

# Home at Last

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



**D**o 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.

**J**acob 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,



# The Message

We serve God when we share His blessings with others.

## Memory Verse

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

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.*



## S A B B A T H

**THINK** 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.

**DO** Teach your family the memory verse.

**SHARE** 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.

## S U N D A Y

**READ** 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?

**DRAW** Find Psalm 91:11. Draw a picture that tells what it says. Show the picture to your family.

**SING** Sing about God’s care, then thank Him.

## M O N D A Y

**READ** 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?

**THINK** 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.

## T U E S D A Y

**READ** 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.)

**THINK** 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.

**PRAY** Thank God for His blessings and ask Him to help you share them.

Jacob called the place where he wrestled with the Lord “the face of God.”



## W E D N E S D A Y

**READ** 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** 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.





# THURSDAY

**READ** 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?

**THINK** 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** Sing some praise songs, then thank God for being with you wherever you go.



# FRIDAY

**DO** 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.

**DO** Say the memory verse together. Then ask each person to tell how God has been gracious to them this week.

**SING** Before prayer, sing some praise songs. Thank God for the blessing of the Sabbath.

## Home at Last





# PUZZLE

Directions: Circle the right memory verse words that Jacob needs to find as he travels along the trail to home.



# SERVICE

Directions: Read the story and then look up the texts to find out what the Bible says about serving others in kindness. Write key words from the text on the lines provided. Pick a verse that will inspire you to help others as God has told us.

At age 8,  was blind and in a . His brother  was 5, and he was also blind and in a .

Mark  
James  
wheelchair  
wheelchair

But they both had good , and like other children

hearing

they were interested in sports . One day they

sports

heard a  talk about a ball game for .

neighbor  
children/team

and  begged their  to take

Mark  
James  
Parents/Mom and Dad

them to the . At the  told .

Park  
Park  
Parents/Mom and Dad  
Mark



# OUR FAMILIES HELP US LEARN HOW TO SERVE OTHERS

and  about the . Then the  told  and  that they were part of the  children/team.

After getting uniforms and  they were each

teamed up with a partner player. Their partners would hit the ball and then push  and  around the  Park.

 asked why his partner would take time to include him. "Because," his  said, "It is more fun!" At  home

 read some  verses about helping.

Look up the following verses and write key words on the line provided:  
James 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
James 1:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark 1:31 \_\_\_\_\_