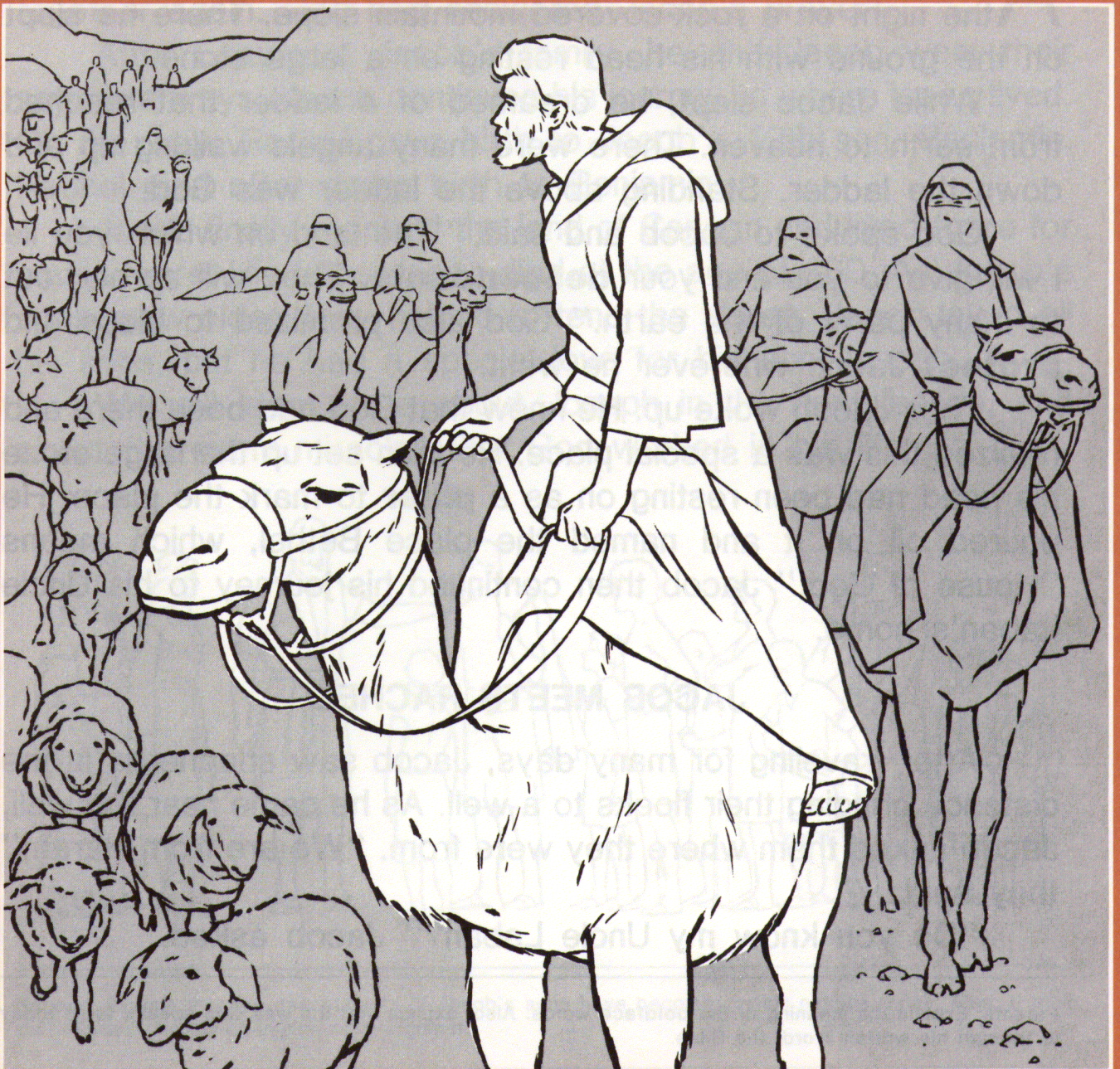


YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL K

LESSON 8



Jacob and His Family

JACOB AND HIS FAMILY

After Jacob left for his Uncle Laban's home, he stopped for the night on a rock-covered mountain slope. There 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. There were many angels walking up and down the ladder. Standing above the ladder was God.

God spoke to Jacob and said, "The land on which you lie I will give to you and your **descendants**. They will spread out to many parts of the earth." God also promised to bless and **protect** Jacob wherever he went.

Then Jacob woke up. He knew that God had been there and realized this was a special place. He then set up the large stone his head had been resting on as a **pillar** to mark the place. He poured oil on it and named the place Bethel, which means "House of God." Jacob then continued his journey to his Uncle Laban's home.

JACOB MEETS RACHEL

After traveling for many days, Jacob saw shepherds in the distance bringing their flocks to a well. As he came near the well, Jacob asked them where they were from. "We are from Haran," they said.

"Do you know my Uncle Laban?" Jacob asked.

Parents: Explain the meaning of the **boldface** words. Also, explain that the way God speaks to us today is through his written Word, the Bible.

“We know him, and he is doing well,” the shepherds answered.

Just then, Laban’s daughter Rachel arrived at the well to water her father’s sheep. As Jacob and Rachel talked, they were happy to learn that they were **cousins**. Rachel hurried home to tell her father about meeting Jacob.

Laban was happy to see Jacob, and invited him to stay with them. During the next month, Jacob worked around the house and in the fields. Laban asked him what **wages** he would like for his work. Jacob said, “I will work seven years for you if at the end of that time you will give me Rachel for my wife.” Laban agreed.

At the end of seven years, Jacob married. After the wedding he was surprised to discover that Laban had tricked him. He had married Rachel’s older sister, Leah, instead of Rachel! Laban explained to Jacob that it was the **custom** in their land for the older daughter to marry before the younger. Laban then promised to give him Rachel at the end of the week if he would work for him seven more years! Jacob agreed.

Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. But Rachel was unable to have children. Leah had four sons. She named them Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah.

Rachel was very sad because of this, so she had her maid, Bilhah, have children for her. Bilhah gave birth to two sons who were named Dan and Naphtali.

Then, Leah decided that her maid, Zilpah, should also have children for her. Zilpah had two sons whom Leah named Gad and Asher. Later, Leah herself had two more sons, Issachar and Zebulun, and a daughter she named Dinah.

After this, God healed Rachel. She was able to have

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.

children. In time, she gave birth to a son whom she named Joseph. This made Rachel very happy.

JACOB RETURNS TO CANAAN

At the end of the second seven years, Jacob continued to work for Laban. During this time, Jacob's family had grown very large. But Jacob needed wages. He worked another six years during which time Laban changed his wages 10 times. But Jacob became wealthy anyway. Jacob now wanted to return to the land of Canaan where his father Isaac lived. But Laban did not want Jacob to leave. So Jacob and his family left at a time when Laban was away.

Unknown to Jacob, Rachel stole some of her father's **idols** and took them with her. When Laban returned home, he was angry to learn that Jacob and his family had gone. Laban then went after them. After seven days, he caught up with Jacob and his family. Laban searched their tents, but could not find the idols. He returned home and Jacob continued on his way.

Nearing the land of Canaan, Jacob learned that his brother Esau and a group of his men were on their way to meet him. Jacob was worried about how Esau, whom he had not seen for many years, would treat him when they met. After asking God for protection, Jacob put his men and servants in front and kept his wives and children behind.

Before Jacob and Esau met, both groups camped for the night. While his servants were setting up camp, Jacob stayed a short distance behind to pray.

Suddenly, somebody grabbed him and a **wrestling** match began. Jacob soon realized that his **opponent** was not an ordinary man. He was the Eternal, the one who later became Jesus Christ!

Parents: Ask your child why Jacob was worried about meeting Esau.

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

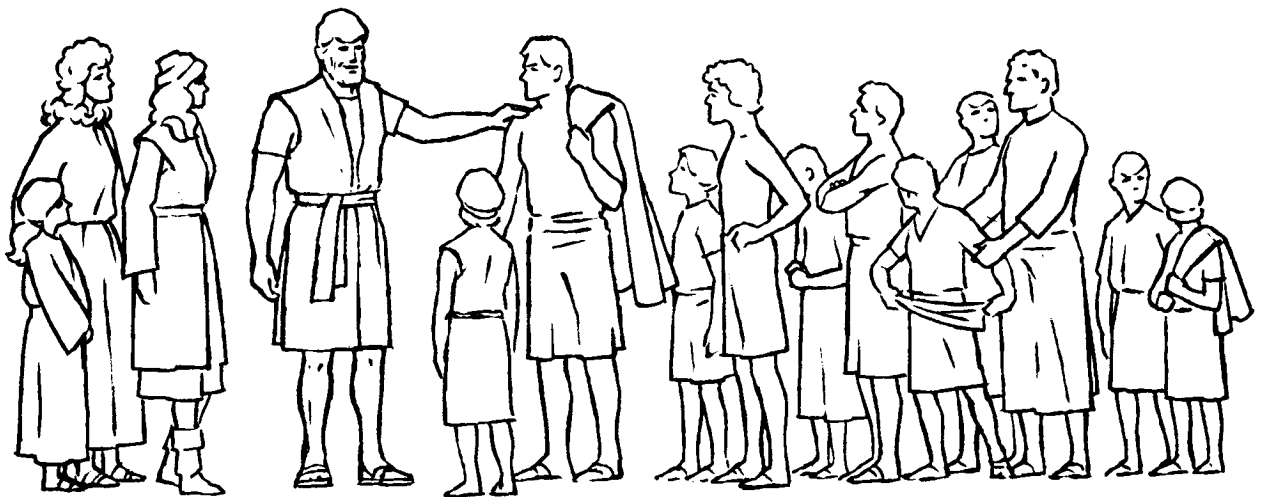
The next morning, as Esau came near, Jacob stepped forward and bowed himself seven times. This was the custom when a person wanted to show respect.

Esau came closer and closer, and then rushed toward Jacob and hugged him! The two brothers were happy to be together again. God had answered Jacob's prayer.

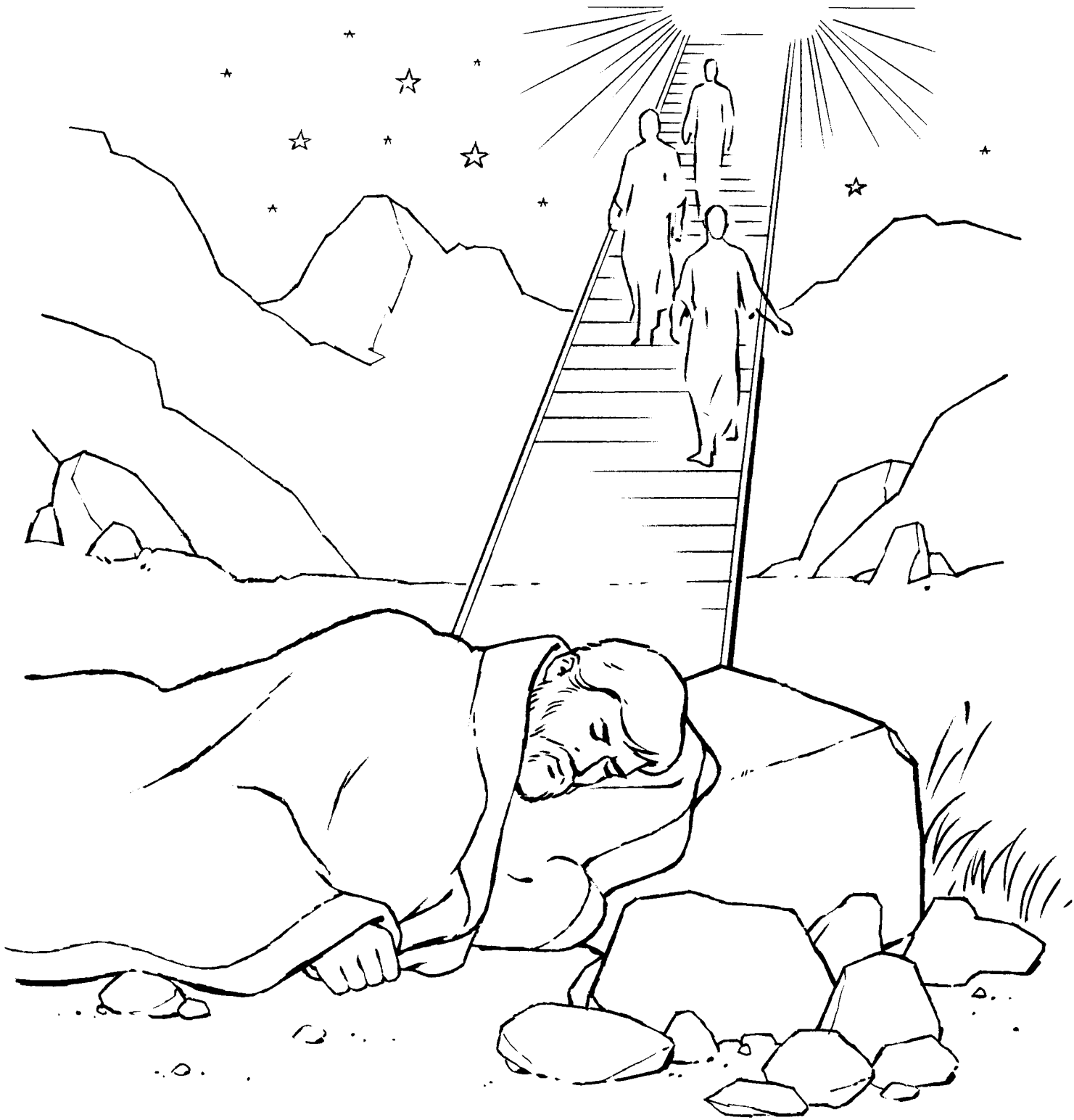
After Esau met Jacob's family, he and Jacob went their separate ways. Jacob continued his journey to where Isaac lived. On the way, Rachel gave birth to Jacob's 12th son, Benjamin. Rachel died after giving birth to Benjamin.

Jacob finally reached the land of Canaan and lived there for many years. His father Isaac died at the age of 180. As Jacob's sons grew older, they helped to tend the sheep. Jacob loved all his sons, but he had a special love for his son Joseph.

We will learn more about Joseph in the next lesson, and about the many miracles that God worked in his life.



Parents: Explain that the descendants of Jacob's sons have become certain nations today. Also, explain that "Israel" means champion or overcomer.



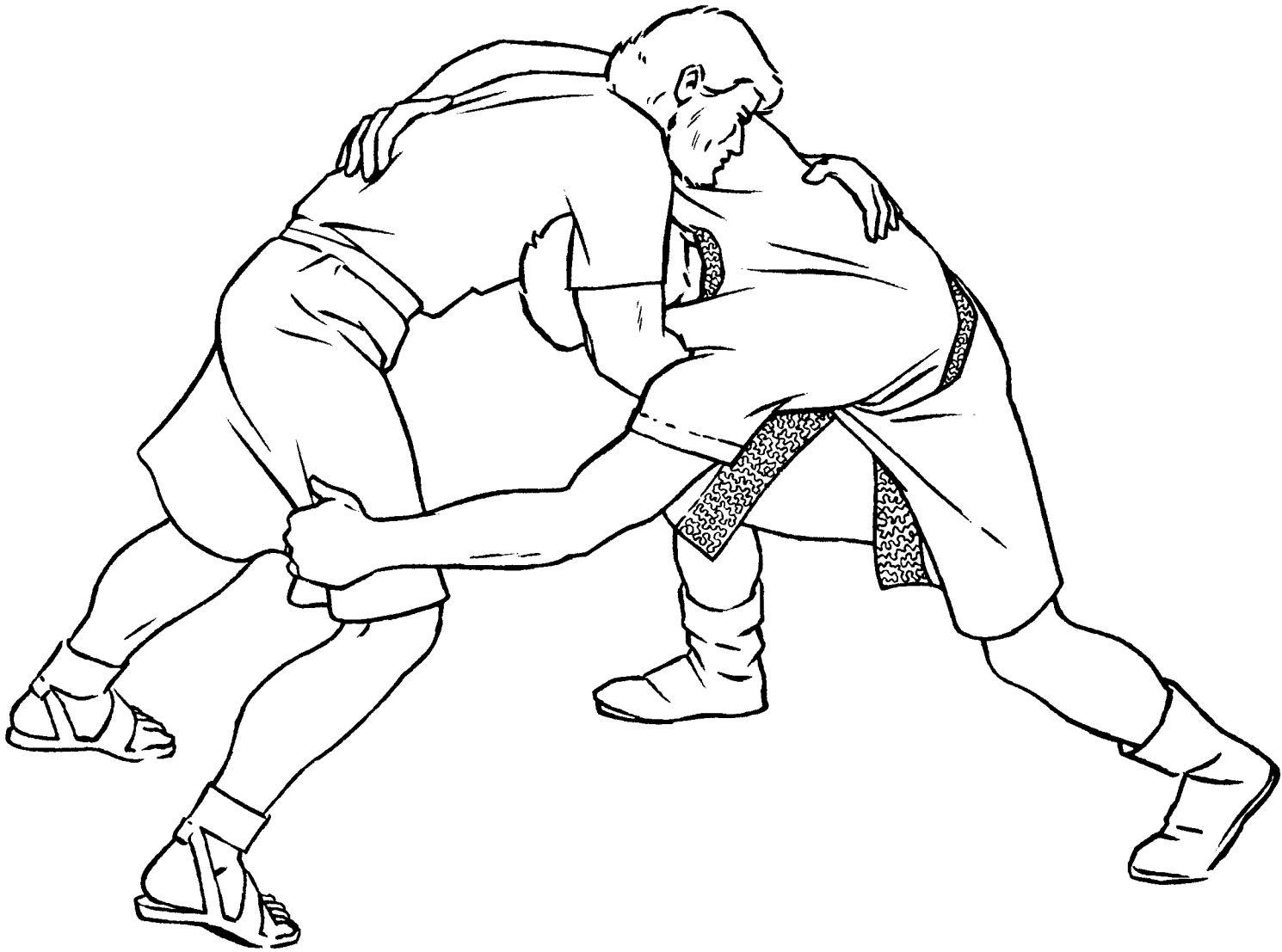
Jacob dreams of a ladder reaching
from earth to heaven.



Jacob agrees to work for Laban seven years to marry Rachel.



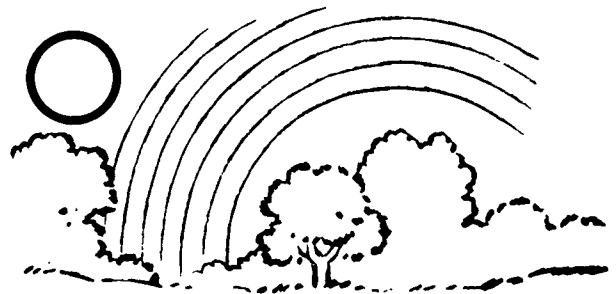
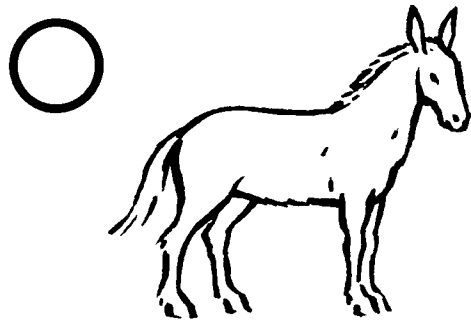
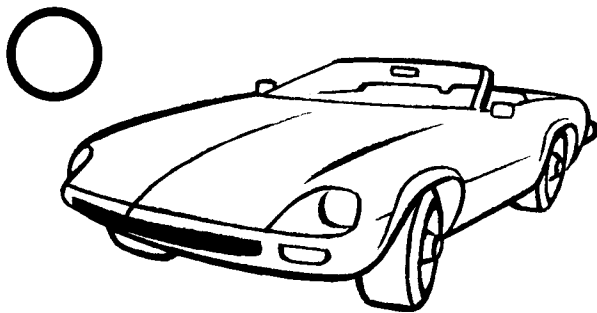
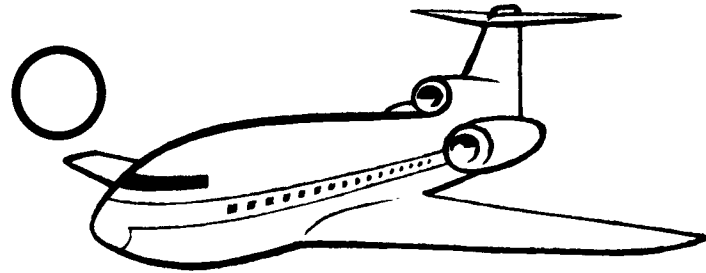
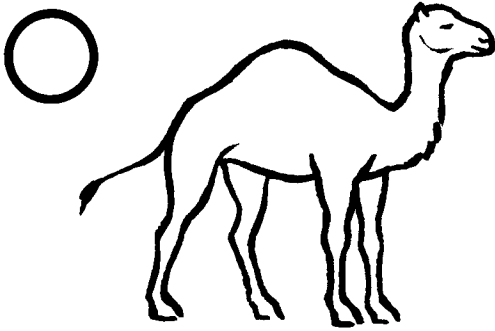
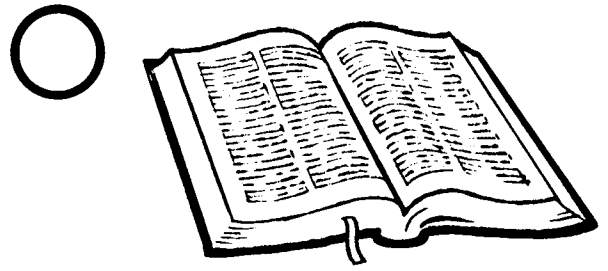
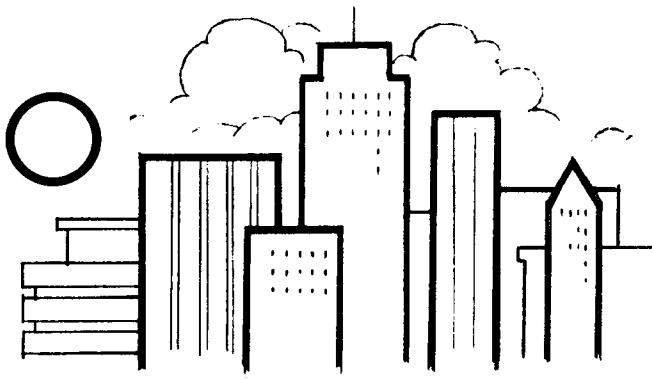
Jacob is surprised when he discovers
Laban has tricked him into marrying
his eldest daughter, Leah!



Jacob wrestles all night with the one who later became Jesus Christ.



Jacob and his brother Esau
are happy to see each other.

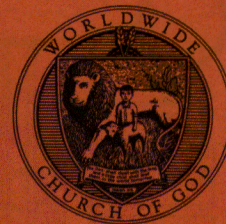


Write a number 1 in the circles beside the pictures of things Jacob could have seen in his time. Write a number 2 in the circles beside the pictures of things Jacob would not have seen.

FOUNDER: HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG (1892-1986)

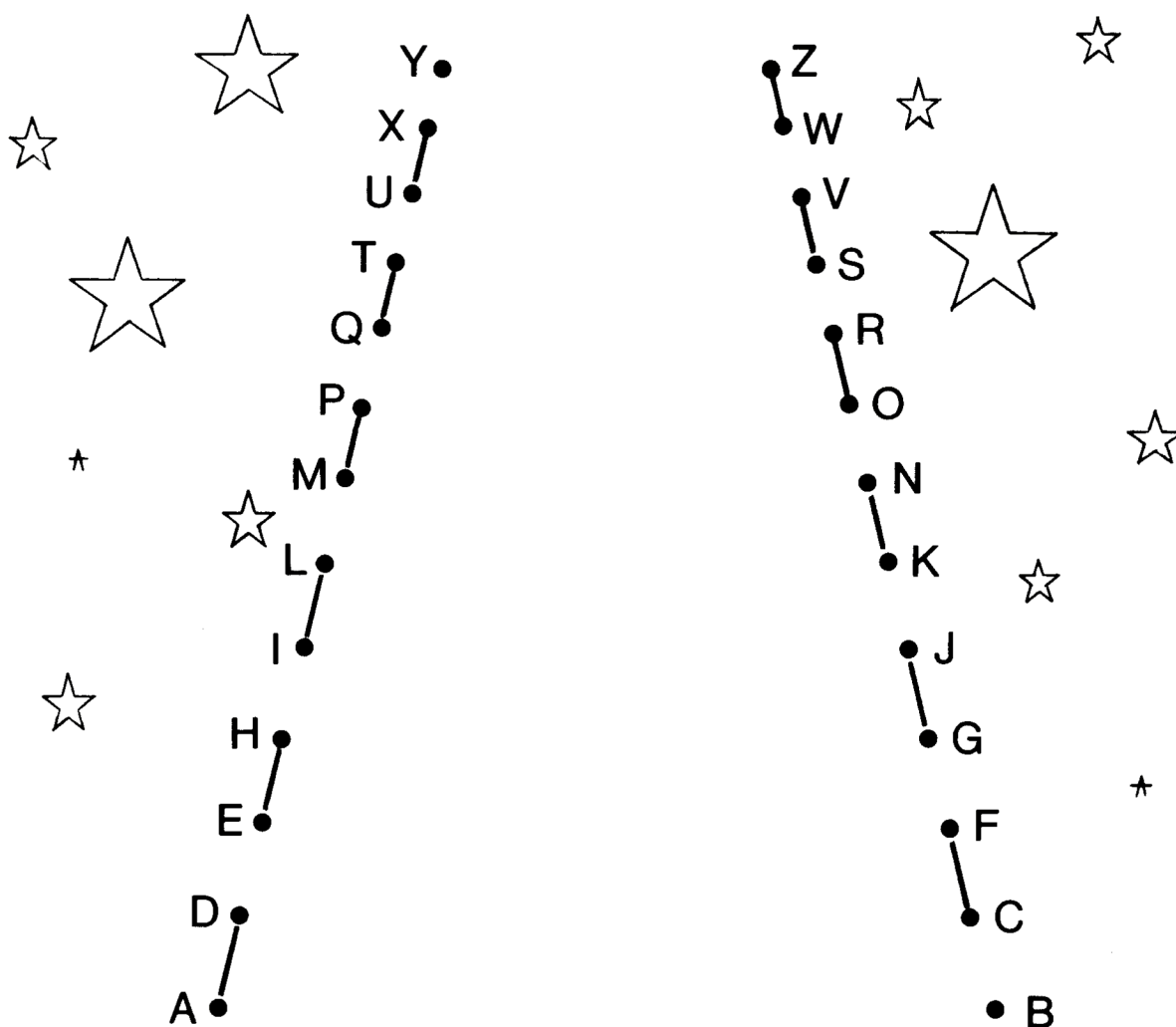
PASTOR GENERAL: JOSEPH W. TKACH

Published by the Worldwide Church of God and
produced in cooperation with Imperial Schools.
Copyright © 1984. All rights reserved.



BIBLE MEMORY

Ephesians 6:1



Connect the dots to find something
that was in Jacob's dream.