



LEVEL 2
2·5
LESSON 5

Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Jacob and Esau

Jacob and Esau

God promised Abraham that He would give him many descendants. He promised that these descendants would come from his son Isaac. But Isaac was 40 years old and still had no wife. He needed to get married and have a family.

Abraham sent his chief servant back to Chaldea to find Isaac a wife from among his relatives.

At the end of his journey, Abraham's servant stopped near a well. He prayed to God to show him the right woman for Isaac. He asked God to lead the right woman to draw water for him and all his camels. Soon after, a young woman arrived at the well. She offered to draw water for him and all his camels! She introduced herself as Rebekah and it turned out that she was a second cousin to Isaac. God had answered that prayer!

Both Rebekah and her father believed that it was God's will for her to marry Isaac. This young woman, who was eager to serve, went to Canaan with Abraham's servant to meet and marry Isaac.

JACOB AND ESAU

Isaac loved Rebekah. They married soon after she arrived. Years passed, yet Rebekah was not able to have children. For 20 years God tested Isaac and Rebekah's faith. But they continued to believe that God would keep His promise to give Abraham grandchildren.

God healed Rebekah, and she gave birth to twins. He told her in a dream that her twin sons would become two nations. One nation would be stronger than the other, and the firstborn son would serve the other son.

The first son was Esau, and the second was Jacob. The twins grew up to be quite different. Esau became a hunter. Jacob became a shepherd.

One day, Esau came home from hunting and was extremely hungry. He saw Jacob making a pot of lentil soup and asked for a bowl. Jacob said he would only share the soup if Esau sold his birthright to him. The birthright was the promise of national greatness that God gave to Abraham, which had passed down

to Isaac. It would pass down to Esau, since he was Isaac's firstborn, and Esau's descendants. But Esau chose to sell the incredible honor and blessing of God's birthright promise for a bowl of soup!

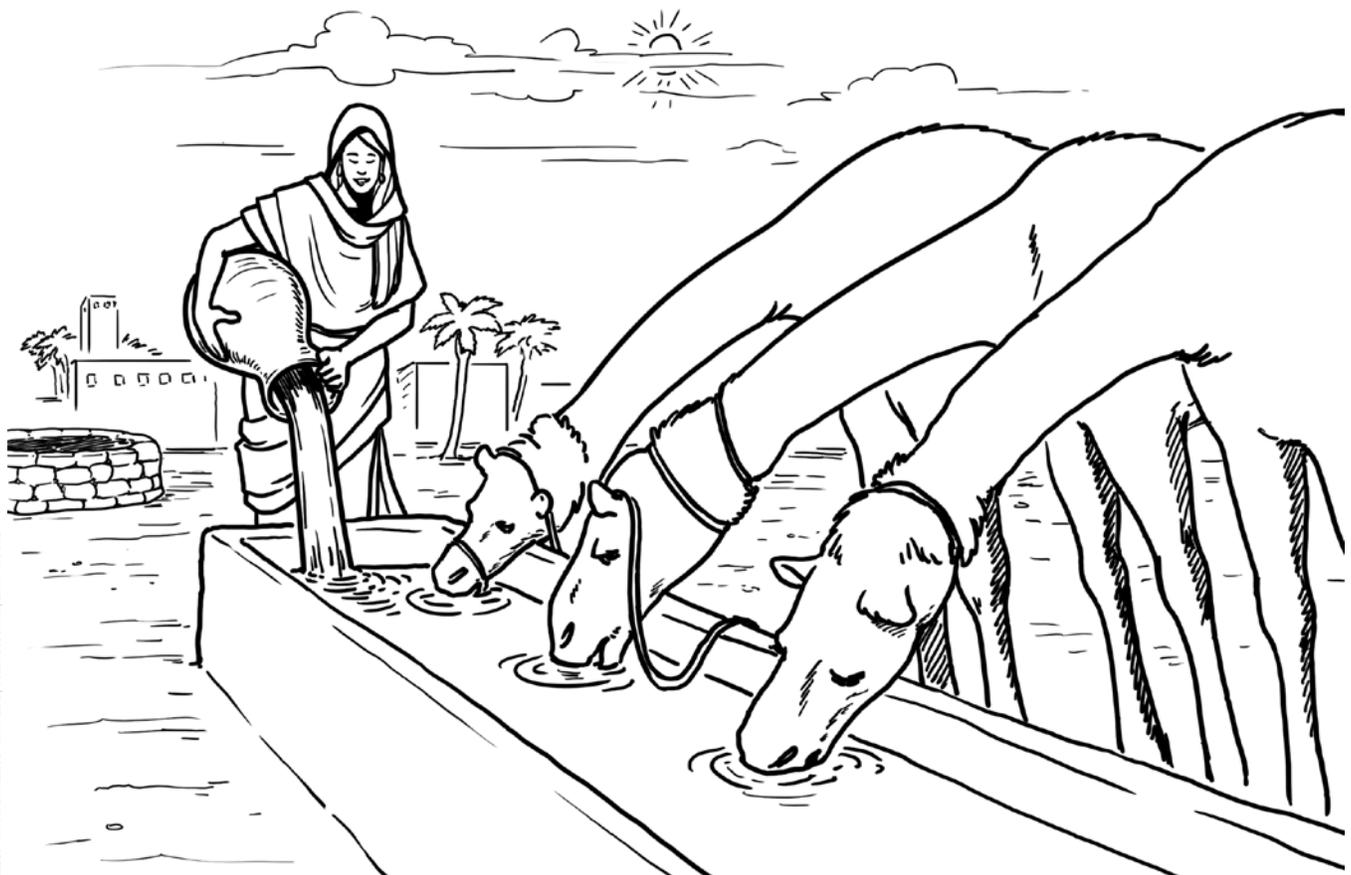
Some time later, when Isaac was old and blind, Jacob and his mother, Rebekah, plotted to take Esau's blessing as well. Isaac told Esau to go hunting and bring him venison to eat. Then he would give Esau his blessing. Rebekah heard Isaac's instruction, and cooked the meat of two goats to taste like venison. She gave Jacob goatskins to put on his arms so that they would feel hairy like Esau's. Jacob

then went to Isaac, pretending he was Esau. Isaac believed he was Esau, and he bestowed the blessing on Jacob.

God wanted to give Jacob the birthright and the blessing, but not in this way. He allowed this to happen to show that Jacob's deceitful attitude was wrong, and to show that Esau's ungrateful attitude was a serious sin!

JACOB'S LABORS

When Esau found out what Jacob had done, he reacted sinfully: He threatened to kill Jacob, his own twin brother. To stay alive, Jacob fled from home. He traveled back to Chaldea to live with Rebekah's relatives.



Rebekah draws water for Abraham's servant and camels.

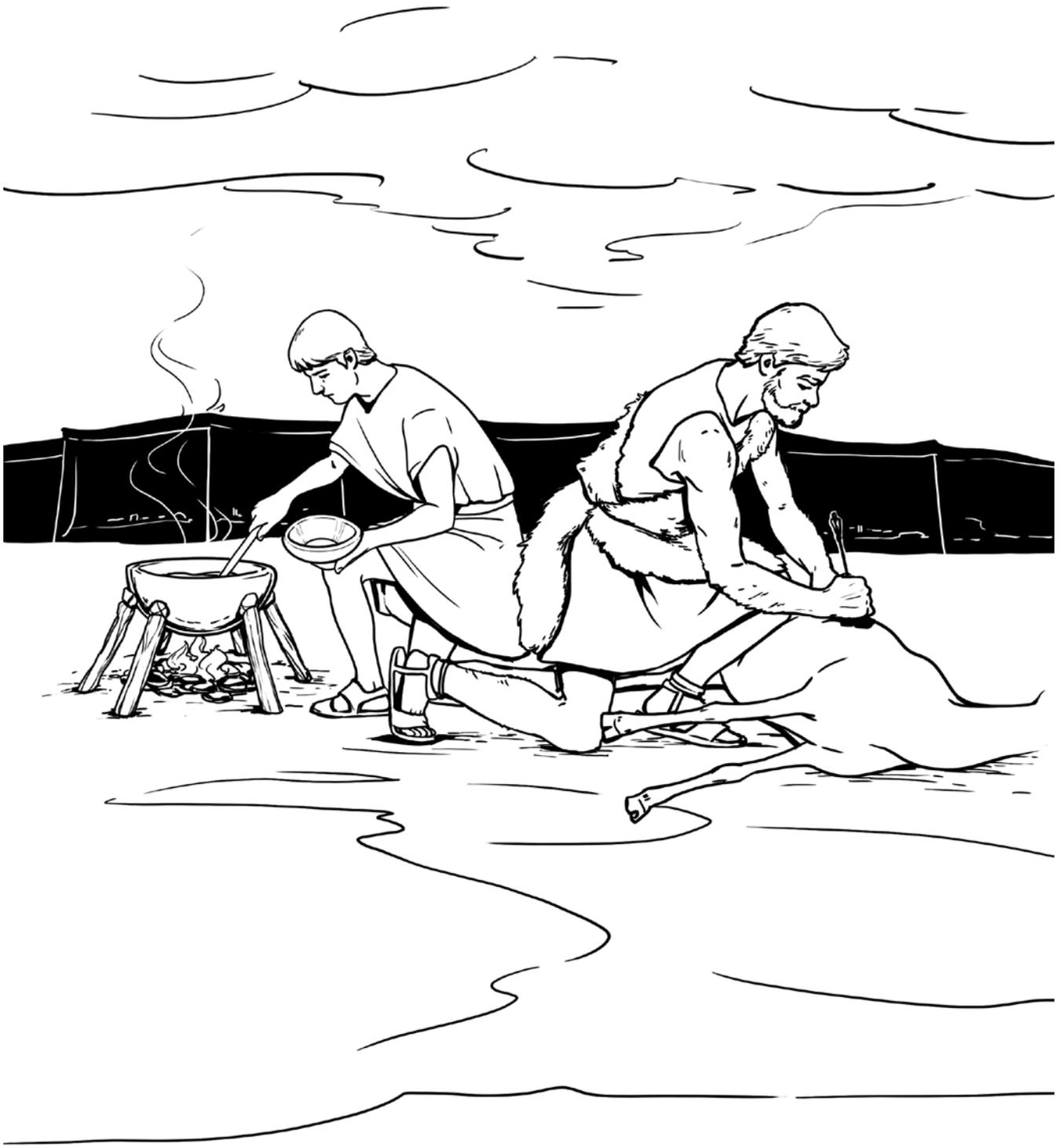


Jacob and Esau

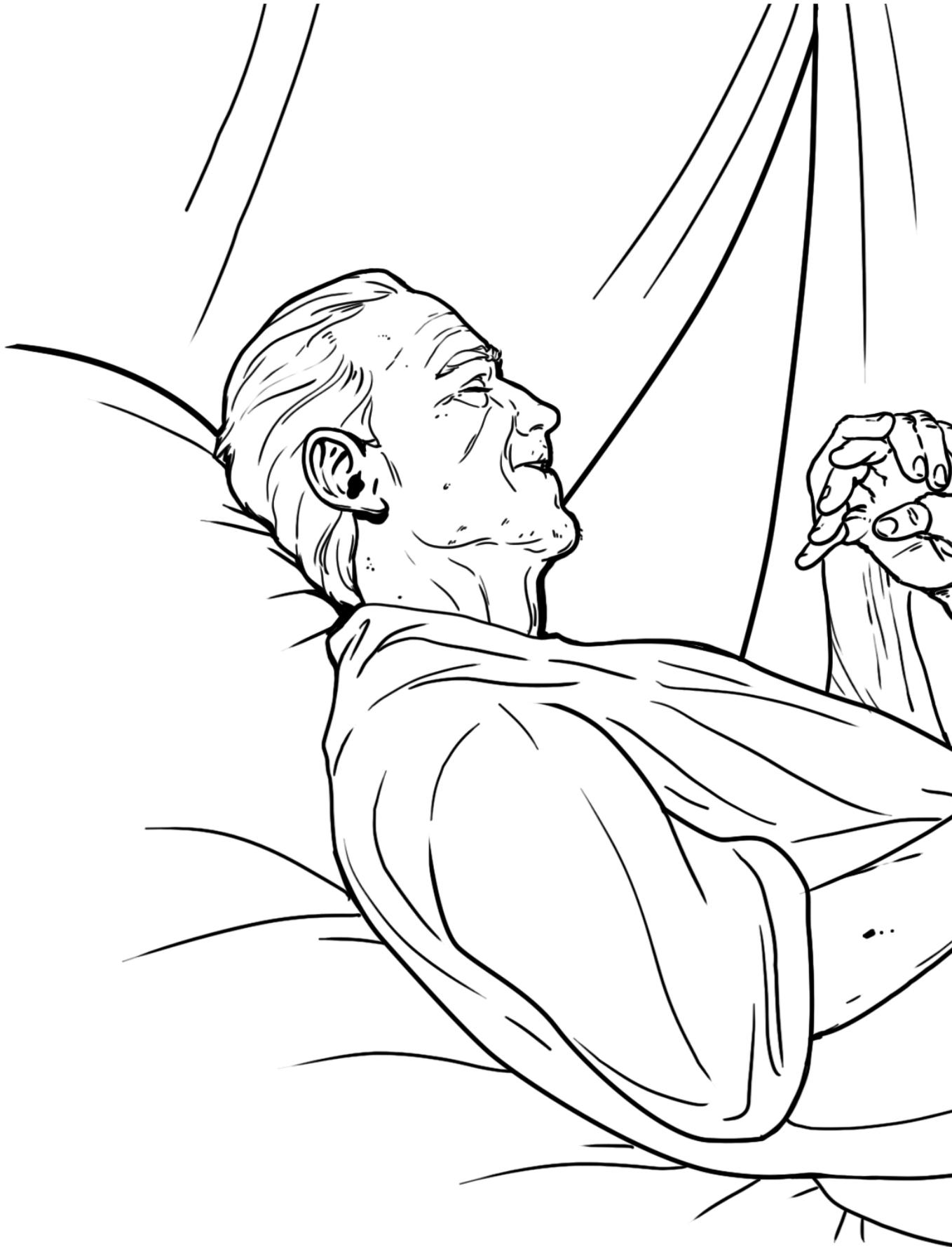
Jacob ran from Esau so fast that he didn't set up a tent at night. He piled some stones together to use for a pillow as he slept in the open under the night sky. When he fell asleep, he dreamed that he saw a long stairway leading up to the throne room of God, with angels traveling up and down it.

Jacob heard God speaking to him, promising him the same blessings He had promised to Abraham. God said, "I am with you, and will keep you in all the places where you go."

When Jacob woke, the pile of stones he slept upon had fused into a single stone. Jacob set this stone



Esau sells his birthright for a bowl of soup.



Jacob tricks his father into giving him the firstborn's blessing.





Jacob watches over Laban's flocks.

up as a pillar, poured oil upon it, and promised to obey God.

When Jacob eventually arrived in Haran, he went to live with his Uncle Laban (his mother's brother). He offered to work for Laban as a shepherd. Jacob had been deceitful toward Esau and toward his father, but now he tried to work hard and live righteously. Laban asked if there was anything he could do to pay Jacob. Jacob loved Laban's daughter Rachel, and he asked if he could marry her. Laban agreed to let Jacob marry Rachel if he worked for seven years. Jacob worked day after day for Laban, but the time seemed to pass quickly, because he loved Rachel so much.

When the time came for the marriage, Laban deceitfully disguised his older daughter, Leah, with Rachel's wedding dress. After the wedding, Jacob got the shock of his life when he realized he had married the wrong woman!

Laban had tricked Jacob with a disguise. This was similar to how Jacob had tricked his father with a disguise. It is wrong for a man to have two wives, but Jacob was afraid Laban would not let him marry Rachel if he did not agree to keep Leah, so he agreed to marry both sisters and to work even longer for Laban.

JACOB WRESTLES WITH THE WORD

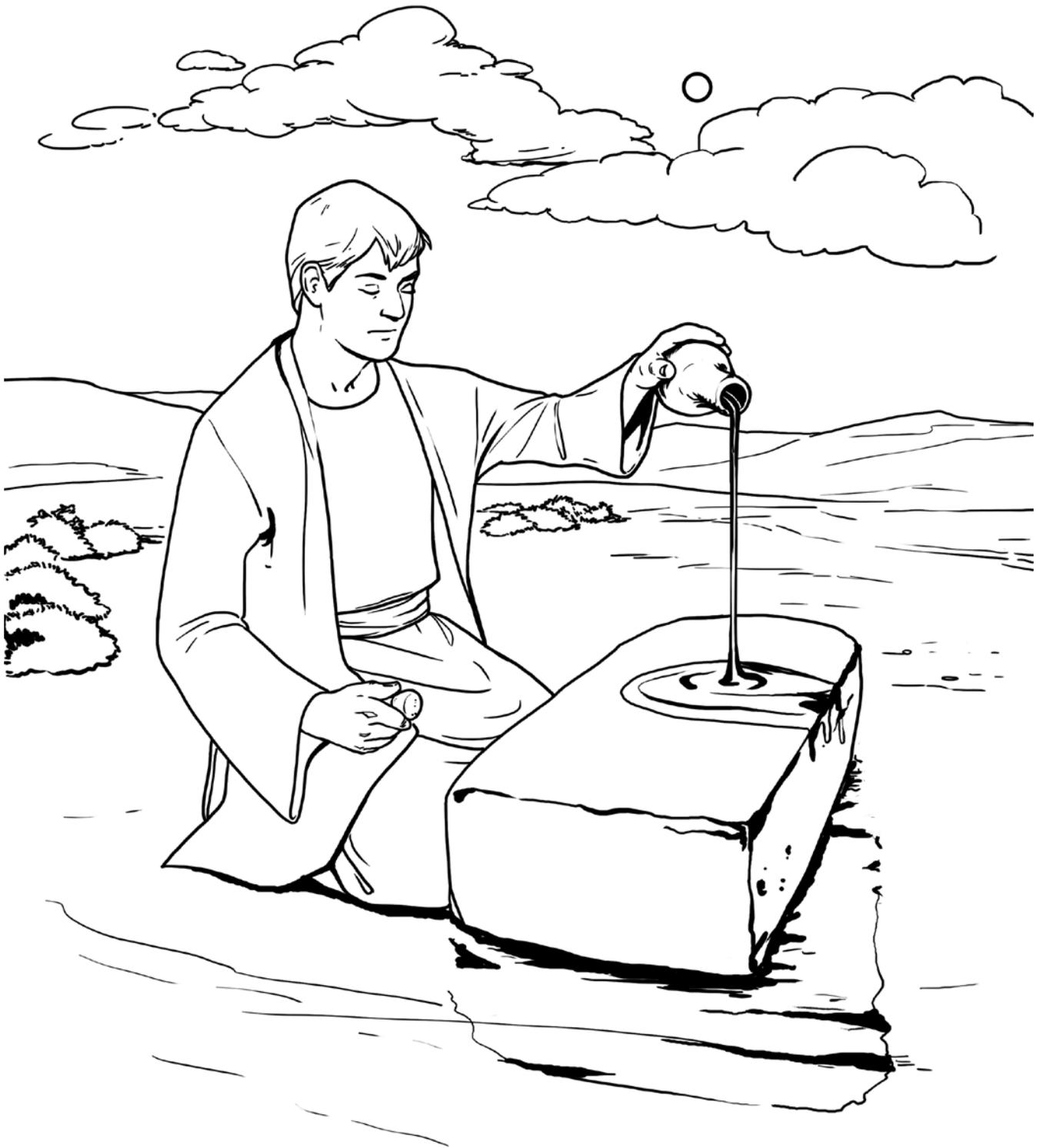
After working for Laban many years, Jacob acquired many cattle, sheep

and goats. When he finally took his family and his herds back to Canaan, he was a very wealthy man.

As he got closer to Canaan, Jacob became worried Esau would still be angry with him for stealing his birthright all those years ago. So he sent many gifts ahead of him for Esau. More importantly, Jacob prayed and asked God to spare him and his family from his brother's anger.

One night, while Jacob was walking alone, somebody came out of nowhere and began wrestling with him. Jacob did not know it, but it was the Word. Jacob wrestled with the Word all night. He refused to give up! At one point, his hip was pulled out of joint. But Jacob refused to quit. As morning approached, the Word told Jacob to let Him go, but Jacob refused to quit. He realized there was something special about this Being who was opposing him. Jacob told Him that he would not let Him go until He gave him a blessing! The Word blessed Jacob and gave him a new name. He changed Jacob's name to *Israel*, which means *prevailer*.

The next morning, Israel came face to face with Esau. He bowed in humility to Esau and feared that he might be angry, but his brother rushed forward and hugged him. God had answered Israel's prayer, and Israel was peacefully reunited with his brother.



Jacob anoints the pillar stone.



Jacob finds out Laban tricked him into marrying Leah.

BIBLE MEMORY Twelve Tribes of Israel

Reuben Dan
Simeon Naphtali
Levi Gad
Judah Asher
Issachar Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh)
Zebulun Benjamin

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Jacob Word Search

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

LABAN
LEAH
RACHEL
REBEKAH

SOUP
STONE
TRICK
WEDDING