

God Sees A Brother Forgive

Genesis 28:10-22, 31:13, 32:1-21, 33:1-15

After tricking Isaac, Jacob ran away. As he traveled, one night he had a dream where a ladder went all the way up to Heaven. Angels went up and down the ladder. God said, "I am the Lord, the God of your fathers, Abraham and Isaac. I am going to give you all of this land. I am going to give you many children and grandchildren and on and on just as I promised Abraham and Isaac. I will be with you and I will care for you and I will bring you back home."

Jacob was so happy to have God bless him that he made a pillar from a large stone and called it Bethel, which means God's house. Jacob was probably happy that even though he became the leader of his family by a trick, God forgave him.

Jacob went to live with his mother's family many miles away for many years. He married and God blessed Jacob with children as He had promised.

One day God told Jacob to go back home and Jacob obeyed. He did not know if Esau was still angry or not and He did not know if Esau still wanted to hurt him. Jacob didn't want Esau to be angry anymore, so he sent some of his helpers to Esau to tell him that he was coming. The helpers came back and told Jacob that Esau was coming to meet them with 400 men.

Jacob was afraid and thought Esau must still be angry and want to hurt him and his family. 400 men is an army! Jacob decided he would follow God and go to see Esau even though he was afraid. He prayed and asked God to keep them safe. After Jacob prayed, he sent Esau some gifts. He sent goats, sheep, a flock of camels, cattle, and donkeys. Jacob thought if he sent Esau lots of presents, he would not be angry anymore.

So, Jacob and his family walked behind the animals until they could see Esau and his army of 400 men. Jacob and his family were afraid, but Jacob went ahead to meet Esau. Jacob saw Esau running toward him and so he bowed low over and over again to show how sorry he was for tricking Esau.

Was Esau still angry? No! Esau grabbed Jacob and hugged him! Esau had forgiven Jacob and the two brothers were hugging and crying in happiness. Esau followed God and forgave Jacob. It must have been hard for Esau because of Jacob's awful trick! But God saw a forgiving brother! God saw two brothers become family again.

August Bible Verse:

Be strong and courageous!
Do not tremble or be
dismayed for the Lord your
God is with you wherever
you go. Joshua 1:9

Esau forgives Jacob.

Genesis 32:3-21; 33:1-11



Learning Activity (Craft)

God's Gift Box

Material: master of gift box and markers

Print one copy of the gift box for each child. Ask the children to draw pictures of the things God gives them every day. God sees us and He sees what we need. He is always with us and He gives us everything we need – as a gift! However, He is pleased when we ask for what we need and when we thank Him for what He gives! He gave Jacob the gift of Esau's forgiveness. He helped Esau forgive Jacob. Pray with the children thanking God for giving us what we need every day and for helping us to be kind and loving to our families.

And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches
in glory. Philippians 4:9

