

WEEK 2: GOD AT WORK IN HOME AND FAMILY LIFE

DAY 1: TWINS ARE A GIFT FROM GOD

Genesis 25:1-28

1. Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus. Welcome to this second week of study together. This week we will see God at work in other parts of life besides marriage. We will study His work in Jacob's home and family life.

How did Isaac feel towards his wife, Rebekah? _____

2. He loved her. Today our lesson is about twins. Most parents want children. They like to have many children. But sometimes twins are not accepted by the family.

Today we will learn what the Bible teaches about children.

(1) All children, even twins, are gifts from God.

(2) Parents should treat all children the same, even twins.

Psalm 127:3:

Lo, sons (or children) are a heritage (or gift) from the Lord.

The Bible says much about children. From this verse, who are a gift from the Lord?

3. Sons, or children are gifts from God. The Bible teaches that all children are gifts. Isaac and Rebekah wanted children.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 25:20-28. Keep your Bible open. Did you read these verses? _____

4. Always stop and read from your Bible when you are told to do so.

For 20 years Isaac and Rebekah had no children. For 20 years they waited for God to give them this gift. During these 20 years Isaac prayed.

Genesis 25:21:

And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren (or had no children); and the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

To whom did Isaac pray for children? _____

5. Isaac knew that children came from the Lord. Only God can give us the gift of children. Isaac asked God for this gift and God heard his prayer. He gave not one, but two children. They were both boys. The parents called them Esau and Jacob. This is the first time we read of twins in the Bible. Isaac had asked God for the gift of children.

Read Genesis 25:4 again in your Bible. What special gift of children did God give in answer to Isaac's prayer? _____

6. God gave twins in answer to Isaac's prayer. Isaac and Rebekah were happy for the birth of twins. Rebekah had been barren for 20 years. Isaac was 60 years old when the two little boys blessed their home. Instead of one gift, God gave them two. They knew that each boy was a gift from God. This is good. This is what the Bible teaches.

What does the Bible teach that twins are? _____

7. Twins are a gift from God. Before the twins were born, the babies were fighting inside Rebekah. She went to ask the Lord about this. She went to seek guidance from God.

Read Genesis 25:23 again. Who told Rebekah that she was carrying twins? _____

8. Rebekah was told by the Lord that she was carrying twins. He also told her that two nations were in her womb. God said that one child would be stronger than the other. He also said that Esau, the elder one, would serve Jacob, the younger. How surprised Rebekah must have been! By their custom the firstborn was the one who always received more blessings. But the Lord said that the second one would be stronger. He would rule.

What names did Isaac and Rebekah give to their twin sons?

(1) _____ (2) _____

9. They called the firstborn Esau. The second born they called Jacob. God had a plan for each of these boys. Both boys were gifts from God. God's plan was different for each of them.

Who gives the gift of twins? _____

10. God gives the gift of twins. When twins are born some parents accept one child, perhaps the first one. They fear to accept the second one. This is not good. It is wrong when parents fear to welcome twins.

In your custom, do all people welcome twins? _____

Why? _____

11. Be ready to talk about this in class. When twins are born some people wonder who is the father of the second child. They do not know that twins are in God's plan. He plans that a woman may conceive two or three children at one time. All are from the seed of the father. Other relatives sometimes bring doubts to parents when twins are born. At such a time parents must be strong. They should teach their relatives and friends what the Bible says. It says that all children are gifts from God.

What does the Bible teach us that twins are? _____

12. Twins are gifts from God. Isaac and Rebekah's twins were different to each other. Esau was red and hairy. Jacob had smooth skin. They liked to do different things. Esau liked to hunt. Jacob was a quiet man and liked to stay at home. Isaac and Rebekah made a great mistake with their sons. They did not treat them both the same. Isaac loved Esau. Rebekah loved Jacob. Later we will see the trouble this mistake brought to their home.

What mistake did Isaac and Rebekah make with their sons? _____

13. They made a mistake which many parents make. They did not treat their twins the same. Parents should treat all children the same. This brings blessing to a home.

Mrs. Ouko bore twin girls. She and her husband were afraid. They knew the custom of their people, but they were Christians. So they asked their pastor what to do. Pastor Ananda said they should treat them both the same. He said he could plan a church service to give thanks for two blessings. Mr. and Mrs. Ouko gave thanks with joy to God for both girls in this meeting. They took good care of their daughters. They grew up to be good Christian girls.

Did the parents of the Ouko twins treat them the same? _____

14. These parents thanked God for both babies. They welcomed both babies. They treated both the girls the same. They were wise parents. They followed the teaching of God's Word. This is what all Christians should do.

Who should be careful to treat all children the same, even twins? _____

15. Parents should be careful to treat all children the same. Parents of twins should always treat them the same.

What would you do if twins were born into your family? _____

16. Be ready to share your answers in class.

Now read these things which parents sometimes do when twins are born. Write Good beside the things which are good to do. Write Bad beside the things Christians should not do.

- (1) _____ Parents refuse to feed the second twin which is born.
- (2) _____ Parents thank God for two blessings instead of one.
- (3) _____ Parents ask advice from the witch doctor.
- (4) _____ Parents buy the same clothes for both.
- (5) _____ Parents refuse to feed both children.
- (6) _____ Parents call the pastor to give thanks.
- (7) _____ Parents take both children with them when going on a journey.
- (8) _____ Parents treat both the same when they want to marry.

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17. Think about your reasons for writing Good or Bad. Be ready to talk about these reasons in class.

What does the Bible teach that twins are? _____

Who should be careful to treat all children the same, even twins? _____

WEEK 2: GOD AT WORK IN HOME AND FAMILY LIFE
DAY 2: JACOB WANTED THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN
Genesis 25:29-34

1. God gave Isaac and Rebekah twin sons, Esau and Jacob.

What does the Bible teach us that twins are? _____

Who should be careful to treat all children the same, even twins? _____

2. The Bible teaches that twins are gifts from God. Parents should treat all children the same, even twins. Today we will think about the things we value in life. The things we value are the things we think are important. They are the things we seek after. Esau and Jacob were different in the things they sought after. Today we will learn:

- (1) Esau wanted things which are seen.
- (2) Jacob wanted things which are not seen.

Open your Bible and read Genesis 25:29-34. Keep your Bible open. Read verse 29 again. Who came in from the field?

3. Esau came in from the field. Jacob and Esau looked different. Esau was red and hairy. Jacob was not a hairy man. They were different in the things they liked to do. They were also different in the things they valued. They were different in the things they sought for in life.

Genesis 25:27:

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, while Jacob was a quiet man dwelling in tents.

Did these brothers like the same things, or different things? _____

4. Esau and Jacob liked different things. Esau was the hunter. One day he came in from hunting. Jacob was cooking food. He was making a soup which was red. The hunter was very hungry and the food looked good. It smelled good. He must have it!

Who wanted food when he came in from hunting? _____

5. Esau wanted the food straight away. Jacob said that he was willing to sell the food. The price Jacob asked was Esau's birthright. The birthright was the blessings which were given to the firstborn son. He became the head of the family. The firstborn son also got twice the inheritance of other sons. He also got the father's special blessing. Esau's inheritance was a great one. It would bring him all that God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and their descendants.

Read Genesis 25:33-34 again. Esau sold his birthright to get what? _____

6. Esau sold his birthright for a dish of food. He did not think about the value of his birthright. See what he said.

Genesis 25:32:

I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?

But Esau was not going to die. He was just very hungry. Esau valued the food he could see more than the birthright he could not see.

But who was quick to see the value of the birthright? _____

7. Jacob could see how great the birthright was. Because he saw its value, he sought after it. Jacob bought the birthright from his brother. Esau forgot about the eternal blessings of the birthright. He wanted the food he could see rather than the birthright that he could not see.

What kind of things did Esau want? _____

8. Esau wanted the things he could see. His eyes were on the food which looked good. But Jacob sought for the things which are not seen. He knew that these were of greater value. So these were the things he sought for in life.

Who wanted the things which can be seen? _____

9. Esau wanted the things that are seen.

Genesis 25:34:

Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils (or bean soup), and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised (or thought little of) his birthright.

Esau did not care about the things that could not be seen. He did not care about all that God had promised to Isaac and his descendants. Esau thought little of the blessings God had promised to give them.

But who was wanting the things which are not seen? _____

10. Jacob wanted the birthright even though it could not be seen at that time. Jacob sought the better things. Paul wrote about this matter to the Christians at Corinth.

2 Corinthians 4:18:

We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient (or pass away), but the things that are unseen are eternal (or last forever).

Write the difference between Jacob and Esau in the things they sought after.

- (1) Esau wanted _____
- (2) Jacob wanted the things which are not seen.

11. Esau wanted the things which are seen. he forgot about the things which last forever. The book of Hebrews warns us not to be like Esau.

Hebrews 12:15-17:

See to it that ... no one be immoral or irreligious like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal ... afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

What kind of things did Jacob want? _____

12. Jacob was wise. He sought for things which are not seen. Esau valued only the things he could see. He was like many people today. Even some Christians spend most of their lives seeking for things that can be seen. They seek after houses, farms, cows, tractors, cars, high wages, many clothes, and certificates for learning. But all these things pass away.

Which brother wanted eternal things in his life? _____

13. It was Jacob. Things which are not seen are eternal. They are things like love, peace, joy, and true freedom. The greatest gift of God is the gift of eternal life in our Lord Jesus. This gift lasts forever.

Write the difference between Jacob and Esau in the things they sought after.

(1) Esau wanted things which are seen.

(2) Jacob wanted _____

14. He wanted the things which are not seen. Many years later Jesus taught His followers about this. He wants His followers to be like Jacob.

Matthew 6:33:

Seek first his (God's) kingdom and his righteousness (unseen things), and all these things (which are seen) shall be yours as well.

Write the difference between Jacob and Esau in the things they wanted.

(1) Esau wanted _____

(2) Jacob wanted _____

15. Esau wanted things which are seen. Jacob wanted things which are not seen. Many people make the same mistake as Esau. This brings sorrow into their lives just as it did to Esau. It is easy for Christians to be like Esau. They spend their time and strength on daily things around them. These things are easy to see. They do not have time or strength for important things in life that are not seen.

Write some of the important things which Christians today should seek after.

16. Be ready to share your answer in class.

Josiah was born into a family that went to church. He was baptised. As a young man he worked very hard and bought a farm. Josiah spent all his time and strength on his farm. Later he married and bought two more farms. He also bought a large shop in town. He married two more wives and grew fat and rich. Josiah never had time to read God's word, pray, or go to church to worship God. Finally he bought a big hotel in town. Josiah began to drink. When he was only 45 years old, he died from much drinking. Many people came to his funeral.

What things did Josiah want? _____

Was Josiah wise in the things he wanted? _____

Why? _____

17. Be ready to talk about your answers in class. God wants every Christian to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. These are things that are not seen. Eternal life and peace with God are two things which are not seen. Clothes, houses, and motor-cars are things that are seen.

What kind of things does God want you to seek first? Is it things which are not seen or things which are seen?

18. God wants us to seek things which are not seen.

Write the difference between Jacob and Esau in the things they wanted.

(1) Esau wanted _____

(2) Jacob wanted _____

WEEK 2: GOD AT WORK IN HOME AND FAMILY LIFE
DAY 3: FEAR OF MEN LED ISAAC TO DENY THE TRUTH
Genesis 26:1-35

1. Yesterday we thought about the lives of the sons God gave Isaac and Rebekah.

Write the difference between Jacob and Esau in the things they sought after.

(1) Esau sought _____

(2) Jacob sought _____

2. Esau sought things which are seen. Jacob sought things which are not seen. Today we will think about their father, Isaac. Isaac was a man of faith. But today we will read about a time when his faith was tested. We will see what fear of men can do. This is what we will learn:

Fear of men led Isaac
to deny the truth.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 26:1 to 11. Read verse 1 again. What made Isaac go to Gerar?

3. A time of famine came to the land of Canaan. The famine was hard for Isaac, so he went to Gerar. This was about 25 kilometres from the place where he was born. Isaac went to Abimelech, the king of the Philistines. There God talked with Isaac. God told him not to go down to Egypt. God again made great promises to Isaac.

Read again Genesis 26:3. Keep your Bible open. From this verse, write one thing God promised to do for Isaac.

4. God promised to be with him. He promised to bless him. God promised to give him the land of Canaan. God promised to keep His agreement with Abraham. All of these answers are right. Soon after God made these promises, Isaac's faith was tested. He obeyed God and stayed in Gerar. Isaac's wife, Rebekah, was very beautiful. The men in Gerar saw her.

Genesis 26:7:

When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister"; for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me for the sake of Rebekah"; because she was fair to look upon.

Did Isaac tell the truth about Rebekah? _____

5. He did not tell the men in Gerar the truth about Rebekah. He denied the truth. The truth was that Rebekah was his wife. He denied this truth. Instead of saying that she was his wife, he said, "She is my sister." He was afraid of the men.

Who denied the truth because he was afraid of men? _____

6. Isaac was afraid of men. The man of faith was afraid. God's people cannot mix faith and fear. Great trouble comes when we do that. Isaac made that mistake.

Read Genesis 26:7 again. From this verse, why did Isaac deny the truth? _____

7. The Bible says, "he feared to say." Isaac was afraid of men. Fear of men led Isaac to deny the truth. To lie is not something God wants His children to do.

Of whom was Isaac more afraid -- of men, or of God? _____

8. Men of faith should fear God. This means that we should honour Him and obey Him. We must please Him more than we please men. But Isaac was more afraid of men. Fear of men led him to do something that did not please God. Isaac denied the truth.

What did fear of men lead Isaac to do? _____

9. Isaac denied the truth. After he denied the truth about Rebekah he had to continue with his lie. Isaac denied the truth for a long time. But all that time there was no reason for Isaac's fear. None of the men tried to take Rebekah. Yet Isaac continued to fear men, and he continued to deny the truth.

Did Isaac trust God and His promises to be with him and bless him at this time? _____

10. In this matter Isaac did not trust God. He did not believe God's promises. One day Abimelech, the king, saw Isaac playing with Rebekah. He called Isaac and talked to him.

Genesis 26:9:

Behold she is your wife; how then could you say, "She is my sister"?

Isaac's sin was found out by a king who did not know God. Fear of men led Isaac to sin. He denied the truth. Fear of men spoiled Isaac's witness to this king.

Do Christians today sometimes fall into sin because they are afraid of men? _____

Do you know of someone who has done that? _____

11. Perhaps you can tell the class about it. Isaac must have felt ashamed. He must have felt guilty when Abimelech found out his lie. Isaac told the king why he had lied.

Genesis 26:9:

Because I thought, "Lest I die because of her."

From this verse, what was Isaac afraid of beside men? _____

12. Isaac was afraid of dying. He was afraid the men in Gerar would kill him to get Rebekah.

Christians today are sometimes tested in much harder ways than Isaac was. In Kenya in the 1950's there was a time of great testing for Kikuyu Christians. At that time men went about trying to make people drink a blood oath. By drinking a blood oath Christians denied their faith in Jesus. If people refused to drink the oath they were beaten to death. Their houses were burnt. Their animals were killed or taken away. Many Christians were afraid to die. They drank the blood oath, and denied their faith in Jesus. But many other Christians were not afraid of men. They refused the oath and died for the sake of Jesus.

Which is the better choice for Christians -- to die, or to deny the truth? _____

13. Be ready to talk about this in class. Today's lesson is a big one. Fear of men can make a man of God deny the truth. Abimelech told Isaac how wrong he had been. Abimelech told him of the danger he had brought.

What did fear of men lead Isaac to do? _____

14. Isaac denied the truth. At some time all men of God are afraid. King David in the Old Testament was often afraid. For years Saul hunted him because he wanted to kill him. See what David said.

Psalm 56:3-4:

When I am afraid, I put my trust in thee. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust without a fear. What can flesh (or men) do to me?

What did King David do when he was afraid? _____

15. King David put his trust in God.

In 1969 there was a second time of testing Kenya. People were again being forced to drink a blood oath. One night many Christians went to the pastor's house in a little village. The house was not strong. But they all went there for safety. The pastor spent all night on his knees praying for protection. Lights were shown on the windows. But no one tried to break down the door. Outside people had great trouble. The Lord saved the group in the pastor's house. Not one of them ever drank the oath.

Are you ever afraid of men? _____

What will you do with your fear in the future? _____

16. Be ready to share these things in class.

What did fear of men lead Isaac to do? _____

WEEK 2: GOD AT WORK IN HOME AND FAMILY LIFE
DAY 4: JACOB USED THE WRONG WAY OF DECEIT

Genesis 27:1-46

1. Yesterday we read of a time of testing in Isaac's life.

What did fear of men lead Isaac to do? _____

2. Isaac denied the truth. He saw his mistake. God kept His promise to Isaac and God was with him. Isaac went to Beersheba to live. Many years went by. During this time Esau took two wives who did not know God. Isaac was now very old and not able to see. One day he called Esau. He asked him to go out and hunt an animal. He should cook the meat in the way Isaac liked. Isaac was preparing to bless Esau before he died.

Who had sold his birthright for a bit of food? _____

3. Esau had sold his birthright to Jacob. By selling the birthright, he gave away the firstborn blessing as well. Today's lesson is a sad and ugly one. We will see how Jacob deceived his old father and got the blessing. In doing this, Jacob got what God had promised him. But he got the blessing in the wrong way. Jacob used deceit. Let us see how important it is to do the right thing in the right way. We will learn:

Jacob got the right thing
but he used the wrong way to
get it. Jacob used deceit.

To whom did the blessing belong? _____

4. The blessing belonged to Jacob. Rebekah heard Isaac telling Esau to make food. She knew that Isaac would give him the blessing. But Rebekah loved Jacob. She wanted him to get the blessing. So she told Jacob to get two goats from the flock. She cooked them and put Esau's clothes on Jacob. Isaac could not see. He could only feel, and hear, and smell. Jacob was afraid his father would feel him. Rebekah had a plan for that too.

Genesis 27:16:

The skins of the kids (or young goats) she put upon his (Jacob's hands and upon the smooth part of his neck.

Rebekah helped Jacob to deceive whom? _____

5. She helped Jacob deceive Isaac, his blind old father. But Isaac was wrong also. He knew that the blessing belonged to Jacob. Esau knew this too. He had sold his birthright with the blessing to Jacob.

Jacob took the food his mother had made. He wore Esau's clothes. He had skins on his arms to make him feel like Esau. He went in to Isaac.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 27:18 to 29. Read verses 18 and 19 again. From these verses, who used deceit?

6. Jacob used deceit. This week we saw that before the twins were born, God gave a message about them.

Genesis 25:23:

The one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.

God said that Jacob would be stronger. God's words meant that Jacob would get the blessing. But Jacob did not wait for God to give him the blessing. Jacob got what God had promised him the wrong way.

Was it right or wrong that the blessing would one day come to Jacob? _____

7. It was right that the blessing would be Jacob's some day. But Jacob got the blessing in the wrong way. Perhaps it was at the wrong time too. He did not wait for God to give him the blessing.

Who said before Jacob's birth that he would receive the birthright? _____

8. God said that Jacob would rule. He said this before Jacob and Esau were born. When Jacob went to his father, the old man had doubts. He asked Jacob how he had gotten the animal so quickly. What a deceitful answer Jacob gave!

Genesis 27:20:

... Because the Lord your God granted me success.

Then Isaac asked Jacob to come near so he could feel him. Isaac was confused. The voice sounded like Jacob, but the hands were like Esau.

What did Jacob do to his father? _____

9. Jacob deceived him. Isaac asked:

Genesis 27:24:

"Are you really my son Esau?" He (Jacob answered, "I am.")

Then Isaac ate the food Jacob had brought. Jacob kissed his father. And Isaac gave Jacob the blessing.

Did Jacob receive the blessing in the right way, or in the wrong way? _____

10. The blessing was received in the wrong way. To deceive is always the wrong way. Even when the thing we want is good for us, it is never right to deceive. God will work out His way. We do not have to use a wrong way.

Jacob used deceit to get what thing? _____

11. He used the wrong way to get the blessing. The right way would have been to wait. But Jacob did not want to wait. Jacob should have waited for God's time and God's way.

What was the wrong way Jacob used to get the blessing? _____

12. The wrong way was deceit. God said before the twins were born that Jacob would be stronger. He would be the ruler. God does what He says He will do. Jacob should have waited for God to do what He had promised. The right thing for Jacob to do was to believe God and wait.

For whom should Jacob have waited to give him the blessing? _____

13. God would have made sure that Jacob received the blessing. Jacob together with his mother used the wrong way. It is never pleasing to God for anyone to use the way of deceit. The right thing was done in the wrong way. It is important that we do the right thing. It is also important that we do the right thing in the right way.

What was the wrong way Jacob used to get the blessing God had promised him?

13. God would have made sure that Jacob received the blessing. Jacob together with his mother used the wrong way. It is never pleasing to God for anyone to use the way of deceit. The right thing was done in the wrong way. It is important that we do the right thing. It is also important that we do the right thing in the right way.

What was the wrong way Jacob used to get the blessing God had promised him?

14. He used deceit. He did the right thing in the wrong way. The way we do something is important. We need to do the right thing in the right way. God will always be working in our lives to help us if we do. God always has a right way for a Christian to do the right thing. We never need to use deceit.

In this lesson, who did the right thing in the wrong way? _____

15. Jacob used the wrong way. He should not have done this. God's ways are always right. We never need to use the wrong way.

There was a certain church which grew very quickly. The building was much too small for the people. The leaders decided to build a bigger building. To do this they needed much money. Each year they put aside one tenth of the offerings. At the end of the year this money was sent to the main church office. But this year they decided not to do this. They put half of this money into the building fund. The other half they sent to the church office. They wrote a letter saying that this was a full tenth of what had been given. But this was not true. It was only half of the tenth.

Was it right for them to build a new church building? _____

Did the leaders get the money for the building in the right way? _____

Give your reasons for saying Yes or No.

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16. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

What was the wrong way Jacob used to get the blessing God had promised him?

WEEK 2: GOD AT WORK IN HOME AND FAMILY LIFE

DAY 5: JACOB'S PROMISES AT BETHEL

Genesis 28:1-22

1. What was the wrong way Jacob used to get the blessing God had promised him?

2. Jacob used deceit. Just after Isaac finished giving Jacob the blessing, Esau came home. He cried bitterly when he found that Jacob had received the blessing. Esau hated Jacob for what he had done. He decided to kill Jacob. Rebekah talked with Isaac about sending Jacob to find a wife. Isaac agreed that Jacob should do that.

Genesis 28:5:

Thus Isaac sent Jacob away; and he went to Paddan-aram to Laban, ... the brother of Rebekah.

From this verse, what did Isaac do to Jacob after Jacob had deceived him? _____

3. Isaac sent him away. Much trouble came to Jacob's life because of his deceit. He had to leave his father and mother. He was afraid to return home. Jacob was completely alone. On the first night, Jacob lay down on the earth. He had a stone for a pillow. And that night Jacob dreamed.

Stop now and read about the dream of Bethel in Genesis 28:10 to 22.

4. It was hard for Jacob to be sent away from home. He was alone. I am sure he was afraid. But then God called Jacob. God began His work in Jacob's life. Jacob made promises to God. These promises were about his life, his will, his love, and his possessions. Today we will learn two of the promises which Jacob made to God at Bethel.

- (1) The Lord shall be my God.
- (2) I will give the tenth to God.

God makes promises to us. Then what does he want us to make to Him? _____

5. God wants his people to make promises to Him. Jacob awoke in the morning after his dream. He knew that God had been there with him. Jacob made promises to God.

Genesis 28:12-13:

And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; ... and behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord.

The ladder reached from earth to heaven. God Himself was there! Jacob found he could meet with God. And he found that he was not really alone.

Who talked with Jacob at Bethel? _____

6. The Lord talked with Jacob. How great is the grace of God. He is ready to talk with sinful men! God made wonderful promises to Jacob. They were the same promises He had made to Abraham. God would give Jacob the land of Canaan. Jacob's descendants would be many. Through Jacob and his family all the earth would be blessed. Jacob was running away from home and was all alone. He must have been glad to hear the promises.

Genesis 28:15:

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you.

Who made these great promises to Jacob at Bethel? _____

7. God made many great promises to Jacob at Bethel. The place where Jacob slept was first called Luz. It was a lonely place where Jacob slept out in the cold. But there he learned that God was with him. Hard places become good places when God is there.

Genesis 28:16, 19:

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it." ... He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

What new name was given to Luz? _____

8. Jacob changed the name of Luz to Bethel. Bethel means "The house of God." Because God was there the hard place became the house of God. Jacob saw that the God who changed a place could also change his life. He would always remember Bethel. This was the place where God made promises to him. Because of God's promises, Jacob made a big decision. This decision changed his whole life.

Genesis 28:20-21:

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me ... so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God.

At Bethel what decision did Jacob make about the Lord? _____

9. Jacob made the biggest decision any man can make in his life. He said, "The Lord shall be my God." Jacob chose to make God the Lord of his life. Jacob gave his life to the Lord. He put his life into God's hands. Instead of running away from God, Jacob turned to Him. This is the decision God wants all of us to make.

Who chose to make the Lord his God at Bethel? _____

10. At Bethel Jacob said: The Lord shall be my God.

One day a man of God came to talk to a school teacher named John. The man told John that he was a sinner. He told John that Jesus had died to take away his sin. He told him that God wanted to be the Lord of his life. John got on his bicycle and began to ride home. He did not like the words he had heard.

As he rode, John kept thinking of the words, "You are a sinner." He went faster and faster on his bicycle. He wanted to get away from God. Then he stopped. He knelt down by the road. He asked Jesus to save him and be the Lord of his life. John's whole life was changed. Now he is a great preacher serving the Lord. That day John chose the Lord to be his God.

Have you said like Jacob: The Lord shall be my God? _____

11. I pray that you have said this. This decision changes our lives here on earth. It also changes our lives after death. The first promise Jacob made change his whole life.

Write the first promise Jacob made to God at Bethel.

(1) _____

(2) I will give the tenth to God.

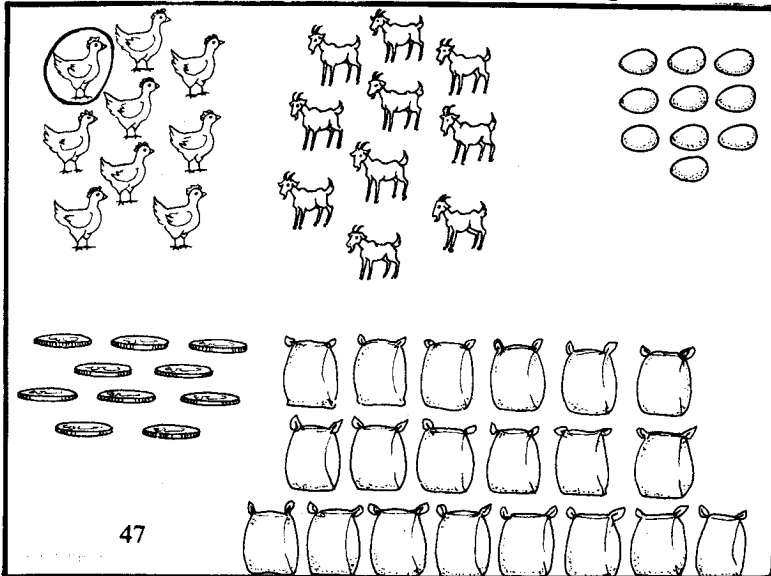
12. Jacob's first promise was: The Lord shall be my God. This promise touched his life, his will, and his love. The second promise touched his possessions. Read the promises again.

Genesis 28:20-22:

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me ... so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, ... and of all that thou givest me, I will give the tenth to thee."

What did Jacob promise to give to God? _____

Look at the pictures. Draw a line around the things Jacob would give to God. See how we did it with the chickens. Be sure to count the bags of grain.



13. Jacob promised to give God one tenth of his possessions. Jacob had learned a big lesson. God had given him all his possessions. So he promised to give one tenth back to God. He promised to give God one cow in every ten cows. He promised to give one bag of grain in every ten.

14. We will see in class what you have done. When a man makes the Lord his God, he wants to give to God. At Bethel Jacob made two great promises to God.

Have you ever had a Bethel in your life? When a man makes the Lord his God, he wants to give to God. At Bethel Jacob made two great promises to God.

Have you every had a Bethel in your life? God wants to work in our lives just as He did in Jacob's life. He can change us too so that our love, will, and possessions will always be His.

Write the second promise Jacob made to God at Bethel.

(1) The Lord shall be my God.

(2) _____

15. Jacob made two promises: The Lord shall be my God. I will give the tenth to God. At Bethel Jacob's whole life was changed.

What promises have you made to God? _____

16. Perhaps you will want to share these things in class. The promises Jacob made are the ones every Christian should make. We want to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. So we need to make these same two promises.

Like Jacob, what two promises should we make to God?

(1) _____

(2) _____

17. To be a Christian we must make the first promise: The Lord shall be my God. Jacob also promised: I will give the tenth to God.

Have you made these promises? _____

18. Maybe you have made the first but not the second. If not, think about doing that now. God can change you. You will never forget this day if you make such a choice.

Write two promises Jacob made to God at Bethel.

(1) _____

(2) _____