

Bible Stories for Adults

Jacob Flees and Returns

Genesis 28 - 36

Opening

Gathering: Tell of a time you tried to deceive someone, only to be deceived yourself.
How did it make you feel about what you had tried to do?

Today's Focus: To recognize that God keeps His promises, even when we don't keep ours and when we don't trust Him as we should.

Key Verses: *God's gifts and His call are irrevocable.* Romans 11:29

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go ... I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you. Genesis 28:15

May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away. Genesis 31:49-50

Opening Prayer

Lesson

It's All in a Name (*Genesis 25*)

How did Jacob and Esau get their names?

Genesis 25:24-26

How did Esau personify the wild, rugged nature implied by his name?

Genesis 25:27-28

How did Jacob personify the deceitful con-artist nature implied by his name?

Genesis 25:29-34

A Stolen Blessing (*Genesis 27:1-41*)

How did Jacob's deceit show itself later in life?

Genesis 27:6-7, 14-19

What blessings did Isaac end up giving to Jacob and Esau?

Genesis 27:28-30, 38-40

Was Esau cursed because Jacob did right in deceiving Isaac for God's blessing?

Romans 9:10-18

How did Esau feel about what had happened?

Genesis 27:36, 41

Jacob Flees (*Genesis 27:42-28:9*)

What did Rebekah plan to do to protect her favorite son Jacob?

Genesis 27:42-45

How did Rebekah again use deceit to convince Isaac to send Jacob away?

Genesis 27:46-28:2

Did Isaac do this to get rid of his less favorite and deceiving son?

Genesis 28:3-5

How did Esau react when he learned why Jacob left?

Genesis 28:6-9

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Jacob's Ladder (*Genesis 28:10-22*)

How did God confirm to Jacob that he was the heir to His blessing?

Genesis 28:10-12

Stairway was probably like the stairs on the sloping side of a ziggurat (temple-tower like Babel)

What promises did God make to Jacob in this vision?

Genesis 28:13-15

How did Jacob respond to this vision God gave him?

Genesis 28:16-19

How did Jacob respond to the blessings God had promised to him?

Genesis 28:20-22

Jacob Meets Uncle Laban (*Genesis 29:1-14*)

How was Jacob able to find the family of his uncle he didn't know in a place he didn't know?

Genesis 29:1-2, 4-6 (1-6)

How did God show His presence with Jacob during this meeting?

Genesis 29:3, 7-10 (7-10)

How openly was Jacob received by his uncle?

Genesis 29:13-14a (11-14a)

Like Nephew, Like Uncle (*Genesis 29:14-30*)

What pay did Jacob want for his work as a shepherd for Laban?

Genesis 29:14b-18

How did Laban respond to Jacob's request?

Genesis 29:19-23

Where had Laban's deceitful nature been evident before?

Genesis 24:29-31, 53

How did Laban explain his action and use it to get 7 more years of work out of Jacob?

Genesis 29:26-27, 30 (26-30)

Jacob's Children (*Genesis 29:31-30:24*)

How did God respond to Jacob's love for Rachel and dislike for Leah?

Genesis 29:31 (31-35)

How did Rachel respond to Leah's fertility and her barrenness?

Genesis 30:1-3 (1-8)

What did Leah think of her sister's tricks?

Genesis 30:9 (9-16)

Did Leah regret doing this when God opened her womb again?

Genesis 30:17-18 (17-21)

Notice the meanings of the names given Jacob's sons and compare with their blessings in Genesis 49

What did God do for Jacob after ending the competition at 11 kids?

Genesis 30:22-24

How did Jacob feel about this son of his loved wife?

Genesis 37:3-4

What happened when Rachel had her second son?

Genesis 35:16-19

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Jacob's Becomes Wealthy (*Genesis 30:25-31:12*)

- Why did Laban want Jacob to stay longer than the 14 years?
Genesis 30:27-28 (25-30)
- What compensation did Jacob request?
Genesis 30:32 (31-33)
- How did Laban try to cheat Jacob out of his wages?
Genesis 30:35 (34-36)
- Had Jacob made this request because he knew God would provide for him and bless him?
Genesis 30:37-39 (37-42)
A vivid sight during conception was thought to leave its mark on the embryo
- Did God punish Jacob for his lack of trust?
Genesis 30:43
- Did Jacob recognize these blessings were from God?
Genesis 31:5-9 (1-9)
- What helped Jacob recognize that God's hand was at work?
Genesis 31:11-12 (10-12)

Jacob Flees From Laban (*Genesis 31:13-21*)

- What else did God tell Jacob in this vision?
Genesis 31:13 (3)
- How did his wives feel about leaving their home and family?
Genesis 31:14-16
- How did Jacob's deceitful nature show itself in this leaving?
Genesis 31:20-21 (17-21)

Laban Chases Jacob (*Genesis 31:22-55*)

- How did Laban respond to Jacob leaving without a goodbye, and why?
Genesis 31:22-23 (1-2)
- Did Laban punish Jacob or try to take back his livestock and wealth? Why or why not?
Genesis 31:26-29 (24-29)
- If he was unable to take things back from Jacob, why did he continue with the chase?
Genesis 31:30, 34-35 (30-35)
- How did Jacob respond to his encounter with Laban?
Genesis 31:36, 42 (36-42)
- How did Jacob and Laban decide to bury the hatchet?
Genesis 31:44-45, 49-53 (43-55)

Jacob Comes Back Home (*Genesis 32:1-12*)

- How did God confirm to Jacob that he was doing the right thing?
Genesis 32:1-2
- What did Jacob find important to do as he neared his father's land?
Genesis 32:3 (3-5)
- How did Esau reply to the news of his brother's return?
Genesis 32:6
- How did Jacob respond to this news?
Genesis 32:10-11 (7-12)

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Jacob Wrestles With God (*Genesis 32:22-32*)

How did God respond to Jacob's request?

Genesis 32:24, 28 (22-32)

What reminder did God leave with Jacob of this encounter?

Genesis 32:25, 31

Jacob Manipulates Esau Again (*Genesis 33*)

What had Jacob done the day before to manipulate Esau in preparation of their meeting?

Genesis 32:13, 16, 20 (13-21)

How did he show his preferential love for his family when he met up with Esau?

Genesis 33:2-3 (1-3)

Did the gifts have their desired effect?

Genesis 33:4, 8-11 (4-11)

How did Jacob deceive Esau one last time?

Genesis 33:13-14, 17 (12-20)

Dinah and the Shechemites (*Genesis 34:1-31*)

What happened to Jacob's daughter after settling near Shechem?

Genesis 34:2 (1-4)

Was the rape a spur-of-the-moment act or did he have other intentions?

Genesis 34:11-12

How did Jacob's sons use deception to get revenge?

Genesis 34:13, 15, 24-25 (5-31)

What lesson did this story give to the Israelites who would later return?

Genesis 34:14

Jacob Returns to Bethel (*Genesis 35:1-29*)

Did Jacob stay at Shechem after the incident?

Genesis 35:1-2, 5 (1-6)

How did God respond to Jacob's faithfulness in following Him back to Bethel?

Genesis 35:10-12 (7-15)

Who died after Jacob had returned to Canaan?

Genesis 35:19, 27-29 (16-29)

Response

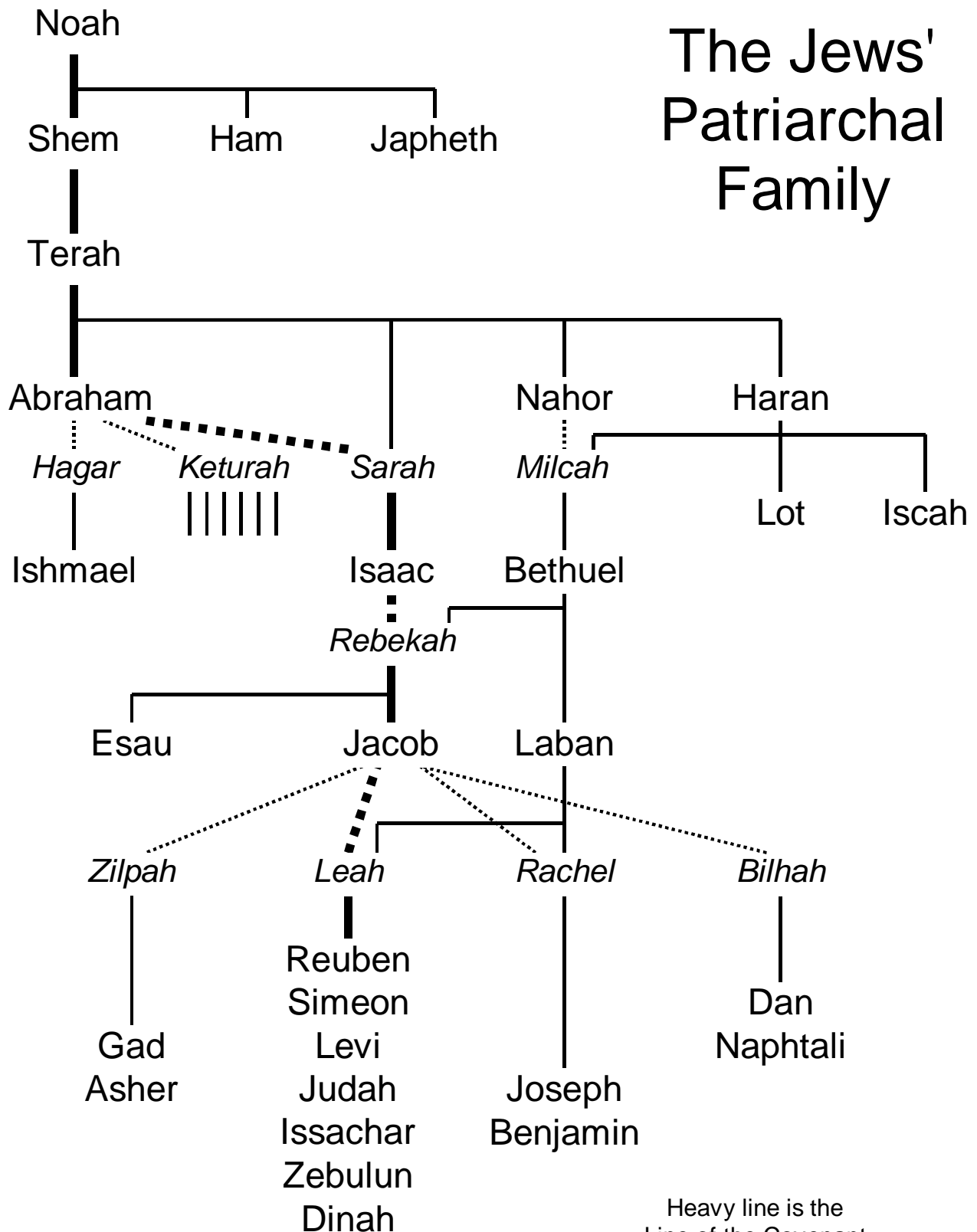
1. When have I held a grudge against someone when I should have forgiven them?
(*Genesis 27:41; 37:4; 50:15-21; 1 Samuel 17:20-30; Matthew 5:38-48; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11*)
2. Do I show preferential love to certain members of my family and less to others?
(*Genesis 17:18; 25:28; 29:30; 37:3-4; 48:17-20; 1 John 3:11-20*)
3. Do I say that I trust God, and then turn around and do things my own way?
(*Genesis 30:37-42; 31:20-21; 1 Samuel 28; Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 55:8; Matthew 14:28-31*)
4. Do I struggle with God to get closer to Him or to go further from Him?
(*Genesis 32:24-32; Ephesians 6:10-12; Job 30:20-23; 40:1-14; Colossians 1:28-2:3*)
5. Am I patient enough to wait 20 years for God to prepare me for His purpose?
(*Genesis 12:4; 31:38-42; 41:46; Joshua 14:6-11; Acts 7:20-23, 29-30, 34-36; 2 Peter 3:8-9*)

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The Jews' Patriarchal Family



Heavy line is the
Line of the Covenant