

Materials I Need:

Legend:



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



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

Memory Work:

Review Memory Verses

Aim Questions:

1. How many years did Jacob work for Laban so that he could marry Rachel?
2. In what ways did Laban deceive Jacob?
3. What promises to Jacob did God keep during this time?
4. What does it mean “you will reap what you sow”? What are some examples of this principle, good and bad?
5. What should we do when we learn about a promise of God that applies to us?

Hook:



Promise Keeping (Discussion). Keeping promises is not always easy, is it? Have you ever made a promise that you did not keep? Make a list of some of our broken promises. Talk about why we sometimes don't keep them. Sometimes sin gets in the way and keeps us from holding true to those promises we make. God always keeps the promises He makes to us in His Word. Today in our Bible Adventure we will see how God kept His promise to Jacob.



Reaping What We Sow (Activity/Discussion). Bring in a variety of seeds, and give each child one of each in a specific order. Using **1GEN10.GF1**, have each student glue down a seed in the box to the left of the page. In the box to the right, ask students to draw a picture of what they think the plant will look like that will sprout from this seed. Once everyone has had time to complete their sheet and share their pictures, show the children the picture from the seed packet. See how close they came with their picture. **DEBRIEF:** What does it mean to reap what you sow? We may try to fool man, but we can't fool God. When we sin (just as Jacob did when he deceived his father and stole the birthright from his brother), there are consequences. God often uses similar circumstances in our lives to discipline us when we sin. How we act, what we say and what we do will often determine events we encounter later. What kind of seeds are we sowing? Make sure you are planting seeds which will produce the fruit that is pleasing to God.



Weigh In, Weigh Out (Activity). Bring in a weighing scale, treats to eat and have the kids weigh themselves. Write down each child's weight. Then have them eat some treats. Now weigh the students again, and see if their weight has changed. Ask them, “Do you think if you ate all this junk food every day, you'd gain weight?” **DEBRIEF:** Discuss the principle of reaping and sowing in this instance. Points to include would be that in some instances, reaping takes time and consequences may be delayed. Discuss other examples, good and bad.



Let's Get Together (Worksheet). See if you can match these pairs of brothers and sisters from the Bible, **1GEN10.GF2.**



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



A Shepherd's Point of View (Role-play). Dress up like a shepherd, and tell the Adventure from the third person.



Jacob Marries (Illustration/Overhead). Genesis 29-30, **1GEN10.GF3.**



Jacob Flees Laban (Illustration/Overhead). Genesis 31:17-18, **1GEN10.GF4.**

Bible Adventure -

Last week's lesson could have been entitled, "The Family that Schemes Together, Screams Together!" We saw Jacob and his mother, Rebekah, plot and scheme to first get brother Esau's birthright, then Isaac's blessing. We saw Esau become angry enough to want to kill his own brother. To keep Jacob from harm's way, Isaac and Rebekah decided to send him to Mesopotamia, where he was to seek a wife from among Abraham's relatives.

Upon reaching Mesopotamia, he stopped at a well and was visiting with some shepherds who were watering their sheep. He asked if they knew Laban, and they answered, "yes". As they were speaking, Laban's daughter, Rachel, who was a shepherdess, was bringing her father's sheep to the well to be watered. Jacob hurried to take the stone off that was covering the well and watered his uncle's sheep, kissed Rachel and told her he was a relative. She ran to her father with this news. Laban came and brought Jacob to his home, and he stayed there for a whole month. After this, Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." Jacob didn't even have to think about it; he already loved Rachel. He said to Laban, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter, Rachel." Laban had two daughters: Leah, the older, and Rachel, who had stolen Jacob's heart.

Laban agreed to this, and Jacob worked hard for seven years, though it hardly seemed like a sacrifice at all, so great was his love for Rachel. At last the wedding day came, and Laban gave a great feast. When evening arrived, he brought his daughter to Jacob. The next morning, Jacob was in for the shock of his life! Laban had brought Leah to him, not Rachel. He was married to the older sister. He went to Laban and asked why he had done such a thing. His scheming uncle, Laban, told him that it was not customary to give the younger daughter away in marriage before the older one. At the end of the week he would give Rachel to him, too, in exchange for another seven years of work! Jacob was caught. He knew the only way to get Rachel was to agree to this, so he did. At the end of the week, Rachel became his wife as well.

This all sounds so strange to us. Two wives? Isn't that against the law? It is in America today, but it was fairly common in Bible times, even though it was not God's plan for the family. Remember in Genesis chapter two God said, "A man will leave his father and mother, and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Multiple wives brought multiple sorrows, as Jacob was soon to find out.

Jacob made it obvious that it was Rachel he loved, and Leah saw this. God saw also, and He caused Leah to give birth to four sons--Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah--while Rachel did not seem to be able to have any children at all. A very unhealthy competition developed in Jacob's family, with Leah trying to win Jacob's love through the sons she bore him, and Rachel becoming jealous as she saw Leah's offspring grow in number. Rachel became frantic about the situation and told Jacob he must give her children or she would die. Jacob answered that he was not God, and it was in God's hands whether she had children or not.

The whole situation was already complicated enough, but it was about to get even worse. Rachel gave her maidservant, Bilhah, to Jacob so that Bilhah might have children for them. Childless couples sometimes did this in those times. Now Jacob had three wives. Bilhah gave birth to two sons, Dan and Naphtali. While this was going on, Leah had been unable to have any more babies. So what did she do? Leah gave *her* maidservant, Zilpah, to Jacob as a wife. Zilpah gave Jacob two more sons, Gad and Asher. Then God heard Leah's prayers for more children and gave her two more sons, Issachar and Zebulun, and a daughter, Dinah.

After this God also responded to Rachel's prayers and she became pregnant for the first time. She gave birth to a boy named Joseph, and immediately asked God for another son.

Jacob told Laban he would return to his own homeland. Laban knew it was because of Jacob's presence that God was blessing him, so he told Jacob to name his wages for him to stay. Jacob asked only that all the speckled and spotted sheep, dark-colored lambs and spotted or speckled goats to be born in Laban's flocks in the future be given to him. Laban agreed to this and went through his flocks and removed all the spotted and speckled animals, then gave the rest of the herd to Jacob. Over the next six years, Jacob used some very unusual breeding techniques that had his flocks growing both in number and in strength. Laban's flocks got smaller and weaker. Laban's sons were not very happy about it, and neither was Laban.

Then God told Jacob that it was time for him to leave Mesopotamia and go back to Canaan. Jacob told Rachel and Leah that Laban was bitter about his flocks, but it was God who had caused Jacob to succeed, and Laban to fail. They gathered all the livestock that was rightfully Jacob's, gathered all the goods Jacob had accumulated, and set out on their journey, without telling Laban they were leaving.

Three days later, when Laban found out they had left, he chased after them for seven days. Along the way, God warned Laban in a dream that he should not say anything to Jacob, either good or bad. He caught up to them at last and demanded to know why Jacob would leave in such a manner, carrying his daughters away as if they were captives. He then accused Jacob of stealing his household idols. Jacob had done no such thing, but Rachel had, without her husband knowing about it. Jacob told Laban to search through their camp and if anyone there had anything belonging to Laban, he was to kill them. Laban searched all the tents, but did not find his idols as Rachel had hid them by sitting on them. Jacob said, "If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands." Jacob had not forgotten how God had appeared to him on the way to Mesopotamia and said to him, "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." God had kept His promise. He had protected Jacob from harm and had blessed him with many children and much wealth. Now He was returning Jacob home. Jacob had gone through some hard times, but God was faithful. All the schemes Laban would ever be able to dream up would not keep God from doing what He set out to do. God's promises do not depend upon our character or efforts to bring them about. They are dependent on His character and His ability to keep them. Aren't you glad it's all God and nothing of you?

Laban suggested that he and Jacob pile rocks to make a covenant right there, that they would never again seek to harm one another. Early the next morning, Laban said goodbye to his daughters and grandchildren and returned to his home.

God had brought Jacob through some tough lessons, hadn't He? He went from being the liar and cheat to being lied to and cheated. Through those lessons, it seemed as if Jacob had learned that God is in control. We're learning, too, that nothing stands in the way of God's will, not even our own disobedience. God chose to use Jacob and to fulfill His promises to Abraham through him. Yes, Jacob made some unwise choices that did not honor God. But God did not throw up His hands and say, "What will I do now?" His plans were carried out despite Jacob's, then Laban's, schemes. This should be a great comfort to us, because we know that in spite of how we or others around us might be caught in sin and disobey, still God will keep His promises. He will still complete the work He has begun in us. If we repent and ask for forgiveness, it is unfailingly there. We need to remember, though, that even though God's forgiveness is absolute, we sometimes must live with the consequences of our wrong choices. Sometimes the heartache lasts for a while. There is reason to rejoice, though, because we know that in the end God's purposes will stand. They are as sure as God Himself.



Look:

- God Keeps His Promises (Craft).** 🐏 Each student will need a better quality small paper plate, two or three sheep and goat figures, and one verse sign cut from **1GEN10.GF5 Pgs. 1 & 2**, coloring crayons or markers, one craft stick, scissors and glue. Have students turn their paper plates upside-down and color the entire surface with green markers or crayons. Have them color several of the sheep or goats, adding speckles, spots or stripes. Color the stands for each figure green. Glue only the stands to the top of the paper plate. Crease so as to make figures stand up. Make a small slit in the top of the plate somewhere, and insert the end of the craft stick. Be careful not to make the slit too large, or the stick will not stand up. Paste the sign to the top of the portion which has not been inserted into the plate. Discuss how the speckled sheep and goats grazing on the hillside will remind us of how God prospered Jacob and prepared him for his journey home to Bethel.
 - God's Promises (Worksheet).** 🦋 Selecting from the references given in the list at the top of **1GEN10.GF6**, assign each child several verses to find. Work as a table team. You may even want to have a contest with the other tables or groups. Once a Scripture reference has been located, the child then chooses the promise listed which goes with that specific Bible reference. He then can write the reference on the line next to the promise. Be sure to leave time at the end to share what you found with your other tablemates so that everyone can have a completed list to take home.
 - You Can Learn A Lot From Sheep (Worksheet).** 🐏 Have students cross out Laban's sheep. What lesson is Jacob learning? **1GEN10.GF7**
 - Sons of Jacob (Worksheet).** Read Genesis 29:31-30:24. List Jacob's sons in order, under their mothers' names. Benjamin, who was born later, is included to complete the list. Then enter these names into the crossword. It will be profitable for students to become familiar with these names. Except for Joseph, from whose offspring come two half tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim, and Levi, whose descendants are set aside as priests, these will become the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, **1GEN10.GF8**.
 - A Sheep for Jacob - Part I (Craft).** 🐏 Each student will need **1GEN10.GF9** and a new unsharpened pencil with eraser. Each table will need washable markers or ink pad. Have students press the end of the eraser into the ink pad or color it with a marker. Use the eraser as a "stamp" to make spots on the sheep. Pencils can go home with the students or the "inky" end of the erasers can be trimmed off so pencils can be sharpened and used later.
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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.GF8** 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 29-31 are:
 - A. Jacob Marries**
 - B. Review**
 - C. Jacob, Leah, Rachel and Laban**

Counting Your Blessings (Worksheet). God blessed Jacob despite his sinfulness. He does the same for each one of us. How has God blessed you this last week? Using **1GEN10.GF10**, have students think back over this past week and write inside the numbers the blessings they have received from God. Encourage students to share these in their groups.

Watching For God's Blessings (Worksheet). Review God's promises from **1GEN10.GF6**. Using the watch worksheet, **1GEN10.GF11**, have students record those promises as God provides them each day next week. Encourage students to bring back their sheets next week to share with the class. Be sure to thank Him as He meets our needs!

A Sheep for Jacob - Part II (Song). 🎵 Sing this song to the tune of "Baa Baa Black Sheep," **1GEN10.GF9**.

Blessings and Consequences (Worksheet). Discuss the meaning of the phrase, "you reap what you sow." When you plant flowers, flowers will grow. You don't plant radish seeds and harvest peaches. In the same way, God says there are consequences for everything we do. Jacob's life illustrates this. He and Rebecca lied and cheated, causing misery for Esau and his father, Isaac. He should not have been surprised when Laban cheated him, yet God had promised to bless him. Jacob's life is an interesting mix of blessings from God and consequences for sin. Draw a line from each event in Jacob's life to the word that describes it--blessing or consequence, **1GEN10.GF12**.

Leap, Sheep (Game). Play "leap-sheep" like leapfrog in rows of four to six students with a teacher. Have the teacher begin a memory verse (from Genesis) for his team with the reference and first three words. Then, have the student in the back of the row leap over his crouched classmates saying one word from the verse for every leap as he goes. When he gets to the front of the row and crouches down, the student in back will begin leaping and resume the verse. When a verse is complete, have the current jumper stop where he is, and have the group stand and face the opposite direction. Then begin another verse. If you make this a team competition, the object of the game is to get through all eight verses first. They are listed on "Promising Memory Verses" worksheet below.

Promising Memory Verses (Worksheet). Recite each of these Genesis memory verses. Have students follow these instructions:

1. Underline the words "I WILL" in any verse where they appear.
2. Circle each verse that is a **Promise**.
3. Who made these promises?
4. On the line below each **promise**, write the name of the person to whom God was speaking.
5. Make a checkmark in front of each promise that God has kept.
6. Make a special border around the promise of a Savior that was fulfilled in Jesus.
7. There are two verses that tell what Abraham did with God's promises. Draw a box around each verse and around the single word in each verse that tells what Abraham did.
8. Stand up and recite (out loud) the verse which contains the word "promises."
9. On the back of the page, re-write any verse that has special meaning for you. Be ready to share the verse from memory and tell why you chose it, **1GEN10.GF13**.

Reaping What We Sow



Seed

Seed

Seed

Seed

Paste each seed in the box on the left. Without looking at the package from which it came, draw a picture of the plant, fruit or flower that you think will grow from that seed.

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Galatians 6:7

Let's Get



Together

See if you can match these pairs of brothers and sisters from the Bible.

CAIN

JACOB

ISHMAEL

AARON

ESAU

MARY

LEAH

ANDREW

JOSEPH

BENJAMIN

MOSES

ABEL

PETER

RACHEL

JOHN

ISAAC

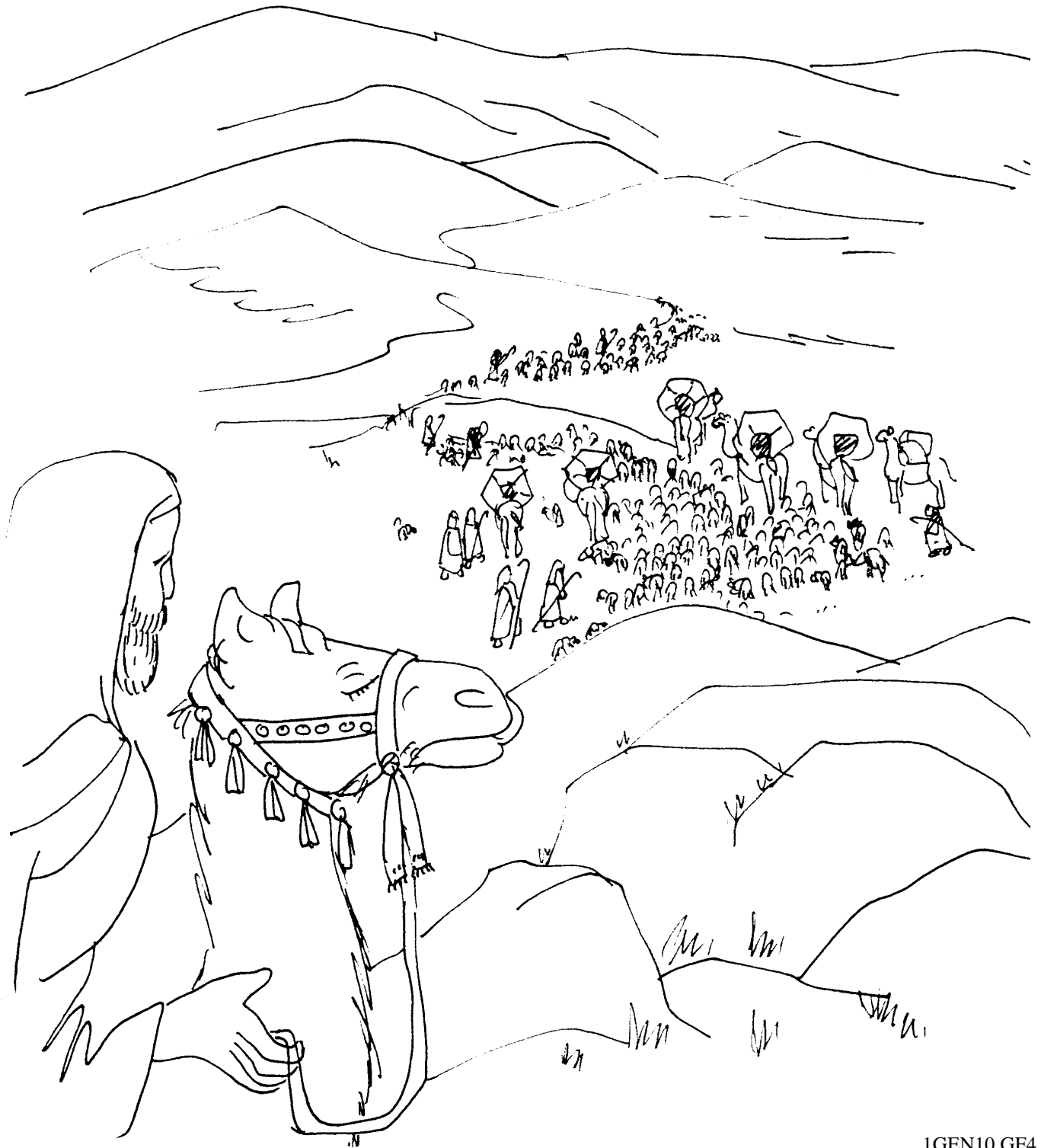
MARTHA

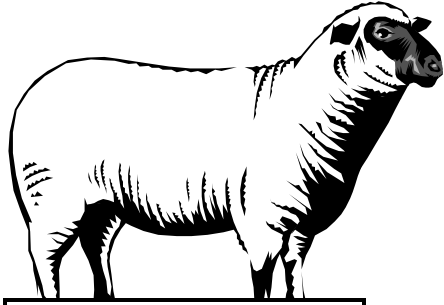
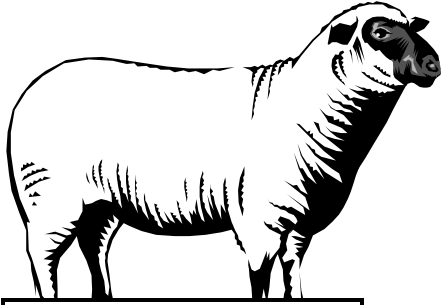
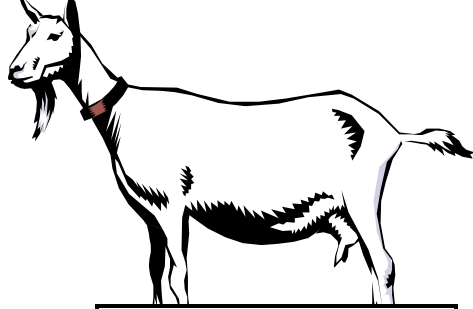
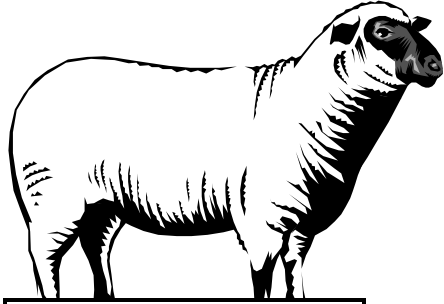
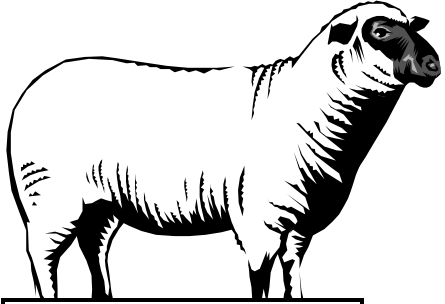
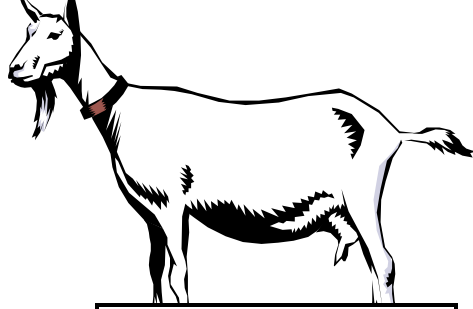
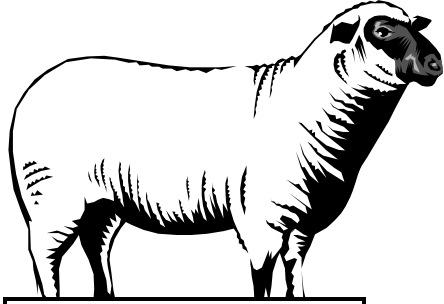
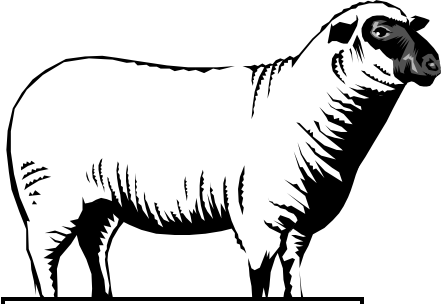
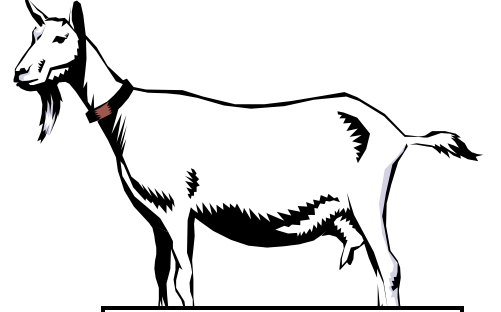
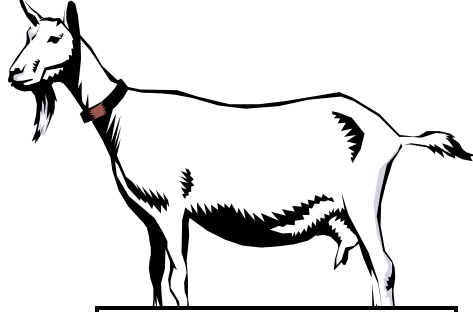
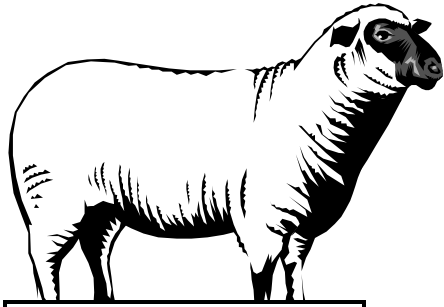
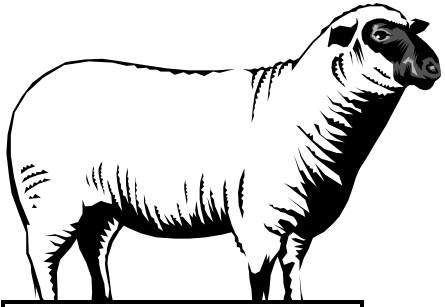
JAMES

Jacob Marries



Jacob Flees Laban





*God kept His promise to
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and returned him to
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GOD'S PROMISES

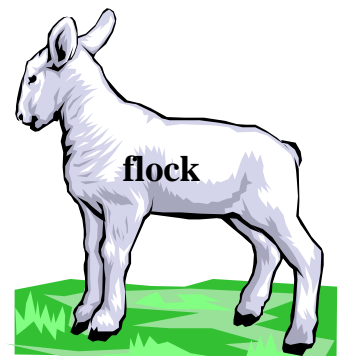
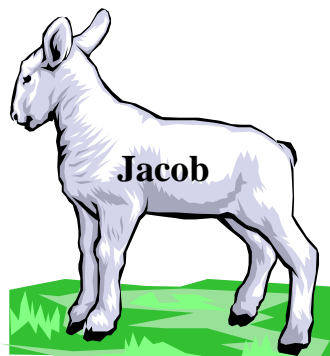
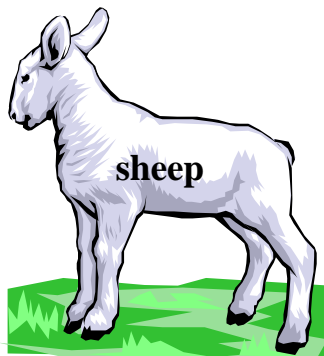
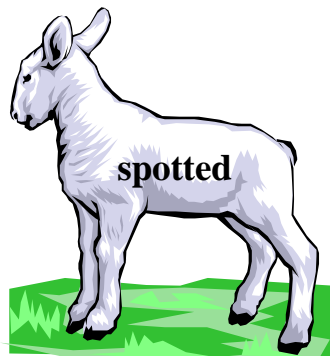
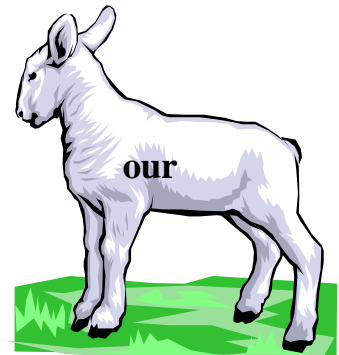
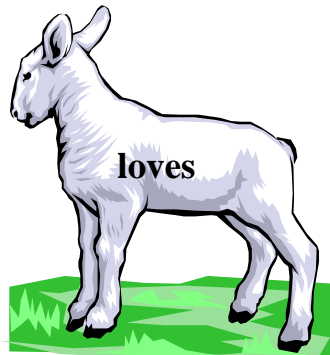
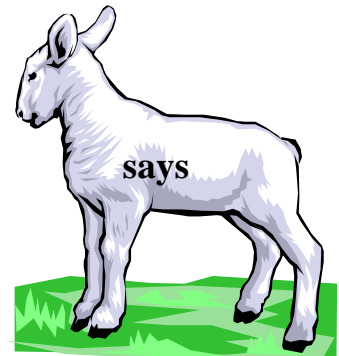
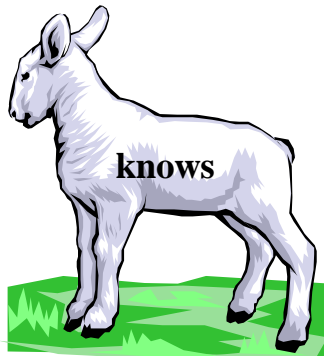
Look up the following verses, and write them next to the appropriate promise below. Can you find others? If so, list them on the back, and share them with the others in your group. Keep this as a handy reference in your Bible.

John 6:47, II Corinthians 5:17, Psalm 86:5, John 3:16, Romans 8:38-39, John 14:27, Romans 3:22,
I Corinthians 1:9, Hebrews 13:5, Philippians 4:19, Matthew 24:35, Deuteronomy,
I Peter 5:7, Isaiah 41:10, Romans 8:28

- _____ The stability of His Word
- _____ Mercy and forgiveness
- _____ Companionship
- _____ Righteousness
- _____ His best for you
- _____ Fellowship with Him
- _____ Peace
- _____ He is sufficient
- _____ His care for us
- _____ Strength and courage
- _____ Forgiveness
- _____ Unconditional love
- _____ Eternal life through Christ
- _____ He will be with us
- _____ Nothing can separate us from His love
- _____ New life in Christ Jesus

You Can Learn A Lot From Sheep

Cross out Laban's sheep. What lesson is Jacob learning?



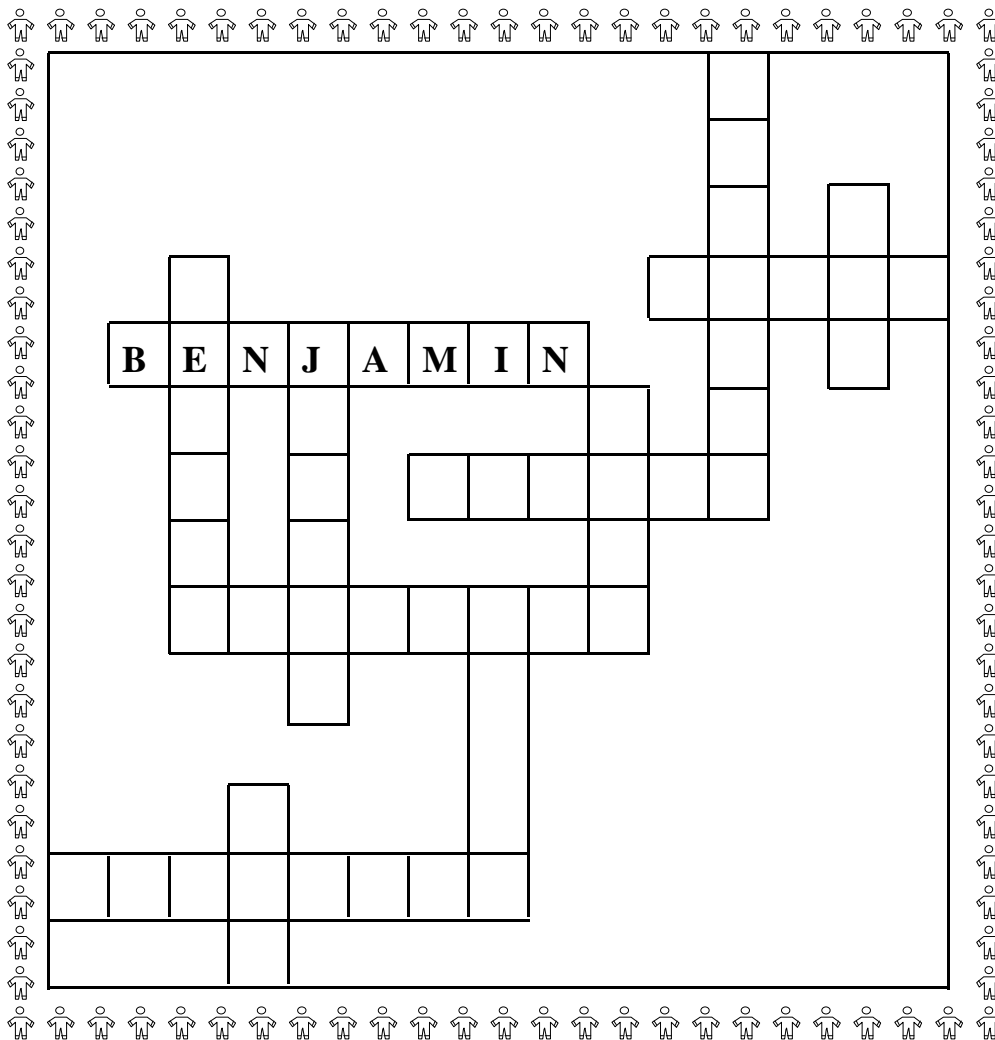
Sons of Jacob

Read Genesis 29:31-30:24.

List Jacob's sons in order, under their mother's names. (Benjamin, who was born later, is included to complete the list.)

Leah	Zilpah	Rachel	Bilhah
1. _____	7. _____	11. _____	5. _____
2. _____	8. _____	12. Benjamin	6. _____
3. _____			
4. _____			
9. _____			
10. _____			

Now, enter these names into the crossword.

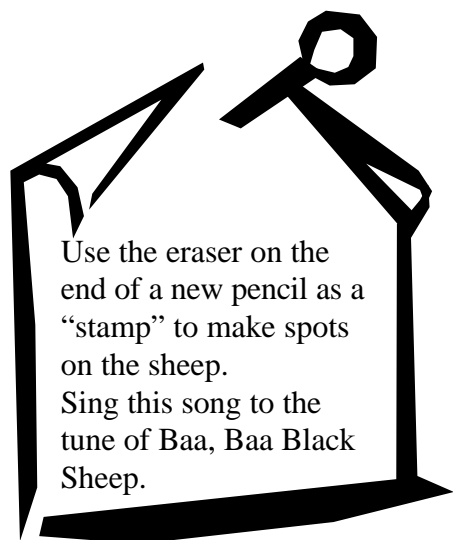


A Sheep for Jacob

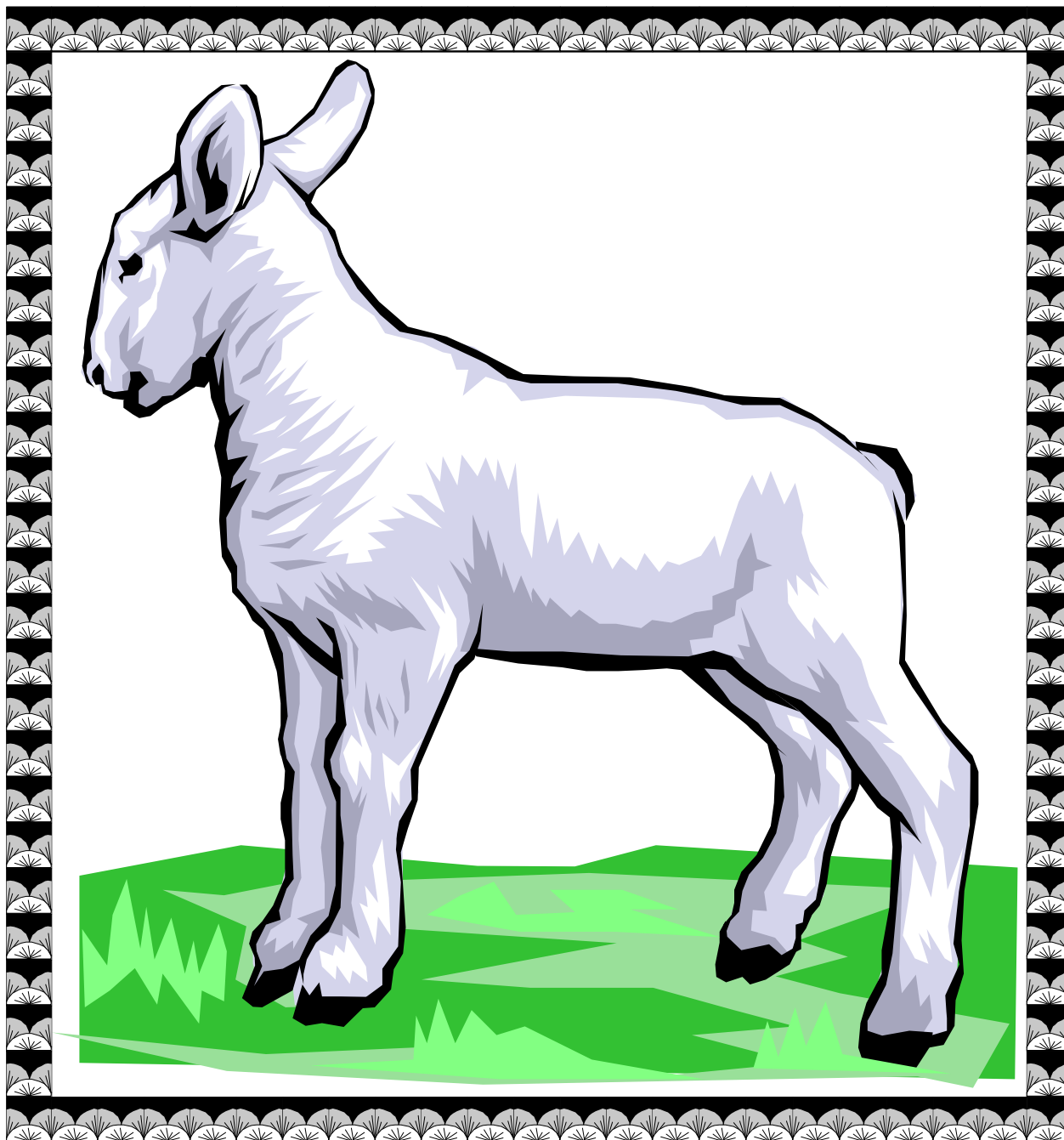
Baa, baa spotted sheep,
Have you any doubt,
Who gave you spots,
When your parents are without?

Jacob, your master
Always wasn't best,
But God made a promise,
And so he was blessed.

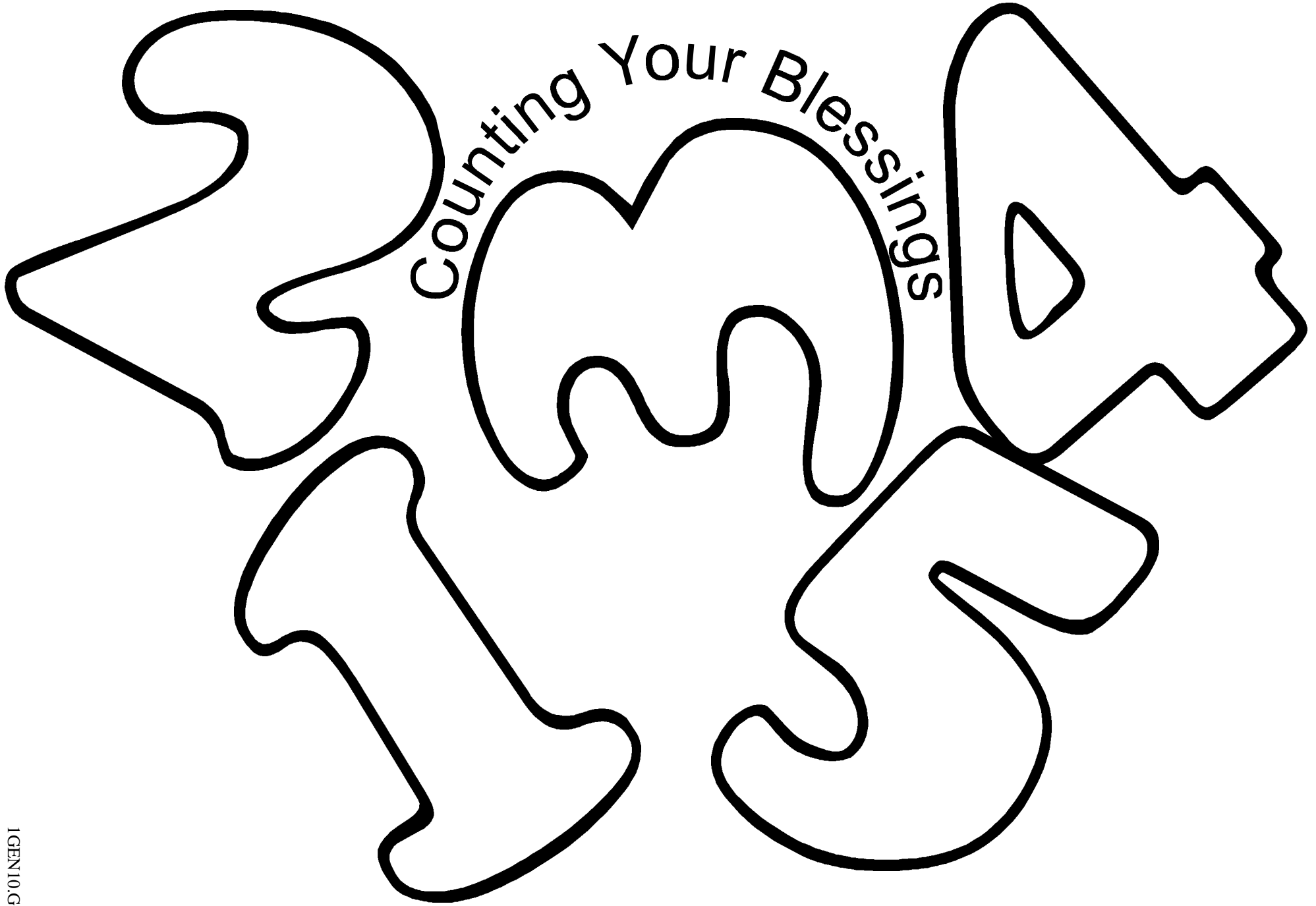
Baa, baa speckled sheep,
Have you any doubt,
Who gave you speckles
When your parents are without?



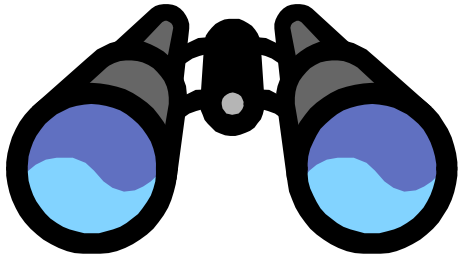
IGEN10.GF9



Counting Your Blessings

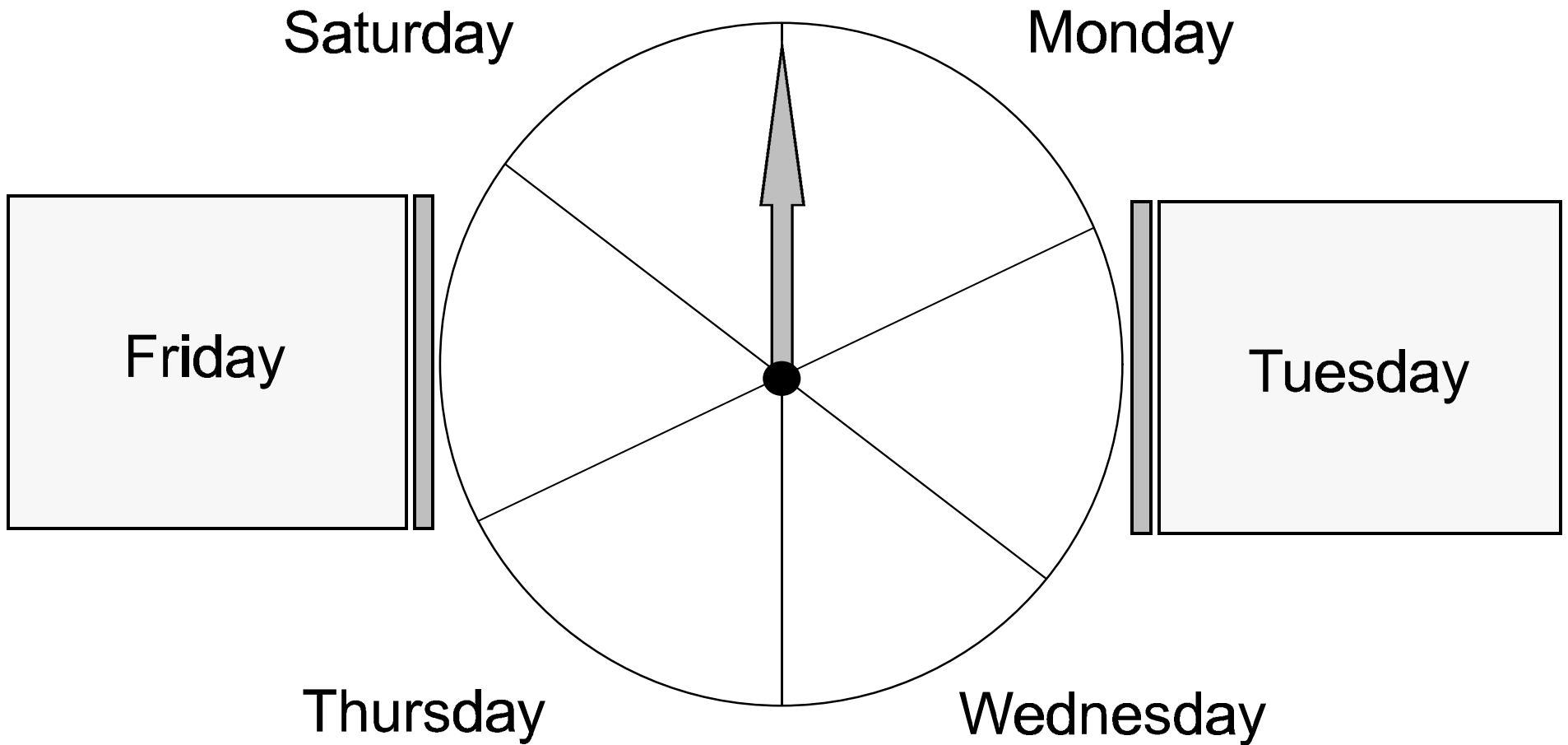


How has God blessed you this last week? Write those blessings inside each one of the numbers.



Watch for God's Promises

Watch this week for God's promises fulfilled in your life daily. Review the list of promises from 1GEN10.GF6. Record those promises in the section of the watch face for that day, as God reveals them to you. Bring your sheet back next week to share with the group, and tell specifically how God kept His promise to you.



Blessings and Consequences

Jacob's life is an interesting mix of blessings from God and consequences for sin.
Draw a line from each event in Jacob's life to the word that describes it - blessing or consequence.

Jacob had to leave his home in Beersheba to get away from Esau.

Jacob easily found a lovely girl, named Rachel,
from his mother's family.

Jacob was tricked into marrying Leah, Rachel's older sister.

Laban's flocks grew very large under Jacob's care.

Jacob's wives were unhappy and competed for his love.

Jacob had many children.

Many spotted and speckled sheep were born.

Jacob's flock grew large and strong.

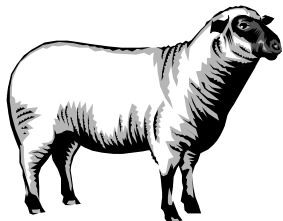
Laban cheated Jacob by changing his wages ten times.

Jacob left Paddan Aram with great wealth.

Laban was warned not to say anything good or bad to Jacob.

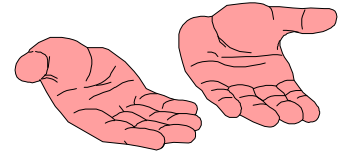
Jacob and Laban made peace with each other.

Jacob returned safely to Canaan.



Promising Memory Verses

Practice saying each of these Genesis memory verses.



In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

_____ Genesis 1:1

Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.

_____ Genesis 15:6

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.

_____ Genesis 3:15

He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.

_____ II Peter 2:6

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. _____ Genesis 12:2

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son.

_____ Hebrews 11:17

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

Now follow these instructions:

1. Underline the words "I WILL" in any verse where they appear.
2. Circle each verse that is a **promise**.
3. Who made these promises? _____
4. On the line below each **promise**, write the name of the person to whom God was speaking.
5. Make a checkmark in front of each promise that God has kept.
6. Make a special border around the promise of a Savior that was fulfilled in Jesus.
7. There are two verses that tell what Abraham did with God's promises. Draw a box around each verse **and** around the single word in each verse that tells what he did.
8. Stand up and recite (out loud) the verse which contains the word "**promises**".
9. On the back of the page, re-write any verse that has special meaning for you. Be ready to share the verse from memory, and tell why you chose it.