

WEEK 5: BLESSING COMES WHEN MEN CHOOSE TO LET GOD WORK
DAY 1: PEACE WITH GOD HELPS BRING PEACE WITH OTHERS

Genesis 33:1-20

1. Welcome to another week of our study together. This week we will see what happens when men choose to let God work in their lives. God brings them blessing. Men let God work in their lives when they obey God.

Jacob did what God told him to do. God told him to go back to the land of Canaan. Just before Jacob reached Canaan, God met with him.

What two things which happened at Jabbok made Jacob's life with God stronger?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Jacob wrestled with an angel. He was changed. At Jabbok Jacob wrestled all night. All his life he had been fighting with God. Jacob had not known peace. A man cannot have peace if he is fighting God.

What had been missing in Jacob's life? _____

3. There was no peace in Jacob's life. He had a hard life with Laban. In his home there was little peace. There had been anger, jealousy, and unhappiness. And Jacob had no peace inside himself. He still carried the burden of his deceit. He had not put things right with his father. He had not made peace with Esau. But that night at Jabbok Jacob decided that he wanted the blessing of God. He wanted this more than anything else. He stopped fighting with God.

Think carefully about this. At Jabbok, with whom did Jacob make peace? _____

4. Jacob made peace with God at Jabbok. Peace with God brings great change and blessing to a man's life. Today we will learn one of these blessings.

From the way Jacob made peace with Esau, we see that peace with God helps to bring peace with our fellow man.

Jacob made peace with God. The next day he made peace with Esau. Take your Bible now and read about this in Genesis 33:1 to 11.

5. It had been 20 years since Esau and Jacob had seen each other. For 20 years Jacob had been troubled by the memory of his sin. He had stolen Isaac's blessing for Esau. Jacob had no peace when he thought of Esau. Esau had promised to kill Jacob. Esau's last words for Jacob were not words of peace!

What had been missing between these brothers for many years? _____

6. There has been no peace since Jacob ran from Esau. Now Jacob sent messengers ahead to tell Esau of his return.

Genesis 33:1:

And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him.

Who looked strong as he came with an army of 400 men? _____

7. Esau looked strong at the head of such an army. But Jacob had been blessed by God the night before. Jacob was at peace with God. Peace with God gave him courage to make peace with his fellow man as well.

Genesis 33:3:

He himself (Jacob) went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

With whom did Jacob first make peace before making peace with Esau? _____

8. Jacob first made peace with God. Then he tried to make peace with his brother. Jacob thought about how to let his family face an army of 400 men. Jacob had no army. I think he had great courage in the way he went ahead to face Esau. Sometimes it takes great courage to make peace with someone who is angry.

Read Genesis 33:3 again in your Bible. Who was humble in the way he sought peace with his fellow man? _____

9. Jacob bowed down seven times to his brother. In this way he showed Esau that he was humbly seeking peace. Maybe he was trying to show Esau that he was sorry. He was remembering the way he had stolen the blessing. In Jacob's messages to Esau he had called Esau "lord." He had called himself "Esau's servant."

After making peace with God, what did Jacob try to make with his fellow man? _____

10. Jacob sought peace with his fellow man, Esau. To make peace with our fellow man we must be humble like Jacob. Jacob had sent messengers to Esau. Then he sent presents. We have seen that he sent 200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 female sheep, 20 male sheep, 30 milk camels and their young, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys and 10 male donkeys. This was a big present. Sometimes we must be willing to give in order to make peace.

Who was willing to give much in order to make peace? _____

11. Jacob was willing to give in order to make peace. He was also brave and humble in the way he sought peace with his fellow man. Esau must have seen a big change in his brother. Peace with God brought great change and blessing to Jacob.

With whom is it easier to make peace, when we have made peace with God? _____

12. It is easier to make peace with our fellow man. Peace with God helps to bring peace with our fellow man. Esau welcomed Jacob with love and forgiveness. Then Jacob's wives and children greeted Esau. This is what Jacob said to Esau.

Genesis 33:11:

Accept, I pray you, my gift that is brought to you.

In this verse, was Jacob making peace with God, or with his fellow man? _____

13. After making peace with God, Jacob made peace with his fellow man. Jacob had prayed and asked God's help to make peace with Esau. God answered his prayer in a wonderful way. See what Jacob said.

Genesis 33:10:

I pray you, if I have found favour in your sight, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God, with such favour have you received me.

Jacob could see that God had helped to bring peace with Esau. Esau accepted Jacob's present. In doing this, he showed he was willing to make peace.

What did peace with God help to bring in Jacob's life? _____

14. It helped to bring peace with his fellow man. Peace with God helps to bring this peace.

Joseka quarrelled bitterly with her mother. Joseka was not a Christian. She hurt her mother with harsh words and then left home. After three years she longed to see her mother again. Joseka decided to make peace with her mother very quickly. She returned home late one Friday evening. Both parents welcomed her kindly. She soon went to bed. Early Saturday morning she again spoke harsh words to her mother. Joseka then went back to the city.

With whom did Joseka first try to make peace? _____

15. Joseka was sad. She first tried to make peace with her mother. But it did not work. After she returned to the city she became a Christian. Joseka now had peace with God. When she went home the next time, she was humble. It was easier to make peace with her mother. Yes, peace with God helps to bring peace with our fellow man.

Before trying to make peace with her mother, with whom did Joseka first need to make peace? _____

16. She first needed to make peace with God. Joseka was full of joy when she had peace with her mother. Peace with our fellow man often follows peace with God. This was true with Jacob and his brother. And you will find it to be true in your life.

From the way Jacob made peace with Esau, what does peace with God help to bring? _____

17. Peace with God helps to bring peace with our fellow man. God is ready to give us courage and humility to make peace. He will help us to be willing to give what is needed. God's plan for His people is peace.

Romans 12:18:

If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.

Hebrews 12:14:

Strive for peace with all men.

Are you living at peace with all in your home, family, church, and village? _____

If you are not living at peace with someone, stop and pray. Ask the Lord to give you courage and humility. Ask Him to help you be willing to give. Prepare to go and make peace with that person.

18. From the way Jacob made peace with Esau, what does peace with God help to bring?

WEEK 5: BLESSING COMES WHEN MEN CHOOSE TO LET GOD WORK
DAY 2: JACOB'S FAMILY FELL INTO SIN AT SHECHEM

Genesis 34:1-31

1. The night before Jacob crossed the river Jabbok, he met with God. At Jabbok, Jacob made peace with God.

From the way Jacob made peace with Esau, what does peace with God help to bring?

2. Peace with God helps to bring peace with our fellow man. After Jacob made peace with Esau, Esau went home to his own country. Jacob obeyed God and went on to Canaan. But we will see that Jacob did not obey God fully. When Jacob chose to live in Shechem he was obeying only in part. Today we will learn that when Jacob did not obey God fully, it brought trouble to his family at Shechem.

- (1) His daughter was raped.
- (2) His sons deceived and murdered.

Who had told Jacob to go back to Canaan? _____

3. Jacob lived for 20 years in Paddan-aram with Laban. Then God told Jacob to return to Canaan. God spoke to Jacob.

Genesis 31:13:

I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go forth from this land, and return to the land of your birth.

In these words what did God remind Jacob of? _____

4. You could answer in different ways. The Lord called Himself "the God of Bethel." God reminded Jacob of the day when he called him at Bethel. At Bethel God made great promises to Jacob. But the Lord also reminded Jacob of the promises Jacob had made.

Genesis 28:20-21:

If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then ...

Think carefully. As we learned, what two promises did Jacob make to God at Bethel?

(1) _____

(2) _____

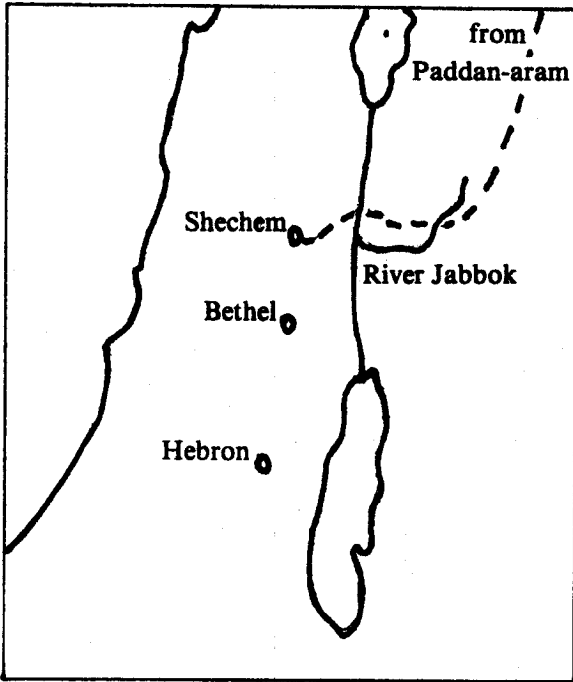
5. He promised: The Lord shall be my God, and I will give the tenth to God. A little more than 20 years had passed since Jacob made these promises. The Lord kept His promises to Jacob. Now Jacob came to Canaan, but not to Bethel.

Genesis 33:18:

And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram and he camped before the city. And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent.

Where in Canaan did Jacob choose to buy land? _____

6. He bought some land at Shechem. Jacob obeyed God in going back to Canaan. But he forgot about Bethel. God wanted him to go to Bethel and remember his promises.



Look at the map.

(1) Fill in the dotted line to show Jacob's journey back to Canaan, like this:



(2) On the map draw a line under Shechem where Jacob bought land, like this:

Shechem

(3) Find Bethel. On the map draw a line round Bethel, like this:



7. Jacob forgot about Bethel. God wanted him to return there and remember his promises. Instead he stopped and lived at Shechem. Shechem was only one day's journey from Bethel. Shechem was a good place for business. It seems that Jacob spent about seven years before going on to Bethel.

Who did not fully obey God at this time? _____

8. Jacob did not fully obey God. I know about a man who loved the Lord. He believed that God called him to be a pastor. He also believed that God had called him to leave his country. God wanted him to take the Gospel to other lands. This man became a great pastor. But he stayed at home.

What do you think about the way this man obeyed God? _____

9. Maybe you said that this pastor only partly obeyed God. He did not obey God fully. Jacob too did not fully obey God. Let us read what this brought to his family. Stop now and read Genesis 34:1 to 7. Keep your Bible open. At Shechem what happened to Dinah, Jacob's daughter?

10. Dinah had gone out to visit some of the women of the land. She was raped by Shechem, the prince of the land.

Genesis 34:5:

Now Jacob heard that he had defiled (or raped) his daughter Dinah.

Dinah's brothers were very angry. They were angry because their sister had been humbled and made unclean. They said to their father, "Such a thing ought not to be done."

At Shechem, whose daughter was raped? _____

11. It was Jacob's daughter, Dinah. Jacob had chosen to buy land and trade with the people of Canaan. To stop and buy land among such evil people was dangerous for Jacob's family. The people of Canaan wanted to marry Jacob's children. This was not what God wanted. Shechem wanted to marry Dinah. He asked Jacob and his sons if they would agree. The sons answered this way.

Genesis 34:15:

Only on this condition will we consent to you: that you will become as we are and every male of you be circumcised.

When Jacob did not fully obey God, what did this bring to his daughter at Shechem?

12. His daughter was raped. His daughter fell into sin. But his sons fell into sin also. They were very angry about what happened to their sister. The father of Shechem spoke to Jacob's sons about their sister.

Genesis 34:13:

The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah.

Who planned to deceive the men of Shechem? _____

13. The sons of Jacob did not answer the men of Shechem truthfully. Jacob's sons planned to deceive them. Shechem and all the men of the city agreed to their words. They were all circumcised. Now see what Jacob's sons did.

Take your Bible and read Genesis 34:25 to 29. What do these verses say the sons of Jacob did?

14. First they deceived the men of Shechem. They made them to be circumcised. When the men were sore from this, two of Jacob's sons went into the city. They killed all the men in the city. Then all of Jacob's sons stole the things in the city. Think about what happened to Jacob's family at Shechem when he did not obey God fully.

- (1) His daughter was raped.
- (2) His sons deceived and murdered.

Whose family fell into sin because their father did not obey God fully?

15. At Shechem, Jacob's family fell into sin. His daughter was raped. It was right for her brothers to be angry about this. But they fell into sin too. They tried to overcome evil with evil. This led them to deceive and murder. What great sorrow for Jacob! But all this happened because he did not obey God fully. He had chosen to live in Shechem.

When Jacob did not obey God fully, what did this bring to his family at Shechem?

(1) His daughter was raped.

(2) _____

16. Jacob's sons deceived and murdered. Jacob's family fell into sin. His choice to live at Shechem brought great trouble to his children's lives.

Many hundreds of years later, the children of Israel left Egypt. Because of sin they had to wander in the desert. See who suffered for their parents' sin.

Numbers 14:33:

And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and shall suffer for your faithlessness (or not believing and obeying).

Jacob's decision to stay in Shechem brought sin to whom? _____

17. Jacob's choice brought sin to his family. It brought trouble to his sons and daughters. After the men of Shechem were killed, Jacob was afraid. He thought the other people of Canaan would kill him and his family. After all the trouble at Shechem, God spoke to him. God reminded Jacob again of Bethel.

Genesis 35:1:

God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there; and make an altar to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau."

When Jacob did not obey God fully, what did this bring to his family at Shechem?

(1) _____

(2) _____

18. His daughter was raped. His sons deceived and murdered.

Here are some questions to think about. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

Were Jacob's sons right in being very angry about their sister? _____

Do you think some Christian parents today make choices that can bring sin to their children?

Do you want to follow God and obey Him fully? _____

19. When Jacob did not obey God fully, what did this bring to his family at Shechem?

(1) _____

(2) _____

WEEK 5: BLESSING COMES WHEN MEN CHOOSE TO LET GOD WORK
DAY 3: JACOB PREPARED TO WORSHIP GOD AT BETHEL

Genesis 35:1-8

1. Yesterday we learned about the sin that came to Jacob's family at Shechem.

When Jacob did not fully obey God, what did this bring to his family at Shechem?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. His daughter was spoiled. His sons deceived and killed men. All this brought sorrow, worry, and fear to Jacob. He knew he had to leave Shechem. Sometimes trouble makes us ready to listen to God again. God is good. He told Jacob what to do.

Genesis 35:1:

God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there; and make there an altar to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau."

Where did the Lord tell Jacob to go? _____

3. The Lord told Jacob to go to Bethel. He should worship there. Today we will learn the three ways in which Jacob prepared his household to worship God at Bethel.

- (1) They put away idols.
- (2) They made themselves clean.
- (3) They gave up their magic charms.

Stop now and read Genesis 35:1 to 8. Keep your Bible open.

4. Jacob's household was a big one. He had four wives, many children, and many servants. The servants came from Paddan-aram, the country where Laban lived. Jacob called together all those who were with him. Jacob spoke to them.

Read Genesis 35:2 again. What was the thing they had to put away?

5. They had to put away the foreign gods, or idols. An idol is anything that takes the place of God in people's lives. Some of the household had brought their idols of silver, wood, gold, or stone with them. These idols had to be put away. These things had taken the time that God should have. They had taken the place of God in the household.

Who had to get rid of all their idols? _____

6. Jacob's household had to get rid of their idols. Many years later, God gave ten commandments to His people. These are the first two commandments.

Exodus 20:3-4:

You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make yourself a graven image (or idol).

God must have first place in our lives. God is not willing for His people to worship idols along with worshipping Him. A part of Jacob's promise was: The Lord shall be my God. To keep his promise, Jacob had to get rid of the idols in his household. He was preparing his household to worship at Bethel.

What is the first way in which Jacob's household prepared to worship God at Bethel?

- (1) _____
- (2) They made themselves clean.
- (3) They gave up their magic charms

7. They put away idols. When we prepare to worship God, He wants us to do this too. We may not have idols of wood or stone. But we must put away anything that takes first place in our lives. God wants that place.

Read Genesis 35:2 again. As well as putting away foreign gods or idols, what else did Jacob's household have to do? _____

8. They had to clean themselves. They washed themselves. They put on clean clothes. All this was part of preparing to worship God.

Do you like to wash yourself and wear clean clothes when you go to church? _____

Why? _____

9. We will talk about your answers in class. Jacob's household made themselves clean. Making themselves clean on the outside helped them remember that God is holy. Nothing unclean can come before Him. The Lord wants men to have clean hearts, hands, and lives when they come before Him.

Why did Jacob's household make themselves clean?

10. They were preparing to worship. Jacob's household put away idols. And they made themselves clean. This was all part of preparing to worship God at Bethel. But Jacob asked his household to give him something else besides idols.

Read Genesis 35:4 again. As well as their foreign gods or idols, what else did Jacob's household give to him?

11. They gave him their earrings. These were special earrings. They were magic charms. People wore these in their ears.

We once lived in Tanzania. There the children wore charms round their necks. These were little packets on pieces of string. The parents trusted these charms to protect their children. They thought they would bring good to them. Even some Christian parents put charms on their children. Some parents wore charms around their waists.

Where you live do people wear charms? _____

Do you think a Christian should wear charms? _____

Why? _____

12. Be ready to talk about your answer in class. The Lord wants Christians to trust Him to protect and care for them. He wants us to put our whole trust in Him.

In Nigeria, a pastor preached to his people. The church had many people. But it was weak in spiritual power. He preached about trusting Jesus alone. He asked if a person can trust God and his charms at the same time. It is like trying to sit on two chairs at once. He prayed with his people. Then he asked them to leave all their charms in the church. By doing this they were showing that they would trust God alone. That day more than 400 charms were left in the church.

Read Genesis 35:4 again. What did Jacob hide under the oak tree? _____

13. Jacob dug a hole. In the hole, he put the idols and the magic charms. This showed that the household were leaving these things. This was part of preparing his family to worship God.

Write the ways in which Jacob's household prepared to worship God at Bethel.

(1) They put away idols.

(2) They made themselves clean.

(3) _____

14. They gave up their magic charms. Sometimes people are very afraid to give up their charms. We must teach them how strong our God is to save and to keep.

Read Genesis 35:5 again. Who cared for Jacob's household as they went on to Bethel? _____

15. God made the other people afraid of Jacob and his household. So no one tried to stop or harm them. Think about the ways in which Jacob prepared his household to worship.

- (1) They put away idols. This showed that Jacob wanted God to have first place in his household.
- (2) They made themselves clean. Being clean on the outside helped them remember that God is holy. God wants men to be clean in mind, word, and deed when they worship.
- (3) They gave up their magic charms. This showed that they put their trust in God to care for them and protect them.

Who prepared his household to worship God at Bethel? _____

16. Jacob had chosen to let God work in his own life. But Jacob wanted his household to worship with him. So Jacob prepared them to worship with him at Bethel. Jacob was going to Bethel to remember his promises. But he wanted his household to share in worship. This is what every Christian father needs to do as head of his family.

Write three ways in which Jacob prepared his household to worship God at Bethel.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

17. They put away idols. They made themselves clean. They gave up their charms. Maybe your people need help in this matter of preparing to worship God. Maybe some people in your church come to worship God, wearing charms. They need teaching.

Take another paper. Write some teaching for your people from the things you have learned today. Teach the lesson if you can. Bring your paper to class. We will talk about it there. We will also talk about ways to help your people prepare for worship.

18. Write three ways in which Jacob prepared his household to worship God at Bethel.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

WEEK 5: BLESSING COMES WHEN MEN CHOOSE TO LET GOD WORK
DAY 4: GOD MADE THE SAME PROMISES TO ABRAHAM, ISAAC , AND
JACOB

Genesis 35:9-29

1. Write three ways in which Jacob prepared his household to worship God at Bethel.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

2. They put away idols. They made themselves clean. And they gave up their magic charms. God cared for the family as they went up to Bethel. There Jacob built an altar and worshipped the Lord. Jacob was now obeying God fully. The Lord was ready to talk with him again and bless him.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 35:9 to 15. What new name did God give Jacob, preparing him to be the father of a great nation?

3. Jacob's new name was Israel. He was now back to Bethel, where God wanted him to be. God cannot bless His people when they are not obeying. At Bethel the Lord repeated His promises to Jacob. These were the promises God had made to him about 27 years before. But God had made these same promises to Abraham and Isaac as well. Today we will learn that God promised a nation to come from them, and the land of Canaan to three men:

- (1) Abraham
- (2) Isaac, and
- (3) Jacob

Think about the verses you read in Genesis 35. Write one thing God did for Jacob at Bethel.

4. You could answer in different ways. God appeared to Jacob and spoke to him. God blessed Jacob. God also reminded him of his new name, Israel. God made great promises to him.

Genesis 35:11:

And God said to him, "I am God almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you.

What did God promise would come from Jacob? _____

5. God promised that a nation would come from Jacob. God also promised a place for this nation to live. God had spoken with Jacob when he was running away from home.

Genesis 28:13:

I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants.

God repeated this promise to Jacob when he returned to Bethel.

Read Genesis 35:12 again. From this verse, what else did God promise to give to Jacob?

6. God promised to give him a land. This was the land of Canaan. At Bethel God repeated His promises to give Jacob two things. A nation would come from him. God would give him the land of Canaan. But Jacob was not the first man to whom God made these same promises.

Galatians 3:16:

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring.

To whom were the promises made first? _____

7. God first called Abraham. God made great promises to him.

Genesis 12:2:

I will make of you a great nation.

Genesis 18:18:

Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation.

This was the beginning of the great nation of Israel. God was preparing a nation for Himself.

What did God promise to make of Abraham? _____

8. God promised to make a great nation from Abraham. Abraham is called the father of the nation of Israel. But the promises were to Abraham and his descendants.

Genesis 17:8:

And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

As well as the promise of a nation to come from him, what else did God promise to give to Abraham? _____

9. God also promised to give him the land of Canaan. God made these promises when Abraham had no children and no land. But Abraham had faith. He believed God would give him these things. He looked with the eye of faith.

Who was the first man to whom God promised a nation to come from him, and to give him the land of Canaan?

(1) _____ (2) Isaac (3) Jacob

10. It was Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel. He is the father of all men of faith. And God kept His promises to Abraham. The Lord gave him a son, Isaac. The promises were for Abraham and his descendants. In a time of trouble in Isaac's life, God spoke with him.

Genesis 26:3:

Sojourn (or stay) in this land, and I will be with you, and will bless you; for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will fulfil the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.

After Abraham, to whom did God promise to give the land of Canaan? _____

11. It was to Abraham's son, Isaac. God promised to give him the land. At that time Isaac had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. God promised Isaac that He would greatly multiply his descendants.

Which land did God promise to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? _____

12. God promised to give them the land of Canaan. And He promised to give it to their descendants. God had promised them that a great nation would come from them.

To which men did God first promise to make a great nation from them, and to give them the land of Canaan?

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) Jacob

13. These two promises were first given to Abraham and then to Isaac. God repeated the same two promises to Jacob. Now God is not called the God of Abraham and of Isaac. God is called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Read again Genesis 35:14 and 15. Where was Jacob when God repeated the promises to make a great nation from him, and to give him the land of Canaan?

14. He was at Bethel. God first made these promises to him when he was running away from home. When he returned to Bethel, God repeated His promises to him.

Who was the third man to whom God promised a great nation to come from him, and the land of Canaan?

(1) Abraham (2) Isaac (3) _____

15. These two promises were also given to Jacob. God promised to bless all three men. But the greatest promise the Lord gave was that all families of the earth would be blessed through them. Everyone on earth would be blessed by the coming of Jesus. Jesus would come in the descendants of these three men.

Jesus did come. He brought salvation. Jesus was born in the land of Canaan, the promised land. And he was from the great nation of Israel.

To what three men did God promise to make their descendants a great nation and to give them the land of Canaan?

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

16. God made the same promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It took many years for God to work out His plan. It took many years for Him to keep His promises. In the time of Joshua, the people of Israel took possession of Canaan.

Joshua 21:43, 45:

Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land which he swore to give to their fathers; and having taken possession of it, they settled there. Not one of all the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Whose promises can we always believe? _____

Who is the One who keeps all His promises to us? _____

How many of His promises will God keep with you? _____

17. We will talk about your answers in class.

To what three men did God promise to make their descendants a great nation, and to give them the land of Canaan?

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

WEEK 5: BLESSING COMES WHEN MEN CHOOSE TO LET GOD WORK
DAY 5: ESAU MADE BAD CHOICES

Genesis 36:1-8:

1. Yesterday we learned about some promises which God repeated at Bethel.

To what three men did God promise to make their descendants a great nation, and to give them the land of Canaan?

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

2. God made these promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. After Jacob worshipped the Lord at Bethel, he went south to Hebron. This is where his father, Isaac, lived. On the way, Jacob's wife Rachel died giving birth to her second son. Jacob called the baby, Benjamin. Jacob now had 12 sons. His family was complete. The 12 sons would become the Fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Stop now and read about Jacob's visit to Isaac. Read Genesis 35:27-29.
Who buried Isaac? _____

3. Jacob was with his father when Isaac died. Isaac's sons, Esau and Jacob, buried him. Today's lesson will be about Esau. From Genesis 36 we will learn two bad choices Esau made in his life.

- (1) He chose wives who did not worship God.
- (2) He chose to leave Canaan.

Remember what we learned. Write the difference between Esau and Jacob in the things they sought after.

(1) Esau wanted _____

(2) Jacob wanted _____

4. Although they were twins, Esau and Jacob were different from each other. Esau sought things which are seen. Jacob sought things which are not seen.

We have already read about one of Esau's choices. You remember that he came in from hunting one day. He was very hungry. He chose a dish of red food instead of all the blessings of his birthright.

Do you think this was a good choice, or a bad choice? _____

5. I think you have said it was a bad choice. Esau was given a name that reminded him of that choice. Many people have two names. One is the name their parents gave them. The other is what people call them. I know a man who has a long neck. His friends gave him the name "Twiga." Twiga is the Swahili word for giraffe.

Read Genesis 36:1 to 8 in your Bible. What was Esau's other name? _____

6. Esau was also called "Edom" which means "red." Esau himself was red and hairy. But he also chose a dish of red food instead of his birthright. This was a bad choice. Esau kept making bad choices in his life.

Read Genesis 36:2 again. Who married wives of Canaan? _____

7. The people of Canaan were very sinful people with very sinful customs. Esau chose to marry women like that. Esau chose wives who did not worship God.

Genesis 26:34-35:

When Esau was forty years old, he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

From these verses, who brought bitterness to Isaac and Rebekah? _____

8. The wives of Esau did not bring blessing to Isaac and Rebekah. They brought bitterness. Rebekah said that she was weary because of Esau's wives. She grew tired of their evil lives and customs. Isaac did not want his other son to do as Esau did.

Genesis 28:1:

Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged (or told) him, "You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women."

Which one of Isaac's sons married wives who did not worship God?

9. Esau married these wives. They were no help in his life. They could not bring up Esau's sons to walk in God's ways. But Esau's choices showed what was in his heart. Esau did not want to follow God's ways. Esau did not want to obey God. He chose to do as he pleased.

What do you think of Esau's choice to marry wives who did not worship God?

10. Be ready to share your answer in class. Esau chose wives who did not worship God. But Esau made other bad choices.

Read Genesis 36:6-8 again. Verse 6 tells us Esau went away from Canaan. Verse 8 tells us where he went. Where did Esau choose to live? _____

11. Esau went to live in the hill country of Seir. God had promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. But see what Esau did.

Genesis 36:6:

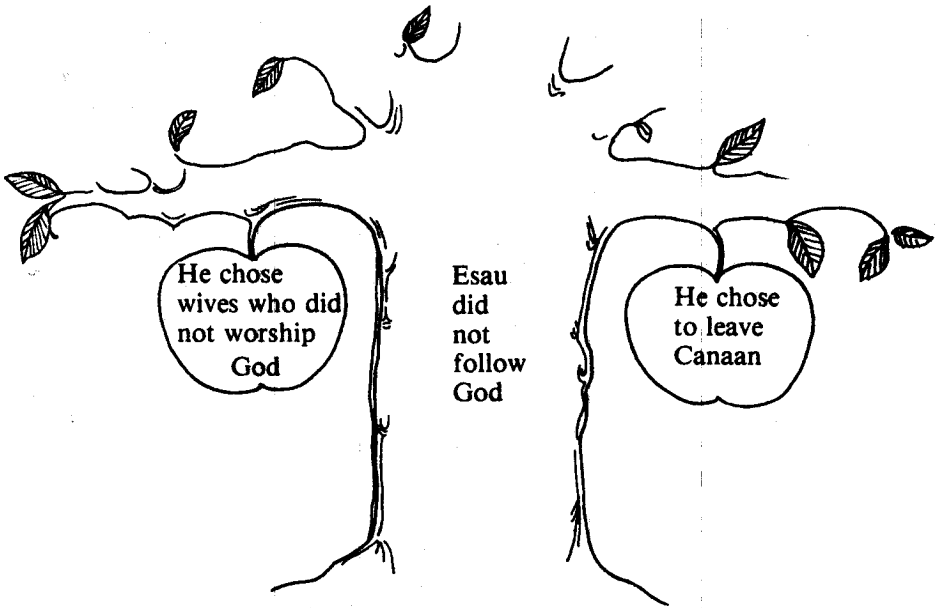
He went into a land away from his brother Jacob.

Which land did Esau choose to leave? _____

12. Esau chose to leave the land of Canaan. This was the land God had promised to Isaac and his descendants. Esau had reasons for his bad choice. He thought the land of Canaan was not big enough for him and his brother. He thought the land could not hold their flocks and herds. So he chose to go to the country of Mount Seir to live.

Which of Isaac's sons chose to leave Canaan? _____

13. Esau chose to leave Canaan. He chose another land for himself. He did not agree with God's choice of land for Isaac's descendants. The biggest mistake of Esau was not to follow God. He was not like Jacob who said, "The Lord shall be my God." Esau's bad choices were the fruit of his big mistake. He did not follow God or walk in His ways.



In what chapter do we read about Esau's bad choices? Look in your Bible if you need to.

14. We read this in Genesis 36. In the Old Testament we read about the Edomites. They were descendants of Esau, who is also called Edom. The Edomites did not follow God's ways. They did not worship God. Esau's descendants followed their father, Esau.

Who was the father of the Edomites who made bad choices? _____

15. Esau was the father of the Edomites. Esau chose to leave Canaan. He never received the land back again. Jacob, his 12 sons, and their descendants inherited the land of Canaan.

Which twin made the better choices in life? _____

16. Jacob did wrong things and made mistakes. But he made better choices in life. Jacob made the great choice to serve the Lord. Esau never made this choice. Esau never knew the blessing of God on his life. His family did not find this blessing either. Blessing comes when men choose to let God work in their lives.

From Genesis 36, what two bad choices did Esau make because of not following God?

(1) _____

(2) _____

17. Esau chose wives who did not worship God. Esau chose to leave Canaan. Jacob chose to let God work in his life. He became a great man. All the earth has been blessed through him.

The Bible teaches that God chooses men. But men too must choose to follow God.

Malachi 1:2-3:

"I have loved you," says the Lord. But you say, "How has thou loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" says the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob but I have hated Esau; I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert."

Stop and pray now. Ask God to help you to be like Jacob. Ask God to help you make the right choices in your life.

18. From Genesis 36, what two bad choice did Esau make because of not following God?

(1) _____

(2) _____