

Lesson 12

God's Promise To

Genesis 27:1–46

Memory Verse

“Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places wherever thou goest”
(Genesis 28:15)

Teacher's Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

Define in their own words what promise means

Locate on a map Jacob's journey to Haran

Describe the six actions Jacob used to worship God

Express in their own way how they will not be afraid

Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities” for specific activities

Teacher's Bible Study

Genesis 12 begins the story of Abram, later to be named Abraham. The story of Abraham and his family takes up the remainder of the Old Testament. To gain a good understanding of the New Testament message of the Kingdom of God, we must begin with the promises God gave to Abraham.

“Now the Lord said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great: and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:1–3).

In succeeding chapters, the same promises are stated over and over again—first to Abraham, then to his son Isaac, and then to Isaac's son Jacob. God promised that He would give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his seed, that He would multiply Abraham's seed exceedingly, that they would possess the land of Canaan, that they would become a great nation, and that through them all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

From the very beginning, God's purpose for the nation that would come from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was revealed. God had said to Abraham, “I will make of thee a great nation...and in thee [that is, the nation descended from Abraham] shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Notice that the promise of blessing was not restricted to Israel (the nation descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob), but was to extend to all the families of the earth! Herein is God's ultimate purpose for Israel.

From the beginning, God intended to establish Israel as a model nation for all the nations of the earth. Through her example of obedience to God's Law, and because of the peace and prosperity her citizens would experience as a result of her obedience, she would sit as a brightly glowing beacon atop a hill, an example to the nations of the world. In time, the nations would realize the futility of their ways, and would turn to Israel to learn of her God and seek His ways. Thus, through Abraham's descendants, all families of the earth would be

Presenting the Bible Story

Where is Bethel?

Bethel is about 60 miles north of Beersheba and 10 miles north of Jerusalem. Many years before Jacob had his dream, his grandfather, Abraham, made a sacrifice there (Genesis 12:8; 13:3). In the days of the Judges, the Ark of the Covenant was kept there (Judges 20:26–28). Samuel was in Bethel settling disputes and encouraging people to follow God (1 Samuel 7:16).

Where is Haran?

The city is located in an arc of rich land, called the Fertile Crescent, about 450 miles northeast of Beersheba. Abraham and Sarah lived in Haran (Genesis 11:31). Abraham's father, Terah, died in Haran (Genesis 11:31).

We will remember
where our story begins

When Jacob was younger, he bought his older twin brother's birthright for a bowl of soup. Then it came time for Isaac, their father, to give the "blessing." The blessing would confirm which son would have the birthright. Jacob pretended to be Esau, whom Isaac wanted to bless. Jacob received the blessing. The family was divided. It was Isaac and Esau against Rebekah and Jacob. To make matters worse, Esau threatens to kill Jacob. Rebekah then persuades Isaac to send Jacob away to find a wife. Isaac, knowing that God wanted Jacob to have the blessing, blesses him again and sends him on his way to Haran.

Genesis 28:1–5

Who were
the Canaanites?

Isaac passed on the pure and legitimate blessing God had given to Abraham and Isaac. He then encouraged him to go to Padan Aram.

Genesis 28:6–9

The Canaanites were people from Canaan. Their tribes included Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, Hivites, and others.

Unchosen son, Esau
married into the
unchosen line of Ishmael

Esau saw the blessing of Isaac and he heard how Isaac was not to marry a Canaanite. In order to please his father, Esau married a descendant of Abraham through Ishmael. Esau married Mahalath, a daughter of Ishmael. This was Esau's third wife (Genesis 26:34).

Genesis 28:10–15

On the way to Haran, alone and at night, Jacob stopped to rest. He laid down in the dirt with a stone for a pillow. He had a dream. The point of the dream was to let Jacob know God was with him wherever he went. There is no need to be afraid. In

addition, God reiterated the covenant made with Abraham and Isaac. Jacob responded to God in a worshipful way. Listed below are the six ways Jacob responded to God.

1. He showed an awesome fear of God.
2. He erected a stone pillar as a memorial.
3. He consecrated the stone by anointing the top with oil.
4. He name the place *Bethel* which means “House of God.”
5. He made a vow expressing his faith in God.
6. He promised to tithe.

Art and Activities

As Jacob went on his way, he no longer felt sad, lonely, or afraid. He had faith that God would keep His promise. “Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places wherever thou goest” (Genesis 28:15).

Explore with
your students the
following questions

Teaching Activities

Young Children

Provide your students with the appropriate Activity Page.

Older Children

Provide your students with the appropriate Activity Page.

Always close your
class with prayer

Explore the Subject

1. Did Jacob need to be afraid?
2. Should we be afraid?
3. Discuss what is meant by being worshipful.
4. List the six thing Jacob did to worship God, and explain why they were important.

Respond and Reinforce

1. Discuss the memory verse
2. What does *promise* mean?
3. Is there any place where God is not present? Read Psalm 139:7–12.

Activity Page

Jacob's Dream Genesis 28

Read the chapter indicated and unscramble the words and write them.

1. (Genesis 28:2) S R E A U D T H G

2. (Genesis 28:4) R T A G S N E R

3. (Genesis 28:9) A S E M I H L

4. (Genesis 28:2) I W L O P L S

5. (Genesis 28:2) R D L E A D

6. (Genesis 28:16) W D A E A K

7. (Genesis 28:17) L R F D A U D E

8. (Genesis 28:18) R N O G M N I

9. (Genesis 28:20) O D W V E

10. (Genesis 28:22) E H T T N

Answers: 1. DAUGHTERS; 2. STRANGERS; 3. ISHMAEL; 4. PILLOWS; 5. LADDER; 6. AWAKED; 7. DREAMFUL; 8. MORNING; 9. VOWED; 10. TENTH

Activity Page

Jacob's Dream

Genesis 28

Read the scriptures and find the hidden words within the puzzle below.

A	B	E	H	S	R	E	E	B	B
L	Q	D	E	C	A	L	P	R	E
M	L	V	N	T	Z	M	A	O	T
I	I	O	U	A	U	A	D	T	H
G	V	W	J	K	L	R	A	H	E
H	E	C	A	N	A	A	N	E	L
T	A	O	C	D	B	N	O	R	A
Y	H	Y	O	U	A	S	E	E	D
D	O	G	B	S	N	X	A	E	D
N	U	A	I	T	F	N	R	B	E
W	S	T	S	N	S	W	T	Y	R
O	E	E	A	B	R	A	H	A	M
D	R	E	A	M	P	E	E	L	S

CANAAN

SEED

LUZ

LAND

JACOB

DUST

RED

PLACE

LABAN

GOD

NIGHT

LAY

ESAU

LIVE

BROTHER

SLEEP

YOU

LADDER

EARTH

GATE

COAT

BEERSHEBA

GIVE

VOW

PADAN

ALMIGHTY

DOWN

HOUSE

ARAM

REST

ABRAHAM

BETHEL

Art Activity

Jacob's Dream Genesis 28:10–22

Jacob had a dream about God's promises to Abraham and Isaac.
God promised Jacob that he would return him to the Promised Land.

Follow the path to the stairway in Jacob's dream.

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the stairway in
Jacob's dream.

