



# Jacob Returns Home

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Genesis 30:25 - 35:29

Jacob had spent enough time away from his homeland. It was time to travel home. But he would not go alone! God would go with him, guiding and protecting him every step of the way.



## Day #1: Fear Not

Have you ever been afraid to go somewhere? Maybe it was the first day of preschool, or going to the doctor to get a shot. How does it feel when your mom or dad or grandparent tells you, "It's okay. I'll go with you"? They take you by the hand and it helps ease your fears. It is much easier to go somewhere when someone you love and trust - someone bigger and stronger than you - goes with you.

God told Jacob where to go next. But God's instructions came with a promise.

† *Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and **I will be with you.**"* - Genesis 31:3

Why did Jacob come to Paddan Aram in the first place? (Esau wanted to kill him!) After twenty years of hiding out from his brother, the time had come to face him again.

What was God's promise? These words gave Jacob the strength he needed to pack up his huge family and begin the journey back home.

\* Hold your mom or dad's hand as they read these verses to you. Close your eyes and think about the promise that God is always with you!

*(Lord,) You go before me and follow me.  
You place your hand of blessing on my head.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too great for me to understand!  
I can never escape from Your Spirit!  
I can never get away from Your presence!*  
- Psalm 139:5-7 NLT

## Day #2: Special Message

Jacob packed up his wives, his children, and all their belongings, and headed south toward his homeland. Jacob sent messengers to Esau who lived in the land of Seir to tell him he was coming.

If you were Jacob, what would your message to Esau say? It seems that a big, "I'm sorry!" might be in order. We aren't told exactly what Jacob's message was, but we know what Jesus said about this type of situation:

† *Suppose you are offering your gift at the altar. And you remember that your brother has something against you. Leave your gift in front of the altar. First go and make peace with your brother. Then come back and offer your gift.*  
- Matthew 5:23-24

If you have done something to harm to your brother, or friend, or anyone, go make it right before you come before the Lord. God wants us to make every situation right. We can't do anything for Him until we have set things right with the people in our lives.

\* If you have done anything to upset someone else, go to them right away. Ask for their forgiveness so that you can be at peace with everyone (Hebrews 12:14). We can't share God's love where we have built up a wall of bitterness.

## Day #3: Pray His Promises

We know that Jacob had the strength to start moving toward home, but as he traveled, more than a little doubt crept into his mind. He began to fear what his brother might do to him. Still, he did not turn back. He kept going in the direction God had pointed him. Full of doubt and fear, Jacob called on the only power that could help him. Jacob prayed to the Lord. Notice the words that Jacob used in his prayer.

*"Please save me from the hand of my brother*

Day #3 continued:



*Esau. I'm afraid he'll come and attack me and the mothers with their children. But **You have said**, 'I will certainly give you success. I will make your children as many as the grains of sand on the seashore. People will not be able to count them.'* - Genesis 32:9-12

These weren't just any old words. Jacob prayed to God the very words of God! Jacob knew that God ALWAYS keeps His promises! If God said it, it has to come true.

*The Lord your God has kept all of the good promises He gave you. Every one of them has come true. Not one has failed to come true.* - Joshua 23:14b



When you are fearful or worried, look in the Bible to find God's promises are about your situation. Your parents or Bible teacher will be happy to help you. Pray God's promises right back to Him. There is nothing better to pray than the perfect words of God!

## Day #4: Please Bless Me

One night along the journey, Jacob separated himself from his family. God appeared to Jacob in the form of a man. The two began to wrestle. This was NOT a wrestling match to see who was the strongest! This wrestling was allowed by God, probably so He could see how persistent Jacob would be. It was allowed for Jacob's sake. As morning approached, the man told Jacob to let go of Him.



*But Jacob replied, "I won't let you go unless you bless me."* - Genesis 32:26b

So God changed Jacob's name to Israel, which means "God prevails." And God blessed him there. God could see that Jacob absolutely would not settle for life without God's blessing.



Have you asked God for His blessing? All good gifts come from God (James 1:17). Who else has the power to bless like the Creator of the everything? Who else has all the resources of the universe at his fingertips?

*The breath of God produces ice.  
The shallow water freezes over.*

Day #4 continued:

*He loads the clouds with moisture.  
He scatters His lightning through them.  
He directs the clouds to circle  
above the surface of the whole earth.  
They do everything He commands them  
to do.* - Job 37:10-12

With power like that, is there anything God cannot do?

Ask God for His blessing right now! God is pleased to bless those who ask Him (1 Chronicles 4:10).

## Day #5: Home Coming

When Esau saw Jacob on the road, Esau ran to meet him. Esau hugged Jacob and they both wept. God answered Jacob's prayers by softening Esau's heart. Jacob's prayer to God was a far better solution than more trickery.

Jacob continued to travel toward his father's home in Hebron. Along the way, Rachael had another son and Jacob named Benjamin. So Jacob had 12 sons which became the **12 tribes of Israel**. This was the nation we call, "God's chosen people," because it was to these people (into Jacob's direct family line) that the Savior, Jesus Christ, would be born. By sending the Savior through the line of Jacob, God would keep His long-standing promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: "Through you all nations will be blessed." (Galatians 3:8)

No matter how many times Jacob failed, God never did! God kept His promise to bring Jacob back to His homeland, to give him an uncountable number of descendants, and to bless the entire world through him.



You can trust God's promises! Place your name in the promise below. God makes this promise to everyone who believes in Jesus.



*I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate \_\_\_\_\_ from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can do that. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can do that. Nothing at all can ever separate \_\_\_\_\_ from God's love because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.*  
- Romans 8:38-39