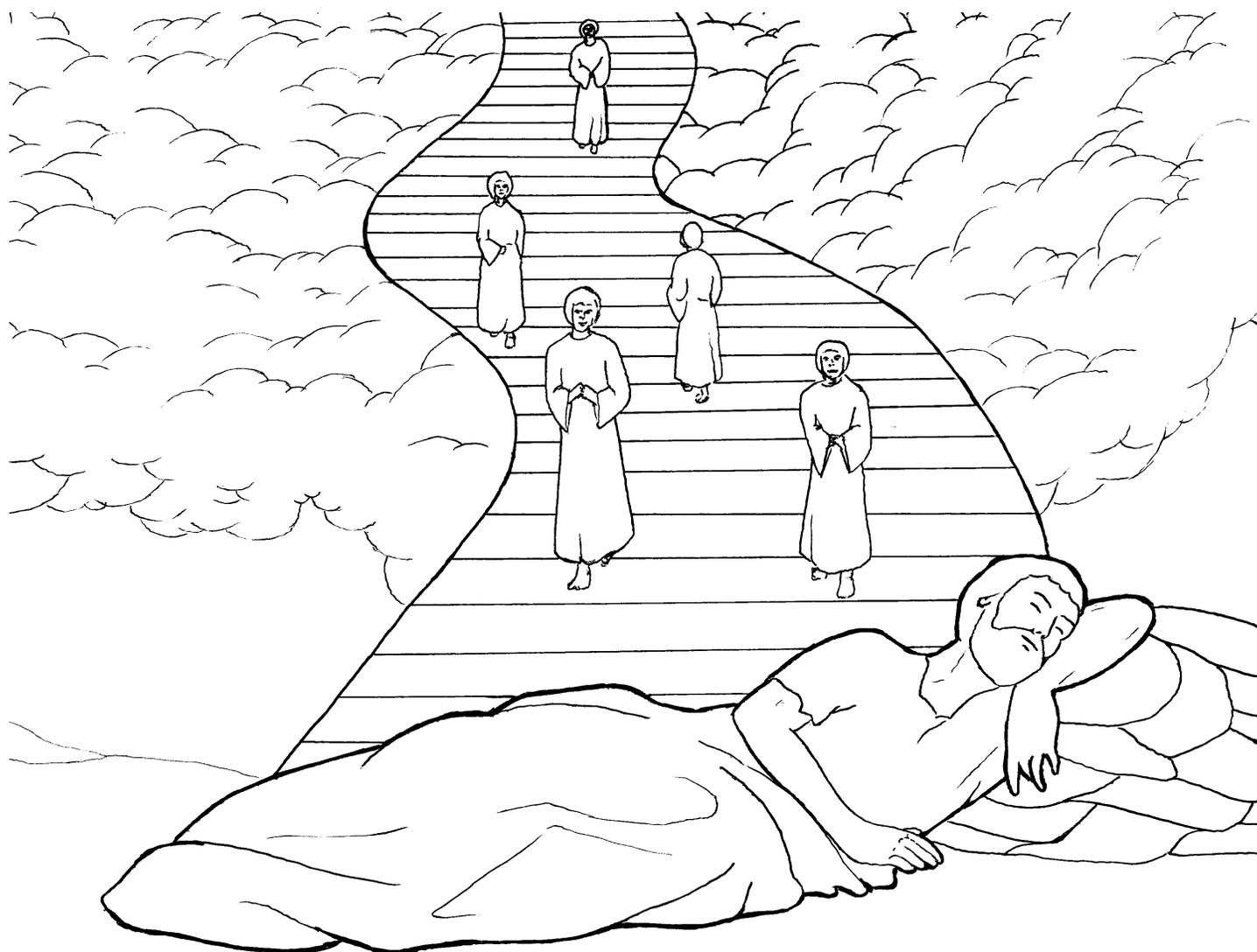


Jacob Flees From Esau & Jacob's Dream

Genesis 27:41 - 28:22



The Story

Esau hated Jacob, his brother. Why? Esau had first of all sold his brother his special birthright for a bowl of stew. Now their father had given the special blessing to Jacob and not Esau. God wanted the younger brother, Jacob, to have this blessing. Our last lesson shows how Jacob and his mother, Rebekah, tried to help God carry out His plan.

Because of the blessing and birthright Jacob got from his father Esau said, "When our father is no longer alive, I will kill my brother Jacob."

Rebekah heard about this hate Esau had for Jacob so she sent and called Jacob. "Esau wants to kill you. Go to my brother Laban in Haran. Stay with him a few days, until your brother is no longer angry. I will send for you when Esau is not angry any longer."

Rebekah and Isaac decided Jacob should leave and marry one of Laban's daughters.

Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and said to him: "Go to get a wife from the land of Haran. May God Almighty bless you, and make your family many. I give to you the blessing of Abraham. To you and your descendants you will have this land of Canaan.

So Isaac sent Jacob away. Jacob walked many many miles to the land of Haran where his uncle Laban lived.

As Jacob went toward Haran, he came to a certain place and stayed there because it was night. He took one of the stones of that place and put it under 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. There the angels of God were going up and down on the ladder. The LORD stood at the

top and said, "I am the LORD God of Abraham and 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. Your family will be all over the land. Some day from your family Jesus the Savior will be born. The whole earth will be blessed because Jesus will take away all sins. I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you."

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

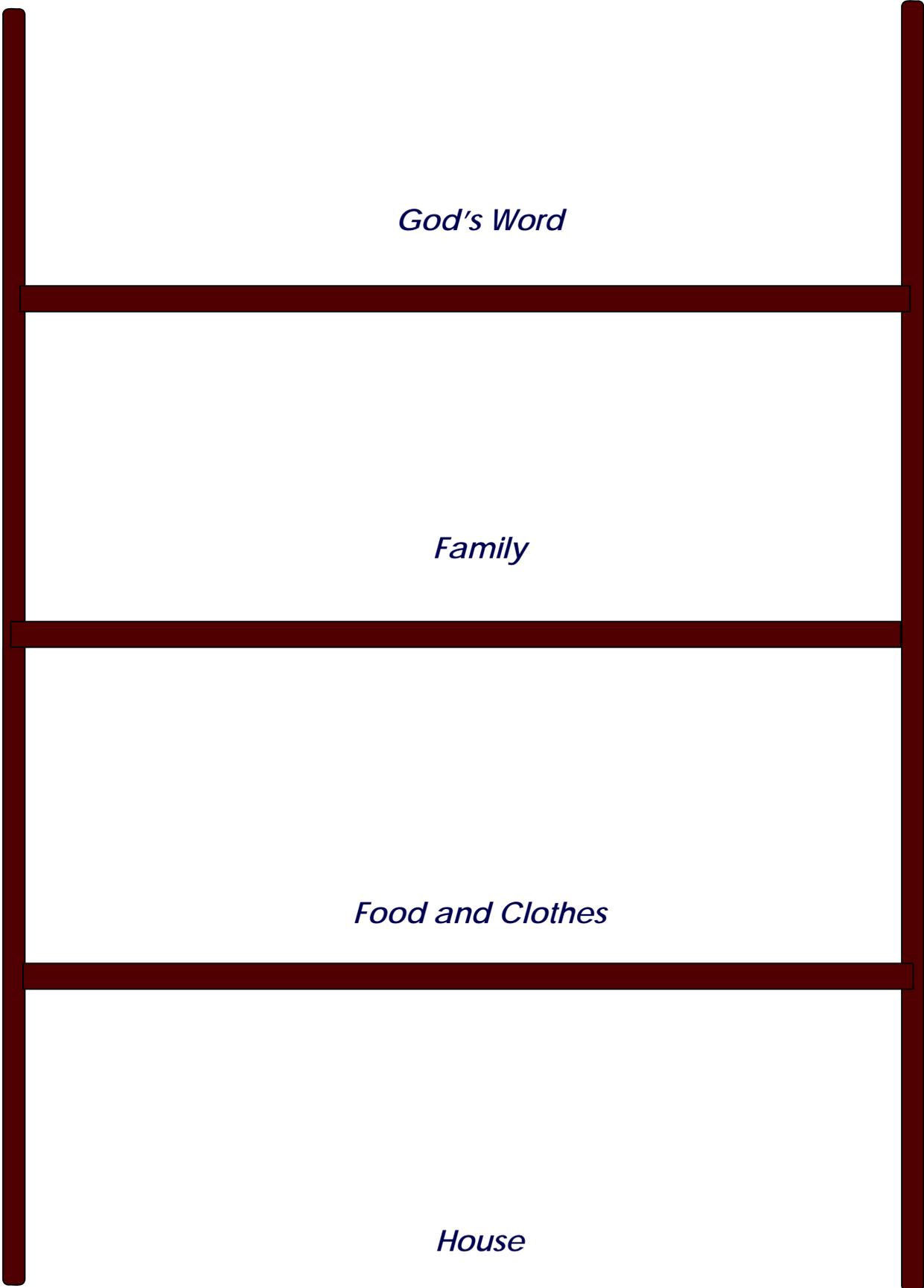
He was afraid and said, "How wonderful and special is this place! This is the house of God!"

Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. He then called the place Bethel which means house of God.

Jacob made a promise that if God would keep him safe and let him return here some day, he would make this a special place and out of thankfulness for the Lord's blessings would give a portion of those blessings back to the Lord.

God stayed with Jacob and blessed him even when he had to flee from his angry brother.

Activity One - Draw some of your blessings from God in the ladder below.



God's Word

Family

Food and Clothes

House

God is always with us and blesses us with true faith.

Passages

Psalm 91:11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you
in all your ways.

Psalm 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and
you shall glorify Me.

Hymn - TLH #425 v.1

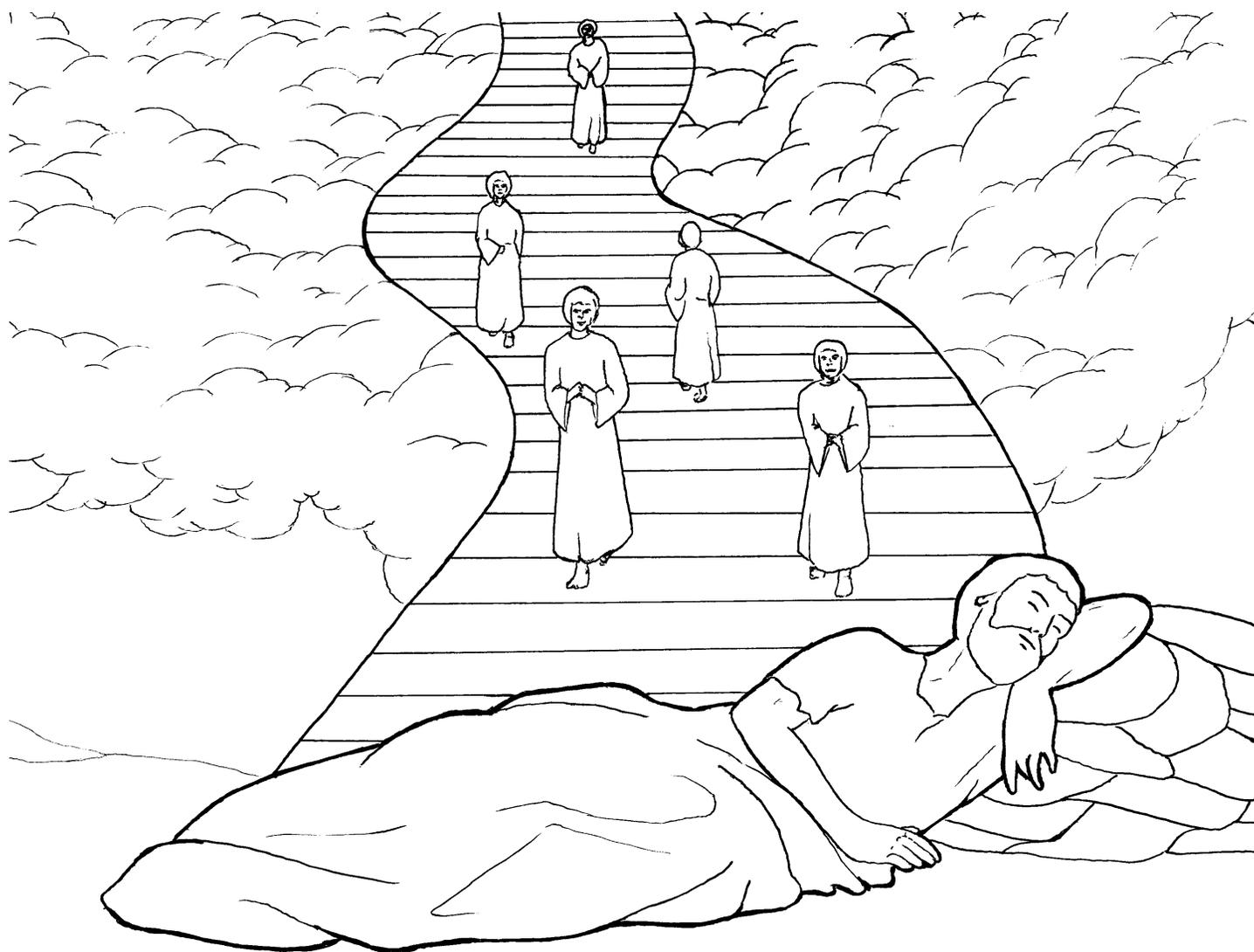
All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Tho' all earthly wealth depart.
He who trusts with faith unshaken
In his God is not forsaken
And e'er keeps a dauntless heart.

Prayer

Dear Lord,
Please be with us and send your angels to us. Thank You for Your love in
sending Jesus to die and rise again for our sins. Amen.

Jacob Flees From Esau & Jacob's Dream

Genesis 27:41 - 28:22



The Story

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Jacob went toward Haran and came to a certain place and stayed there because it was night. He took one of the stones of that place and put it under 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. There the angels of God were going up and down on the ladder. The LORD stood at the top and said, "I am the LORD God of

Abraham and 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. Your family will be all over the land.

Some day from your family Jesus the Savior will be born. The whole earth will be blessed because Jesus will take away all sins. I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you."

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Jacob made a promise that if God would keep him safe and let him return here some day, he would make this a special place and out of thankfulness for the Lord's blessings would give a portion of those blessings back to the Lord.

God stayed with Jacob and blessed him even when he had to flee from his angry brother.

Activity One - Use the words in the box to find a hidden word that tells who God sends to help and protect us.

blessing	Laban	Jacob	Haran	Bethel
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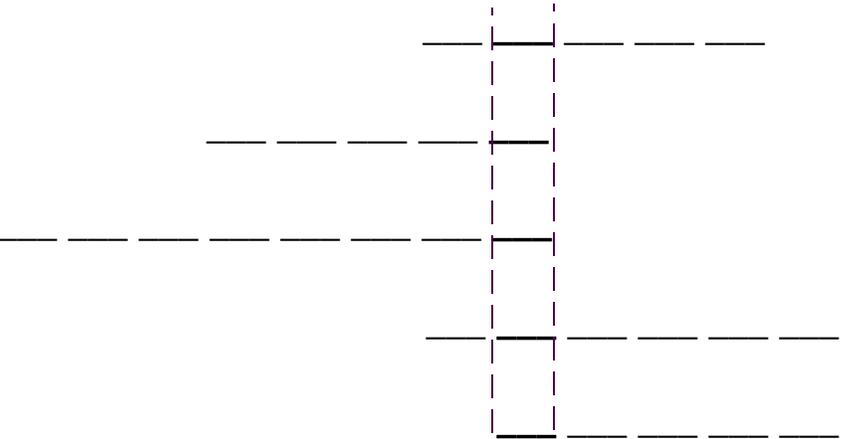
1. He ran away so his brother would not kill him.

2. This is the country to which Jacob was going.

3. God gave Jacob this in the dream.

4. Jacob named the place with the special rock this name.

5. This is the name of Rebekah's brother.



God sends an _____ to me.
Hidden Word

Passages

Psalm 91:11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

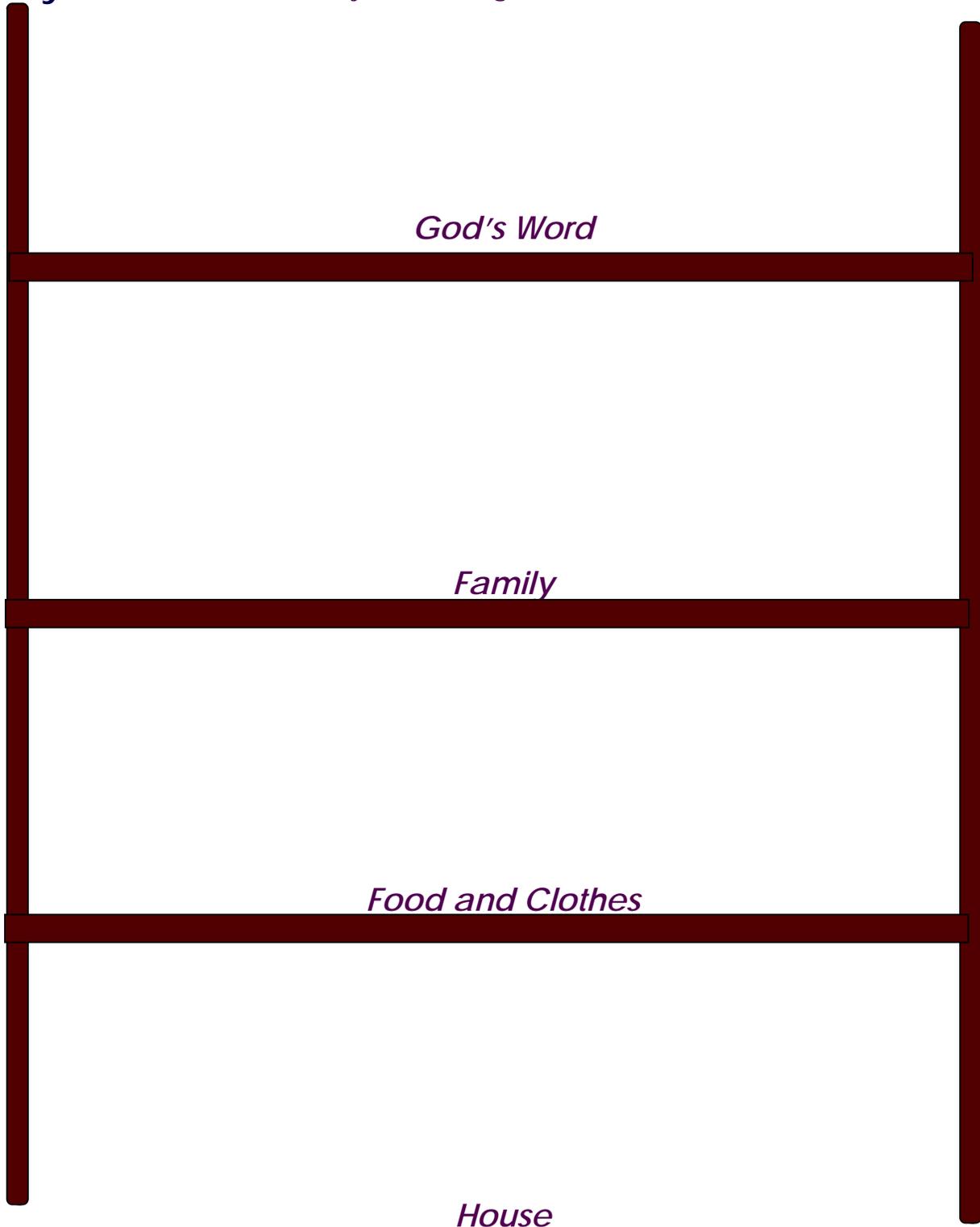
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All depends on our possessing God's abundant grace and blessing,
 Tho' all earthly wealth depart.
 He who trusts with faith unshaken in his God is not forsaken
 And e'er keeps a dauntless heart.

God is always with us and blesses us with true faith.

Activity Two - Draw some of your blessings from God in the ladder below.



Prayer

Dear Lord, Please be with us and send your angels to us. Thank You for Your love in sending Jesus to die and rise again for our sins. Amen.

Jacob Flees From Esau & Jacob's Dream

Genesis 27:41-28:22

This is Jacob. He received his father's blessing and birthright. You notice he is alone. He has also traveled by foot 500 miles. Listen carefully to hear why Jacob is 500 miles from home and alone.

Prayer

Lord open Thou my heart to hear
And through Thy Word to me draw near;
Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain,
Let me Thy child and heir remain. Amen

The Story - Genesis 27:41- 28:22

So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

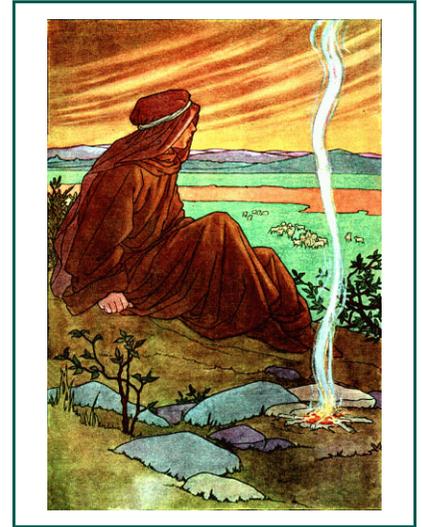
{42} And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you. {43} "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. {44} "And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, {45} "until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"

{46} And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

(Genesis 28) Then Isaac called

Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. {2} "Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. {3} "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples; {4} And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land in which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham." {5} So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

{6} Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan," {7} and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram. {8} Also Esau



saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac. {9} So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

{10} Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. {11} 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

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. {15} "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."

{16} Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." {17} And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

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place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. {12} 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. {13} 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. {14} "Also your descendants

morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. {19} And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

{20} Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, {21} "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. {22} "And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

Outer Aim - God stayed with Jacob and blessed him even when he had to flee from his angry brother.

Inner Aim - God is always with us and blesses us with true faith.

What the Story Tells Us - Use the words from the ladder to fill in the CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

Across

1. Jacob dreamed of a ____ going up to heaven with angels going up and down.

4. Jacob went to the country of ____ to escape Esau.

5. God gave Jacob ____ when He spoke in the dream.

6. Jacob rested his ____ on a rock.

Down

1. Rachel's brother.

2. Jacob had a ____ about heaven

3. Jacob's mother.

5. Jacob named the special place where he had the dream ____ .

What the Bible Tells Us - Use Genesis 28:13-15 to fill in the blanks of the blessings Jacob received from God.

{14}... "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the _____ on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. {14} "Also your descendants shall be as the _____ of the earth; you shall _____ to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the _____ of the _____ shall be _____. {15} "Behold, I am with you and will _____ you wherever you go, and will _____ you back to this land; for I will not _____ you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Your Turn - What do you know about angels? Read these passages and discuss the questions.

Ps. 91:11 - He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

1. Why are the angels sent by God?

Hebrews 1:14 - Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

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Luke 1:11-12 _____

Luke 1:26-27 _____

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Mark 16:1, 5-6 _____

Passages

Psalm 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

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Hymn - TLH #425 v.1, 6

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God's abundant grace and blessing,
Tho' all earthly wealth depart.
He who trusts with faith unshaken
In his God is not forsaken
And e'er keeps a dauntless heart.

If on earth my days He lengthen,
He my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in Him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding;
Safe I anchor in His grace.

Prayer

My Father in heaven, I am just beginning my journey in life. Since I do not know what awaits me in life, please take me and my future into Your hands. Help me to trust in You and Your saving Gospel so that I can share that "Good News" with others. Amen.

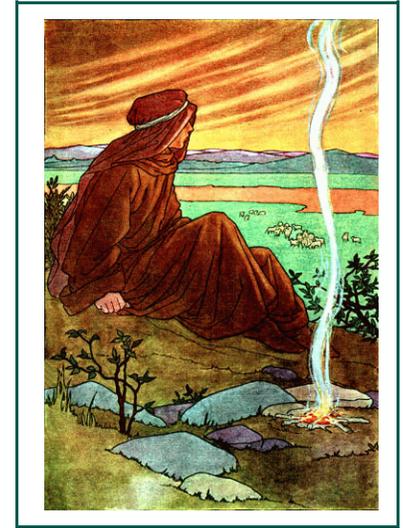
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What the Story Tells Us -Answer these questions about the story.

1. Why did Esau want to kill Jacob?
2. Where did Rebekah want Jacob to go to keep safe?
3. Besides keeping safe, what else did Isaac wish Jacob to do?
4. Describe Jacob's dream.
5. What did Jacob do with the rock his head rested on?
6. What name did he give the place?
7. What promise did he make to God if he would safely return to that place?

Outer Aim - God stayed with Jacob and blessed him even when he had to flee from his angry brother.

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God's abundant grace and blessing,
Tho' all earthly wealth depart.
He who trusts with faith unshaken
In his God is not forsaken
And e'er keeps a dauntless heart.

Well He knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt His wisdom never —
As God wills, so be it ever —
I to Him commit my way.

If on earth my days He lengthen,
He my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in Him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding;
Safe I anchor in His grace.

Prayer

My Father in heaven, I am just beginning my journey in life. Since I do not know what awaits me in life, please take me and my future into Your hands. Help me to trust in You and Your saving Gospel so that I can share that "Good News" with others. Amen.

STORY

Jacob Flees from Esau; Jacob's Dream - Gen. 27:41 - 28:22

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord, strengthen me in desire, in skill, and in all gifts of the Spirit so that the good work You have begun in me will be carried forward for Your glory and blessings to Your kingdom. As always, in Jesus' name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Padan Aram - "The tableland of Aram" = Mesopotamia

Beersheba - city at the southern limit of Palestine

Haran - Abraham's home (after he left Ur), north of Palestine

Bethel - "House of God," city in central Palestine

Heth - son of Canaan, forefather of the Hittites

Bethuel - father of Rebekah and Laban

Ishmael - Abraham's son by Hagar

OUTER AIM

When Jacob had to flee from his angry brother, God stayed with him.

INNER AIM

In God's master plan, for saving sinners, He makes all things work together for good, because He can overrule our counterproductive sinful mistakes.

BACKGROUND (Text commentary)

Ch. 27 tells us which twin would be the transmitter of the Messianic promise. Isaac sinned in wanting it to be Esau; Rebekah and Jacob also sinned in using lies and deception to outsmart Isaac, which is not the way in which the LORD opens His hands to bless us.

Ch 27: vs.41-46

(This section shows that there was plenty of guilt to go around.) Naturally, Esau was irate at having been outmaneuvered by Jacob, even though he had already sold his birthright to Jacob (26:29-34). Evidently he said something that reflected his evil plan-(We detect no sign of repentance on the part of Esau, or of Jacob, or of Rebekah, or of Isaac.)-so Rebekah thought that she could smooth over the troubled waters if Jacob was out of sight for a while. (By the way, she died before Jacob ever got home again.)

The way she made the request of Isaac was another half-truth, a subterfuge that Isaac might swallow. Surprisingly, the text gives no hint that he perceived the strife between his sons.

Ch. 28: vs. 1-5

Isaac agreed with the plan that Jacob should marry a cousin.

Isaac repeated some of God's blessings carried over from Abraham, especially to settle in Canaan, which was part of the Messianic blueprint.

So Jacob, aged seventy-one, left his mother, father and revengeful brother. He went all alone on a dangerous 500-mile trek, perhaps wondering if his selfish actions had ruined his future.



vs.6-9

Esau was willing to stay at home. Trying to find a way to recoup his losses by ingratiating himself in his father's good favor, he married an Abrahamic girl.

vs. 10-22 This episode is a watershed for Jacob's spiritual renewal, fitting him for God's hand.

v.10-12

By time Jacob had traveled a few days, he came to a spot twelve miles north of Jerusalem. The ladder pictures an access route for angels to come and go on God's business with humans. Some interpret it as a Messianic symbol, the grand staircase of open access to the Father.

vs.13-15

We note that there is no scolding, no reprimand, no LAW! So apparently Jacob was repentant over his cheating of Esau and his deceiving of Isaac.

At that juncture, God gave him good news for the future: His promise regarding the land, the increase of progeny, and the Seed--all due to His loving guidance and protection. Evidently Jacob needed this assurance that the LORD God was on his side and had not abandoned him in his needs.

vs.14-16

He is wonderfully surprised that Jehovah has been at his side all along, even under the scary and shameful conditions under which he had left his father's house.

Afraid = overawed, almost benumbed at such a miracle of grace. [Jacob jumped to the conclusion that geography was an issue behind the LORD's appearance, but we recognize that just then he needed a place to call "home."]

Evidently Jacob also needed the sevenfold assurances of grace that God gave him:

- Clear identification of the LORD as being the same God of Abraham and Isaac;
- Clear indication that this location was destined for Jacob's descendants [thus he could deduce that Esau would not murder him, for God promised him future children!];
- Assurance that his family tree would become innumerable and spread in all directions;
- The Jacob-sired family tree would produce the Savior ("bless all nations");
- God would be close to Jacob no matter where he went as an exile;
- God would manipulate Jacob's future to get bring back home again (to Canaan);
- God would provide His supportive presence during the time of fulfillment.

vs.18-22

This is the first voluntary vow recorded in Scripture; in this dedicatory ceremony Jacob changed the placename from Luz to Bethel ("house of God"), pledged himself to the LORD for his life, his future, his church, and his stewardship.

(Since the King James translation sounds too "iffy" to exhibit Jacob's good attitude, we prefer Leupold's Commentary here: "*If God will be with me...in this way which I am going...and I shall return in peace...and Yahweh will be God to me--**then** this stone...shall be a house of God.*" That he carried out this vow is reported in ch. 35:1-7.)

STUDENT PRAYER

My Father in heaven, I am just beginning my journey in life. I know I have already made mistakes in the way I have treated my Mom, Dad, brother, sister. So I realize the value of having Your blessing to fix my mistakes. Since I do not know what awaits me in life--but You do--please take me and my future into Your hands. In Jesus' love I am safe. Amen.

PRESENTATION (Helps and Hints)

1. The teacher will use his/her skills to preserve the aliveness of the Scriptural narrative. Jacob's life (lessons #9 and #10) crackles with human drama. In reading the text aloud, practice the craft of dramatic presentation (rising/falling intonation--as in music--with dramatic pauses, etc., to reveal the nervous tension between Jacob and Esau, or to portray the ominous nature of Rebekah's "sting operation."
2. In upper classes, perhaps capable students could be given the "roles" of Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau in order thus to get more deeply in touch with them. (Teacher can be the voice of the LORD!)
3. Nonetheless, maintain a focus on Jacob is becoming the next section of the Messianic bridge ("From Abraham to Bethlehem to Calvary" form some Scriptural ABC's).

APPLICATIONS

1. God keeps His promises: "If you abide in Me, and my words abide in you,, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." Jn.15:7, etc.
2. The loss of a brother's/sister's good will is a bitter fruit on the family tree--and can sour relationships for years to come. (Any teacher anecdote here...?)
3. An intelligent and resourceful child can fall into the sin of playing one parent against the other, especially in order to gain advantage over a sibling. What result can be expected?
4. Anger, the fun of hating, the pleasure of despising others are some of Satan's best tools to ensnare teens into sins they can't ever cure. The Columbine massacre is but the tip of a familiar mountain range from which a volcano can erupt.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Ps. 91:11 - *He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.*

Jn. 1:51 - *"Hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."*

Middle any of the above and...

Ps. 91:9-10 - *Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your habitation, No evil shall befall you...For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.*

I Tim. 2:5 - *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

Upper any of the above and...

Heb. 1:14 - *Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

Ps. 50:14-15 - *Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.*

Ps. 121:7-8 - *The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.*

Deut. 31:6-8 - *"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."*

Heb. 13:5 - *Let your conduct be without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

HYMN CHOICES

"All Depends On Our Possessing" (TLH #425, 5)

"Commit Whatever Grieves Thee" (TLH #520, 3-5)

"Built On the Rock The Church Doth Stand" (TLH #467, 1-3)