

THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



Blessings Pass to Jacob



LEVEL 4
LESSON 4

Blessings Pass to Jacob

In Lesson 3, we learned about the life of Abraham and the many blessings he was given and the difficult tests he had to endure. We also learned that a special son was born—Isaac—through whom the many blessings that God promised Abraham would be passed to future generations.

But first, God required a special—and very difficult—test to ensure that Abraham would obey Him at *any* price. In this lesson, we will learn about that test, and the lives of Abraham, Isaac and Isaac’s son Jacob.

The lives of these three men—and the blessings that God promised them—changed the world forever! Be sure to have your pen or pencil ready, and open your Bible to the book of Genesis.

Abraham’s Greatest Test

Two or more times a year, you take a report card home to your parents, so that they will know how well you are doing in school. Your report card is based on various matters at school. It may be based on how much you participate in class, if and how thoroughly you do your homework, and the grades you receive on tests. While only *one* of these items is called a test, each of them measures how well you are doing in school.

Adults also take tests. How well one performs on the job, keeping a driver’s license, or obeying the law is a test. These are all *physical* tests. They are important, and you can learn many things from them. God also tests us. He wants to be sure that we can be trusted to always follow His Way. When we pass the tests God gives us, He is certain of

our actions and will then increase the blessings He gives us.

This is what happened with Abraham. God had planned to bless Abraham greater than he could have ever imagined, but God wanted to be certain that Abraham would trust and obey Him no matter what.

Turn to Genesis 22:2, which describes God’s test for Abraham: “Then He said, ‘_____, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and _____ on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’”

This was a huge test for Abraham—he had to kill his *only* son! While Abraham probably wondered why God wanted this, he trusted God and remained faithful. In fact, the next verse explains that Abraham rose *early*—without delay—to complete what God requested. Although Abraham did not know all the details, he trusted God’s promise of passing blessings to Isaac (Hebrews 11:17-19).

That morning, they gathered their belongings and then Abraham, Isaac and some of Abraham’s servants journeyed to the mountain that God described. After three days, they finally reached their destination.

Abraham turned to his young servants and asked them to stay at the base of the mountain. Abraham and his son then journeyed up the mountain.

Although he fully helped and cooperated with his father, Isaac became curious as to what was happening. Write out his question in Genesis 22:7: “But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’”

And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' Then he said, '_____

_____?"

Once they reached the correct location, they built and prepared an altar. Then Abraham tied Isaac to the altar. Remember, Abraham was an older man. Unless Isaac fully cooperated with Abraham, he probably would have been unable to tie the boy down to the altar. This showed incredible obedience on Isaac's part. He understood the importance of keeping the Fifth Commandment—honoring and obeying one's parents.

Now that Isaac was tied down, Abraham raised his knife to kill his son! Just moments before he performed what God had asked, the Messenger of the Lord said: "Abraham, Abraham!" Fill in the blanks to the rest of the Messenger's statement: "_____, or do



anything to him; for now I know that you _____, since you have _____, your only son, from Me" (Genesis 22:11-12).

Abraham had passed the test!

God then provided a ram, which was caught in a thicket by its horns, to be sacrificed. This led Abraham to call the place of worship "The-LORD-Will-Provide" (verses 13-14). This obedience allowed God to further expand Abraham's blessings: "Because you have obeyed My voice, all the nations of the Earth shall be blessed through your seed" (verse 18).

Test Your Memory:

1) Why did God want Abraham to go through the motions of sacrificing his son?

2) What did Abraham call the place where he sacrificed the ram? _____

3) Did Abraham fully trust God in all things? _____

A Wife for Isaac

Some time later, Sarah died. She lived for 127 years. After her death, Abraham bought

a large field, which had a cave where he buried her (Genesis 23:1-4, 17-20). Several more years after her death, Isaac still did not have a wife.

Abraham knew that Isaac must not marry foreigners; else Isaac would be tempted to worship their pagan false gods and follow their evil practices and traditions. So Abraham turned to his chief servant and made him promise to find Isaac a proper wife: "I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the Earth, that you will _____ for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; but you shall go to _____ and to _____, and take a wife for my son Isaac" (Genesis 24:3-4). Abraham's faithful servant swore to Abraham that he would do this. The servant took ten camels and began his long journey to the land of Mesopotamia.

As evening drew near, he reached the city of Nahor. He made the camels kneel down at a well outside of the city and waited for the local women to come to the well and draw out water.

Quietly, the servant prayed to God. Read his prayer in Genesis 24:12-14 and write in the words that are missing: "O LORD God of my master Abraham, _____,

_____ , and show kindness to my master Abraham. Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink,

_____ '—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

Before the servant had finished his prayer, a young, beautiful woman named Rebekah appeared, and he asked her for a drink.

She said, "Here, my lord," and poured water into his hands. Then she said, "I will draw water for your camels, too. They seem to be quite thirsty."

Silently, the servant was shocked that God may have responded so quickly. The man gave her a valuable gold ring and gold bracelets and asked for her name and who her parents were. She replied that she was the daughter of Bethuel and granddaughter of Nahor.

Suddenly, the servant realized that God had answered his prayer! Nahor was Abraham's brother. This made Rebekah Abraham's grandniece and Isaac's distant cousin!

Grateful that God had heard his prayer, the servant explained to Rebekah who he was and about his mission. The young woman ran home and told everyone what had happened.

When Laban, Rebekah's brother, saw the new jewelry she was given and heard the story, he ran out to invite the servant to stay the night with them. They set food before him and encouraged him to eat, but he first wanted to explain why he was there.

After hearing the details of his story, write out Laban and his father Bethuel's response in Genesis 24:50-51: "Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, 'The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. _____

_____."

The next morning, the servant was ready to take Rebekah to Canaan. He led Rebekah, her maids, and the rest of the caravan on their long journey (Genesis 24:10-61).



One day, when Isaac was sitting in a field, he noticed something appear over the horizon: a caravan of camels and people (Genesis 24:62-63). He recognized that Abraham's chief servant was leading the caravan and that a beautiful young woman was with him.

Meanwhile, Rebekah noticed a man walking toward them from the distance. She asked the servant who the man was. He grinned and told her that it was Isaac, the man she would marry. As Isaac drew near, Rebekah could see that he was a handsome man with a kind face.

After they returned, the servant told him everything that had happened. Isaac knew that God had chosen Rebekah to be his wife. And Isaac was more than willing to be her husband. God's promises could now be passed down through Isaac and Rebekah's children (verses 64-67).

Some time later, and many years after Sarah's death, Abraham died at the age of 175. He lived a full and happy life because he had learned to put God first (verses 7-8). Abraham remained faithful to God without seeing God's promises fulfilled in his lifetime. The Western nations *today* have seen

the fulfillment of those prophecies given thousands of years ago (Romans 4:13).

Test Your Memory:

- 1) What did Rebekah offer Abraham's servant and camels? _____
- 2) Why did Abraham's servant go to the land of Nahor? _____
- 3) How old was Sarah when she died? _____
- 4) How old was Abraham when he died? _____

Two Nations Are Born

After 20 years of marriage, Isaac and Rebekah were still childless. Without an heir, the family name would disappear, and the family's possessions would be passed on to strangers. But Isaac trusted in God, pleading with Him to give Rebekah a child—God answered his prayers (Genesis 25:20-21).

As the months passed and her time of giving birth drew near, Rebekah felt great discomfort. She prayed to God as to why she felt such pain. Write out God's answer to her in Genesis 25:23: "And the LORD said to her: ' _____

_____';
one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.'"

Rebekah realized that she was carrying twins! And from her twin sons would come two nations of people who would constantly be against each other. When she gave birth, her first son had a lot of thick, reddish hair. He was named Esau. Immediately after he was born, out came his younger brother Jacob, holding on tightly to Esau's heel (verses 24-26).

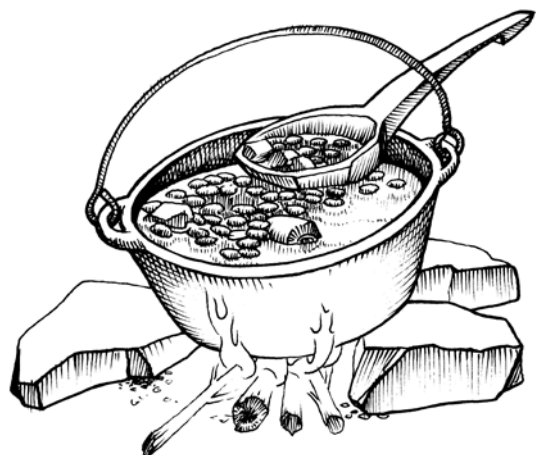
Esau grew up to become a skilled hunter. Jacob, on the other hand, became a shepherd. He stayed near home and tended flocks of sheep.

Like many parents, Isaac and Rebekah made a big mistake: instead of showing both sons the same amount of love and attention, each favored one son over the other. Isaac favored Esau, and Rebekah favored Jacob (Genesis 25:27-29).

One day, while Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau stumbled in from the wilderness and fell to the ground. Smelling the hearty stew bubbling before him in a pot, Esau said, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary" (verse 30). Esau was hungry and weak and would do anything to fill his belly. Jacob noticed how desperate Esau was and said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day!" Then Jacob would give him some stew.

Write out Esau's foolish response to Jacob in Genesis 25:32: "And Esau said, ' _____

_____.'"
Esau swore an oath to Jacob and sold his birthright for a bowl of hot stew (verses 29-34). This passed all of Isaac's blessings, promises and possessions to his younger son Jacob. Little did Esau know how foolish



an oath he had made that day! This decision changed the course of history forever!

Test Your Memory:

1) What was the mistake that Isaac and Rebekah made with their children? _____

2) What did Esau sell his birthright for? _____

3) What is the dictionary definition of *birthright*? _____

Taking Matters into Her Own Hands

When Isaac was over 100 years old and nearly blind, he knew that he would soon die. So he decided that it was time to bless Esau with the birthright blessing. Isaac was unaware that Esau had already sold it to Jacob.

“Then he said, ‘Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die’” (Genesis 27:2-4).

Rebekah had been secretly listening in on their conversation. Because she favored Jacob over Esau, Rebekah came up with a plan. While Esau was hunting, she found her younger son and told him about the situation.

Read her plan, and fill in the blanks from your Bible: “Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. _____

_____, and I will make savory food from them for

your father, such as he loves. _____, that he may eat it, and _____” (verses 8-10).

Jacob obeyed his mother and gave her two goat kids. After cooking them, she clothed Jacob in Esau’s clothing and then put the skins of the goats on Jacob’s hands and neck.

When he was ready, Jacob brought the food and some bread to Isaac (verses 5-17).

Isaac asked who had entered the room and Jacob lied, saying he was Esau. But Isaac was not to be so easily fooled: “How is it that you have found wild game so quickly?” Jacob told *another* lie: “The Eternal your God brought it to me.” Like all lies do, Jacob’s lies were beginning to grow and pile up. Life is much easier when people just tell the truth. Still, Isaac was not convinced. He wanted more proof: “Come near me. I want to feel you and see whether you are truly my son Esau.”

Cautiously, Jacob drew close so that his father could touch him. But all that Isaac could feel were hairy goat skins—which felt like Esau’s hair. Isaac asked him again if he was truly Esau and Jacob lied a *third* time!

After Isaac had eaten the meal and kissed his son—who smelled like Esau because of the borrowed clothes—he was convinced that this was truly Esau (verses 18-27), so he blessed Jacob. Write out this blessing in Genesis 27:28-29: “Therefore may God give you _____

_____. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!”

Soon after Isaac blessed Jacob, Esau returned from preparing the game that he had killed and asked Isaac to bless him (Genesis 27:30-31). Suddenly, both men realized what had happened! Esau pleaded, "Father, what about me? Bless me also!" But Isaac had already given his blessing! Saddened, Esau said, "I should not be surprised. He is called Jacob for good reason." Jacob means "supplanter."

Sadly, Isaac had only one blessing left to give. Jacob had already taken the best.

Write out Isaac's blessing to Esau in verses 39 through 40: "Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: 'Behold, your

_____,
and of the dew of heaven from above. ____

_____;
And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck.'"

Like a spoiled child, Esau did not appreciate his blessing. He hated Jacob with all his heart. He longed for the day that Isaac would die so that he could kill his brother in revenge!

Test Your Memory:

1) What did Rebekah put on Jacob's arms?

2) What does the name Jacob mean? _____

3) How many times did Jacob lie? _____

A Special Dream

One of the servants overheard Esau's desire for revenge and told Rebekah. She warned Jacob and came up with a plan for him to stay with her brother Laban, who lived far away in Haran. Now all that she had to do was convince Isaac of her plan.

Rebekah told Isaac that she was afraid that Jacob would marry one of the foreign women as Esau had done, and that Jacob should return to her land and find a wife. Reluctantly, Isaac agreed and sent Jacob to Laban's household, in the land of Mesopotamia.

During his journey, Jacob came to a certain place near the city of Luz and camped. Not having a pillow to sleep on, he used a large, flat stone. Jacob fell fast asleep and had a strange dream. He dreamt that a great ladder or staircase extended from the Earth, all the way into heaven. He saw angels climbing up and down the staircase.

Standing at the top of the staircase, God spoke to Jacob and expanded the size of the blessing that was given to Abraham and Isaac.

When he woke up, Jacob feared God and revered Him. Early that morning, Jacob took the stone that he had used as a pillow and set it up as a pillar. Then he poured oil on it and called the place Bethel, which means "House of God" (verses 18-19). Afterward, Jacob vowed that if God would keep His promise to protect him, provide for his needs, and someday bring him back home, "then the Eternal shall be my God. And all that He gives me I will tithe to Him" (verses 20-22).



Test Your Memory:

- 1) Where was Laban's house? _____
 - 2) What did Jacob name the place where he camped? _____
 - 3) What does this name mean? _____
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Fourteen Years in Haran

Jacob continued his journey to Haran and eventually came to the land of Mesopotamia. When he came to a well in a field, he noticed that three flocks of sheep were lying near it, waiting to be given water. A large stone covered the mouth of the well, preventing the sheep from getting their drink. Jacob asked the herdsmen of the flock where they came from. They replied that they were from Haran.

Jacob felt relief, knowing that his journey was nearly finished. He inquired about Laban, son of Nahor, and if he was alive and well. The men indicated that he was well and that, in fact, Laban's daughter Rachel was the woman walking toward the well.

Realizing that she was family to him—and taken in by her natural beauty—Jacob rolled the stone away and watered her sheep and introduced himself. Rachel was so happy and excited that a family member had traveled such a long distance, she ran home to tell her father (Genesis 29:9-12).

Laban was also extremely excited at the news. He ran out to meet Jacob and gave him a giant bear hug and a kiss, and then brought him to his home. Laban invited Jacob to stay with him, his sons, and his daughters (Rachel and Leah).

Jacob helped them take care of their flocks and other livestock. By the time one month had passed, Laban realized that

Jacob was very faithful, hardworking and attentive to his sheep. He did not want his nephew to leave. Write out Laban's statement to Jacob in Genesis 29:15: "Then Laban said to Jacob, ' _____

_____."

But Jacob did not want money. He asked if he could work seven years in order to marry Laban's daughter Rachel. Upon hearing this, Laban was very pleased. Not only would he have a diligent servant, but a son-in-law, too. He quickly agreed (verses 19-20)!

Because Jacob was deeply in love with Rachel, the seven years seemed like only a few days to him. When the time came, Laban and his household threw a great wedding feast, which lasted a full week. During the wedding ceremony, the bride's face was covered with a long, expensive veil. It was not until after they were married that Jacob saw the face behind the veil.



It was Leah, Laban's eldest daughter! Jacob was shocked—then angry. He rushed to Laban, his new father-in-law, and demanded that he explain himself.

Write out Laban's crafty response in Genesis 29:26: "And Laban said, '_____

_____."

Like his sister, Laban was very crafty and deceitful. He had tricked Jacob into working another seven years in order to marry the woman he loved. Jacob agreed and seven days later he married Rachel, knowing that seven more years of working for Laban would follow.

Just as Jacob had deceived Esau and Isaac, Laban deceived Jacob. God was teaching Jacob a bitter lesson: lying never pays off! But God knew that Jacob had to learn this through bitter experience!

Even though Jacob had two wives, this is not what God would have liked. Men are only designed to have *one* wife (Titus 1:6). As we will see, the bickering and fighting that took place caused many problems throughout Jacob's life.

A Growing Family

As time passed, Leah had several sons, while Rachel was childless, and there was jealousy between Jacob's two wives. In an act of desperation, Rachel offered her maidservant Bilhah to Jacob to bear a child.

But Leah did not feel that this was enough. She offered her handmaiden as well. During this whole time, Leah continued to have more children. After seven years, Jacob had 11 sons by these four women, with only one from Rachel.

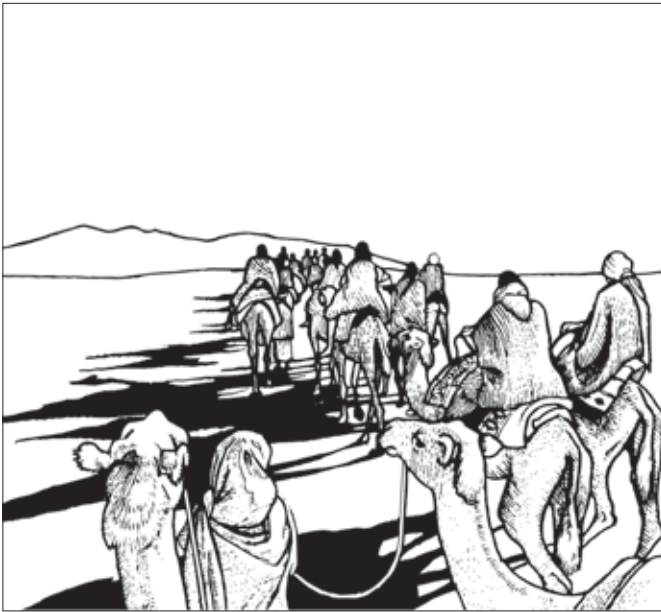
Jacob's 14 years of serving Laban had ended. Yet, besides his large family, he had very few possessions to show for it. His hard work had gone toward increasing his father-in-law's riches, not his own. He went to Laban and said that he wanted to take his family back to Canaan (Genesis 30:25-26).

However, Laban was afraid of losing such a profitable worker. He knew that his increase in wealth was due to having a God-fearing man manage his affairs. Quickly, he devised a plan for Jacob to stay. He asked Jacob what he would want for continued service. Write out Jacob's response from Genesis 30:32: "Let me pass through all your flock today, _____

_____ among the goats; and these shall be my wages."

Laban quickly agreed. The next day, Jacob found out why. Laban had his sons and herdsmen take most of the speckled, spotted and brown animals that Jacob had wanted and move them to a place that was three days away (verses 34-36). On top of this, many of the animals could not travel as they were pregnant. Now, instead of leaving for Canaan with a good-sized flock, Jacob would have to wait for the animals to be born. Laban tricked Jacob to stay several more years!

During the next six years that Jacob tended to Laban's sheep, a mysterious thing happened: Jacob's flocks increased while Laban's flocks became smaller. God was with Jacob and made him prosper. Jacob also increased in camels, donkeys and servants (verse 43). This was because Jacob feared God and was learning why one must be honest and open with people.



One day, Jacob overheard Laban's son complain that Jacob had taken away their father's wealth. He realized that Laban and his sons would grow to be angry at him if he did not soon leave. He also understood that Laban would try and make him stay.

In a dream, God spoke to Jacob. Fill in the blanks of God's command to Jacob in Genesis 31:13: "I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. _____."

With newfound confidence, Jacob set into motion a plan of escape. He waited until Laban and his men were several miles away shearing his sheep. Then Jacob, his wives, children and servants secretly fled on camels, taking all their livestock and possessions with them.

Test Your Memory:

- 1) How many sons did Jacob have? _____
- 2) How many more years did Jacob work after the original 14? _____
- 3) Why did God continue to bless Jacob? _____

Lessons of the Patriarchs

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had to go through many lessons and tests. God selected these men as the Patriarchs for the nation of Israel—His people. Patriarchs are the fathers or founders of a family (nation) or group of people. God had entrusted a great many promises to these men and wanted to be sure that they would trust Him in all matters.

These tests allowed God to see if they would be open and honest in how they dealt with people. He wanted to make sure that, unlike Laban, they would not deceive others. In essence, God wanted these men to follow the "golden rule." He wanted them to learn that you must treat others how you want them to treat you—and you must do this today!

God sees everything that you do, and if you are kind and caring to those around you, He will protect and bless you in ways beyond your imagination!

Practice this in your life: be honest, trustworthy and kind to everyone you deal with.

Jacob had to learn this lesson the hard way, but we have his example today so we do not have to experience all the hardship that he went through. If you do this, you, like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, will develop a close relationship with God and will be able to trust Him in all aspects of your life!

Test Your Memory:

- 1) What were the names of the three Patriarchs? _____
- 2) How should you treat others? _____
- 3) Will God see how you treat people? _____

BIBLE MEMORY: Names of Jacob's 12 sons found in Genesis 35:23-26

FIND THE MYSTERY WORD

To discover the mystery word, fill in the answers to the questions and the word that belongs in the blank .

1. What job did Jacob perform while growing up?

2. Jacob's name also means what?

3. God used this to make sure Abraham would always obey Him.

4. Where did Jacob spend 14 years?

5. Who was Abraham's son of promise?

6. Who did Isaac marry?

7. Name of Abraham's wife?

8. What is the opposite of "bless"?

9. Who did Jacob wish to marry first?

10. Instead of one child, Rebekah had _____.

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