

BIBLE LESSON # 13

1.

Genesis 27 and 28

It had been some time since the day when Esau had sold his birthright to Jacob. Their father, Isaac was growing old and he had become blind. Isaac spent more and more time laying in bed with Rebekah close by to bring him water and fan him during the hottest part of the day. Isaac didn't know how much longer he would live so one day he decided it was time to give the birthright blessing to Esau, his oldest son. Isaac called Esau to him and said, "My son, go hunting for a deer and cook me my favorite meal. When I have eaten then I will give you the birthright blessing." This blessing was very important, for whatever the father said in his blessing would come to pass. The one who received the blessing would have God's promises as well as inherit all of the land and cattle and sheep and wealth of the family. The one with the birthright would be ruler of his mother and brother as well as all of the servants.

Esau knew that he had sold the birthright to Jacob for a bowl of bean stew but he didn't say a word about it to his father. Esau wanted the birthright now, so he quickly got his bow and arrows and headed for the hills, hoping he would soon find a deer.



Now Rebekah overheard what Isaac said to Esau. Long ago God had told her that Jacob was to be the head of the household. She wondered why God would let Esau get the blessing when it should belong to Jacob. Instead of waiting for God to take care of the problem, Rebekah decided it was up to her to interfere before Isaac gave the blessing to his favorite son rather than the son God had chosen. Quickly Rebekah called Jacob and told him her plan. She would prepare a kid goat with Esau's recipe so it would taste like the deer Esau cooked, and Jacob was to take it to his father and tell him he was Esau. "But mother," Jacob said, "I don't have hairy skin like Esau does; my father will feel my skin and know I'm Jacob. I'll get a curse me instead of the blessing."

Even though Jacob and Esau were twins, they didn't look alike. Esau had bushy red hair and his skin was very hairy too. Jacob had smooth skin and his hair wasn't red like Esau's. Rebekah knew how to fix this problem. She took the soft, hairy skin of the kid goat and tied the skin to the top of Jacob's hands and arms and she even put some on the back of his neck so if Isaac hugged Jacob he would feel the hairy skin and think it was Esau.

Jacob shouldn't have tried to trick his father, should he? He should have trusted in God to give the blessing to him, but instead he agreed to all his mother said. To complete the deceit, Rebekah went to Esau's tent and got his robe that smelled like the wheat fields and grass that Esau walked through. She gave the robe to Jacob to wear when Jacob took the meat into his father's room.

Isaac was laying on the bed with his eyes closed but he heard Jacob's footsteps. "Who is there?" Isaac asked. "It is me, Esau," Jacob said, "I've cooked your favorite meal, please sit up and eat it so you can bless me, father." Isaac didn't think this sounded like Esau, "How is it you've found a deer so quickly?" Isaac asked. Jacob replied, "God gave me success." This didn't sound a bit like something Esau would say. Esau probably would have gone into great detail about how good he tracked the deer and how skillful his shots were. Esau didn't talk much about God helping him. Isaac said, "Come nearer my son." Jacob was probably shaking with fear by now. Why did his father sound so suspicious? Jacob bowed down beside his father's bed and Isaac reached up and his hand touched Jacob's arm. He felt the fuzzy goat skin, then Isaac said, "The voice is Jacob's voice but the hands are the hands of Esau. Are you my son Esau?" Jacob must have felt very bad about tricking his father, but he again lied and said, "Yes, I'm Esau." Finally Isaac was satisfied and he sat up and began to eat of the tasty meat Jacob had brought him.



As soon as the meal was finished Isaac said, "come give me a kiss my son." As Jacob bowed down to kiss his father, Isaac smelled the robe he was wearing and Isaac said, "See, the smell of my son is the smell of the field which the Lord has blessed. May God give you the dew of heaven and the richness of the earth. May he give you abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. You will be lord over your brother and your mother's son will bow down to you. Those who curse you will be cursed and those who bless you will be blessed." Then Isaac lay down to rest and Jacob went quickly out of the room. How do you think Jacob felt by now? He had received the blessing but he had deceived his old father and had lied over and over to him. How would you feel if you told your father a lie in order to get something you wanted? It would be a pretty bad feeling, wouldn't it? Your memory verse is really easy this time, but it's an important verse to learn.

When we tell lies or try to trick someone in order to get what we want it usually makes us feel ashamed and unhappy and we don't enjoy it nearly as much as we thought we would.

Shortly after Jacob left, Esau got home with a nice, fat deer. He got the meat ready and cooked it in his special sauce then hurried into his father's room with the food. "Sit up father, and eat some of my delicious venison, then you can bless me!" Esau happily shouted. Isaac startled out of his sleep, demanded "Who are you?" Esau thought this was a strange thing for his father to say. "I'm your son, your firstborn, Esau," he said. Then Isaac began to tremble and shake. "Where is the one who brought me the meal I just ate?" he asked. "I ate the food and gave him the blessing!" Isaac then knew what had happened. God had allowed Jacob to get the blessing, so this must be God's will. Isaac said, "Yes, and he shall be blessed." The tent nearly shook with the outraged cry of Esau, "Bless me too, father, give me a blessing too!"

Esau shouted and he cried but Isaac couldn't take the blessing back. He told Esau, "your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing." Esau ranted and raved bitterly. "Can't you give me a blessing too?" he begged. Isaac sighed and sadly gave Esau the only blessing he had left to give was not a very pleasant one. Isaac said, "your dwelling will be away from the earth's fertile ground and away from the dew of heaven. You will live by the sword and you will serve your brother. But one day you will throw off his yoke."



(A yoke is the piece of wood that is placed on oxen when they pull a cart. To be under Jacob's yoke meant that Esau was to obey and work for Jacob. But one day he would refuse to obey or serve Jacob anymore).

Esau was very bitter against Jacob, even though he knew he had sold his birthright to Jacob and he knew the birthright was part of the blessing, he was still very angry that Jacob had gotten the blessing after all. The more Esau thought about it the more angry he got. Esau vowed to get revenge. He planned to kill Jacob just as soon as his father died.

If we get angry at someone, we probably want to get even and make them sorry. This is a wrong way to think and is against God's rules. We must always try to do right and even if someone treats us badly, we must not brood about it or try to pay them back or make them sorry. It's up to God to take care of us and if someone hurts us God will take care of that problem. God tells us to do good to our enemies and treat them the way we want to be treated.

Esau had married two women from the Hittite people. These were idol worshipping people and this had been a constant worry to Isaac and Rebekah. When Esau got so angry at Jacob he was probably telling his wives about his plans to kill Jacob, just when Rebekah was walking by. Rebekah overheard Esau's plans and she hurried into her tent, wondering what they could do to keep Jacob safe. Then Rebekah had an idea, Jacob would be safe with her brother Laban. Laban lived far to the north and had a large family who could protect Jacob. She called Jacob and said, "Your brother Esau is very angry and he's planning on killing you. You must flee from here and go to my brother Laban. Hurry, pack your things and get ready to leave. Stay with Laban for awhile until your brother's anger leaves him, then I'll send for you to come home." Then Rebekah went to Isaac and said, "Esau's Hittite wives give me nothing but grief. I don't want Jacob to marry a Hittite woman, lets send Jacob to my brother and perhaps he'll find a wife among Laban's family. They believe in the living God, just as we do." Rebekah knew this would keep Jacob safe from Esau and also give him a chance to marry a woman who loved God as much as he did.

Isaac thought this was a good idea and the next morning he called Jacob to his tent. Isaac had forgiven Jacob for his trickery, for he realized this was what God had planned. When Jacob bowed before Isaac, he gave him another blessing, "May God almighty bless you and give you a good wife and many children. May God give your descendents the blessings given to Abraham, so that you may inherit this land that God gave to Abraham in his promise."

With tears in his eyes Jacob kissed his father and mother goodbye and quickly left before Esau knew about it. Jacob didn't know if he would ever see them again and he didn't know how to find Laban's home, but he headed north knowing that God would be with him.



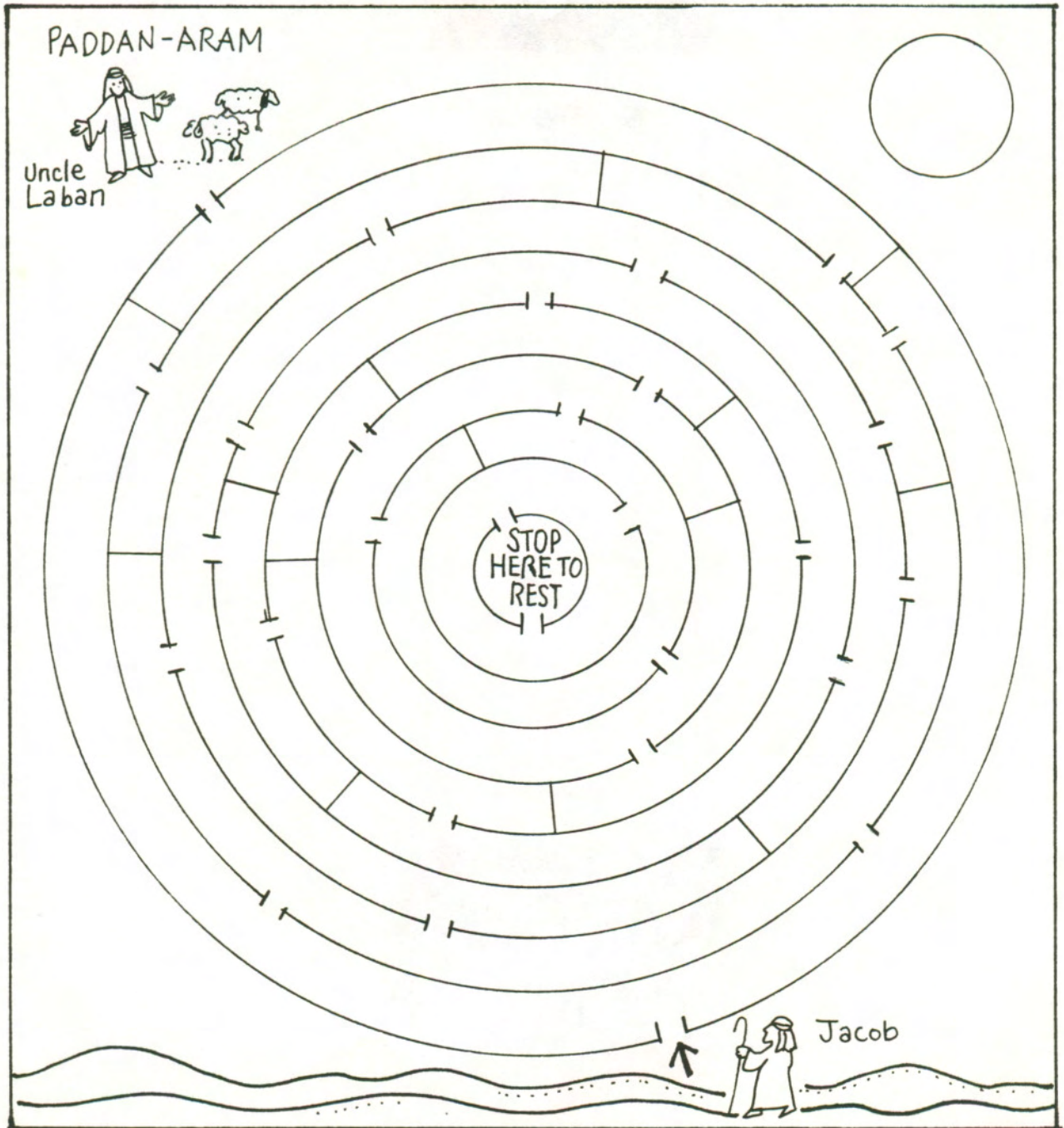
Question Page

1. Why did Isaac tell Esau to go hunting?
2. What was Esau to do with the deer he shot?
3. Who knew Jacob should get the blessing instead of Esau?
4. Why couldn't Isaac tell it was Jacob when he came into the room?
5. Why did Rebekah put goat skin on Jacob's hands and arms?
6. (fill in the blanks) Long ago God had told Rebekah that her son _____ would rule over her son_____.
7. How did Esau feel when he found out Jacob had tricked him out of the blessing?
8. Who was Laban?
9. Why did Isaac and Rebekah send Jacob to Laban?
10. What did God promise Abraham that Jacob was also promised? (a) Wealth (b) Cattle (c) To be a king (d) Land to live on forever

Put T for "True" or F for "False" in the blanks below

- _____ Rebekah killed a calf and made food like Esau cooked.
- _____ Jacob knew it was wrong to deceive his father and he refused to do it.
- _____ Jacob told Isaac he had found the meat quickly because of God's help.
- _____ When Isaac kissed Jacob he smelled the smell of the grain and grass and blessed him.
- _____ We should try to "get even" and "pay back" when others hurt our feelings or hurt us.
- _____ Esau laughed at the trick Jacob played on him.
- _____ Rebekah was happy when Esau married two Hittite women.
- _____ When Jacob left home Isaac gave him a blessing that said "May God give your

Help Jacob find his way. Gen 28:1-32:



... Jacob's life changed to?

... son: ... Jacob ...?

SHOES

Shoes come in many different styles, don't they? In Bible times people walked nearly everywhere. On long journeys they might ride a donkey or camel but usually they spent a lot of time walking so the animals could carry the loads.

Shoes in Bible times looked like this:



This is what some of our shoes look like today:



SHOE QUIZ

Fill in the blanks below, if you don't know, look up the answers in the Bible.

1. John said he wasn't worthy to do what to the thongs of Jesus' sandals? _____

John 1:27

2. Whose shoes did not get old or worn out, even after 40 years? _____

Deut.29:1, 5

3. God said he would toss his sandal over what country? _____ **Psa.60:8**

4. Who was told to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground? _____

Exod.3:5

5. Who bought some property by taking off his sandal? _____ **Ruth 4:7-8**

6. What was sold for a pair of sandals? _____ **Amos 2:6**

Psalms 8:3-4

**"When I consider your heavens
the work of your fingers, the moon
and the stars which you have set
in place, What is man that you are
mindful of him, the son of man
that you care for him?"**

