



## Lesson 13

# Jacob Trusts God

**Genesis 32:1–33:17**

**Memory Verse**

“My help cometh  
from the Lord, which  
made heaven and earth”  
(Psalm 121:2)

**Teacher’s Objective**

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

**Define** in their own words  
what it means to trust in our  
own skills and abilities

**Locate** on a map  
where Jacob began  
his journey and ended it

**Describe** times when we  
need God’s help

**Express** in their own  
words how to trust God  
to help at all times

**Materials Needed**

See “Teaching Activities”  
for specific activities

## Teacher’s Bible Study

While prospects for the immediate future appear bleak, God’s Word assures us that a wonderful time of peace and prosperity lies beyond the dark days ahead.

When Christ, the prophesied Davidic King, returns to this earth, He will regather the scattered peoples of the House of Israel and the House of Judah, and establish a New Covenant with them. The newly reconstituted nation of Israel will become the model nation it was intended to be (Isaiah 2:1–5).

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be there to see the complete and final fulfillment of the promises given to them (Matthew 8:11; Luke 13:28). The Apostles will be there, sitting on twelve thrones, judging the tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30). David, the prophets, and the saints from all eras of human history will be there to see, and participate in, the establishment of a new age—an age of peace, prosperity, and happiness (Daniel 7:27).

Once the nations of this world realize the futility of their ways, having experienced the most horrible time in human history, they will look to the magnificent city of the great King, and seek to learn of His ways, His laws.

When we consider the present, degenerate condition of the troubled world in which we live, we must surely realize that there is only one hope for the future of humankind. That one hope is God, our Creator (Hebrews 12).

This final story is about Jacob who finally becomes totally dependent on God. Each wound we receive in our life should draw us closer to God, and at the same time make us depend upon Him. (Hebrews 12:2,11–29).

## Presenting the Bible Story

Jacob deceived his father Isaac, getting the birthright Isaac wanted to give to Jacob's twin brother Esau. Esau then threatened to kill his brother Jacob. Jacob had gone to Haran, and while working for his Uncle Laban, married two of his uncle's daughters, Leah and Rachel. Twenty years later, Jacob left his deceitful father-in-law, Laban. Jacob had a great fear. He feared that Esau still hated him enough to kill him.

### Genesis 32:1–2

There must have been some comfort on Jacob's part when he saw the angels of God. Where else did Jacob encounter angels? The expression "the angels of God" occurs only in Genesis 28:12 and Genesis 32:1. Jacob saw them on his way *out* of the land, in Bethel, and also on his way back *into* the land.

### Genesis 32:3–8

Out of fear, Jacob sent messengers to Esau in Edom and then he divided his family into two camps.

### Genesis 32:9–12

Jacob now prays to be delivered. This is an excellent prayer to refer back to when we are doubting our faith. Jacob was fearful because he remembered that Esau had threatened to kill him (Genesis 27:41). Jacob reminds God of His promise. His attitude is one of dependence on God and Jacob expressed his total unworthiness to receive God's kindness and faithfulness.

### Genesis 32:13–21

Jacob sends a gift to Esau in hopes of appeasing him. Jacob still is not trusting in God to deliver him. He will learn, as we will see, that deliverance from a bad situation comes by faith in God, our Creator, and not by giving gifts to the enemy.

### Genesis 32:22–25

This event is an important turning point in Jacob's life. Before Jacob entered the Promised Land, God met him, crippled him and blessed him. Locate on a map the Jabbok River in Gilead and the Jordan River. This is where Jacob was when he met with God.

Before Jacob crossed the Jabbok River, he had a real physical fight. This and the fact that it was dark is significant. Jacob was in fear and uncertain. Emphasize that this fight lasted till daybreak. Jacob did not give up. If Jacob had known it was God, would he have engaged in such a fight? It is also interesting that the assailant gave Jacob the advantage. The deceitful Jacob was crippled by a supernatural blow. Jacob met with someone he could not defeat.

### Genesis 32:26–29

Jacob did not let go of the one he fought with. Jacob clung to Him. Jacob wanted the blessing. The identity of the man he was fighting with did become apparent. Jacob is given a new name *Israel* which means "God fights." Jacob had fought with God and with men.

### Genesis 32:30–32

The place was called *Peniel* which means "face of God." The prayer of deliverance that Jacob prayed was answered. When Jacob fought with God, his self-confidence shriveled. He began to understand that it is useless to struggle against God. His affliction brought about the ability to have the strength to become bold in faith. Victory does not come by the usual way sometimes. Victory comes by the power of God. Self-confi-

dence, self-sufficiency, is not compatible with the work of God. Faith alone overcomes.

### Genesis 33:1–7

Evidence of humility  
in the meeting between  
Jacob and Esau:

When Jacob and Esau met, it was a marvelous event. Since Jacob still feared Esau, he divided his family into two camps. Jacob approached Esau with great humility

1. Jacob bowed to the ground seven times.
2. Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him.
3. They both wept.
4. Jacob referred to himself as “your servant.” And his brother as “my lord.”
5. Esau called Jacob “my brother.”

### Genesis 33:8–11

Jacob insisted that Esau accept the gift of animals. Jacob used the word *present*. The word present comes from *barak*, meaning to bless. Maybe Jacob was trying to show he wanted to share his blessing with Esau. The favorable encounter between Jacob and Esau was God’s doing.

### Genesis 33:12–17

Miracles were definitely at work in the lives of Jacob and Esau. Jacob had a spirit of humility and generosity, and Esau went from seeking revenge to desiring reconciliation with his brother. This is proof that God had delivered Jacob. God had answered Jacob’s prayer.

### Art and Activities

## Teaching Activities

#### Young children

Provide your students with the appropriate Activity Page.

#### Older children

Provide your students with the appropriate Activity Page.

Explore the  
following questions  
with your students:

## Explore the Subject

1. When did Jacob stop depending upon himself and begin to trust God for help?
2. When Jacob prayed to God, he reminded Him of His promise. Does God keep His promise?
3. Can you think of one of His promises to help you? (Isaiah 41:10; I Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:13; Psalm 37:5):

Always close your  
class with prayer

## Respond and Reinforce

1. Discuss the memory verse.
2. How will you go about your week trusting in God?

## Activity Page

### The Sheep Trust the Shepherd

**John 10:14**

A shepherd watches over his sheep. He finds them safe pastures to feed upon. He watches over them and protects them from harm. He nurses them back to health when they become sick or hurt. The sheep know their shepherd and are comforted when he is with them. They respond to his voice. They trust him.



## Activity Page

### Jacob and Esau Meet Again

Genesis 32, 33

Read the Scriptures and find the words listed at the bottom of the page.

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

MAHANAIM

HOST

ANGELS

FOUR

HUNDRED

WAX

MESSENGERS

ESAU

SEIR

FRIEND

SEED

SEE

EDOM

LORD

LABAN

DELIVER

JACOB

GOD

OX

HOLD

SERVANT

PENIEL

FACE

HAVE

RAN

LEAH

HERD

DRIVE

LOVE

LIE

## Genesis 32:3–12; 22–32

Jacob sent messengers to his brother.  
What was the message?

was with men  
or 400 Esa

The messengers returned. What did they say?

Jacob u's fav seeking  
was Esau coming

Vowel Code: ▮=A ▾=E \* =I ◆=O ●=U

May be duplicated for classroom use.  
Not to be sold.

## Activity Page

### Jacob and Esau Meet Again

Genesis 32:13–20; 33:1–20

After many years, Jacob and his brother Esau met. Jacob was afraid that Esau would be mad and offered Esau many gifts. But Esau was happy to see Jacob again. Find the items hidden in the coloring sheet below and circle.

Circle these items hidden in the picture:

