

THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

# CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



Jacob's Journeys



LEVEL 2  
LESSON 5

# Jacob's Journeys

**I**n our last lesson, we learned about Isaac and Jacob. Jacob received a blessing from his father, Isaac. Soon after, he left his parents and brother. During the trip, Jacob had a dream. God promised that Jacob's children would become a great nation. In this lesson, we will learn how this nation began.

Jacob was traveling to the home of his uncle Laban. Laban was Rebekah's brother. When Jacob arrived, he saw a group of people near a well. He asked them if they knew Laban. As they answered "yes," Laban's daughter, Rachel, arrived at the well.

Rachel was taking care of her father's sheep. Jacob introduced himself and they were happy to meet each other. Rachel ran to tell her father about their visitor. Laban was also very happy to see his nephew.

Jacob decided to stay with Laban and work for him. He worked very hard. After one month, Laban thought

he should pay Jacob for his labor. He asked Jacob what he wanted.

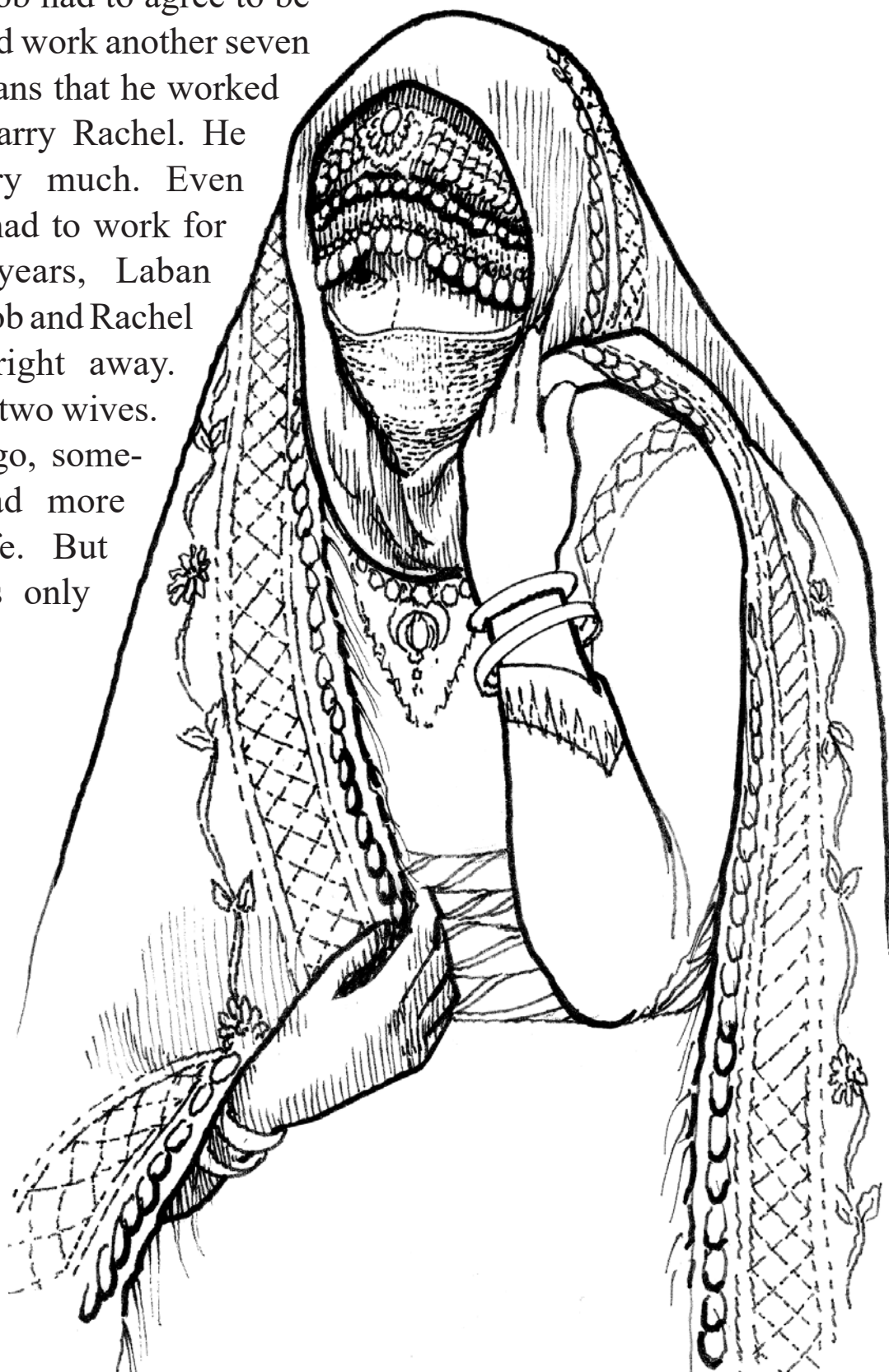
By that time, Jacob knew Rachel very well. He loved her and wanted to marry her. Instead of being paid money, Jacob asked Laban if he could marry Rachel for the work he did. Jacob loved Rachel so much that he agreed to work seven years for Laban.

The seven years passed very quickly. The day soon arrived for the wedding. Jacob was very excited and happy because he had worked very hard for this day. The wedding began and they were wed.

But Jacob was soon surprised. When he lifted the bride's veil, he saw that it was not Rachel! He actually had married Leah, Rachel's older sister! He was very angry and asked Laban why this had happened. Laban told Jacob that it was custom that the older daughter be married first.

Jacob still loved Rachel and wanted to marry her. So Laban agreed to

give Rachel to be Jacob's second wife. First, Jacob had to agree to be nice to Leah and work another seven years. This means that he worked 14 years to marry Rachel. He loved her very much. Even though Jacob had to work for seven more years, Laban agreed that Jacob and Rachel could marry right away. Jacob then had two wives. A long time ago, sometimes men had more than one wife. But now, husbands only have one wife.





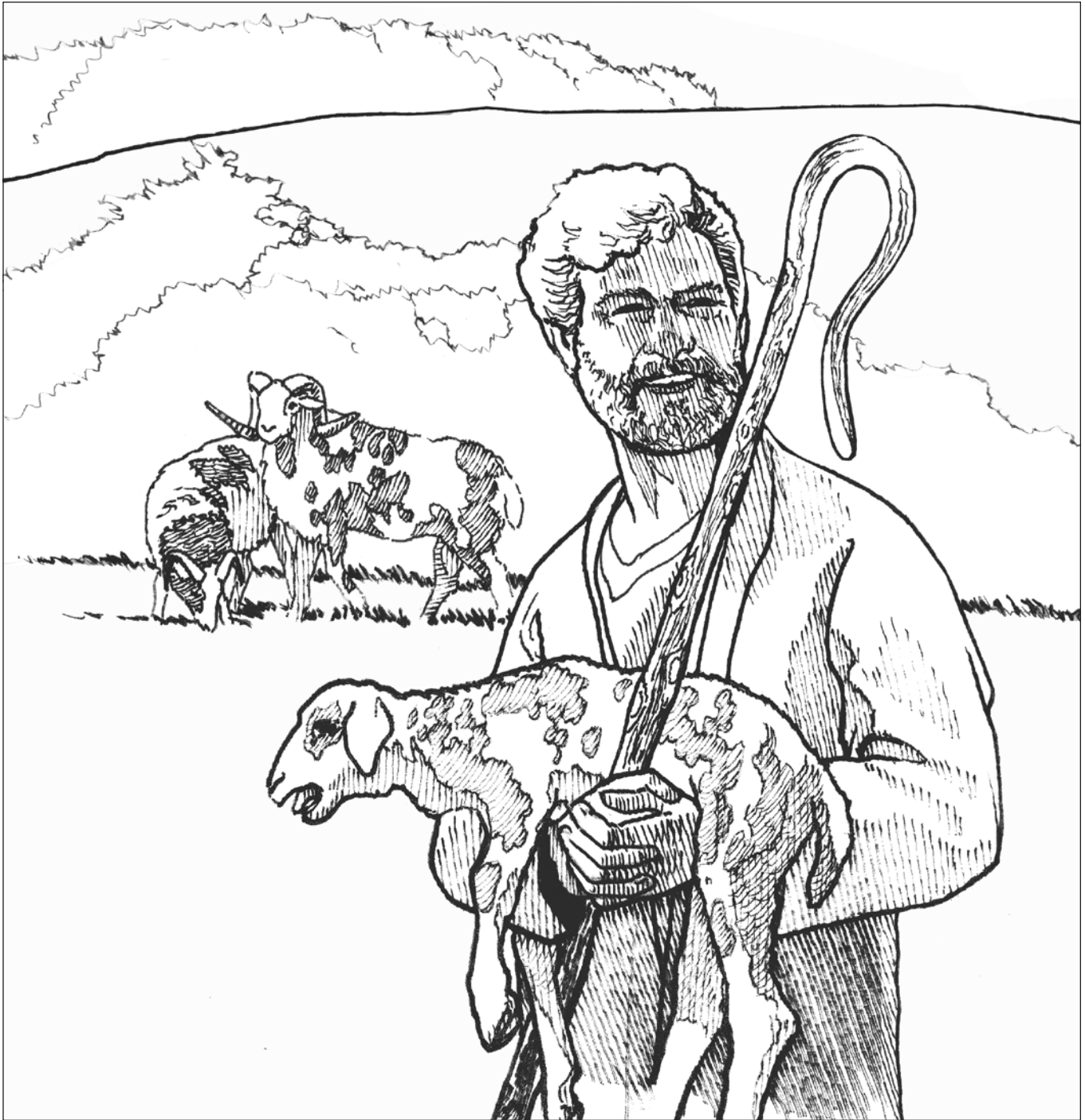
## Jacob's Family Grows

Jacob continued to work for his uncle. In fact, he worked for 20 years without being paid anything. During that time, Jacob had 11 sons. But only one son came from his favorite wife, Rachel. His name was Joseph. Jacob also had one daughter, Dinah.

Jacob wanted to go back to where he grew up. Remember, this was the land of Canaan. But Jacob was a hard worker, and Laban did not want him to go. Jacob's hard work helped Laban become rich. The cattle and other flocks grew a lot under Jacob's tending. This was because God was with Jacob and blessed him.

Jacob insisted that he be paid for the work he had done. Laban agreed





that Jacob could take all the flock that was speckled or spotted. But Laban was tricky. He hid most of those animals so Jacob had to wait longer until more speckled and spotted ones were born.

As time passed, Jacob's spotted herds grew greatly. But Laban's herds did not grow as much. Again, God had blessed Jacob.

Jacob knew that Laban did not want him to leave. Jacob decided to

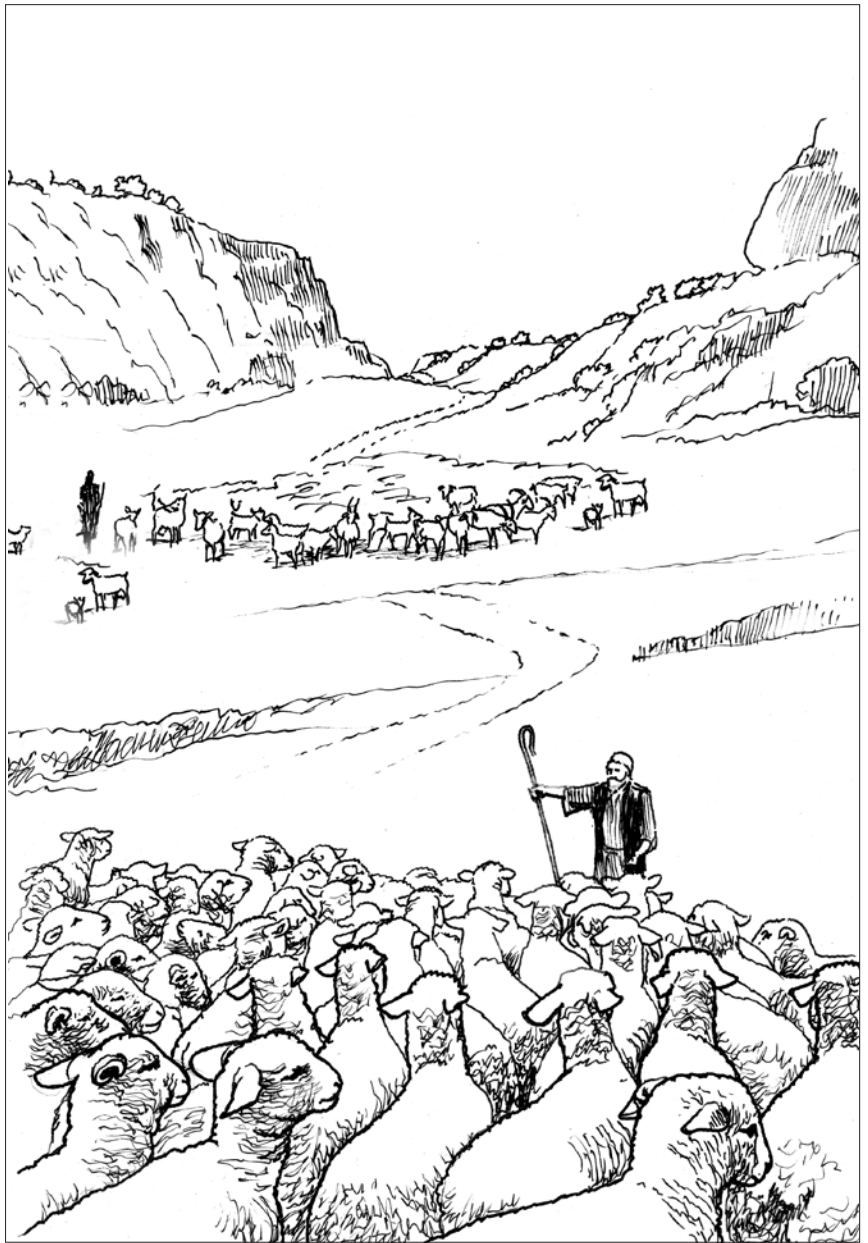
take his family and all of his herds back to his home country. So, they left.

A couple of days later, Laban learned that Jacob and his family had left. He and his men chased Jacob with his fastest camels.

When he caught up to Jacob, Laban was very angry with him. He was surprised that Jacob had left. Laban told Jacob he would have had a party for his departure. He also accused Jacob of stealing some of his idols.

Jacob was shocked! He was very careful to only take what was his. He did not know that his wife, Rachel, had taken these idols. These idols were false and foreign gods. Jacob did not want anything to do with them.

After a long discussion, Laban and Jacob made an agreement. They built a pillar, and Laban agreed not to hurt Jacob and Jacob agreed not to hurt Laban. Saying good-bye to



his daughters and grandchildren, Laban and his men left for home.

### **The Trip Home**

On his trip back home, Jacob knew that he would meet his brother, Esau. Jacob had left Canaan when Esau was very angry with him.



Jacob feared that Esau would still try to kill him.

Jacob decided to divide his herds and his family into two groups. If Esau was still mad, then one half of Jacob's family and belongings could survive.

Jacob was worried. He prayed to God to save him and his family. He knew that God could answer his prayers. When we are in tough situations, we should ask God to help us. If you do so, He will answer you and help you.

Jacob sent many goats, sheep and cattle to his brother. He hoped that these gifts would lessen Esau's anger. This was also to show Esau that Jacob wanted peace and to be close brothers again.

Before meeting Esau, Jacob camped with his family for the evening. During the night, when Jacob was alone, a stranger came and wrestled with him. They wrestled all night!

This was hard for Jacob. In fact, the Being he was wrestling was not human. We learn

later in the Bible that He was the Being who later became Jesus Christ. The stranger told Jacob to let go, but Jacob refused. He would not let go until he received a blessing. God



blessed him. God also changed Jacob's name to Israel because he was an overcomer and had prevailed with Him. Israel means "he will rule as God."

God was pleased with Jacob's courage and willpower.

### **Brothers Meet**

The next morning, Esau and his family and herds came to Jacob and his family. Jacob was still worried. To his surprise, Esau was very happy to see his brother again.

The two brothers ran to each other and hugged. They were so happy that they even cried! It had been many years since they last saw each other. Esau was pleased to see Jacob's family—11 sons and one daughter.

Esau did not want to accept the gifts that Jacob had given him. Jacob explained that God had greatly



blessed him. Jacob insisted that Esau accept the gifts, and so he agreed.

Then Jacob and Esau parted ways. They were both very happy that they had a relationship again.

Next, God instructed Jacob to go to Bethel.





Again, God appeared to Jacob and blessed him. God also said again that He would change Jacob's name to Israel. He told Israel to be fruitful and multiply. He said that a

nation and a company of nations will come from Israel's children. God also told Israel that kings would come from his descendants. God promised to give Israel the

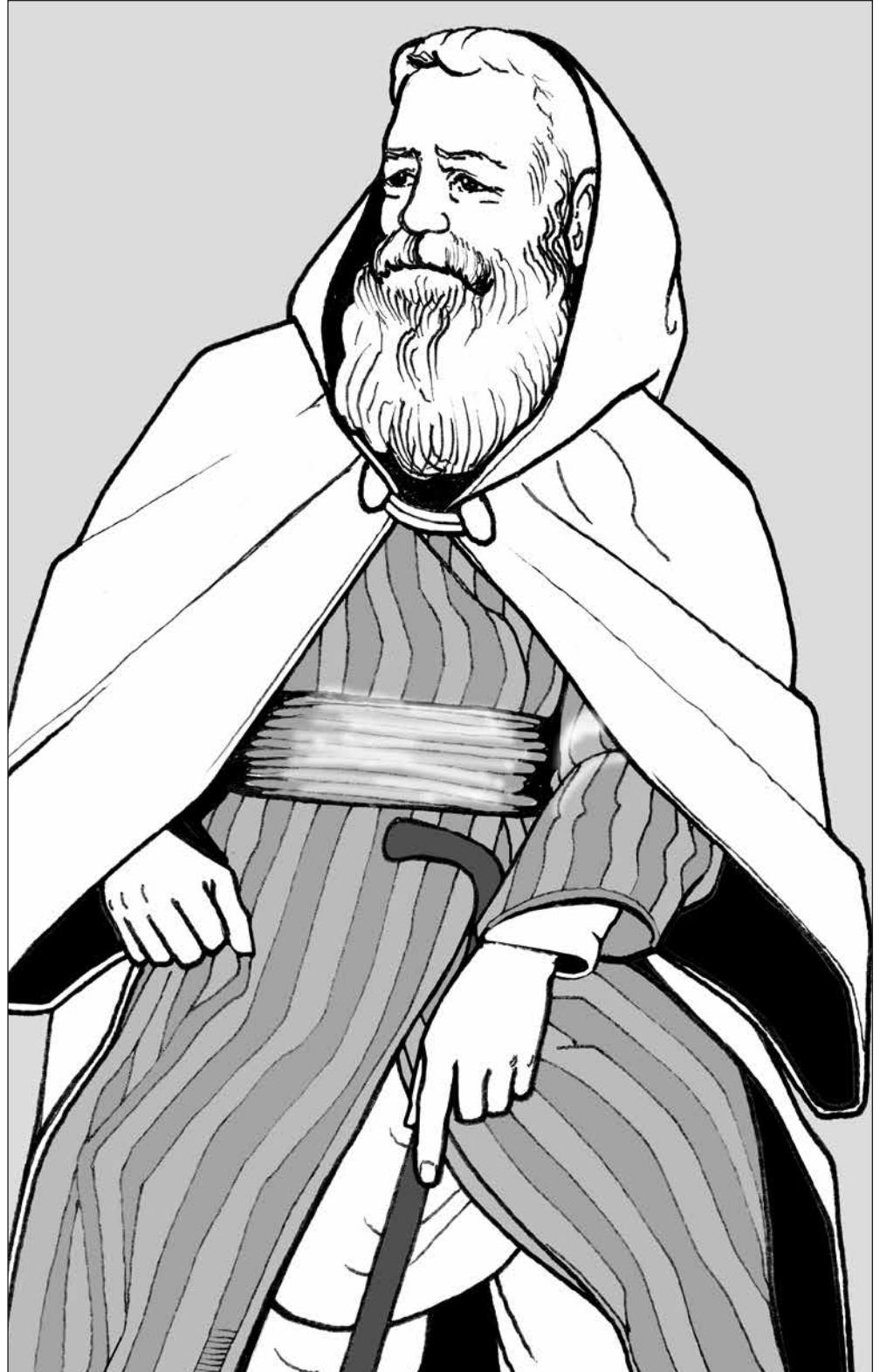
land that he promised Abraham and Isaac.

Israel, his family, and all his herds continued on their journey. Rachel was pregnant with another child. She had a very hard labor and became very sick. Nearing death, her nurse told her that she was going to have a boy. Soon after, Rachel died. Israel named his new son Benjamin.

Israel now had 12 sons. We will learn in later lessons that each of these son's children became a tribe. They are called the 12 tribes of Israel. These tribes still exist as nations today.

This was the story and life of the man named

Israel. In the next lesson, we will learn about the beginning of a nation called Israel.



# Israel's Sons

Remember that Jacob's name was changed to Israel. He had 12 sons, and their families would later be called the 12 tribes of Israel. Read Genesis 35:23-26 and write out Israel's 12 sons below.




**BIBLE MEMORY:** Genesis 32:28

# WORD SEARCH

Find all the children of Israel listed in the activity on page 10.

I	D	A	N	R	C	Z	R	A	S
S	M	S	C	E	C	L	E	V	I
S	A	H	H	U	R	H	J	H	M
A	N	E	Z	B	K	H	G	Z	E
C	Q	R	K	E	S	I	Q	D	O
H	F	B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N
A	E	Z	E	B	U	L	U	N	P
R	C	L	G	A	D	N	X	A	G
N	A	P	H	T	A	L	I	H	L
J	O	S	E	P	H	T	C	O	S