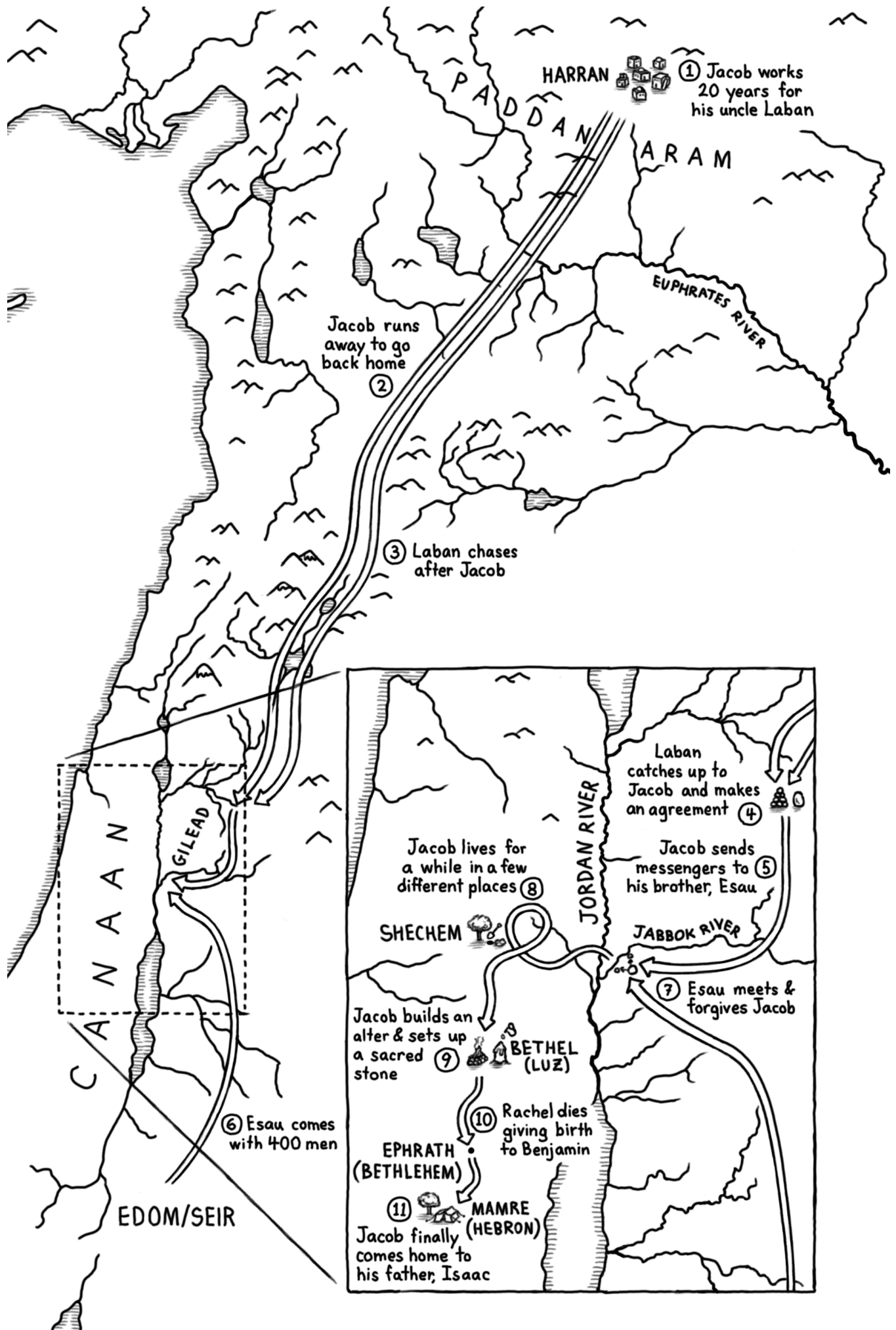




Lesson 7

Colossians 3:13b

Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.

Jacob Meets Esau

Genesis 33:1–20

¹Jacob looked and saw Esau coming with his 400 men! So Jacob separated the children. He put them with Leah, Rachel and the two female servants. ²He put the servants and their children in front. He put Leah and her children next. And he put Rachel and Joseph last. ³He himself went on ahead. As he came near his brother, he bowed down to the ground seven times.

⁴But Esau ran to meet Jacob. He hugged him and threw his arms around his neck. He kissed him, and they cried for joy. ⁵Then Esau looked around and saw the women and children. “Who are these people with you?” he asked.

Jacob answered, “They are the children God has so kindly given to me.”

⁶Then the female servants and their children came near and bowed down. ⁷Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel. They bowed down too.

⁸Esau asked, “Why did you send all those herds I saw?”

“I hoped I could do something to please you,” Jacob replied.

⁹But Esau said, “I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself.”

¹⁰“No, please!” said Jacob. “If I’ve pleased you, accept this gift from me. Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God. You have welcomed me so kindly. ¹¹Please accept the present that was brought to you. God has given me so much. I have everything I need.” Jacob wouldn’t give in. So Esau accepted it.

¹²Then Esau said, “Let’s be on our way. I’ll go with you.”

¹³But Jacob said to him, “You know that the children are young. You also know that I have to take care of the cows and female sheep that are feeding their little ones. If the animals are driven hard for just one day, all of them will die. ¹⁴So you go on ahead of me. I’ll move along only as fast as the flocks and herds and the children can go. I’ll go slowly until I come to you in Seir.”

¹⁵Esau said, “Then let me leave some of my men with you.”

“Why do that?” Jacob asked. “I just hope I’ve pleased you.”

¹⁶So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir. ¹⁷But Jacob went to Sukkoth. There he built a place for himself. He also made shelters for his livestock. That’s why the place is named Sukkoth.

¹⁸After Jacob came from Paddan Aram, he arrived safely at the city of Shechem in Canaan. He camped where he could see the city. ¹⁹For 100 pieces of silver he bought a piece of land. He got it from Hamor’s sons. Hamor was the father of Shechem. Jacob set up his tent on that piece of land. ²⁰He also set up an

altar there. He named it El Elohe Israel.

Questions

- 1 What did Jacob do when he saw Esau coming with his 400 men? Jacob put the two female _____ and their children in front, _____ and her children next, and _____ and Joseph last. Then Jacob himself went on _____. (Gen. 33:2–3)



Sadly, and wrongly, Jacob favoured Joseph over his other children and had no problem showing that.

- 2 What did Jacob do when he came near his brother, Esau? Jacob _____ down to the _____ times. (Gen. 33:3)
- 3 What did Esau do in response to this? Esau _____ to meet Jacob, _____ him, threw his _____ around Jacob's neck, and _____ him. (Gen. 33:4)
- 4 What did both of these men do next? They both _____ for joy. (Gen. 33:4)



Forgiveness is a beautiful thing that brings much joy to people's hearts.

Proverbs 17:9a

Whoever wants to show love forgives a wrong.

- 5 Did Esau want all those animals Jacob had sent ahead? (Yes/No) _____. Why not? Esau already had _____. (Gen. 33:9)



God had blessed Esau too!

- 6 What wonderful thing did Jacob say to Esau? Jacob told Esau that _____ his face was like seeing the face of _____. (Gen. 33:10)



This is so true. Forgiveness is from the heart of God!

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive one another, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.

- 7 Why did Esau finally accept Jacob's gift? Esau finally accepted Jacob's gift because Jacob wouldn't _____ in. (Gen. 33:11)
- 8 Why didn't Jacob want to follow Esau back home? Jacob needed to go _____ (opposite of "quickly") because his children were _____ and his cows and female sheep were _____ their little ones. (Gen. 33:13–14)
- 9 What did Esau offer Jacob instead? Esau offered to leave some of his _____ with Jacob. (Gen. 33:15)

Jacob Returns to Bethel

Genesis 35:1–15

¹Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and live there. Build an altar there to honour Me. That's where I appeared to you when you were running away from your brother Esau."

²So Jacob spoke to his family and to everyone with him. He said, "Get rid of the statues of false gods you have with you. Make yourselves pure by washing and changing your clothes. ³Come, let's go up to Bethel. There I'll build an altar to honour God. He answered me when I was in trouble. He's been with me everywhere I've gone." ⁴So they gave Jacob all the statues of false gods they had. They also gave him their earrings. Jacob buried those things under the oak tree at Shechem. ⁵Then Jacob and everyone with him started out. The terror of God fell on the towns all around them. So no one chased them.



⁶Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz. Luz is also called Bethel. It's in the land of Canaan. ⁷Jacob built an altar at Luz. He named the place El Bethel. There God made Himself known to Jacob when he was running away from his brother.

⁸Rebekah's attendant Deborah died. They buried her body under the oak tree outside Bethel. So it was called Allon Bakuth.

⁹After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again. And God blessed him. ¹⁰God said to him, "Your name is Jacob. But you will not be called Jacob anymore. Your name will be Israel." So He named him Israel.

¹¹God said to him, "I am the Mighty God. Have children so that there will be many of you. You will become the father of a nation and a community of nations. Your later family will include kings. ¹²I am giving you the land I gave to Abraham and Isaac. I will also give it to your children after you." ¹³Then God left him at the place where He had talked with him.

¹⁴Jacob set up a sacred stone at the place where God had talked with him. He poured out a drink offering on it. He also poured olive oil on it. ¹⁵Jacob named the place Bethel. That's where God had talked with him.

Questions

- 10 What did God tell Jacob to do? God told Jacob to go up to _____, _____ there, and build an _____ to honour God. (Gen. 35:1)
- 11 What was special about Bethel to Jacob? It was at Bethel that God had _____ to Jacob when Jacob had been _____ from his brother, Esau. (Gen. 35:1)
- 12 After God told Jacob to do these things, what did Jacob tell his family and everyone with him to do? Jacob told his family and everyone with him to get _____ of their statues of _____ gods and to make themselves _____ by _____ and changing their _____. (Gen. 35:2)

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters at the same time. You will hate one of them and love the other. Or you will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can't serve God and money at the same time."

- 13 Can "gods" be things other than statues of false gods? (Yes/No) _____. Can you name some? _____
- 14 Why did Jacob's family and everyone with Jacob give him their earrings too? They gave Jacob their earrings too because _____ ("personal ornaments that you wear") and _____ ("a yellow precious metal") can be gods too.
- 15 What did Jacob say about God? Jacob said that God had _____ him when he was in _____ and that God had been with him _____ he had gone. (Gen. 35:3)

- 16 Does God answer you when you are in trouble? Is He with you everywhere you go? (Yes/No) _____.

Psalm 46:1

God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.

- 17 What did Jacob do with all these false gods? Jacob _____ them under the oak _____ at Shechem. (Gen. 35:4)
- 18 Why did no one from the surrounding towns try to chase Jacob and those with him as they left Shechem? No one tried to chase Jacob and those with him because the _____ of God fell on the towns all around them. (Gen. 35:5)
- 19 Who died? Rebekah's attendant, _____, died. (Gen. 35:8)
- 20 Where did Jacob bury Deborah? What was the place called? Jacob buried Deborah under an _____ tree outside Bethel. The place was called _____ (meaning "oak of weeping"). (Gen. 35:8)
- 21 When God appeared to Jacob, what did God do? God _____ Jacob. (Gen. 35:9)
- 22 What did God again change Jacob's name to? God again changed Jacob's name to _____. (Gen. 35:10)

Rachel Dies

Genesis 35:16–20

¹⁶They moved on from Bethel. Ephrath wasn't very far away when Rachel began to have a baby. She was having a very hard time of it. ¹⁷The woman who helped her saw that she was having problems. So she said to Rachel, "Don't be afraid. You have another son." ¹⁸But Rachel was dying. As she took her last breath, she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin.

¹⁹So Rachel died. She was buried beside the road to Ephrath. Ephrath was also called Bethlehem. ²⁰Jacob set up a stone marker over her tomb. To this day, the stone marks the place where Rachel was buried.

Questions

- 23 How did Rachel die? Rachel died giving b_____ to her second child, another boy. (Gen. 35:16–18)
- 24 As Rachel was dying, what name did she give her last child? Rachael gave him the name _____. (Gen. 35:18)

- 25 What did Israel name him? Israel named him _____. (Gen. 35:18)



The name Ben-Oni can mean either “son of my sorrow” or “son of my strength,” while the name Benjamin means “son of my right hand.”

- 26 Where was Rachel buried? She was buried beside the _____ to Ephrath. (Gen. 35:19)

- 27 What other name was Ephrath called? Ephrath was also called _____. (Gen. 35:19)



As a hint for the above question, you will probably recognize this other name as the town where Jesus would later be born.

How did the Holy Spirit speak to you this week as you studied these Bible verses? In other words, what did you learn this week from reading God’s Word?
