

# 11

## Jacob Meets God

Jacob had gotten what he wanted. Now he had Esau's birthright and his blessing. Jacob had also gotten something he didn't want. That was trouble. Jacob had gotten himself into bad trouble.

Rebekah said to Jacob. "Esau is very angry. He says he will kill you. You must leave home. Go up to Haran. Stay with Uncle Laban until your brother forgets what you did to him. Then you can come home again."

Jacob did not want to leave home. He did not want to go to Haran. He did not want to walk five hundred miles all by himself.

But Jacob had to get away from his brother. So he had to

walk all those miles alone. Off he started.

One night he dreamed he saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. The LORD stood at the top. He said, "Jacob, I am with you. I will keep you wherever you go. I will bring you back to this place again."

When Jacob awoke he said, "If God will do all that for me, I want Him to be my God."

Jacob set up a stone to mark the place where God spoke to him. He went on toward Haran.

But now he was not walking alone. From now on he would do what was right. The God of Abraham and Isaac would be his God too.

Follow the number dot-to-dot to finish the ladder.



And he dreamed, and behold a ladder . . . and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

Genesis 28:12

# 12

## Problems for Jacob

God took Jacob safely to Haran. He found Uncle Laban. Uncle Laban said he could stay and work for him.

Jacob worked for Uncle Laban many years. Now Jacob had a big family of his own. Jacob's hard work had made Uncle Laban rich. But Jacob had very little for himself. Uncle Laban did not pay him much. He did not keep his promises.

One day Jacob said, "I want to take my family and move back to Canaan."

Uncle Laban said, "God blesses me because of you. If you stay and keep on working for me, I will give you whatever you say."

Jacob had a plan that would get some sheep and goats for

himself. It was a good plan. It was a fair plan. Uncle Laban agreed to the plan. But he did not want Jacob to get any sheep and goats for himself. Laban tried to keep Jacob's plan from working, but God blessed Jacob and he became very rich.

One day God said, "Go back to Canaan now. I will be with you."

Jacob wanted to obey God. But he knew Uncle Laban did not want him to leave. Somehow he would keep Jacob from going back to Canaan. How could he get away from Haran without Uncle Laban finding out about it? Jacob did not know. Would God show him how to get away from Haran?

Match the pictures to find what God told Jacob.  
Write a letter of the picture on each line.



I am the God of Bethel . . . arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred. Genesis 31:13

# 13

## Good-bye, Uncle Laban

God had told Jacob to go back to Canaan. But how could he get away from Uncle Laban? Uncle Laban's sons said all of Jacob's livestock belonged to their father. Uncle Laban said even Jacob's family belonged to him. If they knew Jacob planned to leave, they would not let him take anything along. Jacob could do nothing but wait. He would trust God to show him when to go.

One day Laban and his sons went far away to shear sheep. Jacob knew now was the time for him to leave.

Quickly his servants got the livestock together. Quickly the family got their things together. Off they went as fast as they could, heading toward the land of Canaan.

The servants at Laban's house saw them go. But they could do nothing but send someone to tell Laban. How angry he became. He left his sheep shearing and went after Jacob as fast as he could go. It took a week before he saw Jacob far ahead.

That night God talked to Laban in a dream. He said, "Listen, Laban. Don't you say anything good or bad to Jacob."

So Laban did not hurt Jacob. He just talked to him. Then he said good-bye and went back to Haran.

Jacob said good-bye and went on toward Canaan. God had taken care of him just as He had said He would.

Travel with Jacob and his family as they move home.

**Find and circle the hidden objects in the picture.**



grapes



bread



bowl



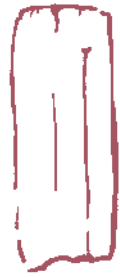
water bag



figs



hatchet



blanket



So he [Jacob] fled with that all he had . . . and set his face toward . . . Gilead.

Genesis 31:21