

## 09.04 Jacob Steals the Blessing (Genesis 26:34, 35; 27:1–41)

✓ “Check” it out: opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows  
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher, not the student. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and/or visual aids found at the end of this lesson. The teacher may wish to print or mount them on card stock or construction paper. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check also “Activities” and “Handwork” below for additional suggested items.
- Beka flashcards; an older edition of Accent’s Sunday School (Primary #PT1 or PT24) curriculum has some nice stand-up characters and tents for visuals.
- I heartily recommend *Herein Is Love Commentary Series: Genesis, A Commentary for Children*, written by Nancy Ganz and published by Shepherd Press in 2002. Thoughts or quotations borrowed from her will be acknowledged as (Ganz).

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *birthright*: the right of the firstborn, usually, to inherit twice as much as the other sons and to become the head of the family; in the case of Abraham’s children, it meant being the one to receive the blessings God promised.
- *blessing*: not just a “God bless you, my son” but a special, legal kind of prophecy giving the rights of the birthright; in the case of Abraham’s descendants, it was the bestowment of the blessings God had promised.
- *goats of Beersheba*: have fine, silky hair that is not as thick as goats’ hair as we know it
- “*Jacob*”: heel-grabber; deceiver; trickster; cheater

### Scripture: (ESV)

Genesis 26:34 When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, 35 and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

27:1 When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son”; and he answered, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. 3 Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, 4 and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, 6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, 7 ‘Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the Lord before I die.’ 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. 9 Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. 10 And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.” 11 But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. 12 Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing.” 13 His mother said to him, “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.”

14 So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved. 15 Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. 16 And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. 17 And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the

hand of her son Jacob.

18 So he went in to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” 19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” 20 But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” 21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” 22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands. So he blessed him. 24 He said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He answered, “I am.” 25 Then he said, “Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son’s game and bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” 27 So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

“See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed! 28 May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. 29 Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!”

30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that you may bless me.” 32 His father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” He answered, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.” 33 Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, “Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.” 34 As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me, even me also, O my father!” 35 But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.” 36 Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.” Then he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?” 37 Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?” 38 Esau said to his father, “Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: “Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high. 40 By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

41 Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

## **Introduction/Review:**

Review the memory verse, “Set your affection on things above and not on things of the earth” (Colossians 3:2). How did Esau show he set his affections on things of the earth? [Sold his birthright for a meal.] What was a birthright? [The right of the firstborn, usually, to inherit twice as much as the other sons and to become the head of the family. In the case of Abraham’s children, it meant being the one to receive the blessings God promised.]

Remember what Abraham had said about getting a wife for Isaac? What had he said about Isaac’s marrying a girl from the land where they lived? [He absolutely should not marry one of them.] These girls in the land were not God-fearers but rather idol-worshippers. They could turn the heart of Isaac away from God. What lesson does that give us today? [If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, be careful to marry only one who is a believer in Jesus Christ.] ✓ Although the Bible doesn’t say specifically, I assume Isaac had told his sons

about Grandfather Abraham's concern for not marrying a heathen woman. There is evidence, however, in Genesis 27:41–46 that Esau at this point was not fully cognizant of Isaac's wishes.

**Story:** [Much of this narrative is directly quoted from the ESV.]

### ***Unspiritual Esau***

When Esau was forty years old, he demonstrated his affection for things of this earth by marrying a Hittite heathen woman—not just one, but two heathen Hittite women. How do you think Isaac felt about that? The Bible tells us these women made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah. They were grieved—extremely saddened.

### ***Favored Esau***

Nevertheless, Isaac still seemed to favor Esau. ✓In fact, if he knew about God's prophecy that the older son (Esau) would serve the younger (Jacob), he acted as if he didn't know about it. If he had heard about Jacob's stealing the birthright from Esau, ✓he seemed to think he could overturn the consequences of that event by still blessing Esau. This is how he did it.

When Isaac was old—✓we can calculate that Jacob and Esau were 77 years old by this time and that Isaac himself was 136 years old\*—his eyes were dim so that he could not see. He had lost his sight and was blind. ✓It seems as if he was infirm enough not to do much of anything. In this condition, he called Esau to him and said, "I am old; I do not know when I will die. Now then, take your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt wild meat for me, and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat. Then I will bless you before I die."

### ***Unsurprised God***

Oh, oh! Something's wrong here. God, are You going to do something about this situation? You know what You said about Esau's serving Jacob. It doesn't look as if things are going as You said.

Students, was God able to change this plan of Isaac's? Let me tell you some ways could He have changed Isaac's plans. ✓He could have spoken to him with a voice Isaac could hear; he could have just reminded him of what Rebekah probably told him before the twins were born; he could have caused Esau not to find wild meat. There are many creative ways that God Himself could have stopped Isaac from giving the blessing to Esau, but God chose to do none of them. Instead, someone else thought God needed some help, and that person was Rebekah, Isaac's wife and the mother of Esau and Jacob.

### ***Conniving Rebekah***

Rebekah heard Isaac tell Esau about the blessing, and she took things into her own hands. Calling Jacob to her, she said, "Jacob, 'I heard your father ask Esau to get him some meat so that he may eat and then bless Esau. Now therefore, my son, obey my command. Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. And *you* shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless *you* before he dies.'"

Is there something wrong with this plan? Yes. What is it? [It is deceptive, dishonest; also, Esau and Jacob are different—hairy and smooth, having different voices.] Jacob immediately thought about the second problem (sadly, not about cheating)—that Esau was hairy and Jacob was not. He said, "Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing."\*\*\* But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring the goats to me."\*\*\*

[Teacher, this next section, Genesis 27:14–29, could be read directly from the Bible.]

### ***Complicit Jacob***

So Jacob went and took two good young goats and brought them to his mother. Rebekah prepared delicious food. Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. The skins of the young goats she somehow put on his hands and on the

smooth part of Jacob's neck. Then she put the delicious food and the bread she had prepared into the hand of her son Jacob.

Jacob went in to his father and said, "My father, here I am."

[Numbers at the beginning of the next few paragraphs indicate Isaac's suspicions.]

(1) "Who are you, my son?" asked Isaac.

Jacob lied to his father. "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

### ***Suspicious Isaac***

(2) But Isaac said to Jacob, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?"

Jacob's answer angers me. I hate it when people lie and talk about God's blessing in the same sentence. Jacob answered, "Because the Lord your God granted me success." (The lie: *God did not* grant success. Notice also that Jacob said "*your* God," not "*my* God.")

(3) Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." Ah ha! This is just what Jacob had suspected would happen.

(4) Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

(5) So Isaac did not recognize Jacob because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. Yet, Isaac was still suspicious. He said, "Are you really my son Esau?"

Jacob outright lied again, "I am."

Then Isaac said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you."

So Jacob brought the meal near to him, and Isaac ate and drank.

### ***Blessed Jacob***

(6) Isaac had one more test: "Come near and kiss me, my son," he said. So Jacob came near and kissed his father. (Sniff, sniff.) Isaac smelled the scent of Esau's garments that were now on Jacob and was satisfied. He blessed Jacob, saying (in summary), "May God bless your crops. Let people and nations serve you. Be lord over your brothers. Cursed are those who curse you and blessed are those who bless you."

Have you heard any of that blessing before? ["Cursed are those who curse you and blessed are those who bless you" is from the Abrahamic covenant; "Be lord over your brothers" is from God's conversation with Rebekah.]

The blessing was given; it was done. Whew! But whew again! Jacob had scarcely left Isaac's tent, when guess who came home from hunting? Esau! He prepared the meal his father loved and came to him with it.

### ***Troubled Esau and Isaac***

"Let my father arise and eat of his son's meal so that you may bless me," said Esau.

"Who are you?" asked Isaac.

✓Puzzled, Esau answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

The Bible states that then Isaac "trembled very violently" and said, [Teacher, tremble as you say this and the next statements of Isaac] "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed."

As soon as Esau heard these words, he cried out with an "exceedingly great and bitter cry" and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!"

But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.”

Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing. . . . Don’t you have another blessing for me, Father?”

Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants. What, then, can I do for you, my son?”

Esau said to his father, “Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

### ***“Mini-blessed” Esau***

Then Isaac did give him a “mini-blessing” that doesn’t seem to me to be much of a blessing except for the first part: (1) “Your crops will be blessed. (✓Some people interpret this part of the blessing as “Your crops will *not* be blessed.”) (2) By your sword you shall live, and (3) you shall serve your brother; eventually you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

Jacob had the blessing, but Esau hated him. You can just imagine Esau’s anger against Jacob! He thought, “Pretty soon, my father will die. Then I will slay Jacob!” Hmmm. Will he?

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\* The life of Isaac falls into three periods. During the first seventy-five years he is contemporary with his father. For sixty-one years more his son Jacob remains under the paternal roof. The remaining forty-four years are passed in the retirement of old age. The chapter before us narrates the last solemn acts of the middle period of his life. Isaac was old. Joseph was in his thirtieth year when he stood before Pharaoh, and therefore thirty-nine when Jacob came down to Egypt at the age of one hundred and thirty. When Joseph was born, therefore, Jacob was ninety-one, and he had sojourned fourteen years in Padan-aram. Hence, Jacob’s flight to Laban took place when he was seventy-seven, and therefore in the one hundred and thirty-sixth year of Isaac (Barnes in Online Bible)

\*\* Jacob said, Esau my brother is a hairy man — It is remarkable that his scruples were founded, not on the evil of the act, but on the risk and consequences of deception (Jamieson, Faussett, and Brown in Online Bible).

\*\*\* Rebekah knew that the blessing was intended for Jacob, and expected he would have it. But she wronged Isaac by putting a cheat on him; she wronged Jacob by tempting him to wickedness. She put a stumblingblock in Esau’s way, and gave him a pretext for hatred to Jacob and to religion. All were to be blamed. It was one of those crooked measures often adopted to further the divine promises; as if the end would justify, or excuse wrong means (Matthew Henry in Online Bible).

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- Don’t think you have to assist God. Jacob and Rebekah did wrong and caused all kinds of problems by being deceitful.
- When you speak, tell the truth. When you act, do the truth. [I can remember one specific time when I acted a lie. It was just as much a lie as telling an untruth.]
- Jacob did not act right; he lived up to his name, “Deceiver.” God does not choose only good but also bad people. Then He changes them. The Lord Jesus Christ died to save all kinds of people—good and bad.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: goat, plates, and bowls
- Sing teacher-selected portions of the song, “Abraham,” found at Lesson 08.01 or on the Songs page at [teachingthebibletokids.org](http://teachingthebibletokids.org).

- Sing first four stanzas of “Isaac” found at Lesson 09.01 or on the Songs page at [teachingthebibletochildren.org](http://teachingthebibletochildren.org).
- Sing first stanza of “Jacob” found below or on the Songs page at [teachingthebibletochildren.org](http://teachingthebibletochildren.org).
- Have students imitate or act out the emotions of the following:  
 Jacob as he wonders if the plan will work (puzzled)  
 Rebekah as she hurries to prepare the meal (anxious)  
 Isaac as he wonders about Jacob (questioning)  
 Esau when he first comes to his father (happy)  
 Isaac when Esau comes to him (trembling, worried)  
 Esau when he learns the blessing has been given to Jacob (grief-stricken)  
 Esau when he plans to kill Jacob (sinister)
- Do “Who Am I?” cards found on Extras page at [teachingthebibletochildren.org](http://teachingthebibletochildren.org) for Abraham, Isaac, and others that appear earlier in the Bible.
- Accent Publications’ Primary curriculum (P-4/A, Lesson 5) has a good finger puppet rendition of this story that students can read and perform.
- Give students a trading card of the Braille alphabet (see the page below with multiple cards).
- Blindfold students and have them identify items by hearing, tasting, feeling, smelling. Sense/Item:  
 hear/car keys, taste/snack, feel/fabric, smell/crayons (Ganz).
- Explain that blind people “read” by feeling the raised dots of the Braille language. Using the fingers of both hands, a blind person can read just as quickly as a seeing person. Because the Braille requires thick paper and larger “print,” Braille books are very large. (See pictures to follow.) Explain the use of the white “cane” used by blind people to feel their way. Discuss some of the ways being blind would be hard; *e.g.*, crossing the street; dialing the phone; going anywhere besides home.
- Practice leading a blindfolded person with the blindfolded person holding the arm of the “seeing” person. Gently walk, turn, and stop in order to show how the blind person depends on the seeing one. Or try tapping one’s way, blindfolded, with a yardstick.
- If “wild” meat, *e.g.*, venison, is available, prepare a bit for each student to taste.
- Review Questions: (Game: If playing with teams, have each student put a plastic spoon in his or her team’s bowl or glass for each correct answer.)
  1. Whom did Esau marry, a believer or non-believer? [Non-believer, a Hittite.]
  2. What physical difficulty did Isaac have in his old age? [He was blind.]
  3. Whom did Isaac call to him so that he might bless him? [Esau.]
  4. Who heard Isaac call Esau to him? [Rebekah.]
  5. Whom did Rebekah call to herself? [Jacob.]
  6. What was Rebekah’s plan? [To fix a meal and to have Jacob present it to Isaac and get the blessing.]
  7. What was Jacob’s objection to this plan? [Esau was hairy; Isaac would notice Jacob’s smooth skin.]
  8. How was this objection overcome? [Rebekah put goat’s hair on Jacob.]
  9. Whom did Isaac unintentionally bless? [Jacob.]
  10. When did Esau return from his hunt? [As soon as Jacob left Isaac.]
  11. What did Esau determine to do to Jacob? [He vowed to kill him as soon as Isaac died.]

### Memory Verse[s]:

- Colossians 3:2: “Set your affections on things above, not on things of the earth.”
- Hebrews 13:5b: “Be content with such things as you have; for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor

forsake you.””

**Handwork:**

- Glue yarn and/or other textures onto a card in order to make a picture. Give the card to someone (Ganz).
- Make a “Braille” message by printing word[s] and letters backwards on cardstock or use the printed examples found below. With Styrofoam<sup>®</sup> under the cardstock, have students punch holes with a tack along the lines of the letters. When the sheet is turned to the right side, the letters will look like Braille but will not be the Braille language.
- From the Braille alphabet that is printed below, have students compose a short message (that is seen) by coloring dots to correspond with the letters of the message.

*birthright*

*blessing*

*goats of the area*

*“Jacob”*



# THE BRAILLE ALPHABET

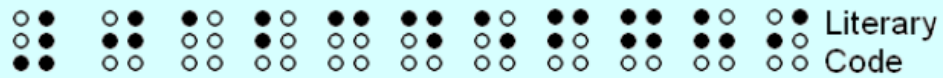


a b c d e f g h i j k l m



n o p q r s t u v w x y z

## NUMBERS



# 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



# 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

# THE BRAILLE ALPHABET

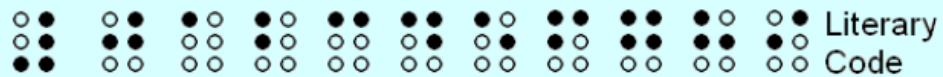


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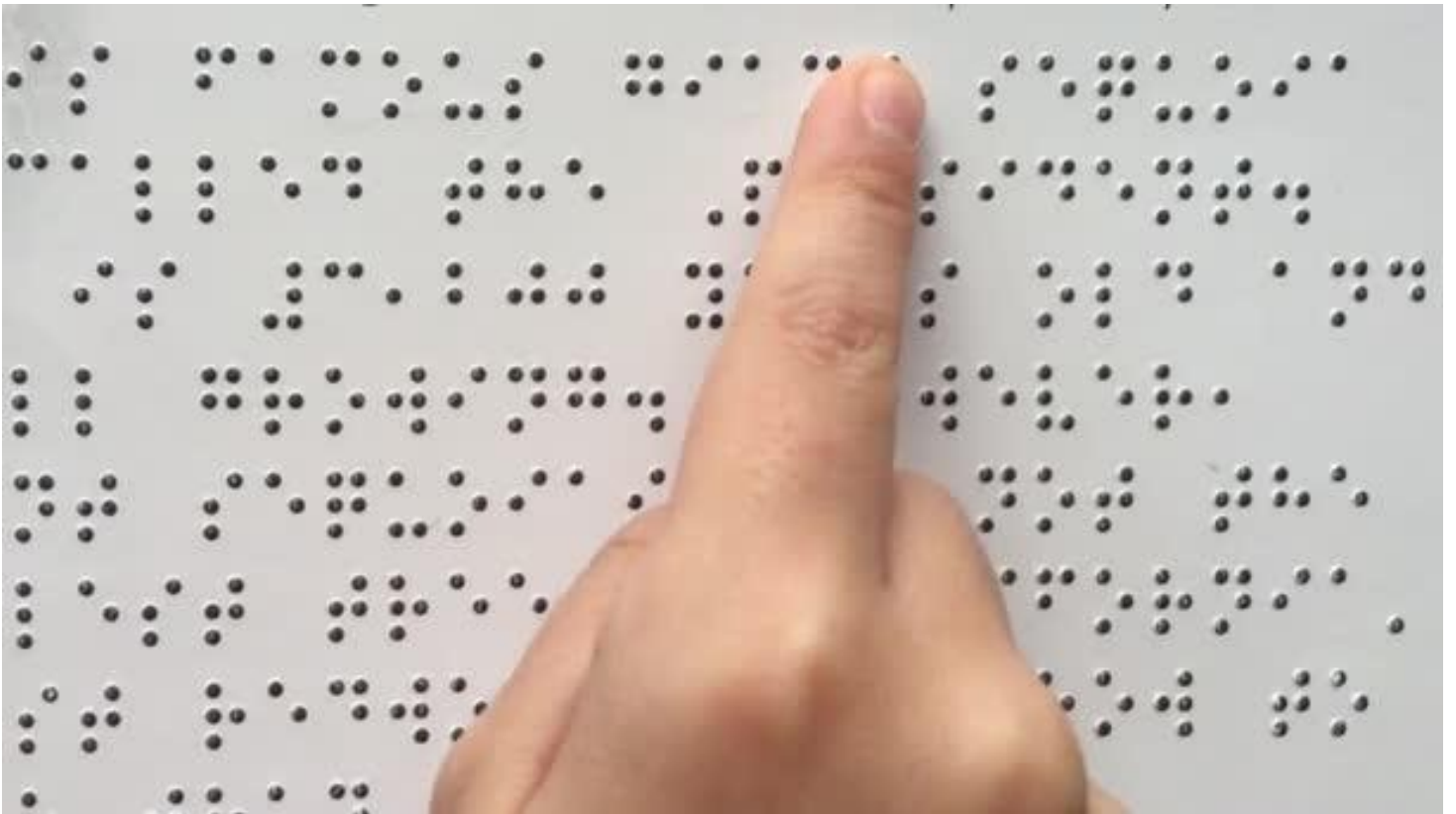
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### NUMBERS

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<https://depositphotos.com/196835346/stock-video-blind-person-reads-braille-alphabet.html>



<https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/braille?excludenudity=true&sort=mostpopular&mediatype=photography&phrase=braille>



<https://linguaphiles.livejournal.com/5721987.html?page=2>

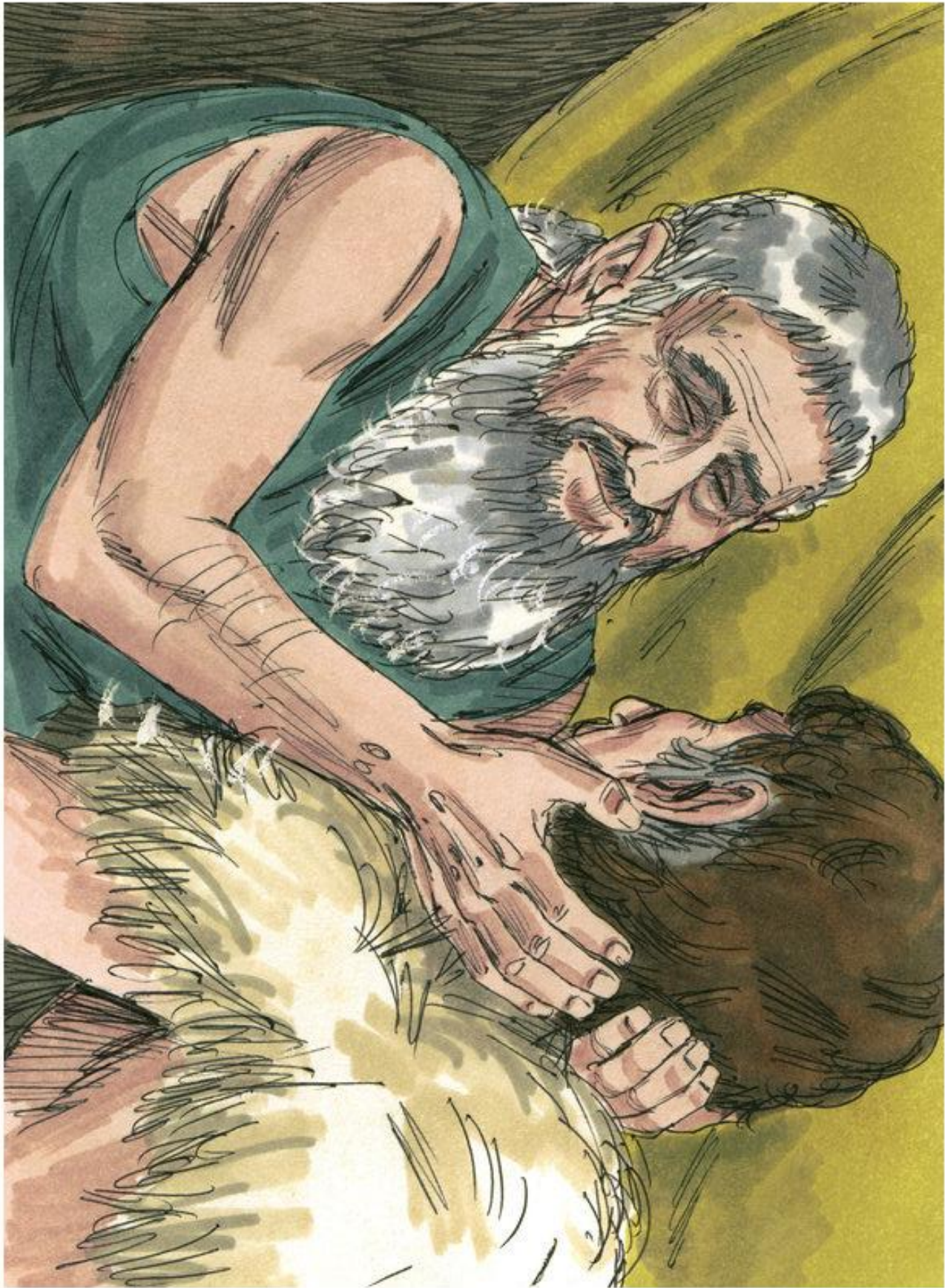


















# Jacob (Tune: "Jacob's Ladder")

Wds. by M. Alexander

1. Ja - cob, Ja - cob tricked his broth - er.  
 2. Ja - cob had a won - drous - dream:  
 3. Ja - cob worked for Un - cle La - ban  
 4. Ja - cob had twelve sons and one daugh - ter:  
 5. Ja - cob's wa - ges were speck - led, dark sheep.  
 6. Then came E - sau with four hun - dred men.

5  
 Ja - cob, Ja - cob tricked his fath - er.  
 An - gels on a heav'n - ly lad - der.  
 Sev - en years for love - ly Ra - chel  
 Reu - ben, Sim - e - on, Le - vi, Ju - dah, Is - sa - char, Zeb - u - lon,  
 God said, "Ja - cob, it's time to go home."  
 Ja - cob sent him man - y pre - sents.

9  
 Ja - cob had to just leave his home - land, Es -  
 God made pro - mise and as He had to  
 La - ban tricked him and gave him Le - ah.  
 Dan, Naph - ta - li, but Gad, God said, "Don't hurt him!"  
 La - ban chased, but God said, 'til morn - ing.  
 Ja - cob Wres - tled with God 'til

13  
 cap - ing and E - sau's rage.  
 I - saac then for A - bra - ham.  
 Worked then for sev - en more years.  
 Jo - seph, a cov - e - min.  
 They made a to Is - ra - el.  
 Name changed to

Isaac

Repeska

Esa

Jacob