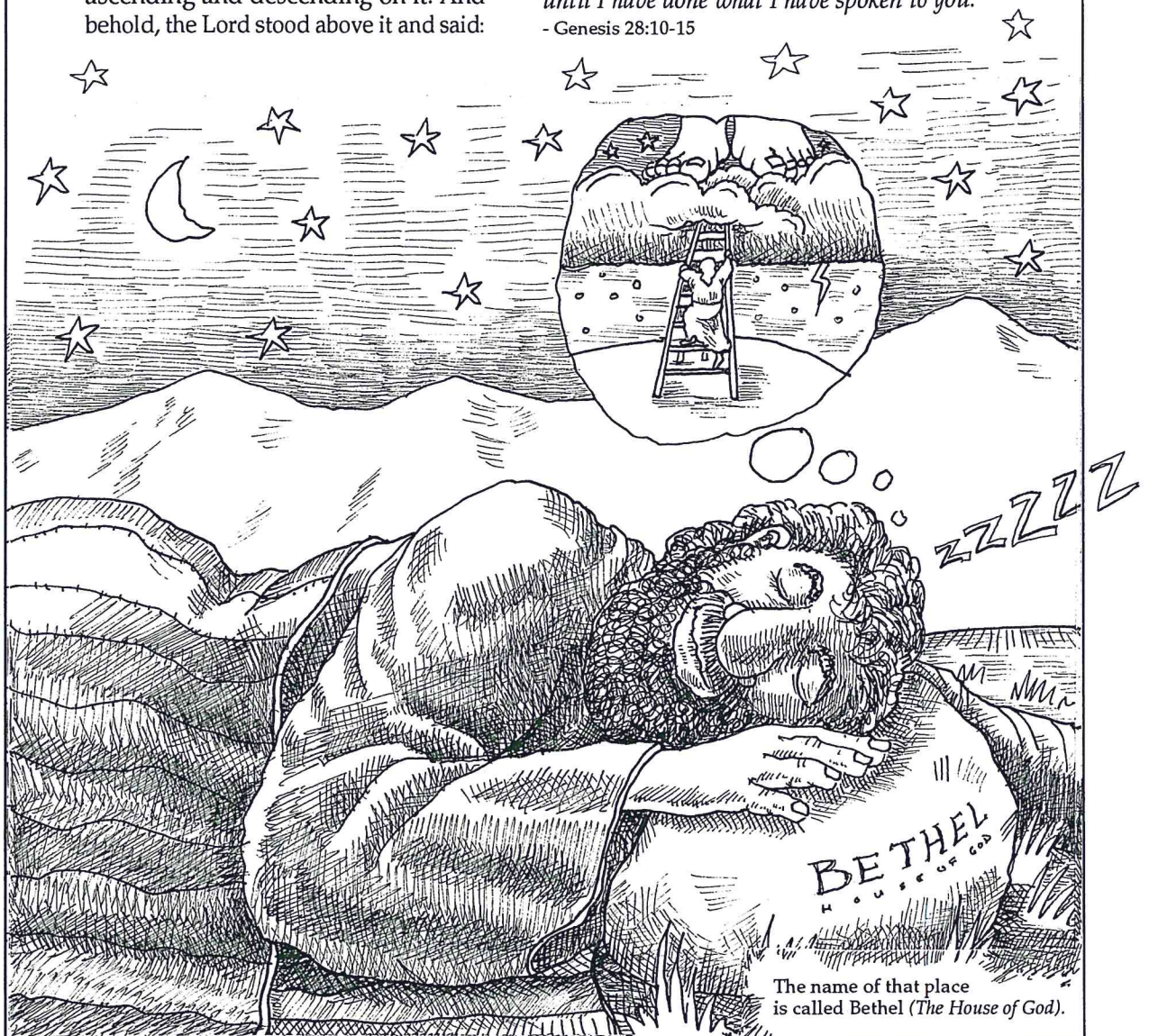
"You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another."

Leviticus 19:11 (NKJV)

Jacob's Dream And God's Promise

Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it and said:

"I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."
- Genesis 28:10-15



All families of the earth were blessed through Jacob. Jesus, the Messiah came through the family of Abraham, Issac and Jacob, to die on the Cross for our sins. We are blessed because Jesus made a way to the Father for us. We were separated from God when we disobeyed God and sinned in Genesis 3. See Jesus' family tree in Matthew 1:2! You'll find Jacob listed there.

Genesis

Chapter 28

Discussion Questions

Genesis 27 ended with Rebekah weary of the wives that Esau had taken. Esau took wives from Caanan, the surrounding area; these women did not worship the true God. Rebekah wanted Jacob to take a wife from her land, probably because she knew they worshiped and feared the living God. So, Rebekah went to Isaac to ask him to send Jacob away to find a wife.

1. Read Gen. 28:1-5; what did Isaac want Jacob to do?
2. What did Isaac do (willingly this time) before Jacob left?
3. Read Gen. 28:6-9; what did Esau do?
4. What was Esau's reason for taking a wife from Ishmael's family?

Note: *God had cast out Ishmael and his descendants because he was the son of the flesh (Gen. 21:10). So, Esau's attempt to please his father Isaac was in vain.*

5. Read Gen. 28:10-12; what happened to Jacob after he left home?
6. What did he see in his dream?
7. Read Hebrews 1:14; what kind of role do angels have in our lives?
8. Read John 1:51; Who does the ladder represent? Prophetically, what was God telling Jacob in his dream?

Remember the whole Bible points to Jesus, both the Old Testament and the New. The Old Testament is Jesus concealed and the New Testament is Jesus revealed.

9. Read Hebrews 4:15-16; because Jesus willingly took our sins to the cross and died in our place, what privilege do we have because of His sacrifice?
10. Read Gen. 28:13-15; Who was at the top of the ladder? What did He say to Jacob?
11. God repeated His promise to Jacob that He had made with Abraham and Isaac, what was it? (Gen. 28:13-14)
12. In verse 15, God makes two other promises, these same promises are made to us today, what are they? (Phil. 1:6 and Hebrews 13:5)
13. Read Gen. 28:16-17; when Jacob woke the next morning, did he know his dream was really a vision from God? What did he declare?

Genesis Chapter 28, page 2

14. Read Gen. 28:18-22; what did Jacob do to commemorate the dream?
15. Jacob believed God's promise of meeting his needs. What did he vow to do? (Gen. 28:22)
16. Jacob's tithe (meaning tenth) was from a thankful heart. How are we to give? (2 Cor. 9:7)

Memory Verse

"...Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

John 1:51 (NKJV)

Laban's Deception & Jacob's Surprise

Jacob had traveled to the east near Haran. There he met Laban, his uncle, and Laban's two daughters, Rachel and Leah. Jacob stayed and worked for Laban seven years to marry Rachel. Then another seven years because of Laban's deception.

So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her." And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and

brought her to Jacob and he went in to her. And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he (Jacob) said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"

- Genesis 29:20-25



God is able to fulfill His promises even in spite of the deceptions and evil of others.

Through Rachel and Leah's children the twelve tribes of Israel were formed.

Remember God promised Abraham's children would be as numerous as the stars and the sand!

Look ahead to Revelation 21:12! Jacob's children will be important in the future New Jerusalem!

Genesis

Chapter 29

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 29:1-12; compare this to Gen. 24:10-15, how are these two events alike, and how are they different?
2. Read Gen. 29: 13-19; who were Laban's two daughters? Who was the eldest? Who was beautiful?
3. Who did Jacob love? What was he willing to do for her?
4. Did Laban agree with Jacob?
5. Read Gen. 29:20-22; how did Jacob feel after the seven years?
6. Read Gen. 29:23-25; what did Laban do?
7. Do you remember a similar situation in which Jacob deceived his father Isaac (Gen. 27:15-23)? Do you think Jacob thought about this?
8. Can we hide anything from God? (Numbers 32:23)
9. Read Gen. 29:26; what was Laban's reason for deceiving Jacob?
10. Read Gen. 29:27-29; what did Jacob have to do to get Rachel as his wife?

Note: *Jacob was forced into taking two wives.*

11. Read Gen. 29:30; how many years in all did Jacob serve Laban for Rachel?
12. Whom did Jacob love more? Do you see a problem with this? Think about Rebekah and Isaac each having their favorite son (Gen. 25:28).
13. Read Gen. 29:31-35; because Leah was not favored by Jacob, what did God do?

Note: *It seems that Leah served the true God by the names she named her sons and her thankfulness to the Lord.*

Memory Verse

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)

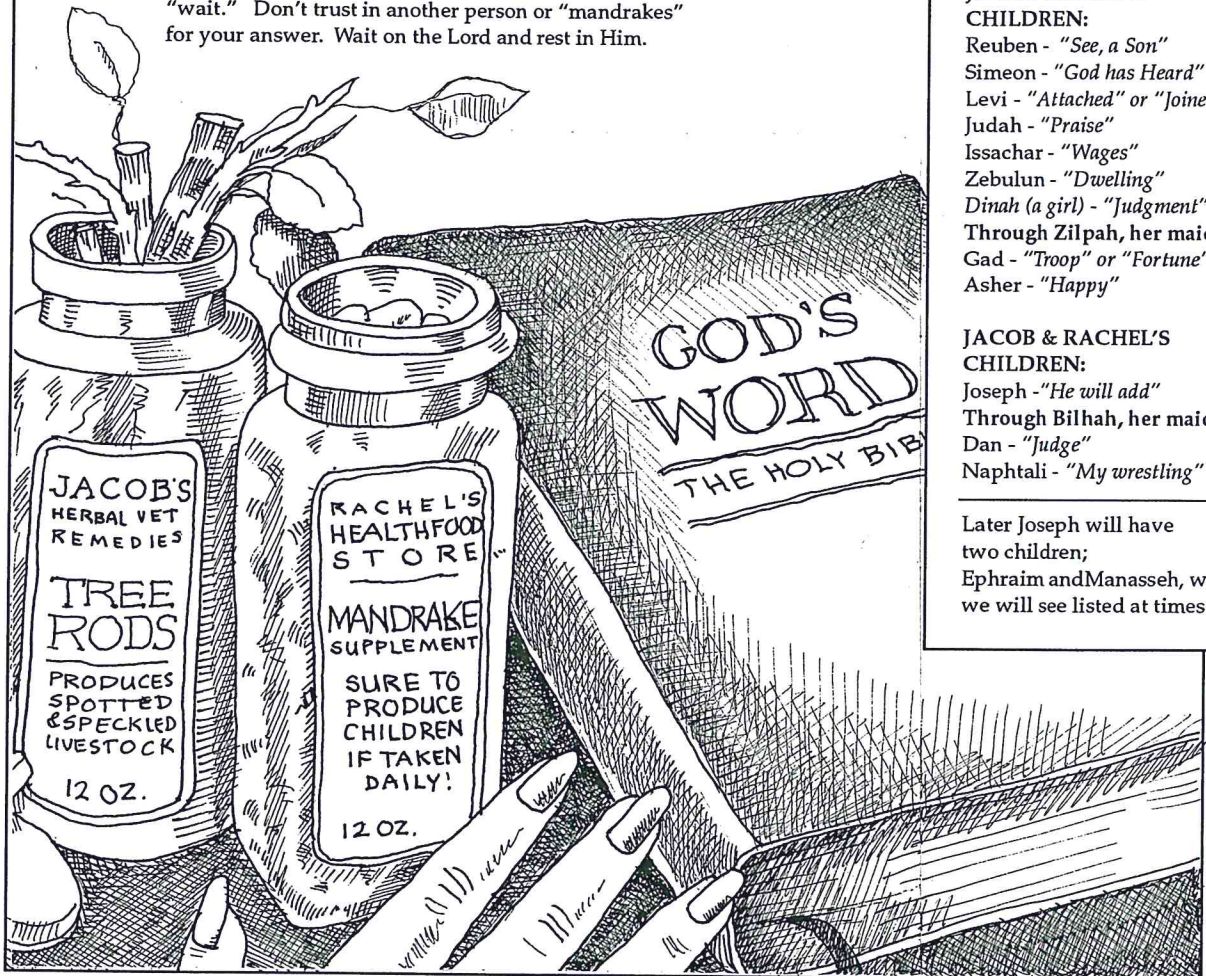
Take the Genesis Test

- _____ What did the Lord do when He saw Leah was unloved? (Gen. 29:31)
- _____ How many daughters did Laban have? (Gen. 29:16)
- _____ Who had "delicate" eyes? (Gen. 29:17)
- _____ How many years total did Jacob serve Laban?
- _____ What did Laban do to Jacob that Jacob did to Isaac? (Gen. 29:25)
- _____ Whom did Jacob love? (Gen. 29:18)
- _____ How long did the first seven years seem to Jacob? (Gen. 29:20)
- A. a few days
- B. fourteen
- C. Rachel
- D. He gave Leah the first four sons.
- E. He deceived him.
- F. two
- G. Leah

Bitter Envy In The Household Of Jacob

Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!" And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, Who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?" - Genesis 30:1-2

Pray and ask the Lord for the things you desire. Don't envy others, or blame others when God says, "no" or "wait." Don't trust in another person or "mandrakes" for your answer. Wait on the Lord and rest in Him.



God's great plan for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Israel's 12 Tribes;

JACOB & LEAH'S CHILDREN:

Reuben - "See, a Son"
Simeon - "God has Heard"
Levi - "Attached" or "Joined"
Judah - "Praise"
Issachar - "Wages"
Zebulun - "Dwelling"
Dinah (a girl) - "Judgment"
Through Zilpah, her maid:
Gad - "Troop" or "Fortune"
Asher - "Happy"

JACOB & RACHEL'S CHILDREN:

Joseph - "He will add"
Through Bilhah, her maid:
Dan - "Judge"
Naphtali - "My wrestling"

Later Joseph will have two children; Ephraim and Manasseh, whom we will see listed at times.



Rachel believed that the mandrakes were the key to bearing children rather than simply trusting God. Just as Jacob believed that striping and peeling tree branches to put near the livestock could change the outcome of the outward appearance of the baby animals. God blessed Jacob because He promised to bless the descendants of Abraham.

All blessings are from the hand of the Lord. God was already blessing Jacob with livestock and children with no help from mandrakes or tree branches!

The world will tell us that we need "mandrakes." But all we need is Jesus. We need to trust Him. Sometimes we lack things because we either don't ask Him, or we ask for the wrong reasons. (See James 4:1-3.) He always knows what is best for us! We just need to rest where He puts us and give thanks in all things!

God had a plan for Rachel. She didn't need to envy her sister! Proverbs 14:30 says, "A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones."

Genesis

Chapter 30

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 30:1; what did Rachel do and why? Who did she NOT cry out to?
2. Read Gen. 30:2; who reminded Rachel that God was in control? Does this give us a glimpse of who trusted God and who did not?
3. Read Gen. 30:3-6; what were the circumstances of Rachel's "first-born" son?

Note: *In ancient times it was important to have many children to carry on the family line. Having many children was considered a blessing from God and being barren was thought to be out of favor with God. It was common for men to have children through their wives' maids and the children would be considered legitimate children of the family.*

4. Read Gen. 30:7-8; Naphtali, the second son born to Rachel's maid, means wrestling. Who was Rachel wrestling with?
5. Read Gen. 30:9-13; what did Leah do? How many more sons were born to Leah's maid?
6. Read Gen. 30:14; what did Reuben bring to his mother Leah?

Note: *Mandrakes are small orange-colored berrylike fruit thought to induce fertility.*

7. Why did Rachel want the mandrakes?
8. Read Gen. 30:15-18; what kind of deal did Rachel make with Leah? What was the result?
9. Who listened to Leah (verse 17)? What do you think Leah has been doing throughout all of this?
10. Read Gen. 30:19-21; how many more children were born to Leah? Who was the last baby born after Zebulun?
11. Read Gen. 30:22-24; what finally happened to Rachel? What did she name her baby?
12. Read Gen. 30:25-26; what did Jacob want to do?
13. Read Gen. 30:27-28; what was Laban's response? Did he know where his blessings came from?
14. Laban had Jacob name his wages. Can you think of an earlier time when Laban had Jacob name his wages? (Gen. 29:15-18)
15. Read Gen. 30:29-34; did Jacob want Laban to "give" him anything? Who did Jacob trust to bless him?

Note: *Because Jacob would not take anything from Laban he would not be dependent on him. And God would be given the glory for providing for Jacob.*

16. What was Jacob wanting to do? What was Laban's response? How did Laban see this agreement?

Genesis Chapter 30, page 2

17. Read Gen. 30:35; who did Laban have watch over the speckled and spotted animals? Did he trust Jacob? Did he ever have reason not to trust Jacob?

Note: *It is hard for dishonest people to trust anyone. Laban thought the deal was too good to be true so he didn't trust Jacob.*

18. Read Gen. 30:37-43; what happened within the flocks of Laban?

Note: *Let's remember that Jacob had been tending Laban's flocks for over 20 years. He probably knew a good deal about livestock, not to mention that he trusted God to prosper him.*

19. What happened to Jacob? Did God take care of him? (Gen. 30:43)

Memory Verse

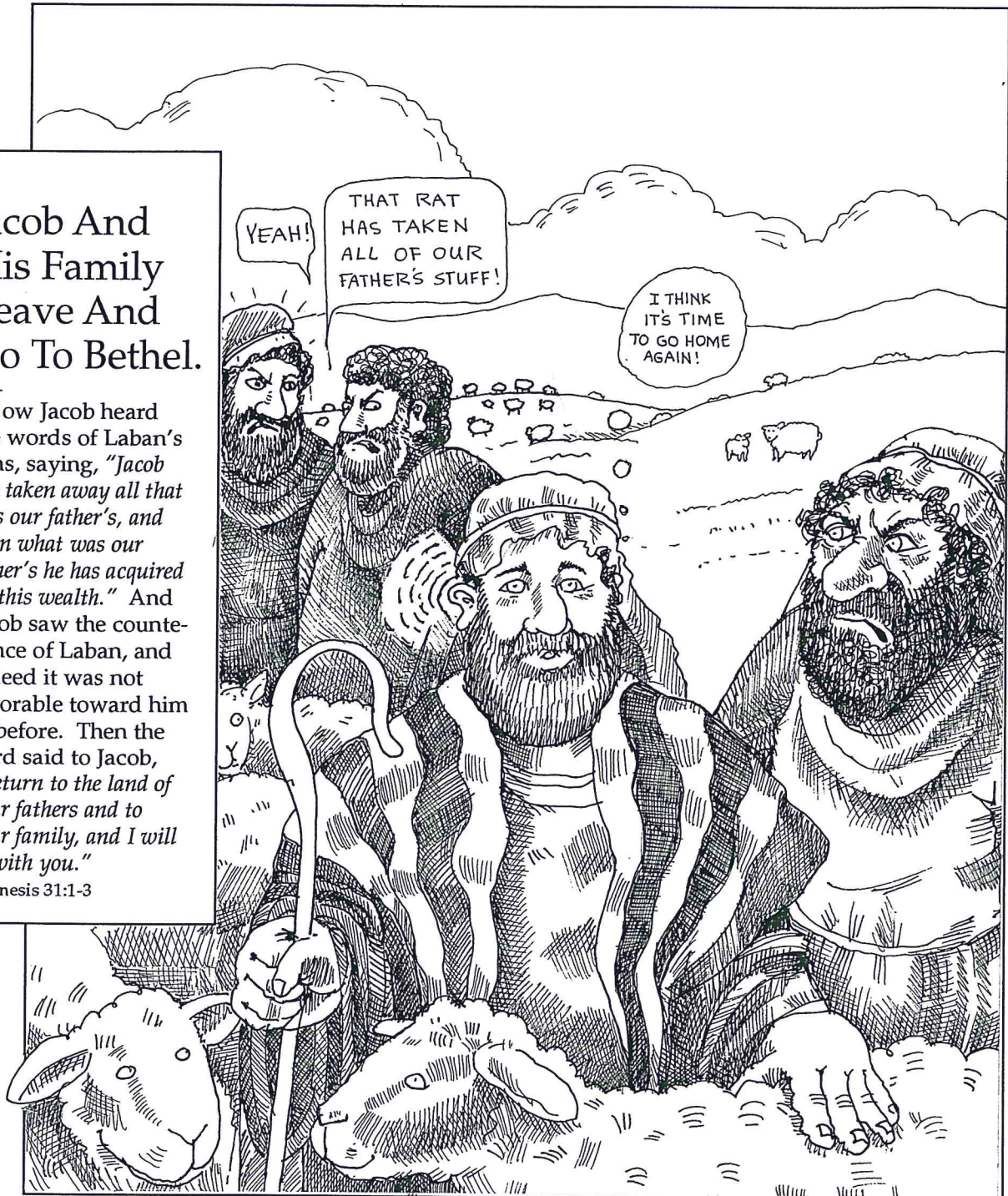
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV)

Jacob And His Family Leave And Go To Bethel.

Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth." And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before. Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."

- Genesis 31:1-3



Verse 12 - God says, "for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you." Remember that God sees! Yet, Jacob was faithful to serve Laban with all his might (verse 6). Serve others with all your might, and pray for those who spitefully use you (Matthew 5:44). God sees, and He is the Judge.

Verse 16 says, "For all these riches which God has taken from our father..." Notice the words, "God has taken." Jacob didn't have anything to do with it! Verse 42 says, that unless God had been with Jacob, surely Laban would have sent Jacob away empty-handed. God blessed Jacob. Laban's sons said that Jacob had taken away all that was their father's, but God took Laban's wealth and blessed Jacob!



"For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge." - Psalm 75:6&7

Genesis

Chapter 31

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 31:1-2; what were Laban's son's accusing Jacob of? Was it true?
2. Read Gen. 31:3; what did the Lord tell Jacob to do?
3. What promise did God give to Jacob?
4. Do we have that same promise today as Christians? (Hebrews 13:5)
5. Knowing that God will not leave us alone, how can we be assured that God will fulfill His plan for us? Can anything hinder God? (Rom. 8:31 and 37, Phil. 1:6)
6. Read Gen. 31:4-9; what did Jacob do?

Note: *Jacob wanted his wives to know what was happening. Out of respect for the love they had for their father, Jacob made sure that Leah and Rachel knew everything that had taken place.*

7. Read Gen. 31:10-13; was God aware of what Laban was doing to Jacob (verse 12)? Can we hide anything from God? (Numbers 32:23)
8. Read Gen. 31:14-16; how did Rachel and Leah feel about their relationship with their father? Were they willing to leave with Jacob?
9. Read Gen. 31:17-23; what did Rachel do? Do you think she fully trusted God by doing what she did?
10. Read Gen. 31:24-29; what did God tell Laban?
11. Read Gen. 31:25-28; do you think Laban was sincere about what he said about his daughters? What is the only thing Laban is concerned about?
12. Read Gen. 31:30-32; what reason did Jacob give for leaving so quickly? Did Jacob know anything about Laban's stolen idols?
13. Read Gen. 31:33-35; did Laban find the idols? Do you think Rachel will really get away with hiding them?
14. Read Gen. 31:36-42; why was Jacob angry with Laban?
15. Who did Jacob testify of having blessed him all these years? Does it seem to you that Jacob truly walked with God throughout all of these years and trusted him for all things?
16. Read Gen. 31:43-49; what did Jacob and Laban do?
17. Read Gen. 31: 50-55; did Laban trust Jacob even after they made a covenant? What did he do?
18. What did Jacob do to show a thankful heart? (Gen. 31:54)

Note: *Laban is an unfortunate example of a worldly, covetous man, one who knows about the true God and has seen the reality of God by what God did for Jacob. He himself had even enjoyed many of the blessings of God through his relationship to Jacob. Laban's attitude isn't much different than some Christians today, happy to know the Lord but not willing to surrender to Him.*

Memory Verse

"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry."

Psalm 34:15 (NKJV)