



Materials I Need:

Memory Verses:

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
2. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you. Genesis 12:2a
3. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. Genesis 28:15

Attribute of God emphasized in this lesson:

God blesses His children even though things may not be fair.

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

1. Did Jacob meet Rachel at the watering well? (Yes. Jacob met Rachel and then her father, Laban.)
2. Did Jacob's uncle Laban give Jacob a job as a shepherd? (Yes. Jacob stayed with Laban and took care of Laban's sheep.)
3. Did Jacob love Rachel and want to marry her? (Yes)
4. Did God give Jacob many sons? (Yes. God gave Jacob twelve sons and one daughter.)
5. Did Jacob obey when God told him to take his family back to the land of Canaan? (Yes. Jacob obeyed God and put his family on camels for the trip.)
6. Was God with Jacob wherever he went? (Yes. God blessed Jacob wherever he went. Repeat the third memory verse.)

Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:

1. Who did Jacob meet at the watering well outside the town of Haran? (Jacob met his cousin Rachel who went home to get her father.)
2. How did Laban deceive Jacob when Jacob asked to marry Rachel? (Laban promised Jacob he could marry Rachel in exchange for seven years of work. He gave Leah instead and made Jacob work seven more years for Rachel.)
3. How did God bless Jacob while he was a shepherd? (God helped the flocks of sheep and goats grow strong because of Jacob's hard work.)
4. How did Jacob know when it was time to go back to his home in Canaan? (God spoke to Jacob and told him to go back to Canaan.)
5. What did Laban do when Jacob left Haran? (He tried to keep him from going, but Jacob left anyway. Then Laban listened to God when God told him in a dream to let Jacob go.)
6. How did God bless Jacob even though things were not fair? (God gave him a large family and large flocks of animals even though his uncle Laban kept deceiving him.)

Key for symbols:

- This box symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow down the pace for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.
- ② This symbol represents ideas that are best used for two- and three-year-olds.
- ④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Hook:

- Stuffed Sheep Center:** Have numerous stuffed sheep and other animals available in a flock. The children can water them, move them from pasture to pasture, hide one and go look for it, etc. In today's Bible Adventure, Jacob and Laban took care of many, many sheep.

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- Sheep Center: (AGEN10ECGF2)** Ask a farmer to bring a live lamb or sheep to class. Let the children feel the woolly fur. Have the farmer bring some of the “tools of the trade” with him and talk about how he takes care of sheep. Talk about how the shepherds in Jacob’s day took care of their sheep. Take snips from the sheep’s wool to glue on the GF2 page of animals. Sing “Old Man Laban Had a Farm” or “Jacob Was His Name” as the children work on their pages.
 - Animal Cutouts Center:** Have cutouts of sheep and goats. Use Q-tips dipped in black tempera paint or onto an ink pad to put dots on the sheep and goats. In today’s Bible Adventure, Jacob had large flocks of sheep and goats and they were all spotted and speckled!
 - Guessing Center:** Put a sheet over a table and have two children crawl under the table. Have one child show only his hands and the rest of the group tries to guess who that person is only by looking at his hands. In one of our lessons, we heard about how Jacob tricked his blind father, Isaac, into thinking that he was his brother, Esau. In today’s Bible Adventure, Jacob is going to be tricked or deceived. In the Bible book of Genesis, we learn that Jacob was given a bride who was not the one he had chosen because he could not see her behind a veil.
 - Doll Center:** Bring in twelve dolls for Jacob’s twelve children. Have the class count them, feed them, rock them, and put them to bed. God blessed Jacob with many (12) children as we’ll learn in our Bible Adventure today.
 - Blocks or Bricks Center:** Make a tall tower and see how high it will become before falling over. In today’s Bible Adventure, Jacob and Laban gathered stones and piled them in a heap, making a promise to never hurt one another.
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Book:

Presentation Ideas -

- Tell the story in the first person of Jacob, as though Jacob were telling the story about himself.
- Color and mount the **AGEN10ECGF1**, **AGEN10ECGF2**, **AGEN10ECGF3**, and **AGEN10ECGF4** pictures on construction paper. Show them as you tell the Bible Adventure. Save them for review in the coming weeks.

Bible Adventure for 2’s & 3’s -

(Show the AGEN08ECGF4 review picture of Abraham’s servant meeting Rebekah at the well.) Jacob walked and walked toward the town of Haran and finally, after many days, came to a watering well.

(Show the GF1 picture.) Jacob saw many sheep by the watering well and many shepherds. Shepherds took care of their sheep.

Jacob said to one of the shepherds, “Do you know my uncle Laban?”

The shepherd said, “We do know Laban and there is his daughter, Rachel.” *(Point to Rachel in the GF1 picture.)*

Jacob hurried over to Rachel and gave her a big hug. Jacob cried because he was so happy to find his mother’s relatives. God was keeping His promise to be with Jacob wherever he went.

Rachel ran to tell her father that Jacob was at the watering well. “Come quickly! Rebekah’s son, Jacob, is at the watering well.”

Laban hurried to see Jacob. He hugged Jacob and invited him to stay at his house.

(Show the GF2 picture.) Laban gave Jacob a job taking care of Laban’s sheep. Jacob slept outside with the sheep to keep the bad wolves away. Jacob took the sheep to get water and green grass. Jacob worked hard and was a good shepherd.

One day, Laban said to Jacob, “I will pay you to stay with us and take care of my sheep.”

Jacob said, “I will take care of your sheep for seven years if you will let me marry your daughter Rachel.” Rachel was very beautiful and Jacob loved her very much.

Laban said, “If you take care of my sheep for seven years, my daughter Rachel will be your wife.”

Jacob worked hard taking care of Laban’s sheep. He took good care of them. Laban could see that God was blessing Jacob because his flocks of sheep and goats grew bigger and bigger. *(Add more sheep and goats to the picture. See AGEN05ECGF5 or AGEN05ECGF6 for animal pictures.)*

(Show the GF3 picture.) God kept His promise to Jacob and gave him a big family—*(Count on your fingers.)* one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve children. God was making Jacob’s family into a big family-nation.

(Show the GF4 picture of Jacob’s family on camels.) God spoke to Jacob and said, “It is time to take your family back to Canaan, the land I have promised you.”

Jacob obeyed God and put his family on camels. Clop! Clop! Clop! The camels' feet started walking back home to Canaan. Jacob was glad to be going back home. Jacob was glad that God was with him wherever he went.

Prayer: Dear God, You kept Your promise to take care of Jacob wherever he went. You blessed him with many sons and then sent him back home to Canaan. Thank You for keeping Your promises in the Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's, & K -

(Show the AGEN08ECGF4 review picture of Abraham's servant meeting Rebekah at the well.) Do you remember when Abraham's servant walked to Haran to find a wife for Isaac? He prayed and found Rebekah who loved God.

(Show the GF1 picture.) Jacob also walked to the watering well by the town of Haran to find a wife. Jacob saw many sheep by the watering well and many shepherds. Jacob said to one of the shepherds, "Do you know my uncle Laban?"

The shepherd said, "I do know Laban and over there is his daughter, Rachel." Rachel was a shepherdess for her father's sheep.

Jacob hurried over to Rachel and gave her a big hug. He cried because he was so happy to find his mother's relatives. God was keeping His promise to be with Jacob wherever he went.

Rachel ran quickly to tell her father that his nephew Jacob was at the watering well. "Come quickly! Rebekah's son is at the watering well."

Laban hurried to see Jacob. He hugged Jacob and invited him to stay at his house.

(Show the GF2 picture.) Jacob stayed with Laban for a month. His job was taking care of Laban's sheep. One day, Laban said to Jacob, "It is not fair for you to be my shepherd without receiving pay. What do you want me to pay you for taking care of my sheep?"

Jacob said, "I will take care of your sheep for seven years if you will let me marry Rachel." Jacob loved Rachel very much already and wanted her to be his wife.

Laban said, "If you take care of my sheep for seven years, my daughter Rachel will be your wife."

Jacob agreed and worked patiently for seven years. The time went quickly because he loved Rachel very much.

Jacob worked hard every day taking care of Laban's sheep. He took good care of them. God blessed Jacob and the flocks of animals grew bigger and bigger. Laban could see that God was blessing Jacob.

(Show the GF7 picture.) Laban did a bad thing. He promised to let Jacob marry his daughter Rachel, but instead of keeping his promise, on Jacob's wedding night, Laban switched Rachel's older sister Leah in place of Rachel and gave her to Jacob as his wife. Jacob didn't know it was Leah because the brides wore heavy veils over their faces when they got married.

The next morning when Jacob woke up and saw Leah, he quickly went to find Laban. He said to Laban, "You deceived me. You did not keep your promise. Why did you do such a thing?"

Laban said, "Leah is the oldest daughter and it is our custom to marry the oldest daughter first. You can have two wives, Rachel as well as Leah, if you work for me seven more years."

That was a terrible thing to do, wasn't it? Laban tricked and deceived Jacob. Deceiving is like a lie. Had Jacob tricked and deceived his father Isaac by pretending to be the oldest son? Yes. He had pretended to be Esau when his father gave the blessing. Now Jacob was learning a hard lesson about how it feels to be deceived. It is not God's way to get what you want by lying and deceiving.

Jacob didn't love Leah and so he agreed to work seven more years for Rachel.

Now Jacob had two wives, Rachel and Leah. Leah was sad because Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved her.

(Show the GF3 picture.) God cared about Leah and gave her six sons--Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. Leah was grateful that God had given her so many sons to love and take care of.

God kept His promise to Jacob and gave him a big family that would become a big family-nation. *(Count on your fingers.)* God gave him one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve children all together.

It was not God's plan for Jacob to stay at Haran. God had promised him the land of Canaan. Jacob spoke to Laban and said, "I would like to go back to my home in Canaan. I have worked hard for you and it is time for me to work for my own family now."

Laban did not want Jacob to leave because God was giving him bigger flocks of sheep and goats because of Jacob's hard work as a shepherd.

Jacob and Laban made a deal. Jacob could keep any black sheep or goats and any spotted sheep or goats. Black sheep and spotted sheep were unusual and it would normally take a long time to get many, but God blessed Jacob and made more sheep and goat babies be born with spots or dark fur.

Jacob worked six more years for Laban, and Laban's sons were getting upset that Jacob was getting more sheep and goats than they were. They started saying bad things about Jacob.

God spoke to Jacob and said, "It is time to take your family back to Canaan, the land I have promised you." Jacob was glad to be going back home.

(Show the GF4 picture.) Jacob quickly got his big family together and started out for Canaan. He put his family on camels for the long trip. Clop! Clop! Clop! went the camels' feet.

When Laban found out that his daughters had left Haran without saying good-bye to him, he was angry. He took a group of relatives with him and went out to find Jacob. He was planning to take Leah, Rachel, and the grandchildren back to Haran with him.

But God was with watching over Jacob. God spoke to Laban in a dream the night before Laban and his men caught up with Jacob's family. God said to Laban, "Do not try to stop Jacob from going back to Canaan."

The next day, when Laban caught up with Jacob, he said, "Why did you take my daughters away from me without saying good-bye?"

Jacob said, "I was afraid you would not let your daughters go to Canaan, so we left without saying good-bye."

Laban said, "That was not right. I could have hurt you but last night God told me to let you go. Let's pile stones in a heap and promise never to cross over this line to hurt each other. God will hear our promise and will make sure we keep our promise." Jacob, Laban, and the rest of the men piled stones in a big pile. Then Jacob offered a sacrifice and invited his relatives to eat a meal with him.

The next morning, Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters good-bye. Jacob and his family were glad to be going back to Canaan. Jacob was thankful that God was keeping His promise to be with him wherever he went.

Prayer: Dear God, You watched over Jacob wherever he went and You blessed him even though things were not fair. Thank You for keeping Your promises in the Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

 **Look:**

Jacob's Family Activity Sheet and Song: (AGEN10ECGF7) On the GF7 sheet, let the children make twelve thumbprint children by stamping their thumbs in water soluble ink and then making twelve thumbprints on the page. This is a great activity to practice counting! They can draw arms, legs and faces on the thumbprints. Then, let them glue cotton balls or white styrofoam pieces on the page to represent Jacob's sheep. Sing "Jacob Was His Name" from the Song section as the children are working on their craft and review the appropriate Aim Questions.

Counting to Twelve Activity: Line up eleven boys in a row, or eleven children, if there are not enough boys. With younger children, count to eleven as you touch each child on the head. Let them say, "Jacob had twelve children." With older children, give them each one of the names of Jacob's sons. Let them practice their names and then sing the last verse of "Old Man Laban."

Snack: Serve "spotted" and "plain" cookies (use chocolate chip and sugar cookies) and give a choice to each child. Talk about the spotted sheep that Jacob raised and the white sheep of Laban's family.

④ **Ask and Listen:** After the story, ask the children what they think Jacob should have done after he realized he had been tricked or deceived by getting Leah as his wife instead of Rachel. Ask questions such as, "What would you have done?" or "What do you think of Laban, Leah's father, after he tricked Jacob?" Sing "Jacob Was His Name" as a reminder to us that no matter if things seem unfair, God is always with His children and blesses them.

④ **Rhythm Sticks:** Obtain two wood rhythm sticks or blocks for each child. These are available upon request from the bin of instruments. Have the leader tap out a rhythm while the children listen, and then have them repeat the pattern with their sticks. Some possible rhythms could be: s=slow (quarter time) f=fast (eighth time)

s	s	s	s
s	s	ff	s
ff	s	ff	s
s	s	s	rest (blocks apart)

To the last rhythm add these words to the taps:

Ja -	cob	wants,
Wife	Ra -	chel,
But	he	gets,
Wife	Le -	ah!

- ④ **Herding Sheep and Goats:** Place soft balls or any other objects around the room that the children can push with their feet. Have one or two circles (hoop or tape mark) on the floor and tell the children it is time to herd the sheep and goats into their pen(s) for the night. They can only use their feet to clear the room of all the balls. The more balls the better!
- ④ **Scarf Dance:** Give every child a soft, flowing scarf. Talk about how Rachel and Leah's faces were covered when they married Jacob and demonstrate by holding a scarf across your face just under the eyes. Put some good movement music on and have the class wave, twirl, toss, and catch their scarves as they move to the rhythm of the music.
- ④ **Scripture Review:** Write the three memory verses onto different colored papers (8"x11"). Use five different colors. Place them face down on the floor. Have the children move around the room pretending to be different animals while the music is being played. When the music stops, the children are to stand on a paper. Call out one of the colors of the papers. When a child is standing on that color, he brings his paper to the leader for the verse to be read. Repeat. (Some of the papers could just have the word "blessing" written on it. Have that child tell how God blesses him.)

Songs:

Old Man Laban Had a Farm (tune: "Old McDonald Had a Farm")

Old man Laban had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.
 And on that farm he had some sheep (goats, cows, camels) E-I-E-I-O.
 With a baaa here and a baaa there, (for camels: "bump, bump here")
 Here a baaa, there a baaa, everywhere a baaa, baaa.
 Old man Laban had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.

Old man Laban had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.
 And on that farm he had two daughters. E-I-E-I-O.
 With a Leah here and a Rachel there.
 Here a Leah, there a Rachel,
 Everywhere a Leah, Rachel.
 Old man Laban had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.

Jacob came upon that farm, E-I-E-I-O.
 He cared for sheep upon that farm, E-I-E-I-O.
 With a baaa here and a baaa there,
 Here a baaa, there a baaa, everywhere a baaa, baaa.
 Jacob stayed upon that farm, E-I-E-I-O.

Finally Jacob left that farm, E-I-E-I-O.
 He left for Canaan, yes, he did, E-I-E-I-O.
 With a clop, clop, here and a clop, clop there,
 Here a clop, there a clop, everywhere a clop, clop.
 Finally Jacob left that farm, E-I-E-I-O.

God blessed Jacob on that farm, E-I-E-I-O.
 He gave him flocks upon that farm, E-I-E-I-O.
 With a baaa here and a baaa there,
 Here a baaa, there a baaa, everywhere a baaa, baaa.
 God blessed Jacob on that farm, E-I-E-I-O.

Jacob Was His Name (tune: "B-I-N-G-O")

There was a shepherd, had some lambs,
 and Jacob was his name, oh,
 And God was with him,
 And God was with him,
 And God was with him,
 And Jacob was his name, oh.

There was a father, had twelve kids,
 And Jacob was his name, oh. . .



Took:

- “God’s First People” Booklets: (AGEN10ECGF5)** The children have been making booklets called “Genesis: God’s First People.” Let the children color their GF8 pictures of Jacob’s large family. Talk about the Aim Questions as the children color. Review previous lessons as the children look at the pictures and any objects you may have given them to put in their “God’s First People” booklets. Keep the children’s booklets in a safe place throughout the Genesis series.
- Memory Verse Song Take-Home Sheet: (AGEN10ECGF6)** “Even though things weren’t always fair for Jacob, God was always with him, and God always watched over him, just like God had promised to do. God promises that He will always be with us and watch over us, too, when we’re part of His family. That is a wonderful promise, and we always want to remember that promise, which is why we learned our new memory verse from last week, Genesis 28:15. Let’s sing it together again, and I’m going to give you a copy of the words so that you can sing it with your mommy and daddy, too!” Have the children color the GF6 picture of Jacob’s family returning to Canaan with the song lyrics printed on it, and let them draw themselves into the picture, reminding them that God promises to watch over them, just like He did Jacob. Sing the Genesis 28:15 memory verse song together, using the motions suggested in AGEN09EC.
- ④ **Showers of Blessings Umbrellas:** For this activity, you will need one paper muffin cup, one 6-inch pipe cleaner for each child, and tape. Give each child a pipe cleaner and show how to bend one end into a hook shape. Poke the straight end up through the center of the bottom of an upside down muffin cup and bend at a 90 degree angle. Put a piece of tape over the top of the pipe cleaner to keep it attached to the muffin cup. Have the children stand in a circle, each child with an umbrella. Say, “God has given us many good gifts. We call these gifts ‘blessings.’ When I say ‘go,’ toss your umbrella up in the air and call out a blessing before it hits the ground.” You may want to demonstrate with one or two before the whole group participates.



Jacob met his cousin, Rachel, at the watering well.



Jacob worked as a shepherd for his uncle Laban so that he could marry Rachel.



God blessed Jacob with a large family of twelve children.



AGEN10ECGF4

God told Jacob to take his family back to the promised land of Canaan.

"God's First People" Booklet Page
Lesson 10

God blesses His children
even when things are not fair.

Genesis 29-31



God blessed Jacob with many sons.

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.
Genesis 28:15

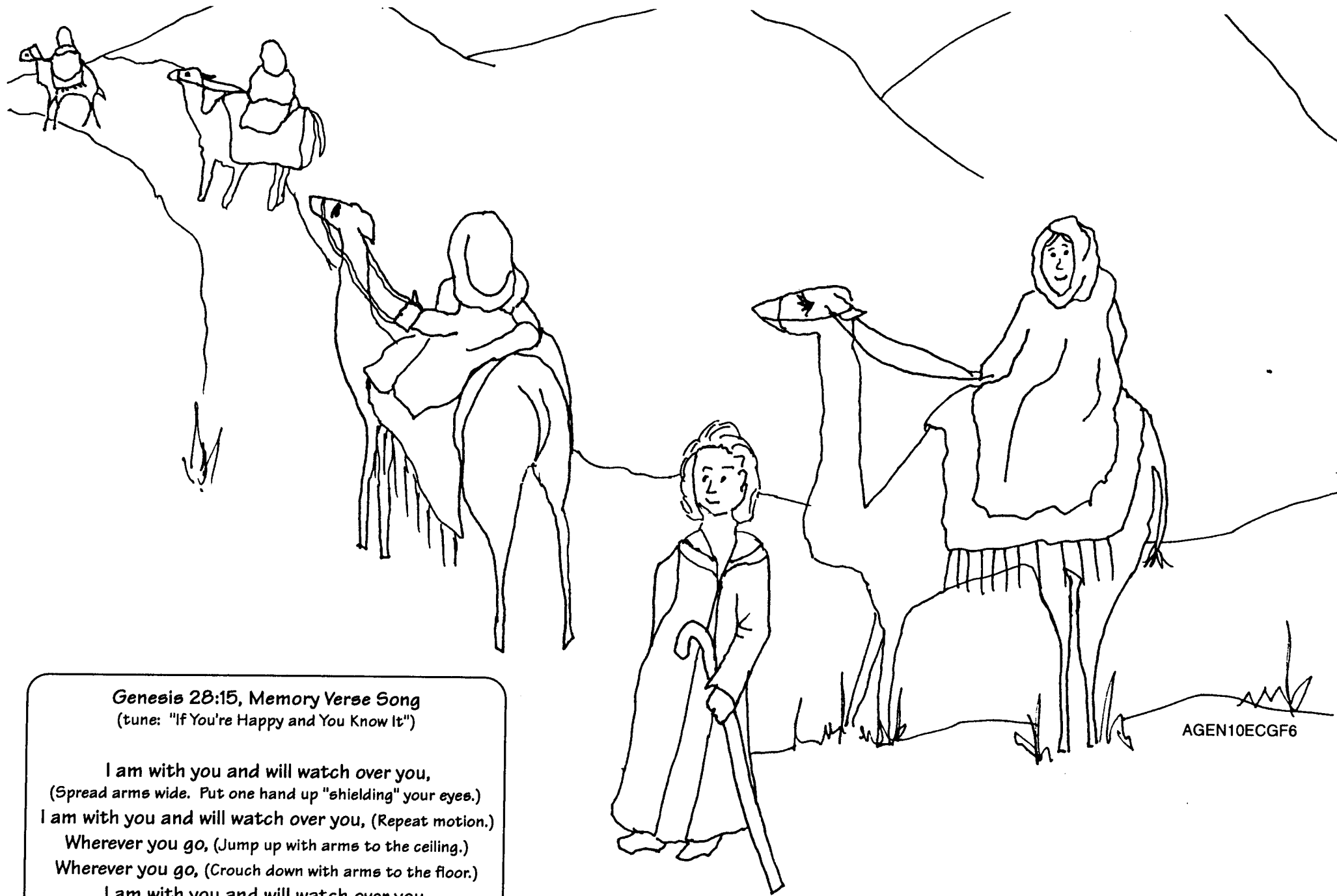
God blesses His children
even when things are not fair.

Genesis 29-31



God blessed Jacob with many sons.

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.
Genesis 28:15



Genesis 28:15, Memory Verse Song
(tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

I am with you and will watch over you,
(Spread arms wide. Put one hand up "shielding" your eyes.)
I am with you and will watch over you, (Repeat motion.)
Wherever you go, (Jump up with arms to the ceiling.)
Wherever you go, (Crouch down with arms to the floor.)
I am with you and will watch over you.
(Spread arms wide. Put one hand up "shielding" your eyes.)



Jacob's Family