



# God Blesses Me

**S**arah looked at the paper in front of her. She was sitting at the kitchen table writing as fast as she could.

“What are you doing, Sarah?” her mom asked.

“I’m trying to write down all the good things God gives to me. I just remembered we are supposed to bring a list to Sunday school tomorrow to share with the class,” she replied.

Smiling, Mom said, “That’s going to be a long, long list!”

The next day in class, the kids talked about their lists of all the blessings God gives. They realized that God provides for everything we need. He protects our bodies from danger and guards our souls from evil. The teacher explained that God does all this for us even though we don’t **deserve** it. Because we are sinners and sin every day, none of us deserve any of God’s good gifts. If God gave us what we deserved, we wouldn’t have any good things. In fact, we would be sent away from God and punished forever!

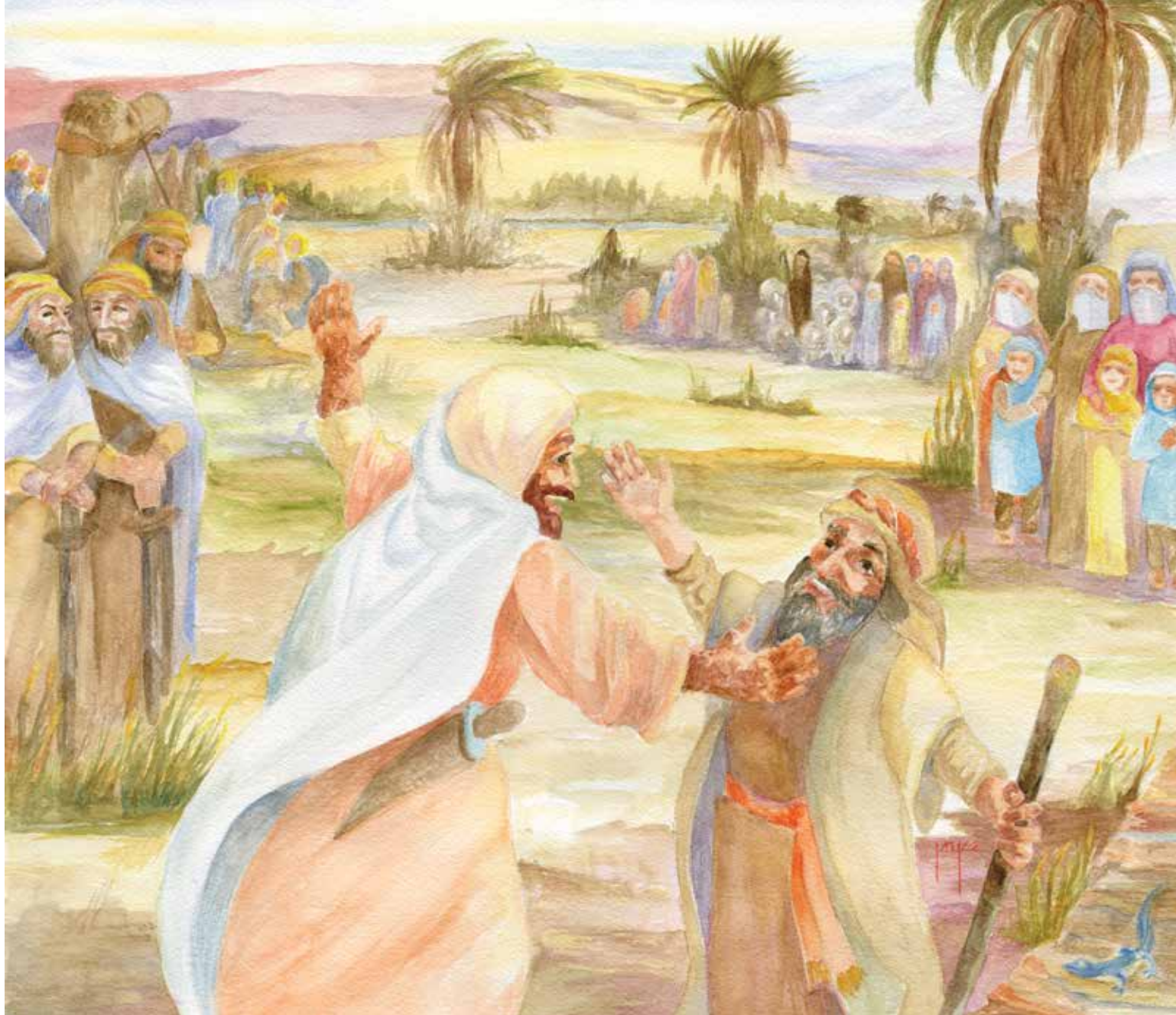
Since we do not deserve God’s gifts, why does God keep giving us good things? The catechism teaches us that God gives these things because He is a loving and **merciful** Father. He holds back punishment and extends blessings, not because we are good but because He is good.

The story of Jacob in the Old Testament teaches us this truth. Jacob stole an important **blessing** from his brother, Esau, and lied to their father, Isaac. Then, because he knew Esau was angry with him, Jacob ran away to another country. Even though Jacob had been so **deceitful**, God blessed him there in that **foreign** land. He married, and God

gave him many children. He became rich with a multitude of sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys. God promised to continue blessing Jacob, and Jacob trusted God.

After Jacob had been away from his homeland for twenty years, God told him it was time to return to Canaan, the land of his relatives. So Jacob gathered all his family and **livestock** and started the long journey back.





As they got closer, Jacob sent a messenger ahead to tell Esau that he was coming with all his family, servants, and livestock. The messenger returned with the news that Esau was on his way to meet them and was bringing 400 men. Jacob was filled with fear! What would Esau do to him? Would he want to kill him?

So Jacob divided all the people and animals that were with him into two groups. He separated them so that if Esau attacked one group, at least the other would escape. Then Jacob prayed to God, “O Lord, I am **unworthy** of all the **lovingkindness** and of all the faithfulness which you have shown to

Your servant; for with my staff only I crossed the Jordan, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother.”

God answered Jacob’s prayer. The next day, Jacob approached his brother in fear, but Esau ran to meet Jacob, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. Both brothers wept. Esau was no longer angry with his brother.

Even though Jacob had sinned against his brother, Esau treated Jacob with kindness and mercy that he did not deserve. God does the same for us. Out of His goodness and mercy, He blesses us even though we deserve nothing good.



## ACTIVITY 1

### Who Did It?

Write each description under the correct name.

stole a blessing from his brother  
was afraid of his brother  
came to meet his brother with 400 men  
ran away to another country



**ESAU**

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forgave his brother  
lied to his father  
became rich  
welcomed his brother home



**JACOB**

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*Can you number each description in the correct order?*

## ACTIVITY 2

### Look Carefully

Underline each correct answer.

1. God told Jacob that he (should, should not) go back to his home country.
2. Jacob thought his brother would (welcome, punish) him.
3. God gives us what we (do, do not) deserve.
4. We deserve (forgiveness, punishment) because of our sin.
5. God treats us the way He does because (He is good, we are good).

### ACTIVITY 3

Read the clues and write the correct letter in each blank.

- My first letter is in **might** but not **light**. \_\_\_\_\_
- My second letter is in **Jesus** and also in **heaven**. \_\_\_\_\_
- My third letter is found twice in **merry**. \_\_\_\_\_
- My fourth letter is the first letter in a word meaning **able**. \_\_\_\_\_
- My fifth letter is the letter **eye**. \_\_\_\_\_
- My sixth letter is in **fun**, but not **sun**. \_\_\_\_\_
- My seventh letter is the last **vowel**. \_\_\_\_\_
- My eighth letter completes this: God's \_\_\_\_\_ ove.

The letters above form a word. Write that word in the blank below to help you remember today's memory verse.

The Lord is gracious and \_\_\_\_\_



## Catechism

### *The First Article of Creation*

I believe in God the Father  
Almighty, . . .

#### What does this mean?

. . . and that He does this purely  
out of fatherly and divine  
goodness and mercy, without any  
merit or worthiness in me; . . .

### Memory Verse

The LORD is gracious  
and merciful; slow  
to anger and great in  
lovingkindness.  
—Psalm 145:8

*Enrichment Memory Verse:*  
*Psalm 103:10-11*