Lesson 8

JACOB: FATHER OF THE 12 TRIBES

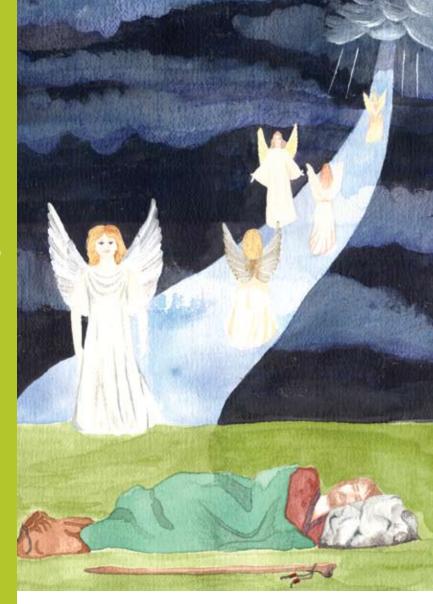
"Oh what a tangled web we weave, When first we practice to deceive!"

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

Jacob's name means "deceiver," and as we will soon see, he lived up to that name! We will also see that even though his life was a web of deceit, lies, and trickery, God graciously used and blessed Jacob.

Jacob's grandfather Abraham had been told by God that he would be the father of many nations and that his descendants would outnumber the stars. Abraham's son Isaac had two sons: Jacob and Esau. Jacob became the father of 12 sons. These 12 sons and their descendants became the 12 tribes of Israel. Even though Abraham did not live to see all of these descendants, God was fufilling His promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations.

Jacob was the second child born to Isaac and Rebekah, only moments after his twin brother Esau was born. Since Esau was the firstborn, he was to receive the birthright and the blessing of his father, Isaac. But in a moment of Esau's weakness, Jacob convinced Esau to sell his birthright to him.



1. Read Genesis 25:29-34. For what did Esau sell his birthright?

Later, Jacob and his mother deceived Isaac into giving the blessing to Jacob as well, which was reserved for the firstborn (Genesis 27). Because of this deceit, Jacob had to flee from his brother's anger, leaving his home and loved ones behind. He probably never saw his mother again. On the journey to his uncle's house, he had a dream as he lay sleeping in the field.

2. Read Genesis 28:10-22. What did Jacob see in his	3
dream? v.12	

Memory Verse

And in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Genesis 28:14b-15

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······Birth of Abram Birth of Ishmael ······ Birth of Ishmael ······

Twelve Sons of Jacob (Tribes of Israel)

Jacob (Israel) Leah **Bilhah** (Rachel's servant) Rachel **Zilpah** (Leah's servant) 7 Gad 1 Reuben 5 Dan 11 Joseph 2 Simeon 8 Asher 6 Naphtali 3 Levi 4 Judah 2 Benjamin 9 Issachar 10 Zebulun Many years after Jacob died and the Israelites reached the promised land of Canaan Dinah under the leadership of Joshua, the land of Canaan was divided among the descendants of the sons of Jacob (Joshua 13 - 21). Levi did not receive land because his tribe was assigned by God to minister in the tabernacle as priests. Joseph's sons, Manasseh and

did not receive any portion of land. (See map in Lesson 19.)

3.	Who spoke to him? v.13
4.	What promise did Jacob receive? vv.13-15

When he awoke, Jacob realized the presence of God was in that place, and he made a vow to take the Lord as his God.

Jacob met his match in his Uncle Laban, who also knew a few things about trickery and deceit. Jacob ended up working for Laban for many years. He gained two wives and twelve sons. In the end, Jacob figured out a way to cheat Laban and became a very wealthy man.

Later, Jacob obeyed God's command to return to his home and restored his relationship with his brother, Esau. During the trip home, he met God (in the form of a man) during the night.

5. Read Genesis 32:22-30. What did Jacob and the man do? v.24

Word Works 1

Ephraim, received two separate portions of land. Dinah was Jacob's only daughter and

Find the names of Jacob's 12 sons. They are listed in Genesis 35:23-26.

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Birth of Jacob Death of Abraham

6. What did Jacob receive from this man? vv.28-29		
	Word Works 2	
nis time his blessing was received rightfully, without sing deceit. Despite his repeated lies and cheating, God's grace as evident in the life of Jacob. God forgave Jacob, ave him a new name (Israel), and blessed him. And od blessed His people through Jacob. God blessed all elievers through Jacob. The Lord's promise of blessing as ultimately fulfilled when Jesus was born as a direct escendant of Jacob's son, Judah, and then gave His life payment for our sins. By trusting in what Jesus did on the cross for you and me, we can experience forgiveness and blessing as Jacob did. Through the life of Jacob, we learn that adding favor with God does not depend upon being born to a certain home or living by certain rules, but on the face of God alone! God doesn't want us to lie and cheat are Jacob did, but whatever sins we commit can be ashed away and forgiven when we are sorry for what e've done and confess those sins to the Lord (read John 1:9). Read Ephesians 2:8-9. How are we saved? The same are sorry for what we also Romans 3:23-24)	WHAT'S IN A NAME? Bible names often have sp up these references and m their meanings. Esau (Genesis 25:25, 30) Israel (Genesis 32:28) Bethel (Genesis 28:17, 19)	
	Abraham (Genesis 17:5) Jacob (Genesis 27:36)	with God laughter house of God
8. Do we earn salvation by anything we do? Explain.	Peniel (Genesis 32:30)	deceiver
9. How do you know?	Isaac (Genesis 21:6)	red; hairy
Catechism Corner	Fast Fact: Birt	hright
1. Where does God show us how we may be saved? (Q. 2)	In ancient Israel the birthr given to the firstborn son	

In the holy Scriptures, also called the Bible.

2. Like Jacob I'm not always a "model" Christian, and because of this, I don't always "feel" like a Christian. How can I be assured that I'm saved? (see John 5:24)

(Se	e 301111 3.2	24)		

- It meant he enjoyed a special status in the family for his entire lifetime.
- One who received the birthright had an important role with much responsibility that was not to be taken lightly.
- He was given a leadership role in the family, ranking second only to his father.
- At his father's death, he became leader of the family and also inherited a double portion of the estate.