

Jacob Returns to Canaan

Genesis 32, 33, 35



Jacob Makes a Plan

God told Jacob to leave his Uncle Laban's home. God said, "Go back to your family in Canaan. I will take care of you." Jacob wanted to obey God, but he was afraid. He was afraid because he had made his brother, Esau, very angry. What if Esau was still angry? What if he wanted to kill Jacob? What if he hurt Jacob's family?

Jacob needed a plan. He liked to make plans. Sometimes Jacob prayed to God for help with his plans, but sometimes he forgot to wait for God's help. This time Jacob was in a hurry. He prayed, but he did not wait for God's help.

Quickly, he divided his family into two groups. If Esau hurt one group, the other group would be safe. Next Jacob decided to give Esau a present. He thought a present would make Esau happy. What kind of present would make you happy? [Allow several responses.] Jacob decided animals would make Esau happy. He sent the animals to Esau in five groups. The first group had hundreds of goats. The second group had hundreds of sheep. The third group had thirty camels. The fourth group had fifty cattle, and the fifth group had thirty donkeys. What a big present that was! It took a long time to get that big present ready. When Jacob finished, it was time to camp for the night.

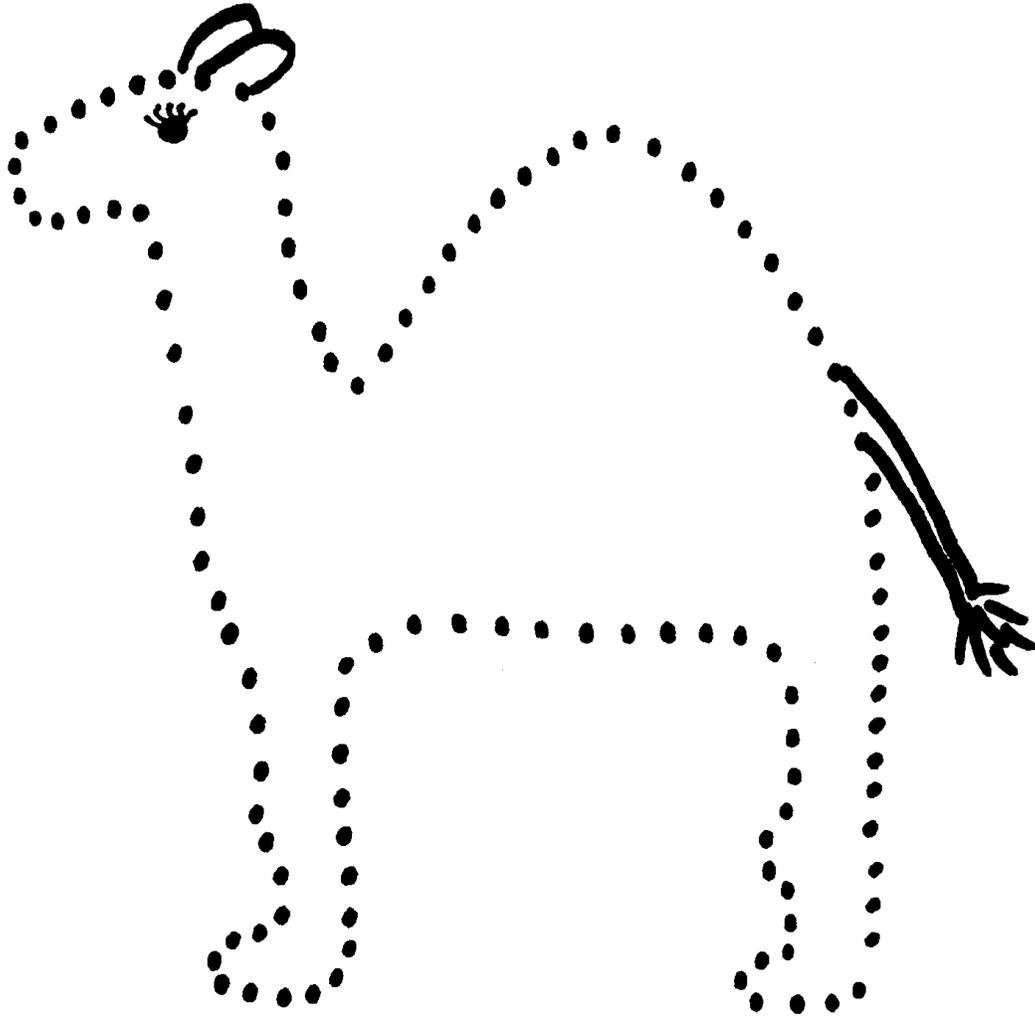
During the night a Man came and wrestled with Jacob. The Man was not Esau. Jacob did not know who the

Man was. They wrestled all night. Just before morning the Man hurt Jacob's hip. The Man said, "Let Me go." But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" The Man gave Jacob a new name: Israel. Then Jacob knew that the Man was really God. He knew God would take care of him.

In the morning Esau came to Jacob's camp. He was not angry any more. He was happy to see Jacob. Esau was happy Jacob and his family were coming back to Canaan. God was happy, too. He reminded Jacob about two special promises. God promised to take care of Jacob in Canaan. God also promised that Jesus would be Jacob's great, great... grandson. Jacob thanked God for taking such good care of him.

God helps Jacob realize that it is He who has preserved and blessed him.

Activity One - Connect the dots to make a picture of an animal Jacob gave to Esau.



Activity Two - Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down Game Point your thumb up if the sentence is right. Point your thumb down if the sentence is wrong. (Optional activity - make the false sentences true.)

1. Jacob was afraid of his brother, Esau.
2. Jacob did not like to make plans.
3. Jacob thought a present would make Esau happy.
4. Jacob decided to give Esau a new car.

5. Esau wrestled with Jacob all night.
6. Jacob wrestled with God all night.
7. Jacob's new name was Laban.
8. Esau was not happy to see Jacob.
9. God promised to take care of Jacob.
10. God promised Jesus would be Jacob's great, great ... grandson.

God helps us realize He preserves and blesses us.

Passage

1 Peter 5:7 - Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Hymn - TLH #428 v.1, 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for taking care of Jacob when he was afraid. Help me to remember Your promise to take care of me when I am afraid. Amen.