

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.” Genesis 26:4

Aim Questions:


1. What were the names of the twin boys born to Isaac and Rebekah? Who was born first? Who was second?
2. Who would normally receive the father’s inheritance and blessing?
3. How did Jacob get the blessing? Was it right how he got it?
4. Was God’s will done even though Jacob sinned?
5. What should you do while waiting for God to fulfill His promises?
6. What happens to God’s plan when we fail?

Hook:



Impersonations (Activity). Ask students if any of them know how to impersonate a famous character that the class would recognize. Suggestions: Bugs Bunny, Donald Duck, Yogi Bear, Road Runner, etc. Let the class guess. Explain that today they will learn of someone who went to great lengths to impersonate somebody else. Can they guess who it is?



Guess Who (Activity).  Have a teacher sit with his back to the class. Play “Guess Who,” and have the teacher listen to each student’s voice to guess who it is. Teachers must act as though they are blind and may ask only two questions to determine the student’s identity. Encourage students to change their voices to sound like someone else in order to disguise themselves. Was the teacher fooled into believing they were someone else? Today they will hear of someone in the Bible who was fooled by his own son.



Touch and Smell (Activity). Blindfold students. Pass around several objects that are roughly spherical. Here are some ideas: orange, softball, tennis ball, apple, lemon, ball of yarn, ball of string, onion, potato. Have students try to identify these item by touch and by smell. It’s not so easy, is it? In our Bible Adventure we will hear about how someone was fooled when he could only touch and smell.



Life’s Story (Object Lesson/Discussion). Part 1. Show a current newspaper. What kinds of things are going on in the world? Does God know about all of this? God has a plan for our world and our lives. What happens to His plan when people do bad things? Does anything take God by surprise? Why not? (*God knows the future.*)



Is The Price Right? (Game). Prepare this game by going to your favorite fast food restaurant. Find the current price for several food items. Here are some ideas. (While you're there, pick up a few coupons for prepaid food items to use as prizes.)

- Hamburger
- Cheeseburger
- Large French Fries
- Ice cream Sundae
- Milkshake
- Large soft drink
- Salad
- Bowl of soup or chili

Have students stand. Starting with the first item, offer the correct price, with two incorrect prices. (Write these on the board.) Have students raise their hands to indicate which price they think is the right one. Have students who are incorrect be seated. Repeat with more food items until most students are eliminated. Give a coupon to students who are still standing. If most students are eliminated quickly, give a prize and start over again with all students standing.

DEBRIEF: In our Bible Adventure today, someone will try to sell a bowl of stew for a birthright. Is that a good price? Do you think the stew was sold? What is a birthright? [*It's a double share of the inheritance. It's the wealth that's divided between children when the father dies (Deuteronomy. 21:17) and the privilege of leading the family, especially in worship. (Exodus 4:22)*] Was this too high a price to ask?



Twins (Discussion/Interview). Talk about twins you and your students have known. Which ones were identical? Twins that are not identical are fraternal. Of the fraternal twins you've known, how are they different from one another? You might want to explain how the two different kinds of twins occur in these simple terms: If there are two eggs or seeds in the mother and one baby comes from each, you will have fraternal twins. Although these babies grow together and are born at the same time, they are only as much alike as any brothers and sisters. Sometimes, though, a single egg or seed will divide in half as it begins to grow. Each half will continue to grow into a completely formed child. These babies will be identical. Interview a set of twins if they are available (maybe there are twins in your class!). Are they identical or fraternal? In what ways are they different (even identical twins can tell you some differences)? What are the advantages of being a twin? What are the disadvantages?



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



Esau Sells His Birthright (Illustration/Overhead). Genesis 25:29-34, **1GEN09.GF1.**



Jacob's Deception (Illustration/Overhead). Genesis 27:18-29, **1GEN09.GF2.**



Jacob's Dream (Illustration/Overhead). Genesis 28:10-16, **1GEN09.GF3.**



O' Hairy Hunter (Role-play). Dress up as Esau using fake fur for clothes and make-up to depict his ruddy complexion. Tell today's Bible Adventure from his point of view.

Bible Adventure -

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by what was going on around you, such as a fight or a big disappointment? Such events can shake our world. But did you know that God is unshakable? Nothing done on this earth, no matter how huge, takes Him by surprise. There is no panic in heaven.

We've learned that God is sovereign. That means that He does exactly what He pleases, anytime and anywhere He pleases, and to whomever or whatever He pleases. Today, we'll see a sovereign God working in the lives of men in spite of their failures and weaknesses.

Last week we saw how God provided a wife for Isaac before Abraham died at a hundred seventy-five years. Isaac's wife, Rebekah, was unable to have children for the first twenty years of their marriage. Isaac prayed, and Rebekah became pregnant. God then explained to Rebekah that she had not one, but two babies inside her, who would be the beginnings of two different nations. God predicted that the two nations would not get along, and that the older child would serve the younger one. Sure enough, when the time came for Rebekah to give birth, she delivered twin boys. The first to be born was red and hairy, so they named him Esau. The second twin came out with his hand holding onto his brother's heel. He was named Jacob.

The two boys were very different. Esau became a skillful hunter who loved the outdoors, but Jacob preferred quiet days at home. Isaac preferred Esau, but Jacob was Rebekah's favorite twin. Esau came home, tired and hungry from a hunting trip and asked Jacob for some stew he had cooked. "First sell me your birthright," Jacob said. In those days a birthright was a very important thing. The firstborn son would receive a double portion of all his father's belongings. He would also be head of the family and its spiritual leader. In Isaac's family, this birthright would have been even more important--it would have included the promise God made to Abraham. Esau had his attention on his stomach and swore an oath, giving up his birthright to his younger brother for a bowl of stew. "So what is the big deal about that?" you may be thinking. The big deal is that Esau revealed that the birthright meant nothing to him. He was interested in running after earthly, not spiritual things. He did not care about the promises made to Abraham or about being the spiritual leader of his family. What he cared about was making himself feel good for the moment.

Sometime later there was a famine in the land, and Isaac and his family were forced to move to the land of the Philistines, Gerar. God warned him not to go to Egypt but to stay in Gerar, so Isaac did. God blessed him, and he became very wealthy. The Philistines became jealous of Isaac's success and began causing problems with Isaac's wells, so that he had no water. He kept moving and finally ended up in Beersheba. Abimelech, king of the Philistines, came to him there and made peace with Isaac, because he recognized that God was blessing him. God was carrying out His promise to bring blessing to Abraham's family. Esau, on the other hand, married two women, both Hittites, who did not know or worship God.

Isaac was getting old now, and his eyes were so weak he could not see. He called for Esau one day, telling his son that he would not live much longer, so he wanted Esau to go out hunting. Isaac would give Esau his blessing only after Esau cooked some wild game for him. Not far away, Rebekah was listening to what Isaac was saying to Esau. After Esau left on his hunting trip, she told Jacob, her favorite, what Isaac was planning to do. Then she and Jacob put together a sneaky plan. Jacob would go out and get two young goats out of their flocks, and Rebekah would cook them just the way Isaac liked. Then Jacob would take the food into his father, and because Isaac could not see, he would give the blessing to Jacob, thinking it was Esau. But Jacob was at first skeptical about this plan. Esau had hairy skin; Jacob's was smooth. What if Isaac touched him and found out it was not Esau in the room with him? Isaac would be angry and Jacob would receive a curse, not a blessing.

Rebekah told Jacob to just do as she said. When the food was cooked, she had Jacob dress in clothes that Esau had worn, and she tied the skins from the butchered goats onto Jacob's arms and neck, so it would seem he was hairy, like Esau. Jacob went to his father, told him he was Esau, and gave him the food Rebekah had prepared. Isaac was skeptical at first, but Jacob's lies finally convinced him. He gave his blessing to Jacob, a blessing that once given, could not be taken back or given to anyone else. Isaac had scarcely given the blessing when Esau appeared, bringing the wild game he had cooked for his father. He told Isaac he was now ready to receive the blessing.

"Who are you?" Isaac asked. Imagine his shock when Esau answered, "Your firstborn, Esau." Then Isaac and Esau realized what Jacob had done. Esau begged that his father might bless him, too, but Isaac said that the blessing had already been given to Jacob. Esau was angry as he realized his brother not only had his birthright, but had stolen his blessing as well. He held a grudge against his brother. In fact, his hatred grew until he planned to kill Jacob after Isaac was dead. When Rebekah heard of this, she planned to send Jacob to live with her brother, Laban, until Esau's anger cooled. Then she told Isaac that she did not want Jacob marrying a Hittite woman as Esau had done, so Isaac told Jacob to take a wife from Rebekah's brother's family. He blessed Jacob again and sent him on his way.

On his journey to Haran, Jacob stopped for the night. Taking a stone, he put it under his head and fell asleep. He had a remarkable dream, in which he saw a stairway reaching all the way up into heaven. Angels were going up and down it. At the very top, Jacob saw the Lord standing. God spoke to him, telling him that the land on which he was lying would become his and his descendants'. God promised to watch over and protect Jacob, and to bring him back to Isaac's house. When Jacob awoke, he was frightened and overwhelmed at what he had seen and heard. He took the stone he had used as a pillow and used it to make a memorial to God. He made a vow that when God fulfilled His promise to him, he would worship God and would use the memorial as God's house. He would give a tenth of everything God gave him right back to God.

This was the first time we read about Jacob having a personal encounter with Almighty God. It made quite an impression on him, didn't it? Can you see a pattern in Jacob's life that you may have seen in your own? Up to this point, Jacob seemed to think that it was up to him to manipulate events to get what he wanted, instead of leaving that in God's capable hands. He lied, schemed, and tricked his own father to meet his goals. Yet, he ends up with the birthright, the blessing, and God's promises to protect him. How can this be? Is God actually rewarding that kind of behavior? If we look at the Bible as a whole, our answer must be a heartfelt "NO". Rather, God demands that we either turn from sin or face punishment. God had a master plan. God planned to make a nation of Abraham's descendants. Remember, God is sovereign and can do what He pleases, when and where He pleases, using whatever or whoever He pleases. We know enough about God to know that He was not pleased with Rebekah and Jacob's plan to fool Isaac and steal the blessing, but God uses even wicked acts to bring about His will. God could have accomplished His plan perfectly, without the sin of Jacob coming into it, but the important thing is that it didn't keep Him from accomplishing it. God is not taken by surprise by our disobedience. He is fully able to bring about His plans with or without the help of man.

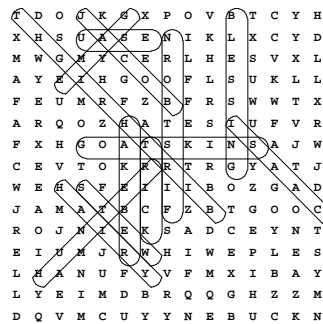
So what should our response be when we encounter sin in our own or someone else's life that seems to be messing everything up? Trust. Trust that God is sovereign and has a perfect plan for you and the rest of the world. Trust that His Word is best for our lives. Know that the plan of God is not dependent on you or me, but on Him who knows our hearts and is able to work His will in our lives.





Look:





Tale of Two Brothers (Word Search). Have students find the words in the puzzle that describe the lives of Jacob and Esau. Words run up, down, across, diagonally and backwards. Ask students if they can tell you who or how each word fits into the "tale" of these two brothers, **1GEN09.GF4**.
Answer Key:



 **Jacob's Ladder (Craft).**  Each student will need **1GEN09.GF5 Pgs. 1 & 2** copied onto cardstock, crayons, scissors, glue and two pieces of yarn (one 6 inches and one 12 inches long).
Instructions:


1. Have students color and cut out all shapes.
2. Glue verse cards back to back. Punch holes where indicated on verse card. String with 12-inch yarn.
3. Glue curved shapes together so they form a spiral staircase. (Students may draw in stairs if they wish.)
4. Punch hole where indicated in cloud, and attach to verse card with 6-inch yarn.
5. Glue staircase to bottom of cloud.
6. Glue Jacob sleeping at bottom of staircase.
7. Glue angels (at feet only) ascending and descending staircase. Bend up figures to stand.


 **Twin Verses (Worksheet).** Compare Genesis 12:2 and Genesis 26:4. To whom was God speaking each time? **1GEN09.GF6.**

 **Can You Tell Them Apart? (Worksheet).** It's sometimes very hard to tell twins apart when they're identical. But Jacob and Esau were anything but identical. Put the correct twin's **initial** on each blank, **1GEN09.GF7.**






Took:

 **ABC Button Banner (Craft).** Have students make a button banner on which to pin their ABC Buttons for the book of Genesis. A take-home kit will be provided for each child when he or she earns the first button. Kits include banner felt, dowel, cording and instructions with suggestions for individual decoration. These are available upon request.

 **ABC Buttons (Memory Work).** Give students the Genesis ABC stats on **1GEN01.GF11** and **1GEN07.GF7** in order to earn their buttons. Buttons are awarded to those successfully memorizing the significant action, Bible verse and character statistics for each lesson throughout the book of Genesis. The ABC's for Genesis 25-28 are:

- A. Stolen Blessing
- B. Genesis 26:4
- C. Isaac, Jacob & Esau

 **Bethel (Worksheet).**  Have students unscramble the words to find out what the word "Bethel" means, **1GEN09.GF8.**

 **Man's Way vs. God's Way (Worksheet).** Have students match the sin (Man's Way) with the person who committed the sin on **1GEN09.GF9.** Next, have them connect the appropriate response of righteousness (God's Way) with those matches. Discuss the following questions with the class:

1. Was God's will done even though these people sinned?
2. What happens to God's plan when we fail?
3. What should we do when we want to lie or do something fast to get what we want?
4. What should we do when we know what we are doing is not what God would want?

Life's Story (Object Lesson/Discussion). Part 2. When you write an article or story, the basic format is:

Introduction - tell what the story will be about.

Body - tell the details or events of the story.

Conclusion - summarize the story, and tell how things turned out.

Look at a couple of short articles in the newspaper to illustrate this. God's plans also have an introduction, a body and a conclusion. God tells His plan ahead of time, then certain events take place, and then, things end up the way God said they would in the beginning. The way God's sovereignty works is that no matter what the body of the story is, the conclusion fulfills the plan revealed in the "introduction." On the board, draw a grid to organize notes - three sections across and three down (nine total). Title the columns: Introduction, Body, Conclusion. When Jacob and Esau were born, God gave Rebecca his "introduction" to the story. Read Genesis 25:23. "The LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.'" Now, list some events (body) that followed this "introduction" - not a lot to be proud of here! But consider the conclusion; did things turn out the way God wanted?

Let's look at another "story." Through the prophets of the Old Testament, God promised to send a Savior for the world (introduction). Think back to our study of Luke. Although the early details about the Savior are pleasant, things later got ugly. What are some sinful things that were done to the Lord Jesus? How did even His friends fail Him? With all this, what was the conclusion? What happened to God's original plan?

One last "story." God's Word says that in the end, evil will be punished and the righteous will be with Him in heaven forever; this is the introduction. The "body" of the story is all that we read in the paper. Pretty scary sometimes, isn't it? Will any of these details change the way things turn out in the end? What will the conclusion to this "story" be?

Alphabet Stew (Craft). 🍲 Use pasta alphabet letters. Glue them over the letters in the soup to spell "God is Sovereign." Discuss what this means while you work, **1GEN09.GF10.**

Sovereign Stew (Craft). From modeling clay or play-dough, make bowls. Then put a ball of clay into the bowl and press it down to form "stew." In the "stew," scratch out the words "God is Sovereign." Color the "stew" lightly with red marker. The letters will remain uncolored and stand out. What do we mean when we say "God is sovereign"?

Esau Sells His Birthright



Jacob's Deception



Jacob's Dream



Tale of Two Brothers Word Search



T	D	O	J	K	G	X	P	O	V	B	T	C	Y	H
X	H	S	U	A	S	E	N	I	K	L	X	C	Y	D
M	W	G	M	Y	C	E	R	L	H	E	S	V	X	L
A	Y	E	I	H	G	O	O	F	L	S	U	K	L	L
F	E	U	M	R	F	Z	B	F	R	S	W	W	T	X
A	R	Q	O	Z	H	A	T	E	S	I	U	F	V	R
F	X	H	G	O	A	T	S	K	I	N	S	A	J	W
C	E	V	T	O	K	R	R	T	R	G	Y	A	T	J
W	E	H	S	F	E	I	I	I	B	O	Z	G	A	D
J	A	M	A	T	B	C	F	Z	B	T	G	O	O	C
R	O	J	N	I	E	K	S	A	D	C	E	Y	N	T
E	I	U	M	J	R	W	H	I	W	E	P	L	E	S
L	H	A	N	U	F	Y	V	F	M	X	I	B	A	Y
L	Y	E	I	M	D	B	R	Q	Q	G	H	Z	Z	M
D	Q	V	M	C	U	Y	Y	N	E	B	U	C	K	N

BIRTHRIGHT

GAME

ISAAC

BLESSING

GOATSKINS

JACOB

ESAU

HAIRY

REBEKAH

FIRSTBORN

HUNTER

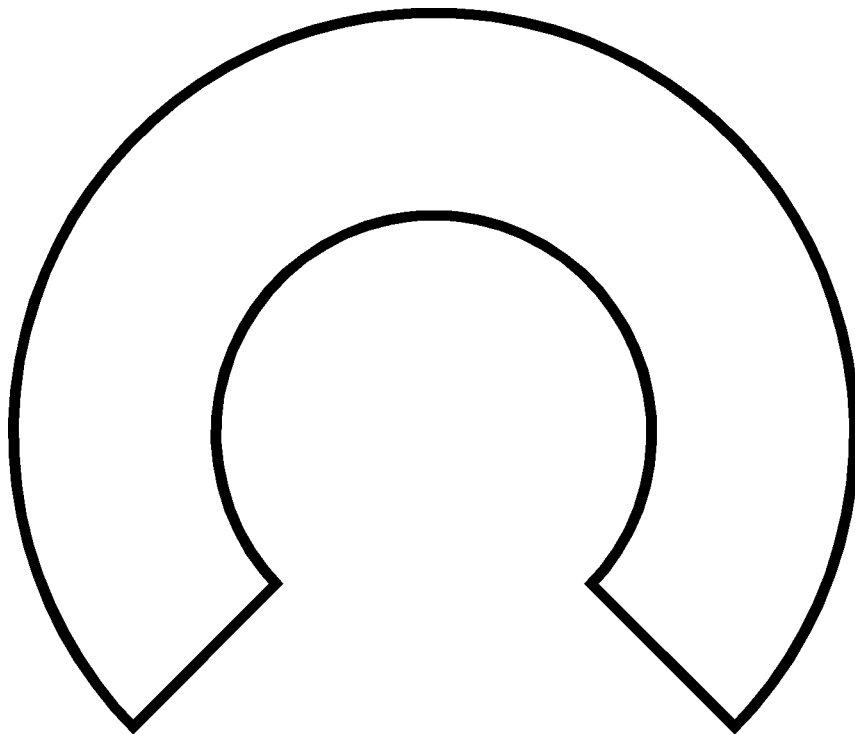
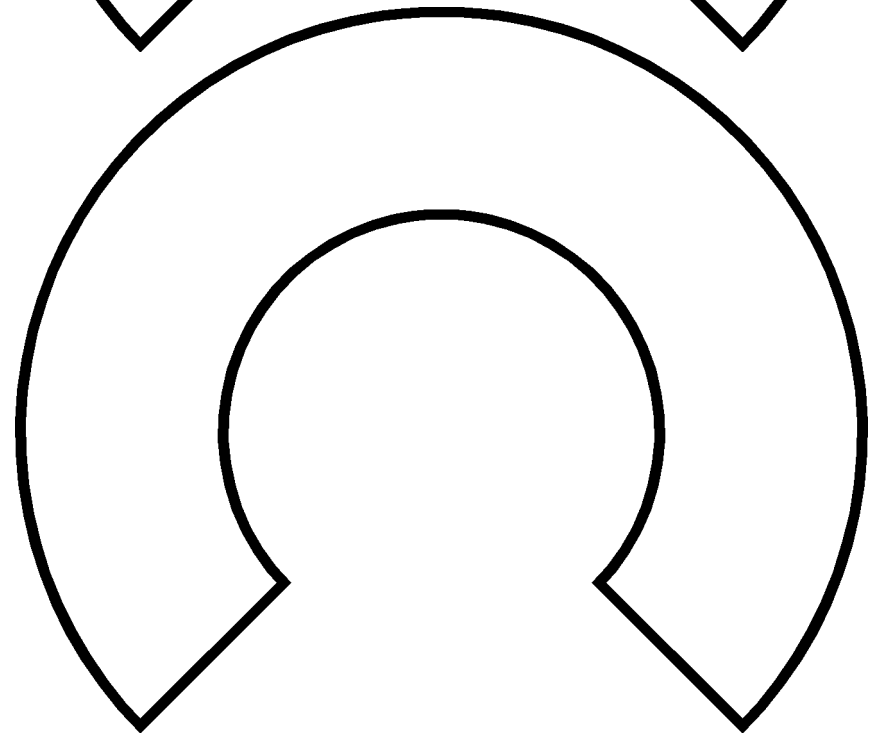
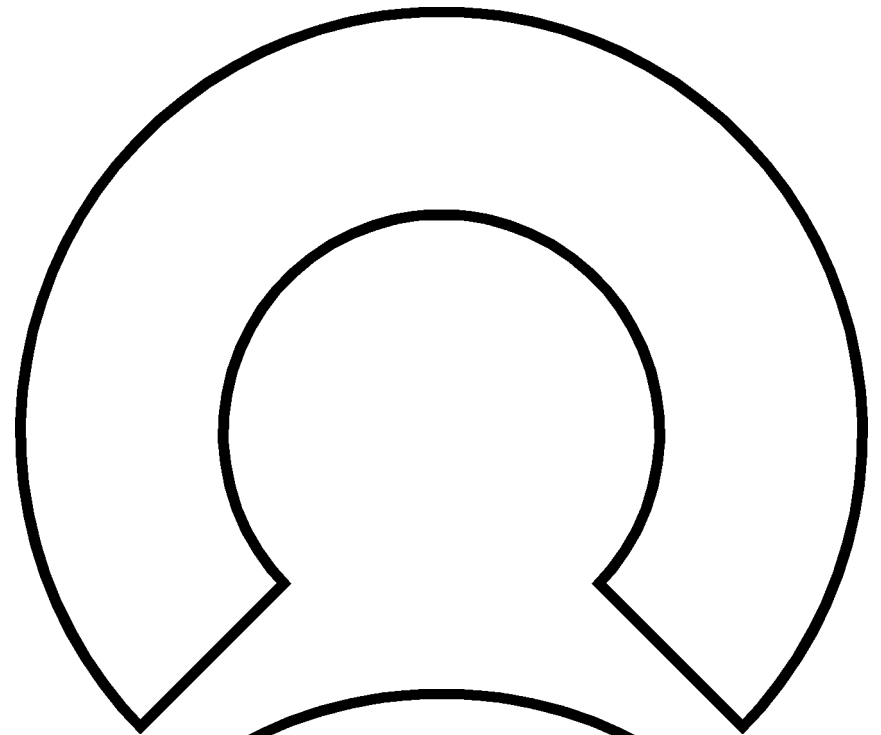
STEW

TRICK

Jacob's Ladder

Instructions

1. Color and cut out all shapes.
2. Glue verse cards back to back. Punch holes where indicated. String with 12-inch yarn.
3. Glue curved shapes together so they form a spiral staircase. (Students may draw in stairs if they wish.)
4. Punch hole where indicated in cloud. Attach to verse card with 6-inch yarn.
5. Glue staircase to bottom of cloud.
6. Glue Jacob sleeping at bottom of staircase.
7. Glue angels (at feet only) ascending and descending staircase. Bend up figures to standing position.



Twin Verses

(I didn't say identical)

Twin Verses

Remember this verse? Review it by filling in the blanks with the words from this list. To whom was God speaking? _____

This is the MEMORY VERSE from the passage we are studying today. To whom is God speaking now? _____



**I make will bless
your nation**



Genesis 12:2

“I _____ make you into a great _____ and ___ will bless you; I will _____ name great and you will be a _____ing.”

Genesis 26:4

“___ will _____ your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and _____ give them all these lands, and through _____ offspring all _____s on earth will be _____ed.”

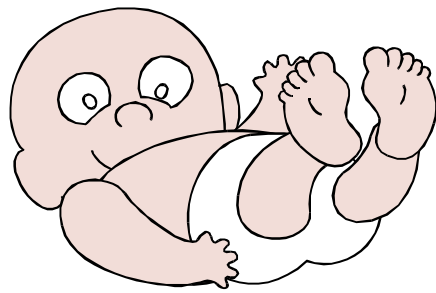
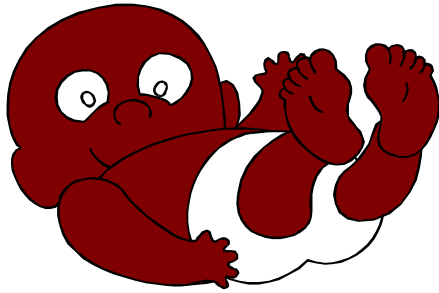
Later in Chapter 28 (verse 14)
we find this verse:

“Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.”

To whom is God speaking now? _____

Why are all these verses so much alike?

Can You Tell Them Apart?



It's sometimes very hard to tell twins apart when they're identical. But Jacob and Esau were anything but identical. Put the correct twin's **initial** on each blank.

- God said a stronger nation would come from him.
- God said he would serve his brother.
- His skin was red and hairy.
- He grasped his brother's heel when he was born.
- His name means "he grasps the heel."
- His name means "hairy."
- He despised his birthright.
- He bought the birthright with some stew.
- He got the blessing meant for his brother.
- He trembled and cried over his lost blessing.
- He became the father of the nation of Israel.
- He became the father of the Edomites.
- God's covenant promises were not fulfilled through him.
- He had a dream where he saw a stairway with angels. At the top was the LORD who repeated the promises He gave to Abraham.

- He was born first (older).
- He was born last (younger).
- He was also called Edom (means red).
- He was also called Israel.
- He was a skillful hunter.
- He was a quiet man.
- Rebecca loved him the most.
- Isaac loved him the most.
- He was a man of the open country.
- He stayed at home among the tents.
- He ended up hating his brother.
- He ran for his life.
- He married two Hittite women and a daughter of Ishmael.
- He married Laban's daughters, Leah and Rachel.



Unscramble the words below
to find out what the word
“Bethel” means.

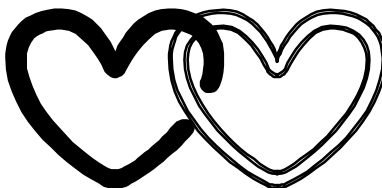
<u>O</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>E</u>
		<u>F</u>	<u>O</u>	
	<u>O</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>G</u>	
—	—	—	—	—
		—	—	
	—	—	—	

“When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, ‘Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.’

He was afraid and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.’ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.”

Genesis 28:16,17,19

Man's Way vs. God's Way



In the table below, match the sin (Man's Way) with the person who committed the sin. Next, connect the appropriate response of righteousness (God's Way) with those matches.

Man's Way (Sin)	Person	God's Way (Righteousness)
Lied about who Rebekah was	Rebekah	Forgiveness
Held a grudge against his brother	Jacob	Trust God to give you what you need
Showed favoritism	Isaac	Truth
Stole his brother's blessing	Esau	Unconditional Love

1. Was God's will done even though these people sinned?
2. What happens to God's plan when we fail?
3. What should we do when we want to lie or do something fast to get what we want?
4. What should we do when we know what we are doing is not what God would want?