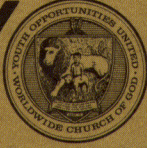


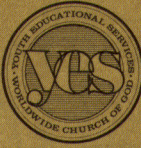
YOUTH



LEVEL 2

BIBLE

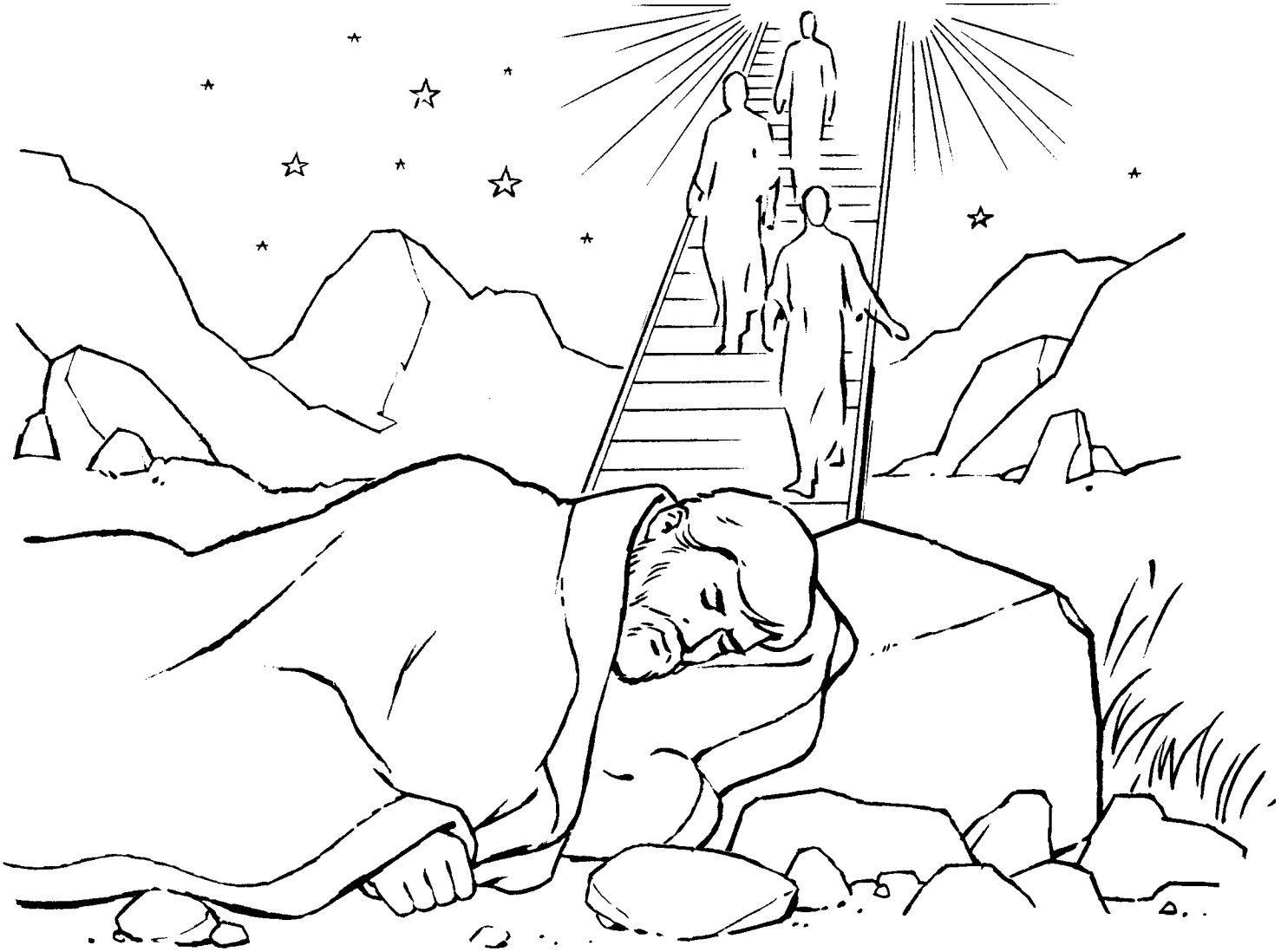
LESSONS



LESSON 8



Jacob and His Family



Jacob began his long journey to his Uncle Laban's. As the sun began to set, he stopped to rest for the night. He slept on the ground with his head resting on a large stone.

While Jacob slept, he dreamed of a ladder that reached from earth to heaven. He saw many angels walking up and down the ladder. Standing above the ladder was God.

God spoke to Jacob and promised to give him and his **descendants** a great amount of land, including the area where he was lying. God also promised to bless and protect him.

Parents: Explain to your child the meaning of the **boldface** words. Also, explain that today God speaks to us through His written Word, the Bible.



Early the next morning, Jacob set up the large stone his head had been resting on as a **pillar** to mark the place where he had his dream. He poured oil on it and named the place Bethel, which means “House of God.” Jacob then continued the long journey to his Uncle Laban’s home.

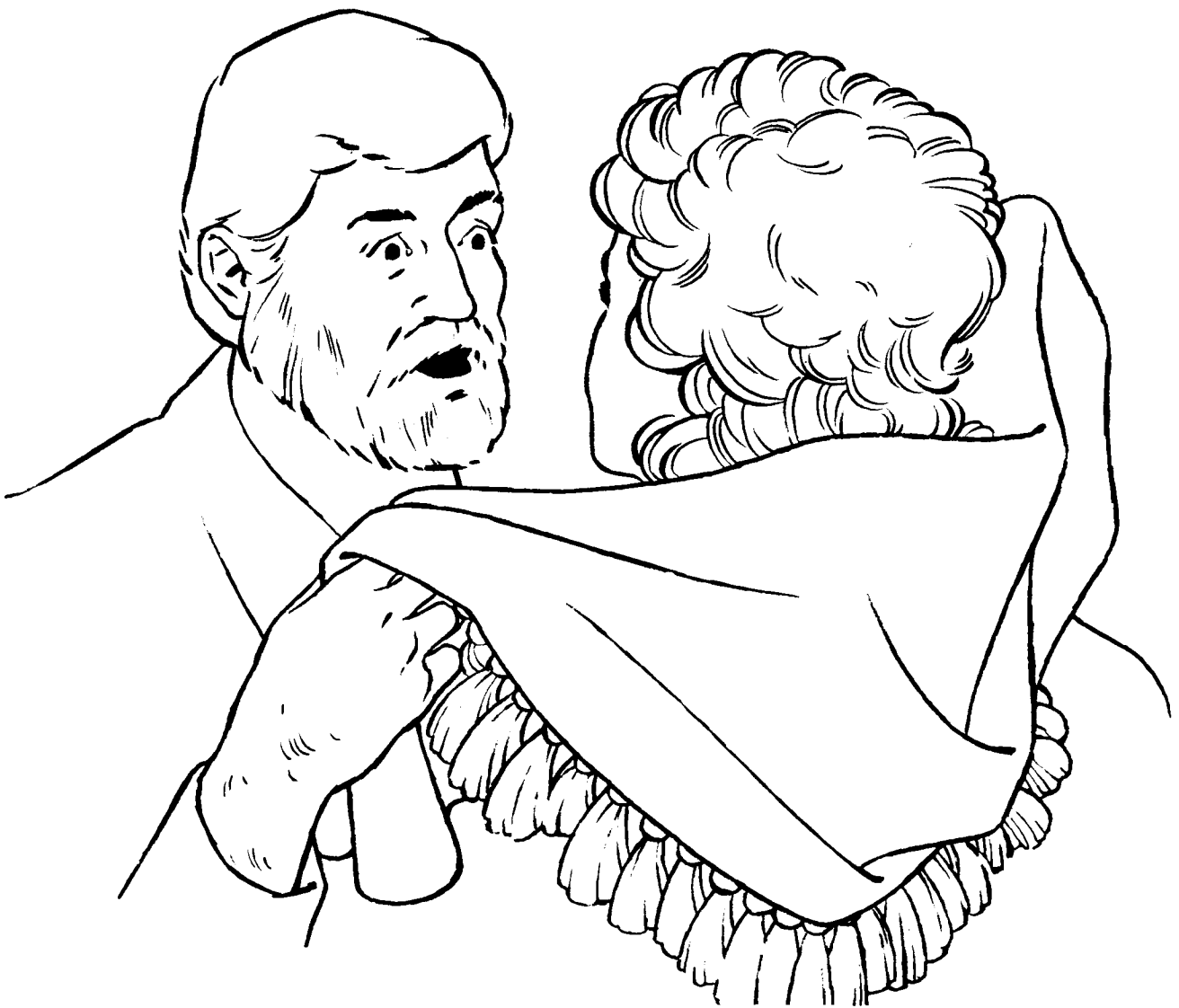


After many days of traveling, Jacob saw shepherds in the distance bringing their flocks to a well. As Jacob spoke with the men, Laban's daughter came to the well to water her father's sheep. Her name was Rachel. She met Jacob and was excited to learn that he was her cousin. Rachel quickly ran home to tell her father. Laban was also very happy to see Jacob and invited him to stay with them.



During the next month, Jacob worked in Laban's fields. "What would you like to be paid for your work?" Laban asked Jacob.

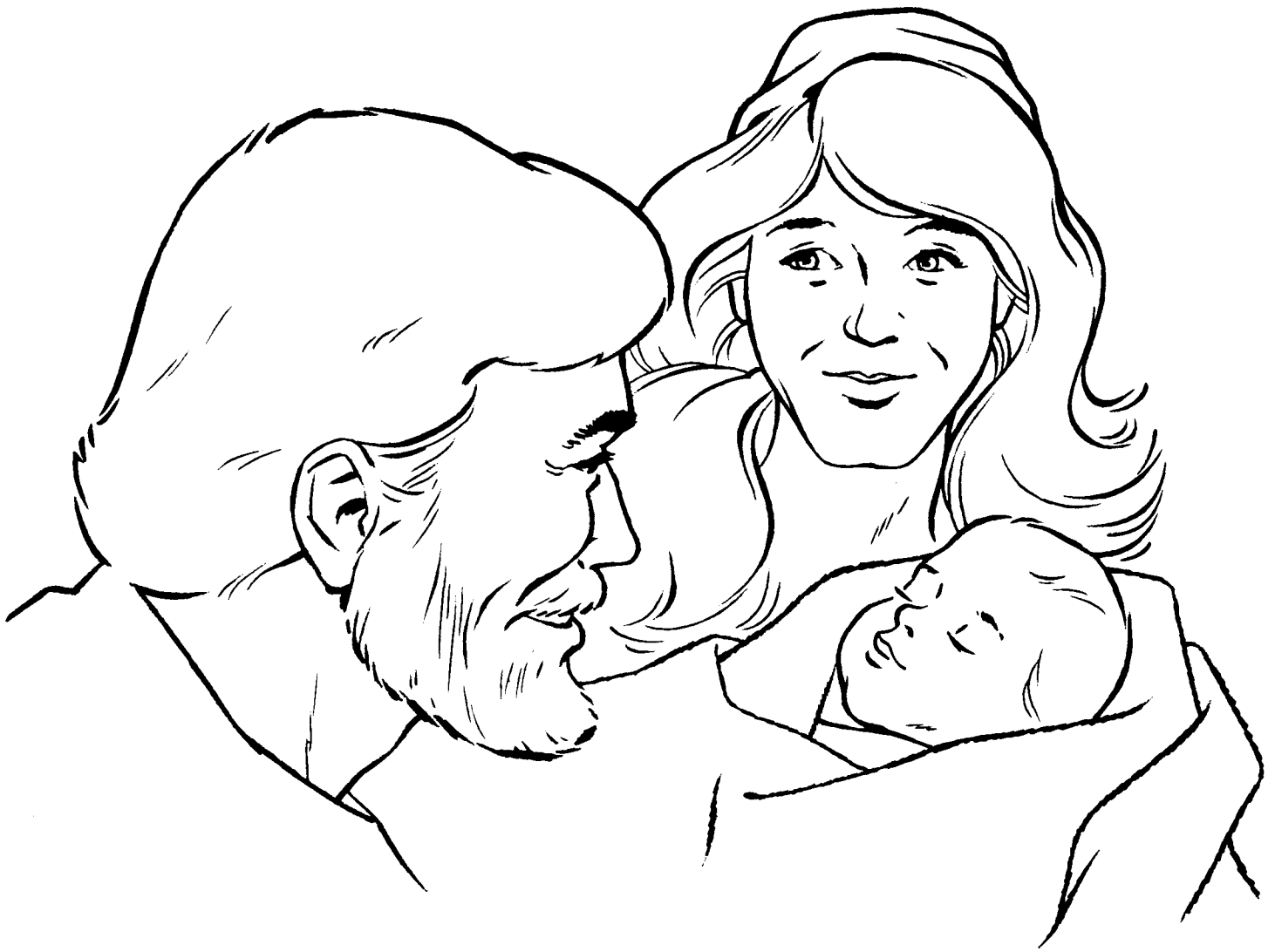
"I will work seven years for you if you will then give me Rachel for my wife," Jacob said. Laban agreed.



Seven years later, Jacob married. He was surprised to discover after the wedding that he had married Leah instead of Rachel! Laban had tricked Jacob into marrying his oldest daughter. Laban explained to Jacob that it was the **custom** in those days for the older daughter to marry before the younger.

Laban promised to give Rachel to Jacob at the end of the week if he would work for him seven more years. Jacob agreed.

Parents: Remind your child that Jacob had tricked Esau years earlier, and was now tricked himself. Also, explain that Jacob did not see the bride's face until after the wedding.



During the next several years, Leah had six sons. She named them Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun. But Rachel was unable to have children. She decided that her maid, Bilhah, should have children for her. So Bilhah gave birth to two sons named Dan and Naphtali. Then, Leah thought that her maid, Zilpah, should also have children for her. Zilpah had two sons whom Leah named Gad and Asher. After this, God healed Rachel and she gave birth to a son whom she named Joseph.

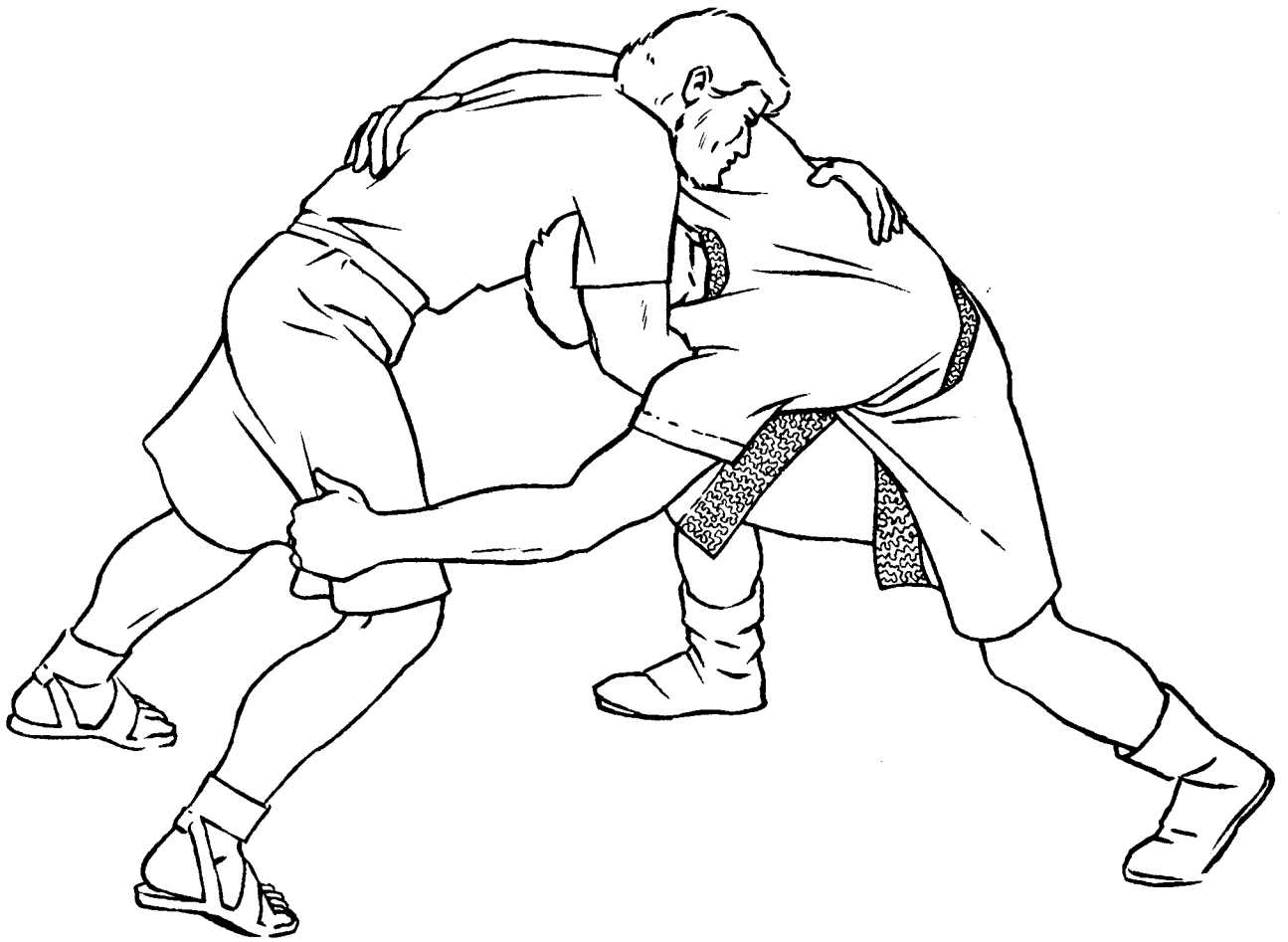
Parents: Explain that the descendants of Jacob's sons have become certain nations of our twentieth century.



Jacob worked for Laban twenty years. During that time Jacob's family had grown very large. Jacob now wanted to return to the land of Canaan to see his aging father, Isaac. But Laban did not want him to leave. So Jacob and his family left while Laban was away **shearing** sheep.

Laban was angry when he learned that Jacob had gone. He was further angered when he discovered that some small images he prized highly were missing. Unknown to Jacob, Rachel had taken them with her and hidden them.

Laban pursued Jacob and his caravan. On the way, God warned Laban in a dream not to harm Jacob. When he arrived, Laban greeted Jacob and asked about the images. When they could not be found, the two made an agreement of friendship. After a farewell feast, Laban then returned home and Jacob continued on his way.

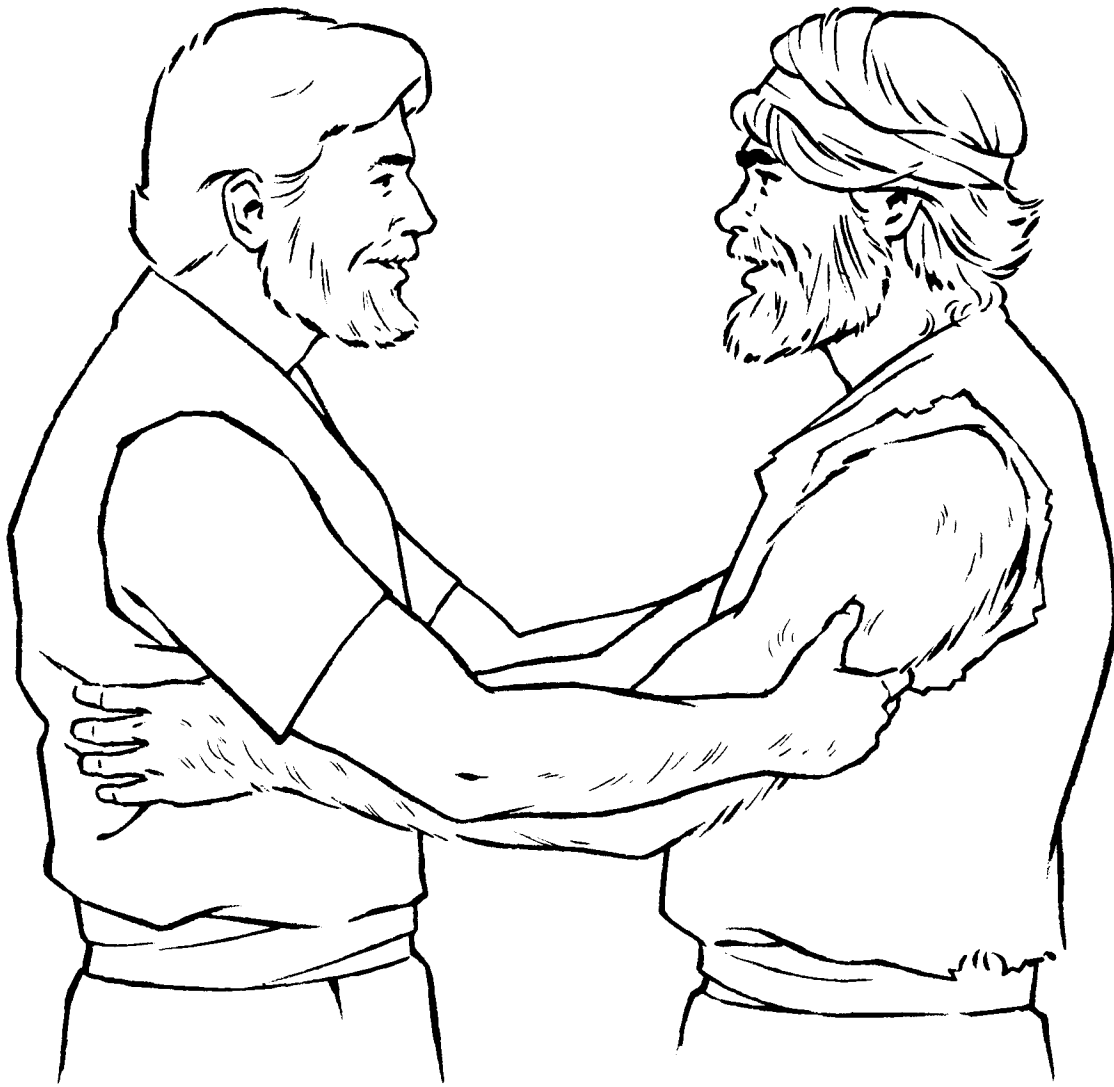


As Jacob neared the land of Canaan, he learned that Esau and a group of men were riding swiftly to meet him. Jacob feared that Esau might still want to kill him. So Jacob asked God for protection.

Before meeting, both groups camped for the night. Jacob left camp to be alone for awhile. Suddenly, somebody seized him and a wrestling match began. Soon, Jacob realized that his opponent wasn't an ordinary man. He was the Eternal, the One who later became Jesus Christ!

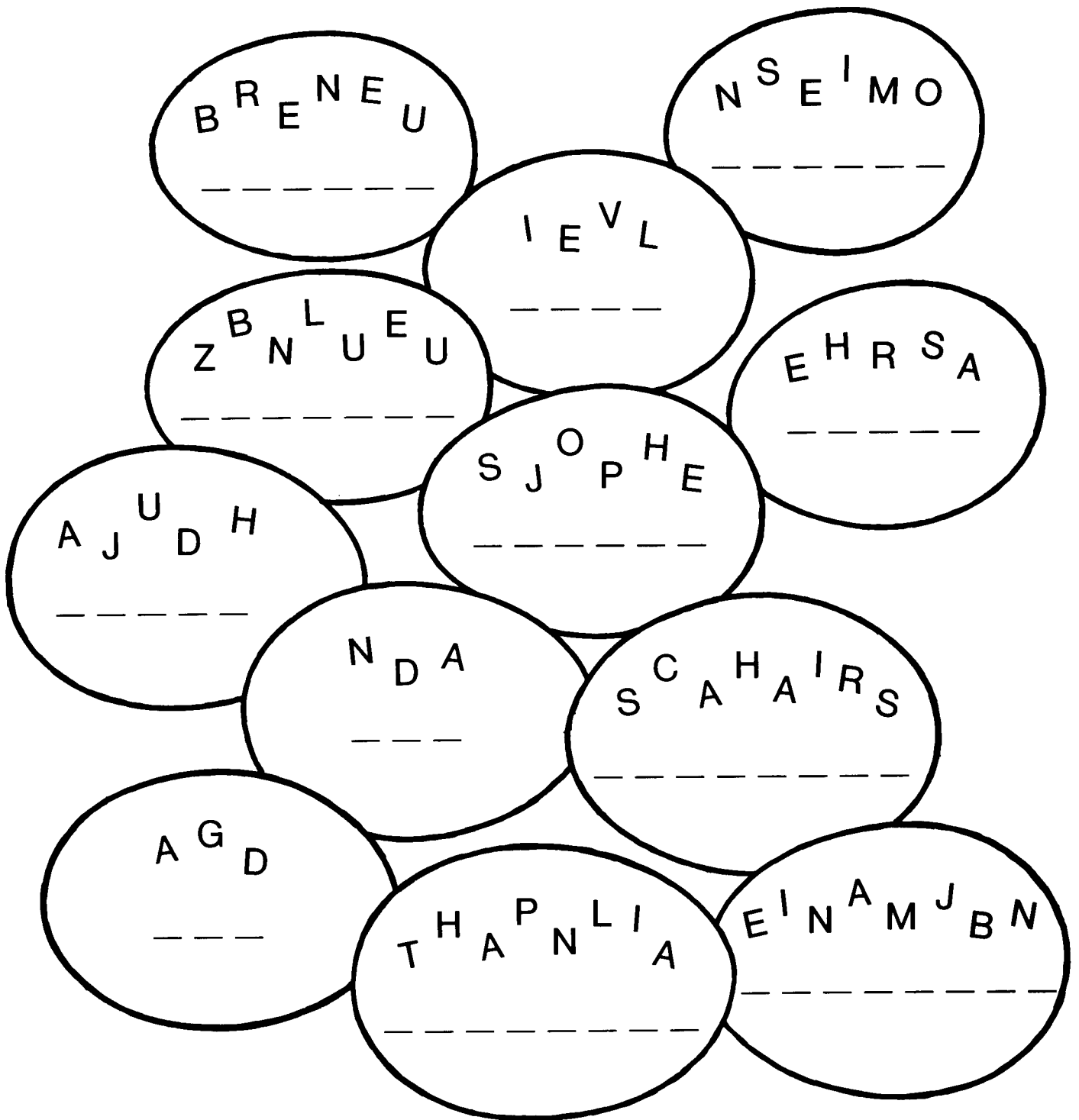
The two wrestled all night, but Jacob would not let go until God had blessed him. So God blessed Jacob and changed his name to Israel.

Parents: Explain that God changed Jacob's name to "Israel" which means champion or overcomer, because he prevailed with God.



The next morning, Jacob could see Esau coming toward his caravan. He was very relieved to learn that Esau was glad to see him. After their happy reunion, Jacob continued on to where Isaac lived. On the way, Rachel gave birth to Jacob's twelfth son, Benjamin. It was then that Rachel died.

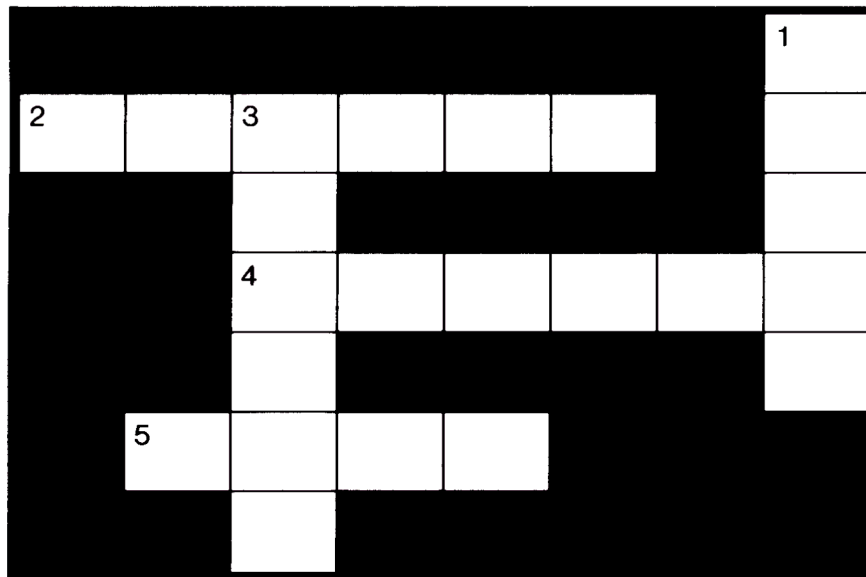
Not long afterwards, the trip was finally over. Jacob was very happy to see his father, Isaac, who lived to be 180 years old. Jacob and his family continued to dwell in the land of Canaan for many years.



SCRAMBLED EGGS

Unscramble the letters and write down the names of Jacob's twelve sons. If you need help, look back in this lesson to find their names.

MINI-CROSSWORD



Across

2. Jacob's name was changed to _____.
4. Jacob returned to the land of _____ to see his father Isaac.
5. Rachel's older sister.

Down

1. Jacob slept on a large _____ when he had his dream.
3. Joseph's mother.