

# LESSON 4

## JACOB AND ESAU MAKE UP

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### Jacob Wrestles with God

To “wrestle” is to fight for something. When Jacob wrestled with God, he was very determined and said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!” (Gen 32:26). Jacob was persistent in his wrestle, persistent in his plea, and serious in his request to God, even though his body was racked with pain.

The turning point came when God touched Jacob in the hollow of his hip, dislocating the ball-and-socket joint of his hip. Suddenly, he was weakened and immobilized.

God knew the change that had transpired in Jacob's heart. Jacob was now holding on in faith rather than wrestling in fear. God was moved by Jacob's persistence and blessed him, not because He had to or was forced to, but because Jacob was ready to receive the blessing. And what a blessing!

“What is your name?” God asked. What He was really asking Jacob was, “Who are you?” Jacob hung on to Him in pain and answered, “I'm Jacob.”

Then God said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

The Lord desires for our prayers to be fervent and persistent. We are to “wrestle” in prayer. In Colossians 4:12, Paul wrote, “Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete.”

#### Esau and Jacob Reconcile with Each Other

Genesis 33:10 is the key verse to the peaceful meeting of Jacob and Esau: “‘No, please,’ said Jacob. ‘If I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.’”

Earlier, Jacob struggled with God and prevailed. Now that Esau welcomed him with open arms, Jacob saw that looking at his brother's face was like looking at the face of God. God, not Esau, had been the obstacle to Jacob's entry into Canaan. Now that he had prevailed over God by means of petitioning and clinging to Him by faith, Esau was no longer an enemy, and they were able to make peace with each other.

In order for Jacob and Esau to make peace with each other, they had to forgive and put away the past. True forgiveness means we don't hold a grudge against someone who wronged us, so we can start over and be loving and kind to one another.

### BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 31-33

### BIBLE TRUTHS

1. Our choices are important because they can affect us and others in the future.
2. God wants us to forgive and live in harmony with others.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn to forgive others.
2. To learn to make peace with others.
3. To learn how we should act towards brothers and sisters.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Live peaceably with all men."

(Romans 12:18b)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord, we thank You for protecting us through this past week and for bringing us here to learn more about You. We know that You love us very much, and that You also want us to love one another. Please help us to live in peace together, forgiving and loving one other. Hallelujah! Amen.

How do we know if we have really forgiven someone? Well, one way to tell is to ask yourself these questions: When I look at this person, do I always think about what he has done to me? Do I keep on telling other people what this person did to me? Do I feel like nothing will be the same anymore and that I cannot trust this person? If we have these feelings, then we still have to ask God to help us truly forgive from our heart. Even if we have said "I'm sorry" with our mouths, we may not have forgiven in our hearts.

If we feel the opposite of all the feelings we just described, then that means we have truly forgiven. We are

joyful when we see this person, we remember all the good things about this person, and our hearts feel light and not heavy or unhappy.

In the parable of the unmerciful servant (Mt 18:21-35), Jesus tells us we must forgive our brother from our hearts if we expect God to forgive us. True peace in a relationship doesn't occur when we merely "forgive one another." Complete peace comes when we take the last step of reconciliation. Sometimes, we might find it hard to reconcile with one another, but God has given us the power of the Holy Spirit to take the step of true forgiveness.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Children at this age are friendly. They like being with one another and will often spend hours playing together. But they might be a bit self-centered at this age, too. They don't always know how to give in gracefully, and they can be easily hurt by what someone else says or does. Their immediate response may be to fight back, either physically or verbally.

You can allow your students to talk about their feelings

of hurt and anger without the fear of criticism. Let your classroom be a practice arena where your students can better understand how to respond when disagreements occur. Help them think of better ways of responding than fighting back or arguing. You can also set an example by living in peace with others and sharing how you handle difficult situations.

### VOCABULARY

**wrestle:** to try to force another person to the ground; to struggle with

**forgive:** to tell a person it's okay even though that person has hurt you

**bless:** to bestow favor or protection upon

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Jacob traveled to his uncle Laban's house. While he was on his journey, something interesting happened to him one night. What was it? (He had a dream of a ladder reaching up to heaven. Angels went up and down on it and the Lord stood at the top.) God promised in that dream that He would always be with him and would watch over him.

Indeed, Jacob reached his uncle Laban's house safely. He stayed there and was just like a part of the family. His uncle Laban was very happy to see him because Jacob was his sister's child.

When Jacob lived with his uncle, he helped him with the work and took care of the sheep and goats. He worked very hard for his uncle for a very long time. Jacob married Laban's two daughters, Leah and Rachel, and had eleven children.

## BIBLE STORY

### God Blesses Jacob

Soon, Jacob began thinking about his home. He had not seen his parents and brother for a very long time. He wanted to take his family back to where he used to live, so he asked Laban if he could leave.

But Laban begged him to stay because the Lord had made him rich through Jacob, so he thought if Jacob stayed with him, the Lord would continue to bless him. So Laban asked Jacob, "What do you want me to give you so that you'll stay?" Jacob asked for a part of his sheep and

goats, and Laban agreed.

So Jacob stayed with his uncle and continued to take care of his sheep and goats. But the Lord blessed Jacob greatly so that he became rich. Because of this, Laban's sons became jealous of him. They began telling their father that Jacob had taken what was theirs, and Laban soon stopped treating Jacob kindly.

### Jacob Flees from Laban

Then one day, the Lord said to Jacob, "Go back to your

home, and I will be with you."

Jacob listened to the Lord and told Leah and Rachel about this. They were going back to his hometown because Laban no longer treated him nicely. Both of them agreed that this was a good decision and they told Jacob that he should do what the Lord had told to him to do.

So they packed up all of their belongings and got ready for the big move. Then Jacob, his two wives, eleven children, servants, and all his sheep and goats started off on the long journey back to Canaan.

### **Jacob Sends Word to Esau**

Now, as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him. Do you remember the first time Jacob met with angels? How did he react? Yes, he was afraid. However, when he saw the angels this time, he wasn't afraid. He said, "This is God's camp," and he named that place "Mahanaim."

While Jacob continued on the journey, he started thinking back. He thought about his family and how he had tricked his father and brother so long ago. How did Jacob trick his father and brother? [Allow students to respond.] Jacob had taken Esau's birthright, so he was especially sorry that he had tricked Esau. He wanted to set things right and make up with his brother.

Esau was now living in a country called Edom. As they approached this place, Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to give Esau a message.

Jacob called a few of his servants to his side. "Go ahead of me and tell my brother Esau that I am coming. Tell him I have been working with our uncle Laban the past twenty years and I have many herds, flocks, and servants. Tell him I wish to come in peace," Jacob instructed. "Then come back and tell me if he is glad I am coming or if he is mad."

Jacob wasn't sure what Esau would think about him coming home. The last time Jacob saw Esau, Esau wanted to kill him because he had stolen his birthright and blessing. Jacob was afraid that Esau was still angry with him. So he was ready to make himself very humble and treat Esau with respect, just like a servant would treat his master.

How do you think you would react if you were Esau? Let's see a show of hands—put up your hand if you think Esau will still be angry. How many think Esau will be happy to see Jacob? Well, let's find out what happened.

The messengers came back to Jacob, saying, "We saw your brother Esau and he is coming to meet you, and 400 men are with him." This made Jacob greatly afraid and distressed because he thought Esau was coming to attack him with all of those men!

The servants didn't say whether Esau was coming in peace or if Esau still hated him and had brought those 400 men to make war and kill him. Jacob decided to prepare for the worst!

So Jacob divided all of the people who were with him

and instructed his servants to divide all the flocks, herds, and camels into two separate groups. One group would go ahead of Jacob and his family, and the other group would follow behind.

Why do you think he did this? [Allow students to respond.] He reasoned that if Esau was angry and was coming to make war, the first group might all be killed but he and his family in the second group would have enough warning to turn around and escape.

After dividing up all his animals into two groups, Jacob found himself a place to pray. He prayed, "O God of my father Abraham and of my father Isaac, You told me to return to Canaan. You promised that all would be well. Please protect me from Esau. I am afraid that he will kill my entire family. You said You would do good to me and bless my family. Please keep Your promise."

After Jacob prayed to God to protect his family, he decided to set up camp for the night at that place. He was probably very anxious and finding it hard to fall asleep. So while he was tossing and turning, he decided it might be a good idea to send a gift to Esau. He was thinking that perhaps a nice big present would make Esau happy and help him forget the awful things Jacob had done to him in the past.

He got up and gathered 220 goats, 220 sheep, sixty camels, fifty cattle, and thirty donkeys. He put a servant in charge of each group of animals and sent them ahead of him, putting a large space between each group.

He instructed each servant that upon meeting Esau, he was to present the animals as a gift and tell him there were more coming—that his brother Jacob was following behind. The servants obediently followed Jacob's orders. Jacob hoped that when Esau saw these presents, he wouldn't be as angry with him.

### **Jacob Wrestles with God**

As Jacob came closer and closer to home, he felt more and more nervous about Esau. Would his brother still be angry? That night, Jacob sent his two wives and eleven sons ahead of him, and he was all alone. He felt very small. It was to become a night full of surprises, though, and a night Jacob would never forget.

As Jacob stood alone under the stars, worrying and praying, a Man came from out of the desert. It was dark and Jacob could not see who the Man was. It was not Esau. Whoever it was, the Man was very strong and He wrestled with Jacob.

All night long the two grabbed and grappled, rolling in the sand over and over again, panting and heaving, but neither seemed to win. They were of equal strength. Then the Stranger touched the bones in Jacob's hip, causing one bone to come loose. Jacob hurt from the loose bone.

The Stranger said, "Let Me go, it will soon be sunrise." But Jacob replied, "I won't let You go unless You bless me!"

"What is your name?" the Stranger asked.

"Jacob."

"No, you are no longer Jacob. Your new name is Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men, and you have won," the Stranger said.

"And what is Your name, please?" Jacob said.

The Stranger did not answer but blessed Jacob. Suddenly, the Stranger was gone and Jacob knew he had seen God face to face. The sky shone pink and gold as Jacob limped back to camp.

### Jacob and Esau Make Up

Jacob must have started the next day off with a lot more courage knowing that God was truly with him! He probably didn't get any sleep and was in a lot of pain, walking with a limp, but he was going to see his brother today.

Jacob looked into the distance and saw Esau coming with his 400 men. He divided his children and wives into four groups, and as he got closer to Esau, he ran ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times to show his respect. So do you think Esau was glad to see Jacob?

Esau was so glad to see him that he ran to Jacob and hugged him tightly. He threw his arms around Jacob's neck and kissed him. They hadn't seen each other for twenty years and they both wept out of joy.

When Jacob saw how glad Esau was to see him, he knew that Esau had forgiven him for tricking him. He was

so glad that his brother didn't hate him, and now Jacob could be completely happy.

Esau looked over Jacob's shoulder, and upon seeing the women and children, asked, "Who are these people with you?"

"These are my wives and children, which God has given to me," Jacob replied. Jacob's wives and their children bowed to Esau.

Then Esau asked Jacob, "Why were there so many cattle, sheep, and goats that I met on the way?"

"I sent all of them ahead as a present for you, hoping that it would please you," Jacob replied.

"I have plenty of animals of my own," Esau explained. "You keep them for yourself. I don't really need them."

But Jacob insisted and said, "No, no. The Lord has richly blessed me. Please accept the gift I have offered you."

So that day, Jacob and Esau made up, and they went back home in peace. They were both very happy to see each other again.

Jacob was so grateful that the Lord had helped him. The Lord had kept His promise and had taken care of Jacob all these years when he lived with and worked for his uncle Laban. He had also helped him and Esau make up. The Lord also blessed him with many family members. To show his thanks, Jacob built an altar and worshiped God there. He called it "Mighty is the God of Israel."

### CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **How did God bless Jacob when he was living with Laban?** He made Jacob rich.
2. **When God spoke to Jacob one day, what did He tell him to do?** He told Jacob to go back to his hometown.
3. **True or False: Jacob's wives didn't want to go back to Canaan with Jacob.** False.
4. **Why was Jacob afraid of his brother Esau?** Because Jacob had tricked Esau out of his birthright and he thought Esau would still be angry at him.
5. **After Jacob sent the message to Esau telling him that he was coming home, what did Esau do?** Esau came to meet him with 400 men.
6. **How did Jacob feel when he heard that Esau was coming to meet him?** He was really afraid and thought that Esau was coming to attack him.
7. **Why did Jacob send a gift to Esau?** He thought it might please Esau and lessen his anger towards him.
8. **The night before Jacob met with Esau, what happened?** Jacob wrestled with God and won. So, God made him limp. He asked God to bless him.
9. **What was Jacob's new name?** Israel.
10. **When Jacob and Esau finally met, how did Esau treat him?** Esau was so glad to see Jacob that he ran to him and kissed him; he had already forgiven his younger brother.

### MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:18b)**

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## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

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### 1. Learn to forgive others.

Forgiveness does not come easy for most of us. Our natural tendency is to protect ourselves when we've been wrongly accused. We don't naturally want to forgive when we've been hurt. In this story, we learn from Esau that he forgave his brother, who stole his birthright. Why do we need to forgive? The best reason to forgive is because Jesus commanded us to forgive. We learn from the Scripture that if we don't forgive, neither will we be forgiven:

#### **Matthew 6:14-15**

*"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

#### **Colossians 3:13**

*"Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."*

We must trust God to do the work in us that needs to be done so that the forgiveness will be complete. True forgiveness comes from our hearts. Jesus has set a very good example for us. He forgave the tax collectors and prostitutes, and also forgave His disciple Peter for betraying him. Even on the cross, Jesus forgave the people who crucified Him. He is truly a forgiving God. Jesus commands us in the Lord's Prayer to "forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Mt 6:12).

### 2. Learn to make peace with others.

Did you know that God is "the God of peace"? Let's turn to Hebrews 13:20, "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant." Underline the words "God of peace." God wants His children to enjoy peace! The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). But God is the God of peace and He took steps to make peace so that we can be called children of God.

#### **A. Peace with God**

Peacemakers are at peace with God (Rom 5:1, 11). You cannot be a peacemaker until you have first found peace. Peace with God involves a pure heart. Only a person who is pure in heart can become a peacemaker. There must be no hidden selfish ambitions. A person who is filled with envy, jealousy, covetousness, hostility, etc., in his heart can never be a peacemaker.

Out of the heart proceeds a whole list of things that prevent us from being peacemakers (Mk 7:20-23). "And He said, 'What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.'" We need to make an effort to make sure our heart is pure!

Did you know that "peace" is one aspect of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22; Phil 4:7)? The perfect peacemaker is Jesus Christ. "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation" (Eph 2:14).

#### **A. Peace with others**

Peacemakers show that they are "children of God" by using every opportunity to bring about peace with others. God is a peacemaker. We need to make peace with others like Jacob made peace with Esau. Peacemakers shall be known as "sons of God" according to the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:9. Next time, if someone wants to pick a fight with us, we need to quickly remember what we need to do. Be slow to anger (Jas 1:19; Eccl 7:9). He who is slow to anger has great understanding (Prov 14:29; 19:11). Ask God in prayer to give us the peace from Him first and to act peacefully with others. This is how we should act towards brothers and sisters.

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 ACTIVITIES
 

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**1 Do the Right Thing**

- Objectives:** 1. To understand the importance of being a peacemaker.  
2. To see the right choices we can make in a variety of situations.

**Materials**

- Picture wheel templates
- Scissors
- Paper fasteners

**Instructions**

1. Have the students cut out the two circles. Cut along the dotted line for the top circle. Fold the paper back at the solid line to create a flap.
2. Place the circle with the flap on top of the picture circle.
3. Push a paper fastener through the center of the circles. The "X" is denoted on the bottom circle.
4. Have the students read the situation on the front of the picture wheel without opening the flap. Let them discuss what they would do in such a situation. Then open the flap to see one of the possible things they can do.
5. Let the students come up with situations of their own where they can put the memory verse into practice.

**2 Puppet Show: Stop and Think!**

- Objectives:** 1. To teach the students to think before they act when they are angry.  
2. To have the students come up with better solutions to solve problems.

**Materials**

- A puppet stand or mounted area
- Puppets
- Cardboard box as the stage (optional)

**Instructions**

1. Ask the students to carefully watch the puppet show. With the help of another teacher, act out a short scenario where two siblings or friends get into a fight.
2. Ask the students to watch the same scenario again. Tell them that this time, they will be the "peacemakers." When they see the characters behaving badly and making bad choices, they have to shout "Stop!"
3. Act out the same scenario and prompt the students to say "Stop!" whenever it applies. Ask the students to provide a good solution to correct the situation.
4. Replay the "corrected" version of the scenario.
5. Conclude by saying that God does not want us to fight with other people. We must be peacemakers and be nice to one another. Also, when someone makes us angry, we must forgive him/her; in the same way, when we do something wrong, we must ask for forgiveness, just like Jacob did.

**3 Forgiveness Is So Sweet**

- Objective:** To brainstorm different ways to say sorry.

If the students have bad feelings toward someone, challenge them to try one of these "sweet" ways to forgive.

1. Send a mystery invitation to meet for a treat. Don't sign your name. Show up and say you'd like to be friends again.
2. Write an "I'm sorry" note and attach it to some candies or other treats. Leave it in a place where the other person can find it. In the note, ask that person to meet you at a certain place so that you can share the treats together.

Brainstorm with the students other inventive ways to say sorry.

## 4

**Jacob and Esau Make Up** / *Optional activity for 1st graders*

**Objective:** To remind the students that Esau forgave Jacob and they made up.

**Instructions:** Read the following story in class with the students or let them read it at home.

**Jacob and Esau Make Up**

Jacob went to live somewhere far away,  
because he had made his brother Esau angry.  
After twenty years, God told Jacob to go home.  
Jacob was rich and had a big family.  
But he was afraid Esau was still angry.

Jacob sent a messenger to Esau.  
"Tell Esau I am coming home.  
I hope he will be happy to see me again."

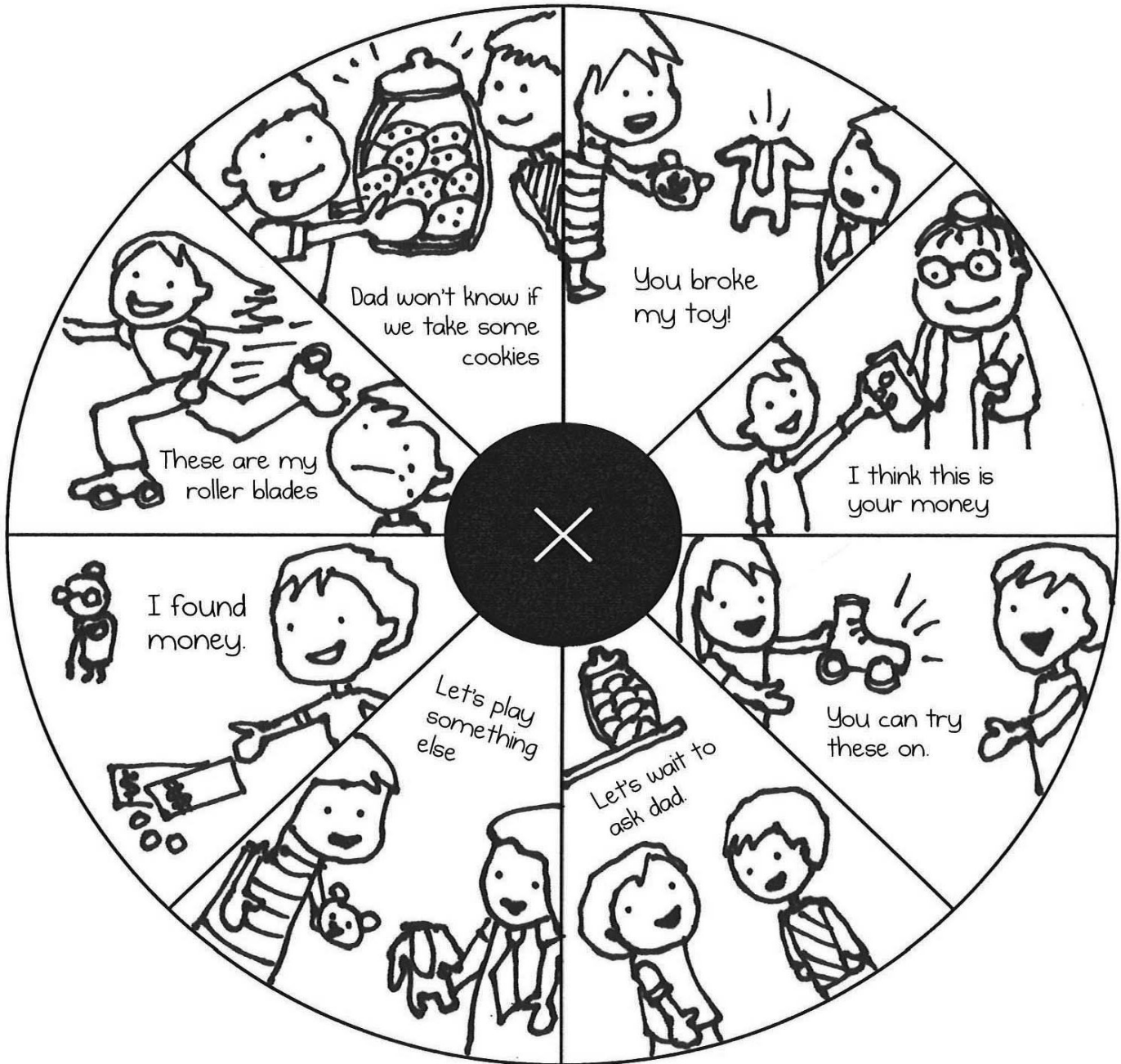
Jacob's messengers came back and said,  
"Esau is coming with four hundred men!"

Jacob prayed, "I am afraid of Esau.  
Please keep me and my family safe."  
Then Jacob sent Esau some gifts.  
He sent some goats, sheep, camels,  
cows and donkeys.

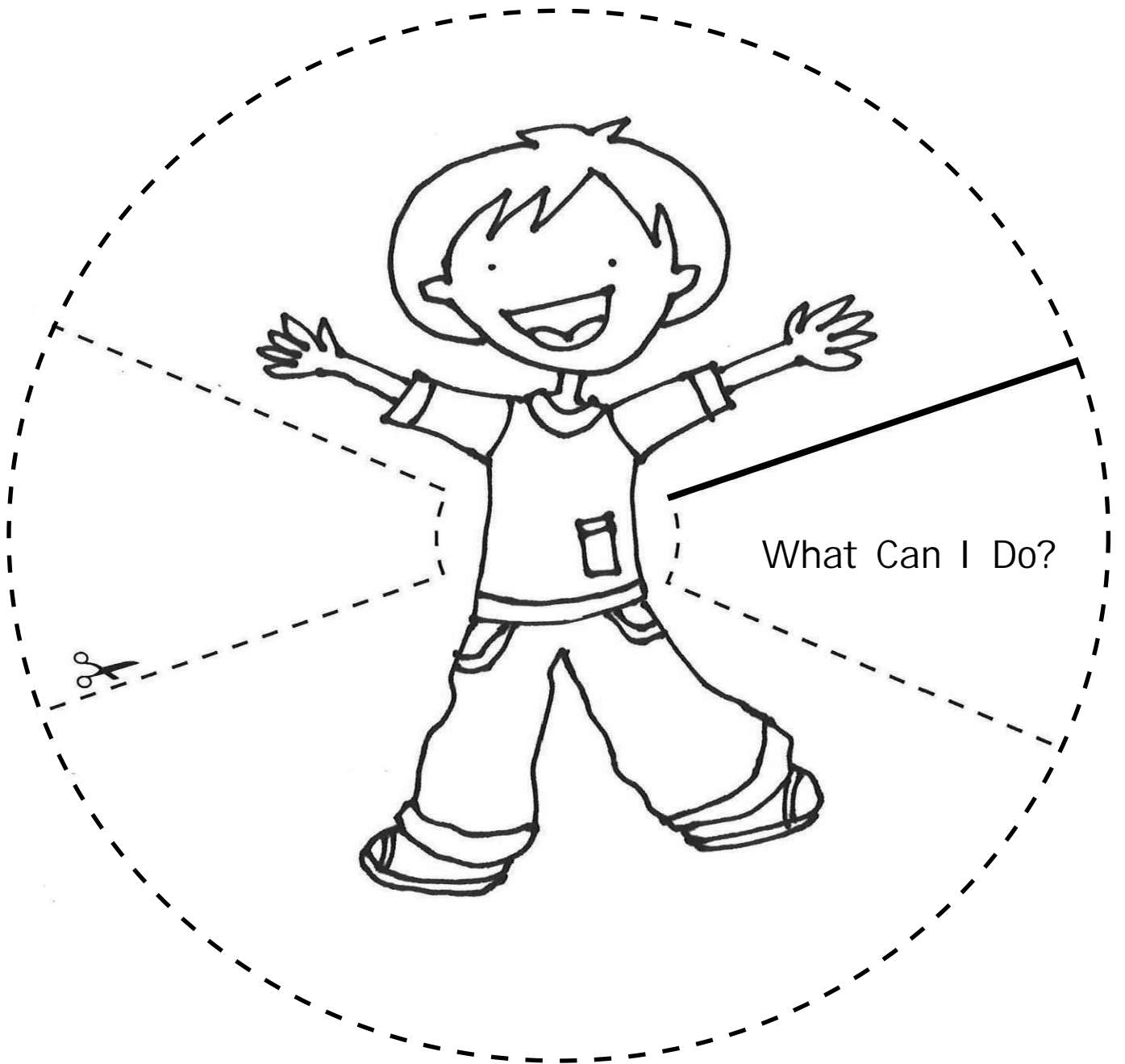
Finally, Esau came to meet Jacob.  
Esau forgave and hugged his brother!  
Esau and Jacob were happy again.

**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

1. "Live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:18b)
2. False
3. False
4. blessed
5. Israel
6. Jacob sent two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals (Gen 32:14-15).
7. D
8. D
9. Answers may vary.
10. Answers may vary.







What Can I Do?

E1 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 4—Jacob and Esau Make Up

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truths:** 1. Our choices are important because they can affect us and others in the future.  
 2. God wants us to forgive and live in harmony with others.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To learn to forgive others.  
 2. To learn to make peace with others.  
 3. To learn how we should act towards brothers and sisters.

**Bible Reading:** Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Romans 12:18b)

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## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

1. Write down this week's memory verse without looking.

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## True or False

2. Jacob was left alone, and a Man wrestled with him until morning. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Esau was very angry with Jacob and wanted to kill him. \_\_\_\_\_

## Fill In the Blank

4. Jacob wouldn't let go of the Man until He had \_\_\_\_\_ him.
5. "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but \_\_\_\_\_."

## Short Answer

6. What were some of the gifts Jacob sent ahead of him to Esau?

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## Multiple Choice

7. \_\_\_\_\_ : Who did Jacob wrestle with?
- a. Joseph
  - b. Esau
  - c. Israel
  - d. God
8. \_\_\_\_\_ : Esau came to see Jacob with \_\_\_\_\_ men.
- a. 2
  - b. 50
  - c. 300
  - d. 400

## Life Application

9. What did you learn from this week's lesson?

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10. What does forgiveness mean to you?

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