

Home at Last



References

Genesis 32 and 33;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 195–198



Memory Verse

“ ‘God has been
gracious to me and
I have all I need’ ”
(Genesis 33:11, NIV).



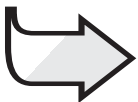
Objectives

The children will:

Know that they
can give greatly
because God has
richly blessed them.

Feel eager to serve
others through a giving spirit.

Respond by treating people
with needs respectfully.



The Message

We serve God when
we share His blessings
with others.

Monthly Theme

Our families help us learn how to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jacob is on his way to Canaan where he knows he will meet Esau. He is unsure of Esau’s feelings about the past. Jacob remembers God’s promise and moves forward. He recognizes that he has done wrong and wants to make things right with his brother. After so many years apart, Jacob and Esau are finally reunited. Jacob presents his brother with many gifts, which Esau at first tries to refuse, but Jacob insists. Esau then tries to return the favor by offering to accompany Jacob and his family, or at least to have his men guard them on their journey. But Jacob is satisfied to have made peace and sends Esau on his way. Then Jacob proceeds at a slow pace to his new home.

This is a lesson about service.

Jacob exercised three principles of effective service. First, he recognized the full extent of God’s blessing to him (Genesis 32:10). Giving to Esau would not diminish his own abundance, for God had been so generous to him (Genesis 33:8-11). Second, Jacob treated Esau with much respect. There was no demand for equal treatment, no insistence that he receive something in return (Genesis 33:12-15). And finally, Jacob had learned to move at the speed of those for whom he was responsible. He kept to a pace that was considerate of the youngest and most tender (Genesis 33:13, 14). We want to do the same as we serve others.

Teacher Enrichment

“He [Jacob] sent from his vast flocks generous presents to Esau, with a friendly message. He did all in his power to atone for the wrong to his brother and to avert the threatened danger, and then in humiliation and repentance he pleaded for divine protection” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 196).

“In a dream, Esau beheld his brother . . . he witnessed his grief at finding his mother dead; he saw him encompassed by the hosts of God. This dream was related by Esau to his soldiers, with the charge not to harm Jacob, for the God of his father was with him.

“The two companies at last approached each other, the desert chief leading his men of war, and Jacob with his wives and children, attended by shepherds and handmaidens, and followed by long lines of flocks and herds. Leaning upon his staff, the patriarch went forward to meet the band of soldiers. . . . His countenance

was lighted up with joy and peace.

“ . . . Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept ”
(*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 198).

Jacob bowed seven times before Esau, a sign of total humility and submission. He also embraced him and kissed him. (See *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 409.)

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section

Minutes

Activities

Materials Needed

Welcome

ongoing

Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled

none

1

Readiness Options

up to 10

A. *Greetings!*
B. *Please Forgive Me*
C. *What Forgiveness Looks Like*

none
modeling dough or clay (see recipe)
none

Any Time

Prayer and Praise*

up to 10

Fellowship
Songbook
Mission
Offering
Prayer

none
Sing for Joy
Children's Mission
offering container
none

2

Bible Lesson

up to 20

Experiencing the Story
Memory Verse
Bible Study

Bible-times costumes
none
Bibles, chalkboard or whiteboard,
chalk or marker

3

Applying the Lesson

up to 15

Knowing Your Blessings

paper (optional), pencils (optional)

4

Sharing the Lesson

up to 15

Blessings Box

small boxes, art supplies, paper, marker

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Recipe for Modeling Dough

1 cup flour
1 cup water
1/2 cup salt
1 tablespoon oil
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
food coloring (optional)

Mix all ingredients together in a saucepan. Heat on medium-high heat, stirring constantly until thick like mashed potatoes. Remove from pan. Let cool just until able to knead smooth. Store in airtight container.

You Need:

- modeling dough or clay

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Review last week's memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Greetings!

Talk about how people greet one another in your country and how people in other countries greet others (people in the United States shake hands, people in India and Japan bow slightly and smile). Discuss other greetings you know.

Form groups of three or four. With the help of a teacher, have each group create their own unique greeting. Bring the groups together and have each demonstrate their greeting to the rest of the children.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **How do you greet a good friend or relative whom you haven't seen in a long time? How do you think you will greet Jesus when you see Him face to face? Our Bible story today is about Jacob meeting his brother Esau after not seeing him for many years. His greeting included our memory verse for today: "God has been gracious to me and I have all I need" (Genesis 33:11, NIV). Listen carefully to learn about today's message, which is:**



WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

B. Please Forgive Me

Give each child some modeling dough or clay (see recipe for dough) and ask them to make something that they would give to someone they had hurt or made sad.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did you make with your clay? Who would you give your gift to? Why? Why do we sometimes give gifts to someone we have hurt? Our Bible story today is about Jacob meeting his brother after many years. Jacob's greeting included today's memory verse: "God has been gracious to me and I have all I need" (Genesis 33:11, NIV). Jacob learned something important. Our message tells us about it.**



WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

C. What Forgiveness Looks Like

Ask the children to make their face show what someone would look like if they were:

1. needing forgiveness.
2. forgiving someone.
3. asking for forgiveness.
4. forgiven.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **When is it easy to ask for forgiveness? When is it hard? When is it easy to forgive someone? When is it hard? Our story today is about Jacob meeting his brother Esau after many years. Our memory verse is a part of that greeting. It says: " 'God has been gracious to me and I have all I need' " (Genesis 33:11, NIV). Jacob learned an important lesson. Today's message tells us what he learned:**



WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise Any Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 126)
- "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 132)
- "God Bless Families" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 138)
- "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 140)
- "I've Got Peace Like a River" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 108)



Mission

Talk about things we must have to live (air, water, food, love), and then about the things God has given us beyond those necessities just to make us happy. Do we share those blessings with others? Share a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Emphasize that God blesses us so we can share with others. And the more we share and serve, the more He blesses us!

You Need:

- offering container



Prayer

Ask each child to help you pray by naming one blessing for which they want to thank God.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Jacob, Esau. The other children can be soldiers or Jacob's family.

Setting the scene:

Choose two children to mime the parts. Remind the others to notice the greeting Jacob gives Esau and the gifts he offers him.

Read or tell the story.

Jacob was returning to his homeland as God had instructed him, but he was a little nervous. Jacob remembered how he had tricked Esau into selling him his birthright, and how he had tricked their father into giving him the special blessing. He believed that Esau was still very angry with him.

Jacob turned to God for help. Jacob remembered God's past promises to be with him, and he reminded God of those promises. And God was with him. As he traveled, two hosts of heavenly angels, one before and one behind, traveled with him and his family.

Jacob sent messengers to take greetings to Esau. "This is what you are to say to my master Esau," he directed. "Your servant Jacob says . . ." And they were to address Esau as "my lord Esau." This would tell Esau that Jacob was not coming back to claim any inheritance or position.

But the messengers returned with the news that Esau was approaching with 400 men. *Would Esau attack?* Jacob wondered. *What would happen to his wives and children?* Again, Jacob turned to God and reminded Him of His promises.

Then Jacob sent word to Esau that he

was coming home. He also sent many animals as gifts and a message: "Be sure to say, 'Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.'" Jacob hoped that Esau would be willing to forgive him for the past.

That night Jacob sent his family and all his possessions across the Jabbok stream. But he stayed behind by himself, and there he wrestled with an angel. After a night of anguish, he begged for a blessing and received it. Then he was ready to meet his brother.

"While Jacob was wrestling with the Angel, another heavenly messenger was sent to Esau. In a dream, Esau beheld his brother . . . [surrounded] by the hosts of God. This dream was related by Esau to his soldiers, with the charge not to harm Jacob" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 198).

The next day as Jacob looked off in the distance, he saw Esau coming with his four hundred men! It looked as if Esau was still angry! Quickly Jacob divided his family, putting the children with their mothers. Then he went to the front of the group. While he was still a long way from Esau, Jacob bowed low to the ground. Then he walked on toward his brother and bowed again. Jacob did this seven times.

But when Esau met Jacob, he ran to him and threw his arms around him! He hugged and kissed his brother, and they both began to cry! Jacob must have felt such relief! After a little while, Esau asked, "Who are all of these people with you?"

"This is the family God has given me!" Jacob told him. "Let me introduce them to you."

After the introductions, Esau asked, "What about all the herds of animals that you sent before you; what does that mean?"

Jacob replied, "These are my presents

to you, my brother. I want you to know that I need your mercy and forgiveness.”

“I already have plenty, Jacob. Keep what is yours,” Esau responded graciously.

But Jacob said, “No, please! Accept these gifts! It will show me that you have truly forgiven me! Please, take them! God has been good to me and I have all I need!”

Esau finally accepted the gifts. Then he said, “Let’s be on our way. I’ll travel with you!”

“Thank you, Esau!” Jacob replied. “But we really need to travel much slower than you do. We have so many children and young animals. You go on ahead of us, and we’ll follow.”

“Then let me leave some of my men with you,” Esau responded.

“There is no need, Esau,” Jacob answered. “God has shown me that He’ll protect us, just as He has protected me all these years.”

Finally, Esau was persuaded to go on ahead. Jacob, with his large family and flocks, followed slowly toward his father’s land. There in Shechem in the land of Canaan, Jacob purchased land and made his home.

Jacob was considerate of his family. Even though he was anxious to reach Canaan, he put the needs of others first. When we truly serve others, we will be considerate of their needs too.

Jacob knew that everything he had came from God. He could be generous because God had blessed him. In the same way, because of all that Jesus has given us, we can generously share what we have without expecting anything in return.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

What feelings do you think Jacob had about meeting Esau?

What feelings may Esau have had? Why did Jacob call himself Esau’s servant?

How did Esau greet Jacob? How did Jacob share God’s blessings with Esau?

How did Esau try to repay Jacob’s kindness?

That reminds me of today’s message. Let’s say it together:



WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

Memory Verse

Have the children do the actions and repeat the verse until they know it.

God	Point upward.
has been gracious	With palms facing inward, rotate hand in a circle.
to me and I have	Point to self.
all I need.	Right hand at waist level, with index finger pointing, “tap” downward from the wrist.
Genesis 33:11	Palms together, then open.

You Need:

- Bibles
- chalkboard or whiteboard
- chalk or marker

Bible Study

Say: **Let's find out how many animals Jacob gave to Esau as a gift. I need someone to write the numbers on the board while three people each read a verse from Genesis 32:13-15.**

Allow time.

Now let's add them up (220 goats, 220 sheep, 30 + 30 camels; 40 cows +10 bulls, 30 donkeys = 580 animals according to the New International Version).

That's a lot of animals! And if those were gifts to Esau, how many more animals do you think Jacob had left? We don't know, but he must have had a lot!

Now let's look at Genesis 32:22-31. Assign verses and have adults assist as necessary. **With whom did Jacob wrestle?**

What new name did Jacob receive?

What did his new name mean? (overcomer) **And that is how Jacob's descendants came to be called Israelites.**

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: **Do you think Jacob had more than he needed?**

Why did he share with his brother? (Esau was family; Jacob wanted to be kind; he was afraid Esau would hurt him.)

Why should we share with others? Let's say our message together:



WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- paper (optional)
- pencils (optional)

Knowing Your Blessings

Say: **To share your blessings with someone, you first have to know how God has blessed you.** Ask the children to think of something they are really good at and ask them to either act it out or draw it and share with the class (riding a bike, singing, drawing pictures, telling funny jokes, cooking, identifying birds, being friendly).

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What is the difference between sharing your talents and sharing your things?**

Why has God blessed you with tal-

ents? How is sharing our talents serving God?

How can your attitude (your outlook on life) **be a blessing to others?**

How can you share your talent this week with someone who needs encouragement or help?

Discuss each child's blessing (gift from God) and how they can use it.

Ask: **Is it easier or harder to share when we have been given more things and/or talents?** (could be both)

Let's remember our message this week:



WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Blessings Box

Have the children each make a small "Blessings Box." They can decorate the box by overlapping and gluing on 2" x 2" squares of colored tissue paper, by drawing a happy face or other cheerful design, or by gluing on uncooked macaroni shapes.

Have the children write the memory verse and some blessings they enjoy on strips of paper (or write some yourself and make copies for each child) to place inside the box.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do you know someone with whom you can share this Blessings Box?**

Be sure to have them look inside

the box and read the memory verse and blessings. Tell them about the blessings God has given you. Encourage them to share their blessings with others. Then try to share some of your blessings with others this week.

Let's say our message together one last time:



WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE SHARE HIS BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

Closing

Thank God for giving us the necessities of life, and so many other things as well. Ask Him to help us always to be thankful and to have a willing heart to share with others.

You Need:

- small boxes
- art supplies
- slips of paper
- marker

NOTE: PLAN AHEAD FOR READINESS ACTIVITY B IN NEXT WEEK'S LESSON BY ASKING THE CHILDREN TO BRING A BABY PICTURE OF THEMSELVES TO CLASS NEXT WEEK.

Home at Last

References

Genesis 32 and 33;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 195–198

Memory Verse

“God has been
gracious to me and
I have all I need”
(Genesis 33:11,
NIV).

The Message

We serve God
when we share
His blessings
with others.

Do you remember singing this song? “I have two dollies and I am glad. You have no dollies and that’s too bad. . . .” Jacob and Esau finally learned to share their blessings.

Jacob was returning to his homeland. God had told him to. But he was a little nervous. Jacob remembered how he had tricked Esau into selling him his birthright. He remembered how he had tricked their father into giving him the special blessing that should have been Esau’s. Would Esau still be angry with him?

Jacob turned to God for help. And God sent two hosts of heavenly angels, one before and one behind, to travel with him.

Jacob sent messengers to greet Esau. “This is what you are to say to my master Esau,” he directed. “Your servant Jacob says . . .” And they were to call Esau “my lord Esau.” This would tell Esau that Jacob did not claim any inheritance.

But the messengers returned with frightening news. Esau was approaching with 400 men! *Would Esau attack?*

Jacob wondered.

Again, Jacob turned to God.

Then Jacob sent Esau a message and many animals as gifts. He directed his messenger to say, “Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.”

That night Jacob sent his family and all his possessions across a stream called

Jabbok. But he stayed behind by himself, and there he met God. All night he wrestled with an angel. Then he begged for a blessing and received it.

That same night, God sent a messenger to Esau. “Esau beheld his brother . . . [surrounded] by the hosts of God. This dream was related by Esau to his soldiers, with the charge not to harm Jacob.”*

The next day Jacob saw Esau and his 400 men coming! Quickly Jacob divided his family. He put the children with their mothers. Then he went to the front of the group. While still a long way from Esau, Jacob bowed low to the ground. Then he walked on and bowed again. Jacob did this seven times, until they were very close.

But when Esau saw Jacob, he ran to him. He threw his arms around him! And they both began to cry! Jacob must have felt such relief!

After a little while, Esau asked, “Who are all of these people with you?”

“This is the family God has given me!” Jacob told him.

After the introductions, Esau asked, “What about all that you sent before you? What does that mean?”

Jacob replied, “These are my presents to you, my brother. I want you to know that I need your mercy and forgiveness.”

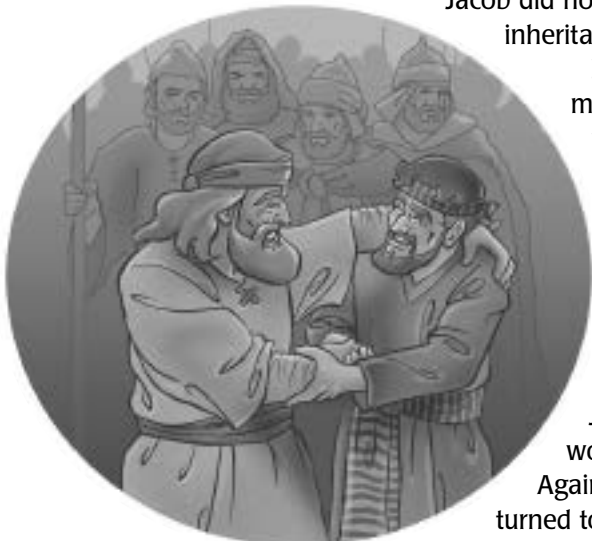
“I already have plenty, Jacob. Keep what is yours,” Esau responded graciously.

But Jacob said, “No, please! Accept these gifts! It will show me that you have truly forgiven me! God has been good to me and I have all I need!”

Esau finally accepted the gifts. Then he said, “Let’s be on our way. I’ll travel with you!”

“Thank you, Esau!” Jacob replied gratefully. “But we really need to travel much slower than you do. We have so many children and young animals.”

“Then let me leave some of my men with you,” Esau responded.



“There is no need, Esau,” Jacob said. “God will protect us, just as He has protected me all these years.”

Esau left then and went on ahead. Jacob, with his large family and flocks, followed slowly. Finally, they reached Shechem in the land of Canaan, Jacob’s homeland. There Jacob purchased land. After 20 years, he would finally have a home, a place for his family and his flocks.

Even though he was anxious to reach Canaan, Jacob put his family’s needs first. When we truly serve others, we will be considerate of their needs too.

**Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 198.*

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go for a long walk with your family. Imagine that you are traveling with Jacob. What would you see? What would you hear? How long would you walk each day of your journey? Find a quiet place and read the lesson story together.
- Teach your family the memory verse.
- Share the “Blessings Box” that you made in Sabbath School with someone. (Or write the memory verse on paper and put it inside a decorated box.) Be sure to tell them about blessings God has given you.

Sunday

- With your family read and discuss Genesis 32:1-12. What did Jacob fear? What did he do about it? What do you fear? What can you do about it? Ask an adult to tell about a fear they had as a child. How did they overcome it?
- Find Psalm 91:11. Draw a picture that tells what it says. Show the picture to your family.
- Sing about God’s care, then thank Him.

Monday

- Read and discuss Genesis 32:13-21 with your family. Why did Jacob send gifts to his brother? How were Jacob’s servants to address Esau? How do you show respect for people you meet?
- If you wanted to give your brother or sister a gift, what would it be? Why would you give them something? Thank God for them today.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Genesis 32:22-31. If possible, read about this in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 196, 197 (chapter 18, paragraph 7). Who came to Jacob in the night? What new name did Jacob receive? What did it mean? What blessing did God give Jacob that night? (Hint: See *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 198.)

- List some blessings and talents God has given you. How can you share those with others? With your family, make a plan. Then do it.
- Thank God for His blessings and ask Him to help you share them.

Wednesday

- For family worship, read and discuss Genesis 33:1-11. How did Jacob and Esau greet each other? Why did Jacob’s family bow down before Esau? Did Esau forgive Jacob? How do you know?
- Think of a time you quarreled with someone in your family. What did you do to make things right? What did the other person do? With an adult, act out the way you would ask someone in your family for forgiveness. Ask God to help you.

Thursday

- During worship today read and discuss Genesis 33:12-20. How did Esau treat Jacob? Why did Jacob have to travel slowly? Why didn’t Jacob need Esau’s protection?
- Imagine that your family is taking a long trip. Where would you like to go? What would you like to do there? Whose protection would you need as you travel?
- Sing some praise songs, then thank God for being with you wherever you go.

Friday

- For worship tonight, act out the meeting of Jacob and Esau. Who will be Jacob? Esau? Leah? Rachel? Have others make the animal sounds that were heard.
- Say the memory verse together. Then ask each person to tell how God has been gracious to them this week.
- Before prayer, sing some praise songs. Thank God for the blessing of the Sabbath.