

Grades 4–5 • Lesson 44

Jacob Returns to Canaan

Genesis 31:3, 32:7–8, 32:24–29, 33:1–4

How well do you remember what happened to Jacob? Use the key provided to decode the missing words. For each letter given below the blanks, find it in the grid and replace it with the letter opposite, so A becomes D, E becomes G, J becomes K, and so on.



1. God told Jacob to leave _____ and return to the land of _____ .
   I D C D P B D P D D P

2. Laban chased after _____ , but God warned Laban in a _____ not to harm Jacob.
   K D B M C A S G D O

3. Jacob was _____ of Esau and his 400 _____ .
   D H S D L A O G P

4. Jacob _____ with _____ all night.
   U S G R Q I G A E M A

5. God _____ Jacob and changed his name to _____ .
   C I G R R G A L R S D G I

6. Esau received the _____ from Jacob and _____ him.
   E L H Q R H M S E D X G

7. Jacob and _____ were _____ .
   G R D W S G B M P B L I G A

ANSWERS: 1) Laban, Canaan. 2) Jacob, dream. 3) afraid, men. 4) wrestled, God. 5) blessed, Israel. 6) gifts, forgave. 7) Esau, reconciled.

Name

Memory Verse

Write the letter that comes before each letter in the box below it to complete the verse.

Trust in the [M P S E] with all your [I F B S U], and do not lean on [Z P V S] own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge [I J N], and he [X J M M] make straight your [Q B U I T].

Proverbs 3:5-6

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
OPQRSTUVWXYZ

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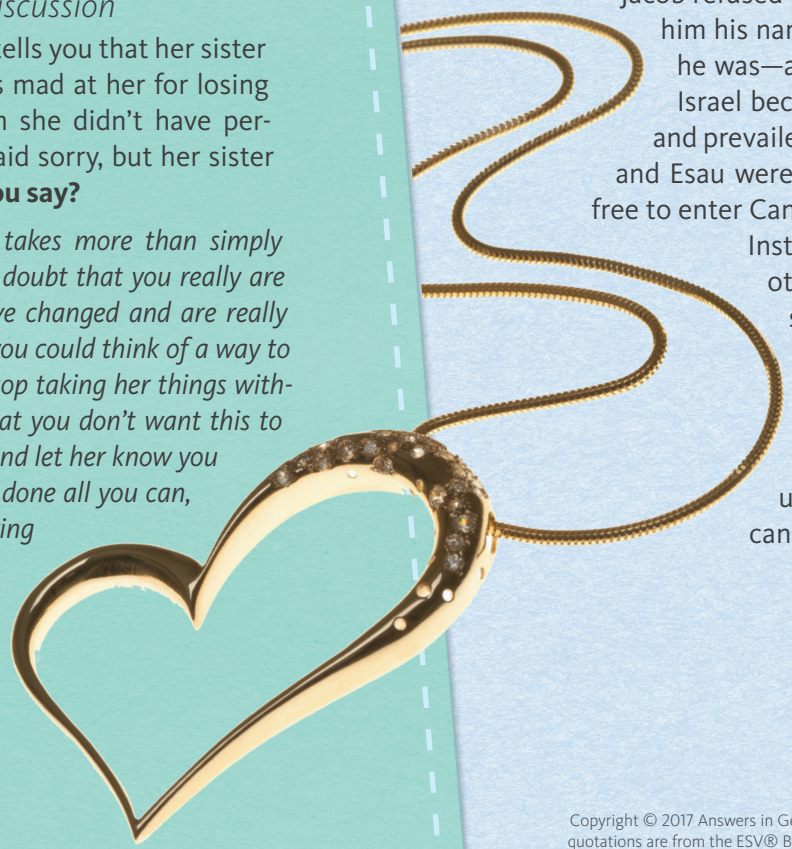
What You Heard *In the Word*

- God told Jacob to leave Laban and return to Canaan. Jacob left Laban without telling him, but God protected Jacob.
- Jacob was afraid when he heard Esau was heading toward him with 400 men. God wrestled with Jacob all night and gave him a new name—Israel. The next day, Esau forgave Jacob, and they parted as friends.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

Suppose your Christian friend tells you that her sister isn't talking to her because she's mad at her for losing her favorite gold necklace when she didn't have permission to wear it. Your friend said sorry, but her sister didn't forgive her. **What could you say?**

Showing true repentance often takes more than simply saying, "I'm sorry." Your sister may doubt that you really are sorry until you can show her you've changed and are really sad about what happened. Maybe you could think of a way to make it up to her. Make sure you stop taking her things without permission so that she'll see that you don't want this to happen again. Apologize sincerely and let her know you want to make it right. After you've done all you can, it's up to her to forgive you. Keep loving her and praying for her while you wait for forgiveness, and see what God will do.



HomeWord *For Parents*

Jacob required the Lord's protection as he prepared to return to Canaan. First, God had to warn Laban in a dream not to harm Jacob when he pursued him. Next, Jacob had to face his brother, Esau. Jacob had no way of knowing if Esau was still angry after 20 years. Then his messengers reported that Esau was coming with 400 men! Jacob was afraid and divided his company into two camps (Genesis 32:7–8) then sent gifts to Esau. Jacob begged God for deliverance, reminding God of his promises (Genesis 32:9–12).

At this low point of Jacob's fear and desperation, God came and wrestled with him. Even after God dislocated his hip, Jacob refused to let go until God blessed him. God asked him his name, forcing Jacob to admit the kind of man he was—a deceiver. Then God changed his name to Israel because he had striven against man and God and prevailed (Genesis 32:28). The next morning, Jacob and Esau were reconciled (Genesis 33:4), and Jacob was free to enter Canaan without fear of his brother.

Instead of seeking to deceive and supplant others to obtain a blessing, Jacob had to surrender to God and just receive the blessing. Many of us are like Jacob, striving in our own pride and power to do what only God can do. When we admit our sin and surrender to God, he is able to bless us in ways we can't imagine. Like Jacob, we can have a new beginning!

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