

Make sure your name and address are written here.

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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Class Leader: \_\_\_\_\_



Bible Studies for Seniors

# bibletime

## STUDY 1: Jacob and His Family At Haran



*Suggested Further Reading:* • Psalm 27  
• Matthew 19: 5 & 6 • Romans 7



**READ:**  
Genesis 29: 1-30



**KEY VERSE:**  
Galatians 6: 7

# B6

In these studies we meet a man called Jacob. He is on the run from home. Jacob had deceived his father, Isaac, and cheated his brother, Esau, out of the special blessing that he should have had. Because Esau was threatening to kill Jacob, their mother, Rebekah, sent Jacob away to stay with his uncle, who lived in Haran (sometimes called Padan-Aram) in Mesopotamia. Here he would be safe from Esau, and possibly find someone to be his wife from among his mother's relatives.

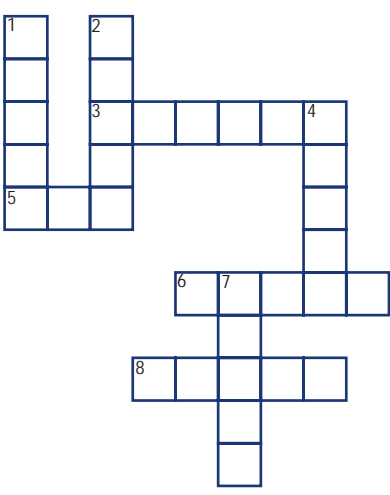
**Q:** Complete the CROSSWORD to see what happened next.

**Clues Down**

- 1. This was in the well.
- 2. The shepherds came from this place.
- 4. The name of Jacob's uncle.
- 7. The number of flocks lying near the well.

**Clues Across**

- 3. She came with the sheep.
- 5. How this girl went back to her father.
- 6. This covered the mouth of the well.
- 8. This describes the size of 6. across.



/8

Jacob met Rachel in remarkable circumstances. He could have gone to another well or arrived an hour late and missed her, but he didn't!

**Q:** Why? Tick the correct box.

	Yes	No.
Was it Jacob's good planning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was it coincidence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was it God's guidance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

/1

Jacob may not have realised it, but God was in full control.

# level 4

Jacob was welcomed at Laban's home and decided to stay. His father had told him to find a wife from among the daughters of Laban, and here God had provided a girl whom he loved very much, and whom he wanted to marry.

Q: How many years was Jacob prepared to wait for this privilege?   /1

Eventually, the day of the marriage came. Jacob was to marry Rachel.

Q: Answer TRUE or FALSE to the following:-

Laban organised a great feast.

Jacob's first wife was Rachel.

Laban said that the younger girl must be married first.

Jacob was tricked by Laban and married Leah.

Jacob worked for another 7 years in order to have Rachel as his wife.  /5

In those days, some men had more than one wife, but this was never God's plan. He always intended that a man should have only one wife. See Matthew 19: 5 & 6

Jacob had deceived Isaac, his father, many years before, and now he had been deceived by Laban.

Q: Write out the Key Verse and underline the part which reminds us that the wrongs we have done to others will catch up with us.

/3

Now it was time to leave Laban. Jacob had spent 20 years with him and now he had to move on.

Q: What did God tell him to do? (See Genesis 31: 3)

/1

Jacob discussed with his wives what God had told him to do.

Q: Look at the end of Genesis 31: 16 and write what their response to him was.

/1

It seems that there were two powers working in Jacob's life. There was, first of all, the power of his own will, which often got him into trouble. Then there was the power of God's will for his life, to which, sadly, he did not pay much attention.

Are you doing what God wants you to do in your life?

TOTAL:

## STUDY 2: Jacob and His Family *At Peniel*



**READ:**  
Genesis 32: 1-32



**KEY VERSE:**  
Genesis 32: 11



*Suggested Further Reading: Consider also the experiences of Moses, Isaiah & Paul in:*  
• Exodus 3: 1-22 and 4: 1-17 • Isaiah 6: 1-13 • Acts 9: 1-19

Sometimes we face a crisis and we don't know how to cope with it. That's how it was with Jacob. He had now left Haran and was making his way back to Canaan. He knew that he would have to meet his brother Esau very soon. He was very concerned and worried about this.

**Q:** Look at Genesis 27: 41 and explain **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** why, even after 20 years, Jacob was still frightened of meeting Esau.

/1

However, Jacob was encouraged to go forward as we read in chapter 32.

**Q:** From whom did he get a reminder that God was with him?

/1

**Q:** Fill in the missing words in the following paragraph to see what happened next.

Jacob sent messengers to Esau saying, "Jacob, your ....., says that he has been staying with Laban and now has flocks of ..... and ....." The messengers came back saying that Esau was coming with ..... men.

/4

Jacob was frightened when he heard the news. He did two things, according to verses 7-12:-

**Q:** 1. He made a **PLAN**. Write a sentence to explain what it was.

/1

**Q:** 2. He **PRAYED** and in his prayer he reminded God of two promises He had made to him years before. Write the promises in the speech bubbles.

/2

/2

**Q:** Write out the Key Verse and **UNDERLINE** the special request that Jacob made to God.

/2

Jacob got the order wrong. In times of trouble we should always pray first and plan afterwards! It may be that he felt he needed to meet God again and have further proof of His help.

**Q: Look at verses 22-32 and answer YES or NO to the following:-**

Jacob spent the night with his family.

A 'man' wrestled with Jacob till daybreak.

Jacob decided to run away from Esau.

Jacob called the place Bethel.

/4



For Jacob, it was a very strange yet important experience. He was sure that he had met God! That was more important than meeting Esau!

**Q: Write down the sentence from the Bible Reading which tells us that Jacob knew he had met God.**

/1

After years of deception and following his own way rather than God's way, he came to a crisis point when finally he was prepared to yield his life completely to God.

**Q: As a result of this encounter, what happened? Fill in the spaces:-**

God ..... him (verse 29).

God gave him a new ..... (verse 28).

/2

Jacob's thigh was out of joint. He would limp for the rest of his life and would not find it easy to run away from God again.

When we face difficulties we do need to meet with God. This means spending time alone with Him, praying and thinking. In this way we can receive God's blessing. Also, some of the bad things in our lives can be sorted out, when we are prepared to let the Lord have control in our lives.

Have you ever really met with God?

TOTAL:

NAME:

## STUDY 3: Jacob and His Family *At Bethel*



**READ:**  
*Genesis 35: 1-15*

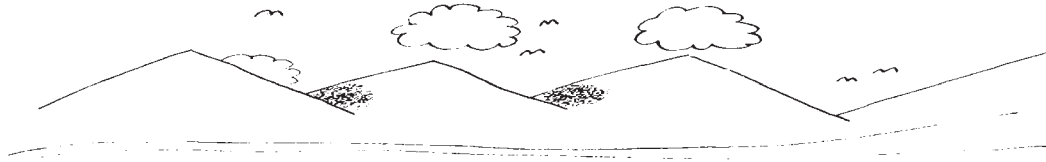


**KEY VERSE:**  
*Psalm 37: 7*



*Suggested Further Reading: • Psalm 91 • Romans 8: 1-39 • Hebrews 13: 5*

Jacob did eventually meet Esau. It was not nearly as bad as he had feared. No doubt, God had been with him and helped him. Jacob promised Esau that he would return to Canaan and follow on behind him. However, once again Jacob did not keep his word. He bought some land and settled down and didn't fulfil his promise to Esau. (See Genesis 33: 16-20) So God had to speak to Jacob again.



**Q:** What did God tell Jacob to do? (See verse 1)

/2

Jacob knew he was going to meet with God and he also knew that his family was not ready to do this.

**Q:** List the **THREE** things Jacob told his family to do before they could meet with God.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

/3

Jacob may have drifted from God, but he still knew that God had not let him down.

**Q:** Look at verse 3 and write out Jacob's description of what God had done for him.

\_\_\_\_\_

/1

Every true Christian can honestly say this. Christians may wander from God but He never leaves them.

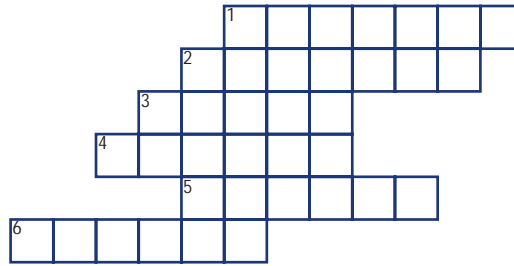
**Q:** Write out the second half of Hebrews 13: 5 which is one of God's greatest promises in the Bible.

\_\_\_\_\_

/2

**Q: Now fill in the WORD GRID. (See verses 5-11)**

1. What God did to Jacob. (Verse 9)
2. Rebekah's nurse (servant) who died.
3. Jacob built this here.
4. God is powerful or .....
5. The people did not pursue Jacob because of the ..... of God. (Another word for fear)
6. Jacob's new name.



/6

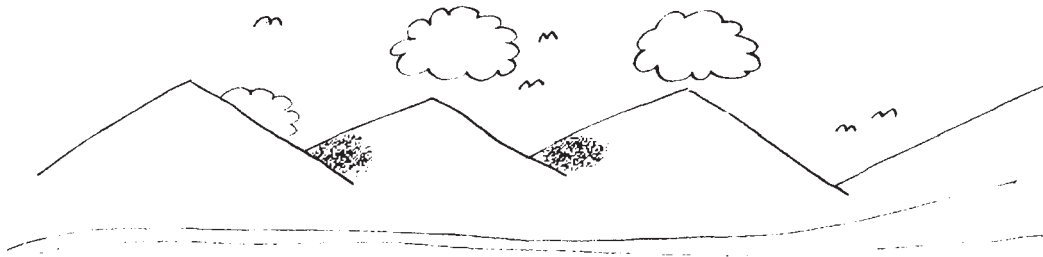
**Q: Shade in on the Word Grid and write here the name of the place where all this happened.**

/1

This word means 'House of God'. Here again, Jacob was meeting with God and he certainly needed to. He and his family had wandered, and another crisis was going to take place.

**Q: Look at chapter 35: 17-19 and explain what problem Jacob was soon to face.**

/1



When we become Christians, we still need help to deal with our failures of the past. We also need to gain strength to cope with new difficulties which we may face.

It is clear that this place was very special to Jacob.

**Q: Write down the THREE things which he did when God finished speaking to him. (Verses 13-15)**

1.	
2.	
3.	

/3

**Q: Write out the Key Verse which shows us how we too, can meet with God.**


/1

Peniel and Bethel were places that Jacob would never forget. Here he had met God and God had blessed him. It is only when we take time, in the busyness of our lives, to speak to the Lord and read His Word, the Bible, that we also shall know His blessing.

TOTAL:

## STUDY 4: Jacob and His Family *In Canaan*



*Suggested Further Reading:* • Psalm 56 • Matthew 5: 43-48  
• Ephesians 4: 22-32



**READ:**  
Genesis 37: 1-36



**KEY VERSES:**  
Ephesians 4: 31&32

Jacob already had ten sons and one daughter, when Joseph was born. Joseph was the elder son of Rachel. There was jealousy and other problems within the family. Joseph suffered the grief of his mother's death at the birth of his brother, Benjamin. All these experiences could have made Joseph bitter, but he had faith in God to carry him through. We do not know when Joseph began to have faith in God.

**Q:** The Bible Reading introduces us to Joseph. How old was Joseph here?   /1

**Q:** Look at verse 2 and write **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** what Joseph did to upset his brothers.

 /1

There was a special bond of love between Jacob and Joseph because of Jacob's love for Rachel. Jacob showed his love for Joseph in a way that seems unwise and caused the envy of his brothers to grow into bitterness and jealousy.

**Q:** What did Jacob give Joseph and why?

 /2

The ten brothers wore coarse clothing reaching only to the knee, as working men did who worked out of doors in a rough existence. Joseph's new coat was the sort of garment only worn by noblemen who did not have to work, and was normally worn by wealthy men. Jacob was putting Joseph above his brothers. The hatred of the brothers was greatly intensified by the dreams Joseph had.

**Q:** What were these dreams? You can either write them in words or draw them as pictures.

 /4

**Q:** What did the brothers say about Joseph's first dream?

 /1

**Q:** What did Jacob say about the second dream?

 /1

# Level 4

**Q:** Answer the following Clues, then fit your answers into the grid provided. There is only one possible solution. (Hint:- Start with the longest and shortest answers) The numbers in brackets at the end of each question indicate the number of letters in each word.

To what place was Joseph sent by his father to see if his brothers were well? (7)

Where did Joseph find his brothers? (6)

Which of Joseph's brothers did not want to kill him? (6)

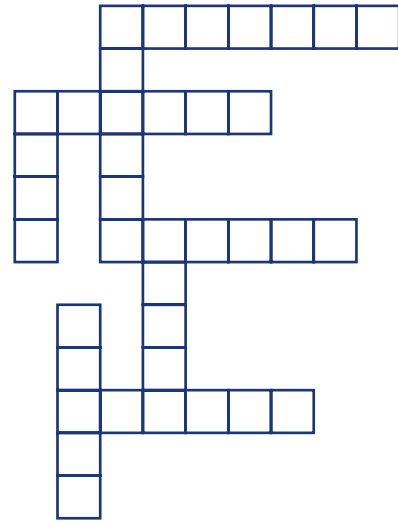
Which of Joseph's brothers suggested selling him to the Ishmaelites? (5)

Where had the Ishmaelites come from? (6)

Where were they going to? (5)

They bought Joseph for twenty pieces (shekels) of this. (6)

Joseph's brothers killed this animal so they could dip his coat in its blood. (4)



/8

The seed of envy in the hearts of Joseph's brothers grew into bitterness and hatred and eventually led them into committing a great sin. The result of this uncontrolled jealousy was:

- a) Joseph became a slave.
- b) Great sorrow was brought to Jacob.
- c) The brothers had to live with their guilt for many years.

**Q:** Look up the Key Verses and write them out.

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/2

Have your sins been forgiven? The Lord Jesus died on the cross so that we can be forgiven. Have you ever asked Him to forgive you?

**TOTAL:**

Return your lessons to:

Marks (to be entered by leader)

Leader's comments:

STUDY 1: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDY 2: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDY 3: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDY 4: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total \_\_\_\_\_