

10.07 Jacob Returns Home, Wrestles with God (Genesis 32:1–32)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) Use small dowel figures or wooden figures for Jacob, Rachel, Leah.
- (optional) Use Beka Flash-a-Cards as visuals.

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.

- *camp*: a group of people, their tents, and their possessions
- *to dislocate a hip*: to put that joint out of place
- *to bless*: to pronounce a favorable prophecy on someone

Scripture: (ESV)

Genesis 32:1 Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. 2 And when Jacob saw them he said, “This is God’s camp!” So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

3 And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, 4 instructing them, “Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, ‘I have sojourned with Laban and stayed until now. 5 I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.’”

6 And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and there are four hundred men with him.”

7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps, 8 thinking, “If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape.”

9 And Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,’ 10 I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. 11 Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. 12 But you said, ‘I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’”

13 So he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, 15 thirty milking camels and their calves, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. 16 These he handed over to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, “Pass on ahead of me and put a space between drove and drove.” 17 He instructed the first, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, ‘To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?’ 18 then you shall say, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a present sent to my lord Esau. And moreover, he is behind us.’” 19 He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, “You shall say the same thing to Esau when you find him, 20 and you shall say, ‘Moreover, your servant Jacob is behind us.’” For he thought, “I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterward I shall see his face. Perhaps he will

accept me.” 21 So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself stayed that night in the camp.

22 The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. 24 And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” 27 And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” 28 Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” 29 Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.” 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. 32 Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip on the sinew of the thigh.

Introduction/Review:

Jacob had sneaked away from Laban, for God had told Jacob it was time to go home. Laban chased after Jacob but did not harm him because God had warned him in a dream not to touch Jacob. The two made a covenant, and each went his own way.

Jacob continued on his way to Canaan, ✓now going slowly, for he had great herds of goats, sheep, cows, camels, and donkeys. He also had many servants. His family was eleven sons, one daughter, and their mothers.

Story:

Angels

As Jacob moved on, angels of God met him. ✓It seems as if they were a protection and encouragement from God Himself. As Jacob saw them, he named the place where he was Mahanaim, which means “two camps.” In other words, Jacob’s family, flocks, and servants made up one camp, and ✓the angels of God made up the other camp.

This was Jacob’s second encounter with angels. What was the first? [When he saw them ascending and descending the ladder in his dream.] What awesome signs of His presence God gave to Jacob! ✓I think Jacob might have been reminded of the message God had given those twenty years ago—“I will be with you and will keep you in all places wherever you go.”

Yet, in spite of God’s promise, there was plenty to cause fear if one thought about it. In what frame of mind had Esau been when Jacob left him? [Esau intended to kill Jacob.] Would twenty years have intensified that desire to do away with Jacob? Possibly.

Messengers

Jacob had to face Esau, one way or another. He sent messengers to him with this message: “I have stayed with Laban until now. I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and servants. I have sent to tell my *lord*, in order that I may find favor in your sight.”

But when the messengers returned, they had dreadful news. “We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you with four hundred men!” Four hundred men?! ✓That does not sound like a welcoming party. It sounds more like a declaration of war!

Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided his people and his flocks and herds and camels, into two camps, thinking, “If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left can escape.”

Prayer

Then Jacob prayed. Oh, how he prayed! He prayed as we should when we have great needs: he reminded God of all that God had promised. Listen to his prayer:

“O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac.” (Still God of his father? Not his God? Hmm.)
“O Lord who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,’ I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have enough to become two camps. Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. But you said, ‘I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’”

Gifts

When Jacob finished his prayer, he had an idea: he would offer peace gifts to Esau. So from his animals he took the following:

220 goats (200 were female)
220 sheep (200 were female)
30 female camels and their baby camels
40 cows and 10 bulls
30 donkeys (20 were female)

Each of these groups of animals was to be driven with a little distance between them so that they would meet Esau, one group at a time. With the herders Jacob sent a special message for Esau: They were to say these words: “These animals belong to your *servant* Jacob. They are a present sent to my *lord* Esau. And Jacob is behind us.” Do you hear two words that indicate Jacob was being respectful and not lording his blessing over his older brother Esau? What are those two words? [*Servant* and *lord*.]

So what did the herders say who brought the 220 goats? [“These animals belong to your *servant* Jacob. They are a present sent to my *lord* Esau. And Jacob is behind us.”] The 220 sheep? [“These animals belong to your *servant* Jacob. They are a present sent to my *lord* Esau. And Jacob is behind us.”] The 30 camels with their calves? [“These animals belong to your *servant* Jacob. They are a present sent to my *lord* Esau. And Jacob is behind us.”] The 40 cows and 10 bulls? [“These animals belong to your *servant* Jacob. They are a present sent to my *lord* Esau. And Jacob is behind us.”] The 30 donkeys? [“These animals belong to your *servant* Jacob. They are a present sent to my *lord* Esau. And Jacob is behind us.”]

Such a gift would certainly have impressed me. Would it impress Esau favorably? He was bought off by just a bowl of stew once; will this huge gift make a difference?

Preparations

In the nighttime Jacob got up and sent his wives and children and animals over a brook named Jabbok. [Locate this on a map. It is about 2/5 of the distance north of the Dead Sea between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. See map at the end of this lesson.] Jacob himself stayed on the north side of the brook in order to be alone, ✓perhaps to pray some more.

Wrestlings

But then a strange and amazing thing happened. A Man met Jacob and began wrestling with him. They wrestled the entire night. Although the other Man was clearly stronger, Jacob would not give up but kept on and kept on wrestling.

Finally, as day was breaking and Jacob (the “heel-grabber” or “cheater”) still would not let go of his grasp, the Man just touched Jacob’s hip, causing it to dislocate. [See X ray images at the end of this lesson.] Ouch! When I’ve had some pain in my hip, it hurts so much that I have to limp. Can you imagine the pain Jacob now felt with his hip completely out of joint? He certainly was limping. Yet, he would not let go of the Man.

The Man said, “Let me go.”

Jacob answered, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” Hmm! Who is this strong Man? Is He Someone who can and will bless Jacob? Let’s see.

The Man asked Jacob, “What is your name?”

Jacob answered, “Jacob.”

The Man said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob (“cheater”) but Israel (“prince for God”), for you have wrestled with God and with men, and have overcome.”

The Man

From this statement by the Man, who do you think he is? You haven’t read my script; so you don’t see that every time I’ve mentioned this Man, I have started the word *Man* with a capital letter. Who would we be talking about if we capitalized the common noun *man* and made it a proper noun? [God or His Son Jesus.] An additional hint is that the Man said, “You have wrestled with *God* . . . and have overcome.” Yes, Jacob had wrestled with Jesus Christ.

Then God gave a blessing to Jacob. It was included in his new name, for *Israel* means “wrestler with God” or “prince for God.” Jacob, now named Israel, would overcome with God’s power.

Although Jacob heard the blessing, ✓perhaps he was still not sure this Man was God. So he asked him, “Please tell me your name.”

But God said, “Why do you ask my name?” He never did tell Jacob His name, but there He did bless him.

What an experience Jacob has had again. This is the fourth experience he’s had with God and God’s angels, and it certainly is the most important. What were the other experiences he’s had? [Angels on the ladder and then God’s speaking to him; God’s telling him to leave Laban; the angels’ camp at Mahanaim.]

This place became a very special place for Jacob. He named it Peniel, which means “face of God,” saying, “I have seen God face to face, and yet I live.”

When the sun rose and Jacob crossed over the Brook Jabbok to be with his family; he went limping because of his dislocated hip.

Jacob’s God

✓Now Jacob considers Abraham’s and Isaac’s God to be truly his own God. Jacob himself now trusts the God of heaven, the Creator of all, the God of his fathers, the Fear of Isaac, and the Almighty God of heaven and earth.

Will God preserve him as Esau comes with his 400 men? We will find out in our next lesson. But you should know the answer already because you know God.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
He appeared before becoming a Man as a Man who wrestled with Jacob.
When Jesus saves a person, that person is changed.
- Humility: Jacob humbled himself before his brother, calling him *lord*, in order to gain peace with him. That humility cost him a lot of animals (540). What are you willing to give up for the sake of peace?
- Deal with fear: pray from your heart, reminding God of His promises.
- When a person trusts Christ as his or her Saviour, [s]he is changed and gets a new name—Christian.

Activities:

- Play dough: goats, sheep, camels, cows, donkeys; ball-and-socket joint
- Snack: Sugar cookies of goats, sheep, camels and their babies, cows, and donkeys, or select from the following wrestlers' foods—cheese sticks, whole grain bread with peanut butter and/or jam, fruit
- Sing “Abraham” found at Lesson 08.01 or on the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.
- Sing all stanzas of “Jacob” found at Lesson 10.01 or on the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.
- Sing the song, “Jacob,” found below.
- Discuss why giving more female animals was wise.
- Identify male and female terms for various animals: *e.g.*, billy or buck/nanny or doe for goats; rams/ewes for sheep; bulls/cows for camels, cattle, and elephants; jack/jenny for donkeys; stag or buck/doe for deer, antelope, and many other animals; boar/sow for pigs and bears; tom/queen for cats; cock or rooster/hen for chickens and some other birds; dog/vixen for foxes; gander/goose for geese; stallion or stud/mare or dam for horses, *etc.*
- Have students limp as they move around the room.
- Present the Camille Camel puppet skit found below.
- If a leg wrestling match between boy students is allowed, be sure more than one adult is in the room and rules are clearly understood (from Mission Arlington on the internet).
- Review questions: (Game: A student who answers the most questions correctly may choose another student with whom to arm wrestle. Any student may choose not to arm wrestle but still answer questions. Or place an angel in a pocket chart for each correct answer.)
 1. Who met Jacob after Laban went back to Haran? [Angels.]
 2. Why did Jacob send messengers to Esau? [To let him know he was coming.]
 3. The messengers came back from Esau with what information? [Esau was coming to meet Jacob with 400 men.]
 4. Why did Jacob divide into two “camps”? [If Esau captured one, the other could escape.]
 5. Tell one specific thing that Jacob prayed. [He addressed God of his fathers Abraham and Isaac; he reminded God that He had said to return to Canaan; God had said He would do Jacob good; he said he was not worthy of the least of all the goodness God had shown to him; he remembered he had passed over the Jordan with only his staff; God had given enough for Jacob to divide into two camps; he asked for deliverance from the hand of Esau; he reminded God that He had said, “I will surely make your offspring as the sand of the sea.”]
 6. Name three types of animals Jacob sent as a gift to Esau. [Goats, sheep, cattle, camels, donkeys.]
 7. What was the purpose for Jacob’s many gifts to Esau? [To appease Esau; he hoped the gifts would soften Esau’s heart so that he would accept Jacob.]
 8. With whom did Jacob wrestle all night? [“A man” that we understand to be Jesus Christ Himself.]
 9. What are two things that happened to Jacob by the end of the wrestling match? [His hip was dislocated, and his name was changed to Israel.]
 10. What does *Israel* mean? [A prince of God.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Genesis 32:10—“I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant.”

Handwork:

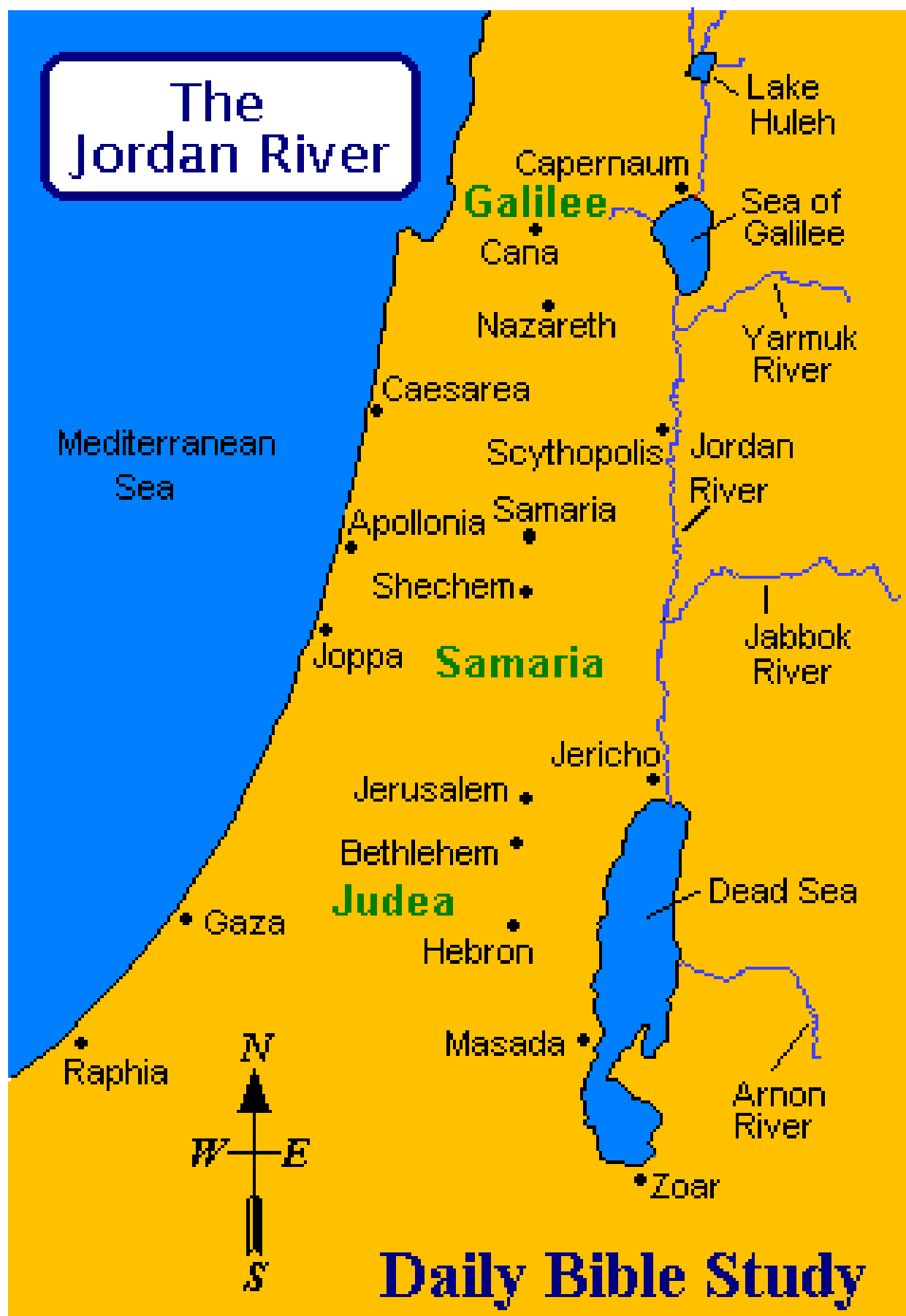
- Handwork of Jacob wrestling found at the end of this lesson (2 pages). This can be used as a visual aid during the wrestling part of the story. (Found at a now-defunct internet site called Henny Penny.)

camp

to dislocate a hip

to bless

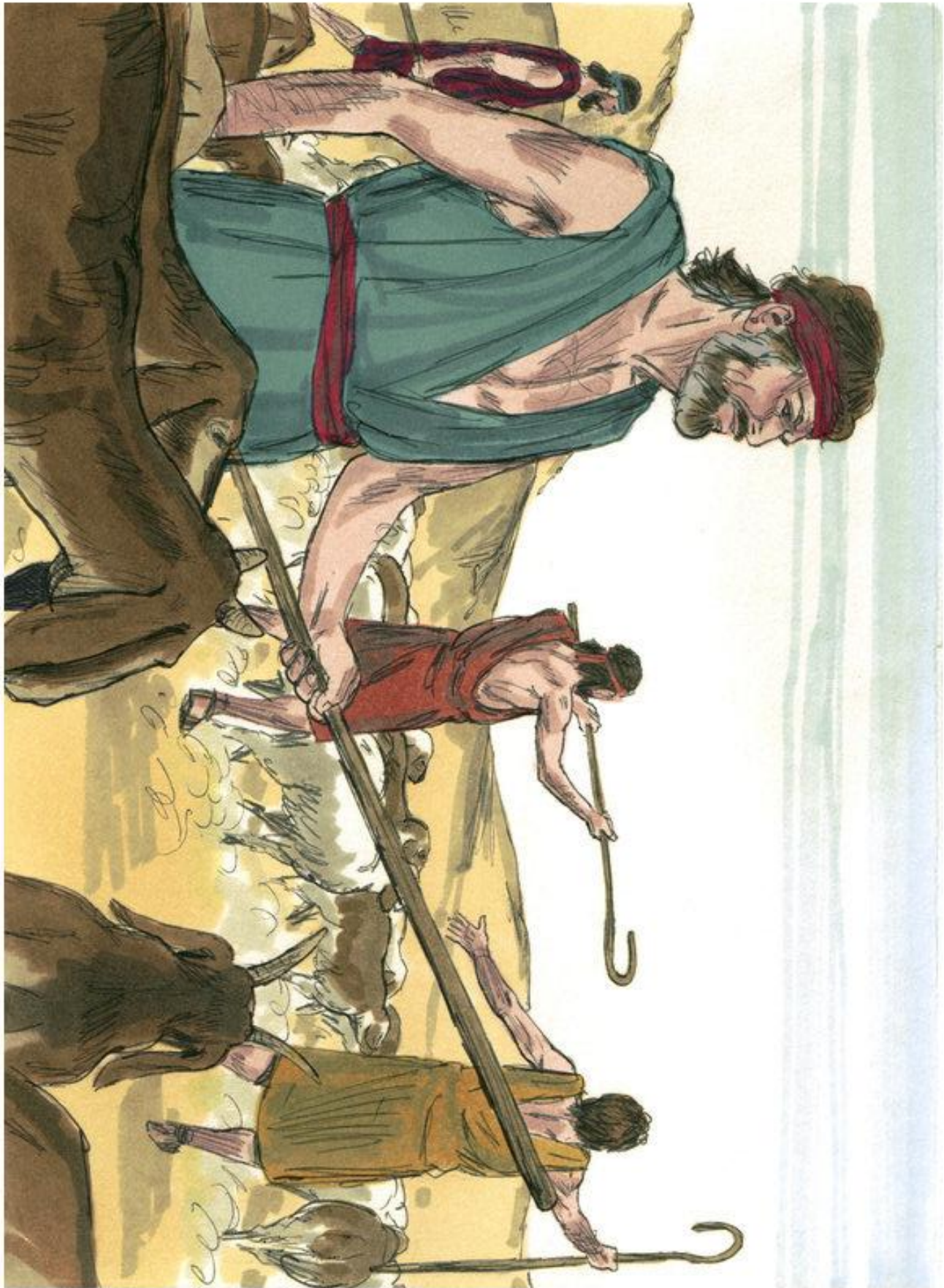
The Jordan River



Daily Bible Study

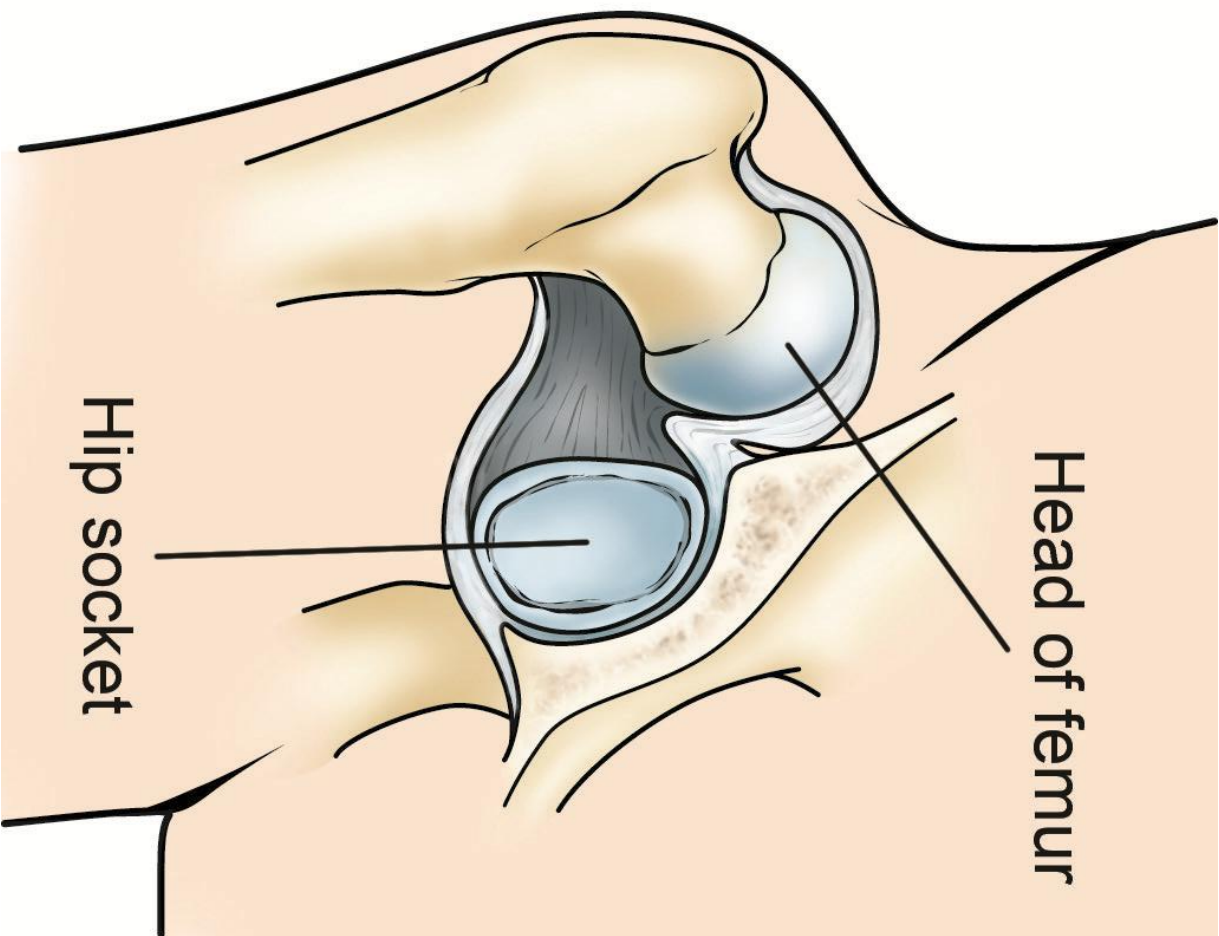
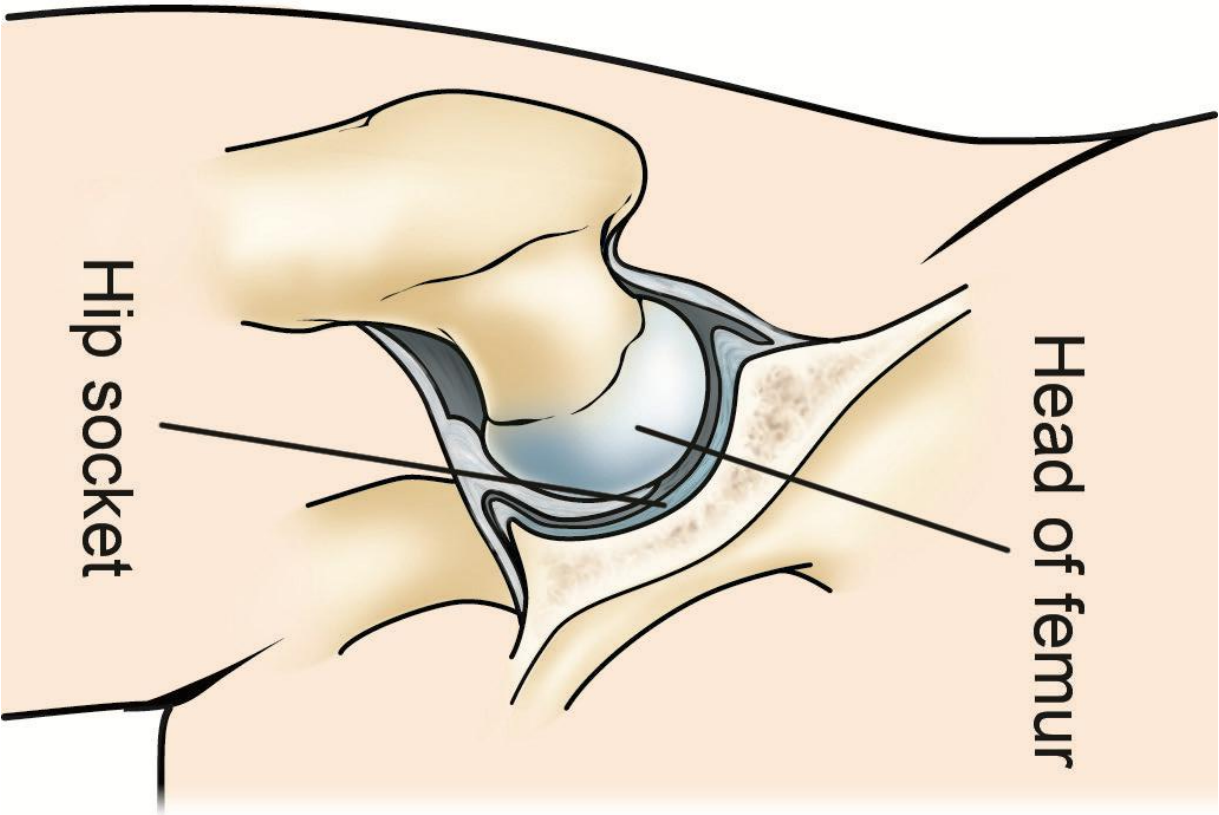
www.keyway.ca











Gifts for Esau

220 goats (200 female)

220 sheep (200 female)

**30 milking camels and their
babies (at least 30)**

40 cows and 10 bulls

30 donkeys (20 female)

JACOB

Words by Cynthia Ball

Music by David Ball

$\text{♩} = 68 \text{ (feel in 2)}$

Verse 1
 Ja - cob was the se - cond born twin. He
 We act just like Ja - cob to - day when

Verse 2
 wrest - led with an an - gel and he
 we do what we think is best - did not win. He
 our own way. We

Verse 3
 worked man - y years for Rachel his wife and
 must have faith and in the Lord rest. Re -

Chorus
 STOP! Ja - cob, sit down and be still. Don't try so hard to
 do your own will. West - ling with God will

Verse 4
 on - ly bring strife. Fol - low the Lord, He's in
 charge of your life.

fine

I have searched far and wide for the composers of this song so that permission might be obtained to publish it. Please contact me if you own the song so that proper arrangements (no pun intended) might be made. M. A.



<https://www.asdmbeverlyhills.com/blogs/news/9-awesome-benefits-of-raw-goats-milk>



<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2017/03/clueless-dog-owners-are-to-blame-for-a-huge-increase-in-sheep-worrying/>



https://rangerrick.org/ranger_rick/camels/



<https://www.odt.co.nz/business/farming/dairy-farmer-shares-her-knowledge-sri-lanka>



<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/01/science/facts-about-donkeys.html>

Camel Puppet Script

by Marilyn Alexander

Part 3 of 3 (See Lessons 08.01 for Part 1 and 08.17 for Part 2 and the puppet.)

Hello, children. Remember me, Camille Camel? Do you remember that *camel* means “beauty.” I can understand if you have a different opinion about my outward appearance, especially the features I will tell you about today, but you need to remember that my Maker, the Lord of heaven and earth, made me perfectly suited to my environment. That makes even my unlovely parts beautiful in their use. I will tell you about five features.

1. My mouth. We camels have strong, leathery mouths and tongues that allow us to chew and digest thorny plants like cacti as well as salty bushes that other mammals won’t eat. That’s all we have to eat sometimes; so it’s a good thing that our mouths and tongues are specially designed.

2. My skin and fur. Did you know desert temperatures average 100 degrees during the day and only 25 degrees at night? That’s a drastic change that would kill most other animals, but my body heat can vary about 10 degrees each day and not hurt me. My fur protects my skin from the hot desert sun and then keeps me warm during those cold desert nights. My hairless underbelly helps me cool down when I lie on the sand.

3. My feet. [Show picture found below.] All camels have large, flat feet with two wide toes. The bottoms of our feet are covered with thick, protective pads that are tough and leathery, keeping our feet from getting burned by hot desert sand. Our flat feet keep us from sinking into the sand, and that saves valuable energy.

4. My knees. I hate to admit it, but I am a pretty heavy animal. When it is finally time to get off my feet and rest, my heavy-duty reinforced knees work perfectly just as they do when I have to be an all-terrain animal on loose sand and steep hills. “Normal” knees would not hold up under such exertion.

5. One more thing—my nickname, “Ship of the Desert.” I am basically the only means of transportation across deserts. Like ships on water, I carry heavy loads of passengers and cargo. Also, I kind of look like a ship bobbing on the water because I move both legs on one side of my body, then the legs on the other side—back and forth. [Move from side to side.]

So, do you see how very beautiful I am—how very wonderfully designed? There’s no way I could have gradually adapted my mouth, my skin and fur, my feet, and my knees to my environment over long periods of time. God, my Creator, instantly made me perfectly suited for being a “ship of the desert.”

(Information for this article came from <https://www.reference.com/pets-animals/camels-called-ships-desert-5bd74594895ec7c8>, http://science.answers.com/Q/Why_is_the_camel_called_the_ship_of_the_desert, and Wikipedia.)



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/42-A-camel-rolling-on-the-ground-against-to-itching-above-and-legs-of-camel-below_fig14_288004178

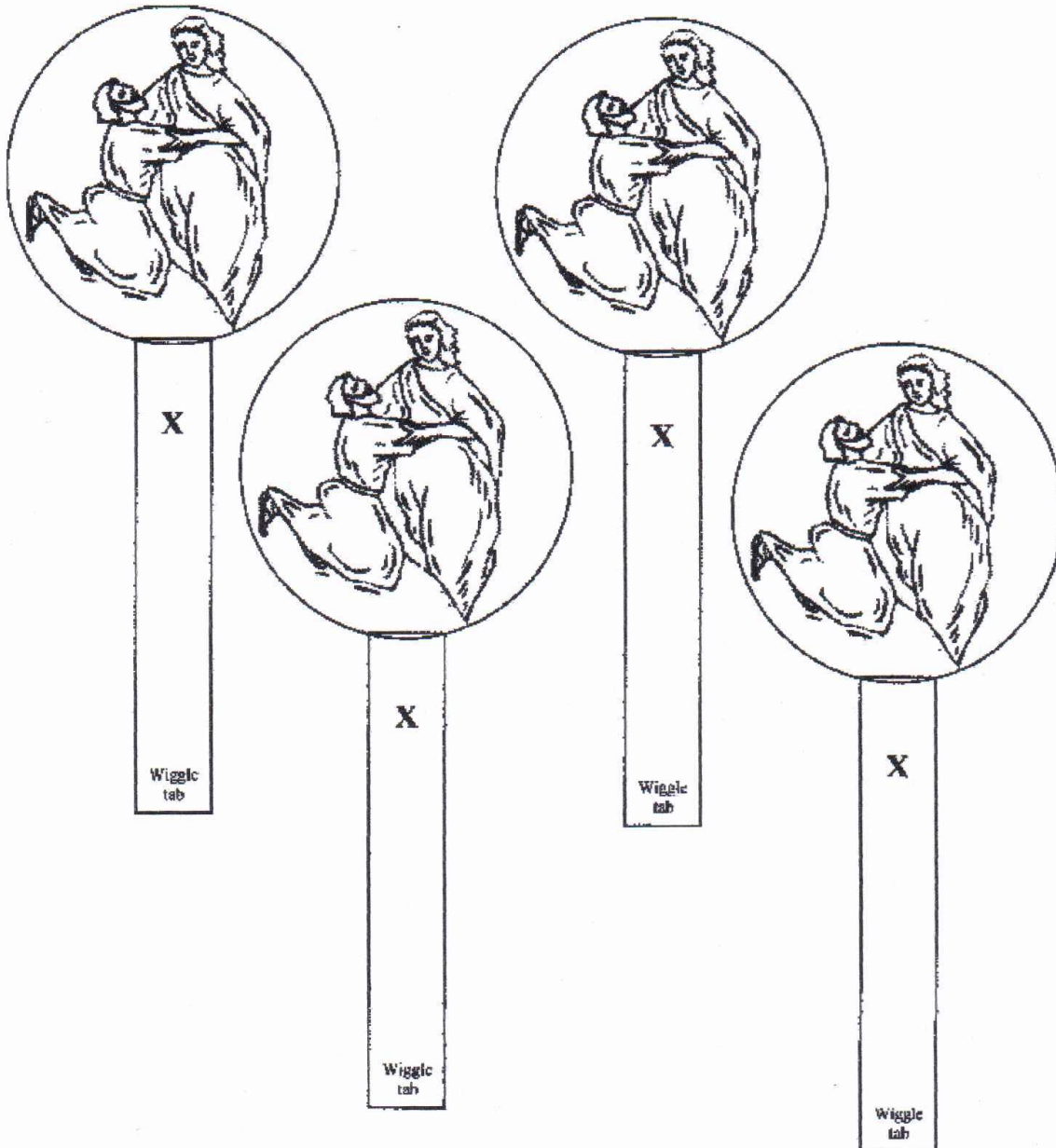
Jacob Gets a New Name

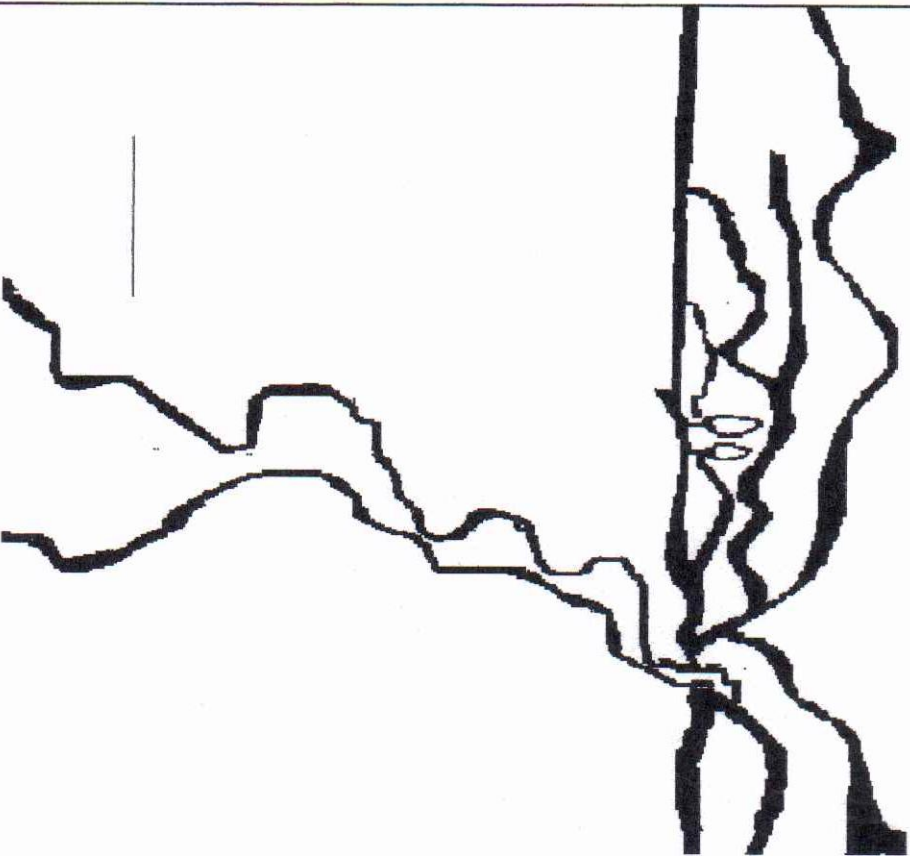
Before Class:

- (1) Print one copy of page 6 for each child. Print this page (7) on cardstock for each child to have one picture of Jacob and the Angel.
- (2) Cut out Jacob and the Angel around the circle and tab.
- (3) Fold page 6 on the dotted line and cut along the red line.
- (4) Put a brad through the "X" on the tab, stick tab through slit in page 6 and put the brad through the "X" on the back of page 6. Glue or tape the page together.

In Class:

- (1) Let the students put star stickers in the sky.
- (2) Show them how to wiggle the tab back and forth to make Jacob wrestle with the Angel.



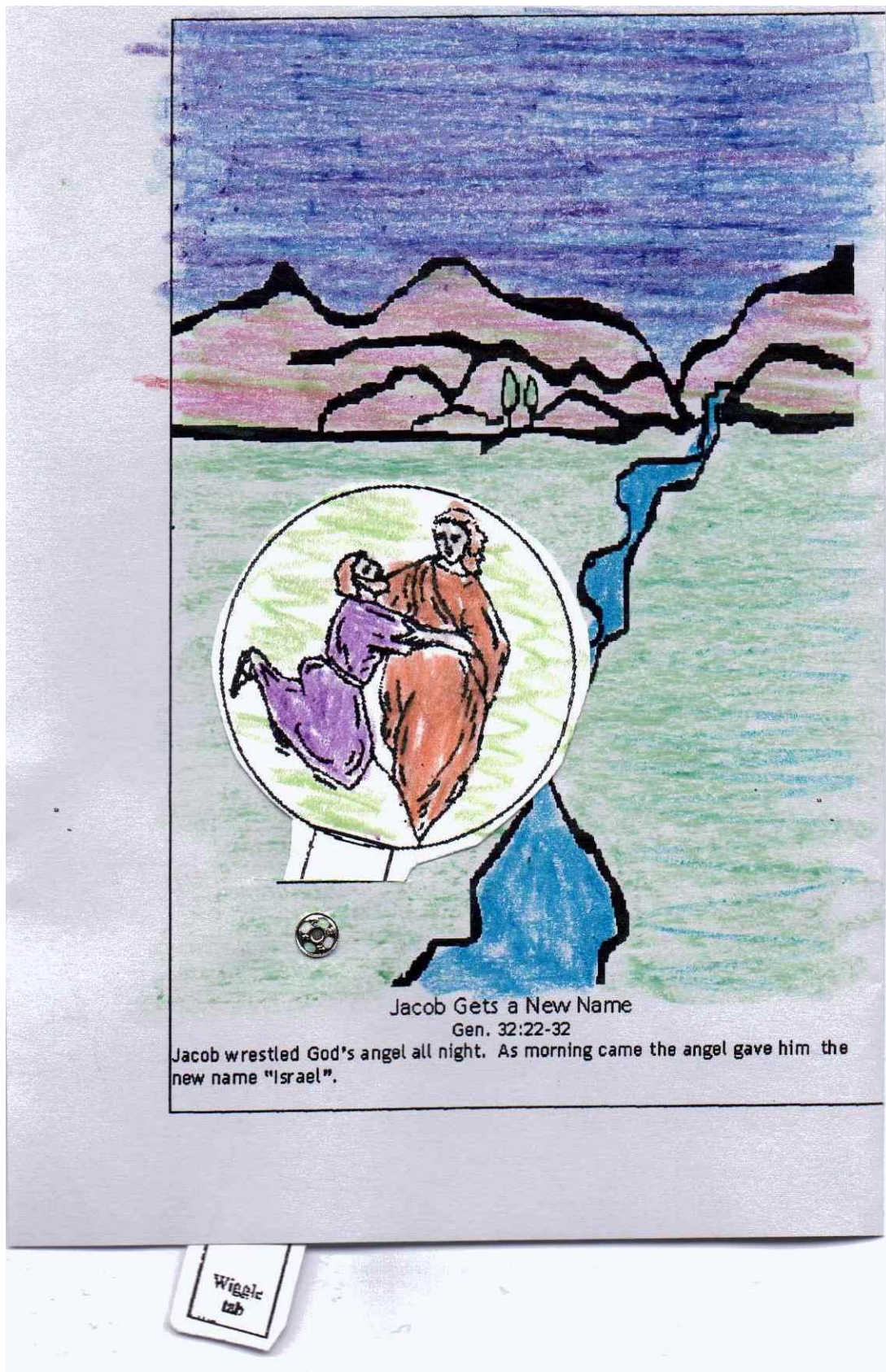


Jacob Gets a New Name

Gen. 32:22-32

Jacob wrestled God's angel all night. As morning came the angel gave him the new name "Israel".

X



Finished handwork using a sewing snap for the hinge