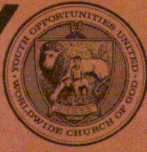


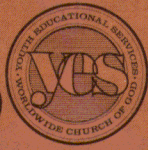
YOUTH



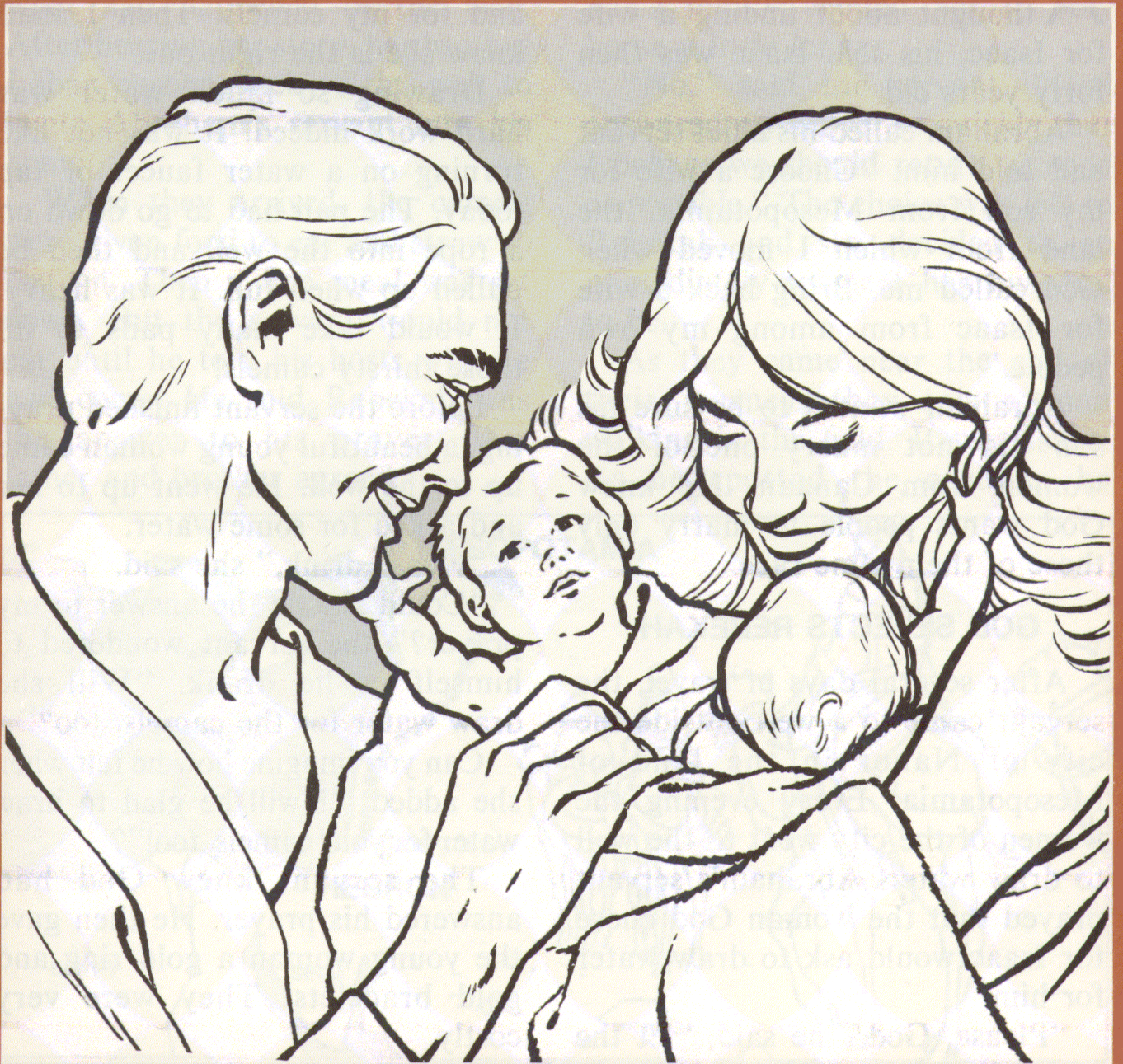
LEVEL 3

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 4



The Birth of Two Nations

THE BIRTH OF TWO NATIONS

After Sarah's death, Abraham thought about finding a wife for Isaac, his son. Isaac was then forty years old.

Abraham called his chief servant and told him: "Choose a wife for my son from Mesopotamia, the land from which I moved when God called me. Bring back a wife for Isaac from among my own people."

Abraham wanted to be sure his son did not marry one of the women from Canaan. He knew God wants people to marry only those of their same race.

GOD SELECTS REBEKAH

After several days of travel, the servant came to a well outside the city of Nahor in the land of Mesopotamia. Every evening the women of the city went to the well to draw water. Abraham's servant prayed that the woman God chose for Isaac would ask to draw water for him.

"Please, God," he said, "let the

woman want to draw water for me and for my camels. Then I shall know she is the right one."

Drawing so much water was hard work indeed! It was not like turning on a water faucet or tap today. The pail had to go down on a rope into the well and then be pulled up when full. It was heavy. It would take many pails to fill those thirsty camels!

Before the servant finished praying, a beautiful young woman came up to the well. He went up to her and asked for some water.

"Please drink," she said.

"Could she be the answer to my prayer?" the servant wondered to himself as he drank. "Will she draw water for the camels, too?"

Can you imagine how he felt when she added, "I will be glad to draw water for your camels, too!"?

The servant knew God had answered his prayer. He then gave the young woman a gold ring and gold bracelets. They were very costly.

“Who is your father?” he asked her. “I am the daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son.” Nahor was Abraham’s brother! This made her second cousin to Isaac. The servant bowed his head and gave thanks to God for His swift answer.

The young woman, named Rebekah, ran home to tell her family what had happened at the well. After hearing her story, her brother Laban rushed back to the well to invite Abraham’s servant into his home.

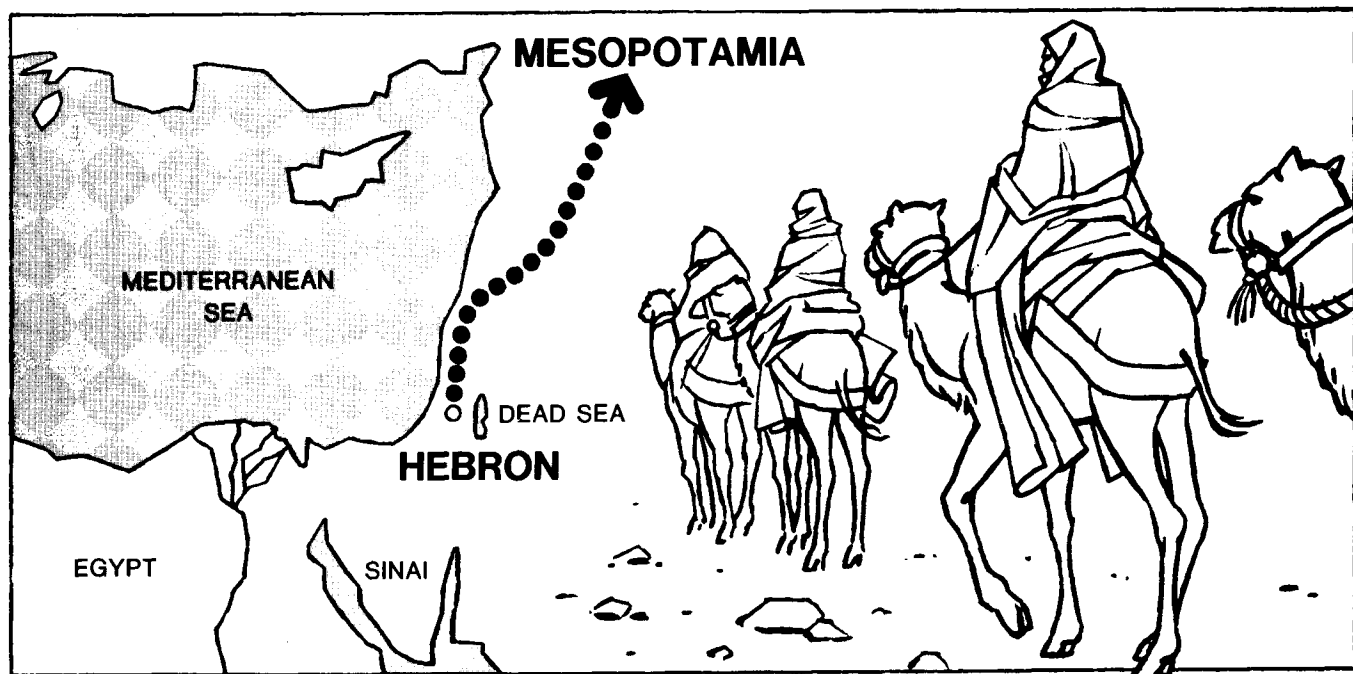
When they arrived, the camels were given food to eat and straw to rest on. Then a fine meal was set down. But the servant would not eat until he told his hosts why he had come. He said Rebekah was the answer to his prayer. Her father and brother agreed.

After giving thanks to God again, the servant gave fine jewelry and clothing to Rebekah and precious gifts to her family. Then they ate and drank until late in the evening.

The next morning the servant wanted to return with Rebekah to his master Abraham, but Rebekah’s family wanted her to stay home a little longer.

“No,” said the servant, “God answered my prayer so quickly that I believe we should return as soon as possible.” The choice was left to Rebekah and she decided to go immediately to meet her husband to be.

As they came near the end of their journey, they saw a man walking in the field. It was Isaac. As he spotted the caravan he



thought to himself, "Is this the caravan my father sent out?"

Rebekah, seeing him, asked Abraham's servant, "Who is that man?"

"It is Isaac," he answered.

Rebekah quickly put on a veil and went out to meet him. They were married soon afterward and were very happy.

TWIN BOYS ARE BORN

Many years went by after Isaac and Rebekah married, but they did

not have any children. They wanted to have a family so Isaac asked God to give them a child.

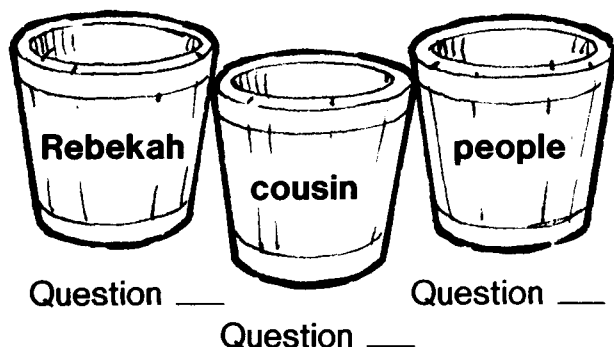
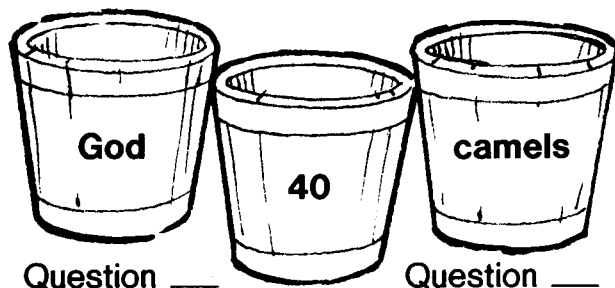
Soon after, they learned that they would be parents. How happy they were! But as the baby grew inside her, "he" was struggling and moving around so much that Rebekah was alarmed. She then asked God why this was happening.

God told Rebekah in a dream that she would have two babies and that each would be the father of a different nation!



"FILL" THESE PAILS

- A. Fill in the blanks in the statements below.
- B. Under each pail fill in the number of the statement in which the word was used.
- C. Color the buckets.



1. Isaac married when he was _____ years old.
2. _____ was his bride.
3. _____ answered the servant's prayer.
4. The servant was sure of the answer when Rebekah drew water for his _____, too.
5. Abraham wanted Isaac to marry someone from his own _____.
6. Rebekah was a _____ to Isaac.

"One will be stronger than the other," God said, "and the one born first will serve the younger."

Rebekah wondered about God's answer. But she knew that God would help her understand as time went on.

Rebekah soon had twin boys, just as God had said. The happy parents named the first *Esau*, and the second *Jacob*.

As they grew, Isaac and Rebekah could see that the boys were not alike. They did not like to do the same things.

Esau liked to hunt. Jacob liked to raise animals and grow fruits and vegetables. Whenever Esau came back from a hunting trip, he would cook the meat from the animals he had killed for his father. Isaac liked this very much and Esau became very special to Isaac. But Rebekah favored Jacob.

ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTHRIGHT

It was common for the oldest son to be given more of the things his parents owned when they died. Esau was the firstborn, so he would be given more than Jacob. This was called the "birthright."

Some of the things that the firstborn received were land, cattle and money. Isaac's oldest would also receive the promises given to

Abraham and his children's children. What were the promises given to Abraham? Do you remember? If not, then review Lesson 3. On the lines below list two promises God gave Abraham. (See Genesis 17:4-8.) _____

One day Esau came back from a hunting trip, tired and very hungry. He saw Jacob making a big pot of soup. It smelled so good!

"Feed me some of that soup," said Esau. "I'm starved!"

Jacob could see how hungry and faint Esau was. "Esau might trade anything for a bowl of soup," Jacob thought to himself. "This may be a way to get the birthright for myself." So Jacob answered his brother, "You may have the soup if you give me your birthright."

Esau knew the birthright was very important. But now all he could think of was how hungry he was and how good that soup would taste! "I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" So he traded his birthright for a bowl of soup.

It seems nothing was said to Isaac or Rebekah about this trade. Isaac would have been very unhappy if he knew what Esau had done.

ESAU AND JACOB

Isaac, Rebekah then Esau and Jacob
(These were the children born).
Esau, the hunter, Jacob, the "cook"—
Thus was the birthright scorned:

For Esau was hungry—
Good smelled the soup!
Jacob decided
This way to stoop.

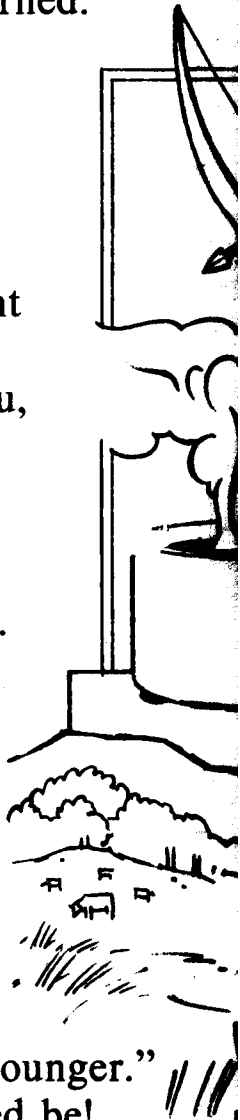
"What good is the birthright
If dead I'll be.
It's yours, Jacob," said Esau,
"Soup's all I can see."

How tragic for Esau—
Small value was set
On the birthright so special.
(Esau seemed to forget.)

But Jacob remembered
(His goal it became)
And because of this
The promises he gained.

But God had already said
In Genesis 25:23:
"The elder shall serve the younger."
So Jacob's trick did not need be!

For human beings do not need
To work things out for God.
His purpose for us all will stand.
Onward we must prod!





What does this poem tell us? Explain to your parents if you can. They will help you to understand the parts which may be difficult.

JACOB STEALS THE BLESSING

Years later when Isaac was old and blind, he called Esau to him. "Take your quiver and bow and kill a deer for me. Cook the meat the way I like it, and then I shall give you the blessing of the firstborn."

Esau should have been honest. He should have told his father that he had sold his birthright to his brother. The blessing was now for Jacob. But he did not tell Isaac. He went to hunt for a deer as his father had asked.

Rebekah was standing nearby and overheard Isaac talking to Esau. She wanted Jacob to have the blessing so she thought of a plan to make that happen. Rebekah did not need to do what she was planning. Had she forgotten what God had told her?

What did God tell her before the babies were born? (Look back a few paragraphs.) Finish this sentence: "The one born _____ will serve the _____." Who was born first? _____. Who was the younger? _____. Rebekah should have trusted God to work it out His way.

"Go to the flocks," Rebekah told Jacob. "Get two young goats and I will cook them just the way your father likes. Then you will take the

meat to him to eat, and he will give you his blessing before Esau returns.”

But Jacob did not think this plan would work. His brother was very hairy. “My father will feel my smooth hands and know I am not Esau,” protested Jacob. “Then he will know I am trying to trick him.”

“I will take care of that,” replied his mother. “Just go get the two young goats as I have asked.” So Jacob left. Soon, he returned with the two goats from his flocks.

Rebekah cooked the meat just the way Isaac liked it. Next, she took some of Esau’s best clothes

and told Jacob to put them on. And the skins from the goats she had just cooked she wrapped around Jacob’s neck and hands. Finally she handed the platter of meat to Jacob.

“Now,” she told him, “take the meat to your father.”

As Jacob came into Isaac’s tent, he called, “My father.”

“Who are you?” asked Isaac.

And Jacob replied, “I am Esau, your firstborn. I have brought the venison that you asked for. Sit up and eat it. Then you can give me the blessing.”

But Isaac wondered how Esau had found a deer so quickly. “How



could you have returned so soon?" he asked.

Once again, Jacob lied to his father. "God showed me where to find one," he said.

Isaac was not sure that the voice he heard was Esau's so he said, "Come to me so I may feel you."

Jacob moved closer. Isaac reached out and felt Jacob's hands. "Your voice is like Jacob's, but your skin feels like Esau's. Are you really Esau?"

"I am." Jacob lied again.

So Isaac ate the venison. Then he asked a blessing on Jacob, thinking he was Esau: "God give my son well-watered fields that will grow much food. Let people serve him and nations bow down to him. May a curse be on those who curse him and may a blessing be on those who bless him."

As soon as Isaac finished giving the blessing, Jacob left his father's tent.

Meanwhile, Esau had returned with a deer. He cooked some of the meat and took it to Isaac's tent. He arrived right after Jacob left!

"I have the meat you asked for, father," said Esau. "Sit up and eat it."

Isaac could not believe what he heard! Trembling, he asked, "Who are you?"

"I am Esau, your firstborn son," he replied.

"Then who was just here and left?" asked Isaac. "He said he was Esau. I asked God's blessing upon him. And God *will* bless him!"

Esau was stunned. "Bless me, too, father," he cried.

"But your brother tricked me and took your blessing," Isaac answered.

"So it was Jacob!" Esau said angrily. "He has cheated me twice. First he took my birthright. Now he has stolen my blessing. Don't you have anything left for me, Father?"

Esau broke down and wept. Isaac felt very sorry for his son. Then he said to Esau, "God will give you and your children a land far away from the best places. You will have to hunt and fight for what you get. You and your people will serve your brother and his people. But there will come a time when you will be free of them."

Esau did not feel thankful for his blessing. All he felt was anger. "My father is getting very old," Esau thought to himself. "When he dies, I will kill Jacob."

He told someone of his plan and soon Rebekah heard of it. She was afraid for Jacob and told him of Esau's plan.

“You must leave at once,” Rebekah told Jacob. “Go to Haran and stay with your Uncle Laban for awhile.”

Rebekah did not tell Isaac the real reason for wanting Jacob to go away. Instead she asked Isaac to send Jacob away to marry one of Laban’s daughters.

Before Jacob left, Isaac reminded him of God’s blessing that was his because of his grandfather Abraham.

“You will have many children and grandchildren, Jacob. And you will have the land which God gave to Abraham,” Isaac told his son. Then he sent Jacob on his way.

A SPECIAL DREAM

Jacob set out for Haran where his Uncle Laban lived. At sunset, he stopped for the night. Jacob took a stone and made it a pillow for his head.

While Jacob slept, he dreamed of a long stairway. It started on the earth and reached far up into the sky. Angels of God walked up and down the stairway. At the top of the stairway stood God.

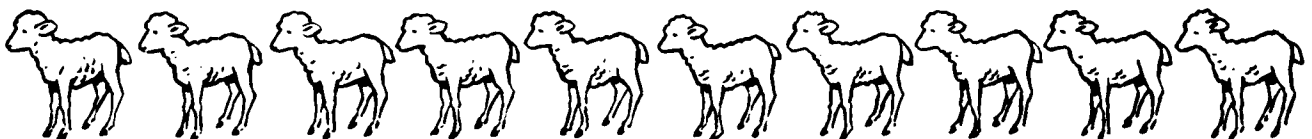
God spoke to Jacob and said, “I am the God of Abraham and Isaac. I will be with you and take care of you. I have given you and your children the land where you lie. Their members will spread out over the land and they will be blessed very greatly. I will bring you back to this land again.”

When Jacob awoke, he was afraid. He knew it was God who spoke to him in the dream. So Jacob marked the place of his dream with the stone he used for a pillow.

He promised God that if He would take care of him and one day bring him back to his father’s house, then he would worship God and pay God one tenth, or a tithe, of all that He would give him.

Jacob knew about God’s law of tithing. He knew that the earth and everything in it belongs to God. And of all that God gives us, He tells us to pay back one tenth to Him. Then He blesses us even more if we obey that law of God.

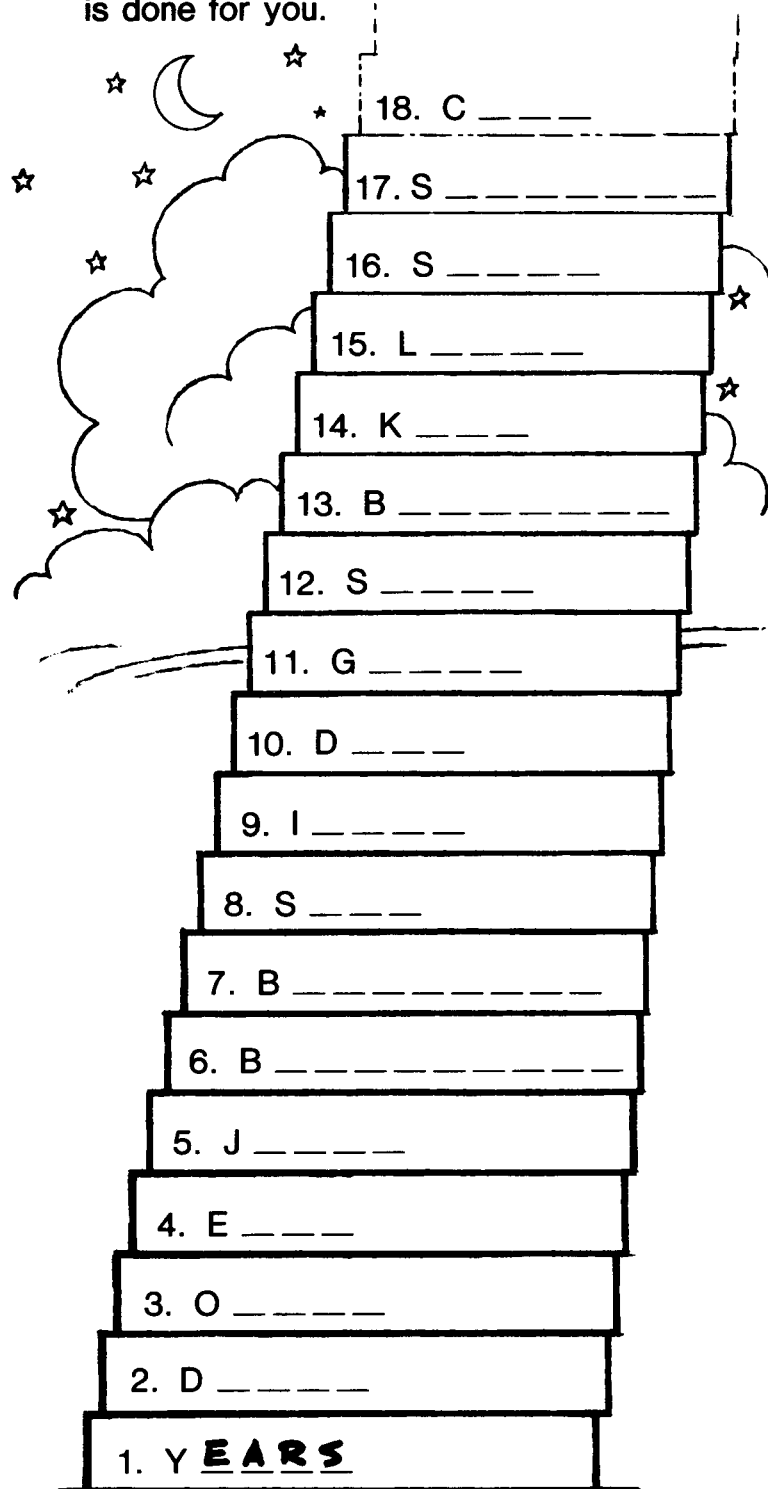
Jacob now continued on his way with a happy feeling. He knew God would help him.



Circle the tithe

CLIMB THE STAIRWAY!

You may go up one step with each correct answer. Write the answers on the steps as you climb up. The first one is done for you.



1. Isaac and Rebekah were married for many _____ before she had any children.
2. God told Rebekah in a _____ that she would have twin boys.
3. "One will be stronger than the other and the _____ will serve the younger."
4. The older was named _____.
5. The younger was named _____.
6. The older normally received the _____.
7. The Birthright was the receiving of many _____ such as land, cattle and money.
8. Esau was hungry and sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of _____.
9. Later, when _____ was old and blind, he wanted to bless Esau.
10. Isaac told Esau to get some _____ meat for him to eat, and then he would give him the blessing.
11. Rebekah told Jacob to get two _____ from the flocks.
12. Rebekah wrapped the _____ around Jacob's neck and hands.
13. Isaac thought Jacob was Esau and gave him the _____.
14. Esau said he would _____ Jacob.
15. Rebekah sent Jacob to _____ to be safe.
16. On his way Jacob used a pillow of _____ to rest his head on.
17. Jacob dreamed of a _____ that started on earth and reached to the sky.
18. God told Jacob, "I will be with you and take _____ of you."

BIBLE MEMORY

The books of the New Testament

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
The Acts
Romans

I Corinthians
II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians

I Thessalonians
II Thessalonians
I Timothy
II Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Hebrews
James
I Peter
II Peter
I John
II John

III John
Jude
Revelation

WORD MEANINGS

Match each word with the correct picture or worded meaning. Put the correct number by each word at the left.

venison ____

important ____

tragic ____

caravan ____

veil ____

stunned ____

wondered ____

prod ____

faucet ____

jewelry ____

avored ____

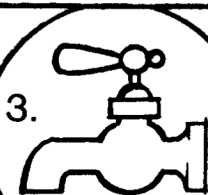
scorned ____

trembling ____

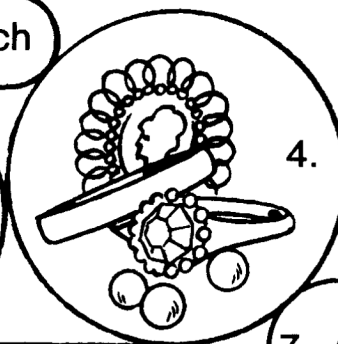
1. worth very much



2.



3.



4.

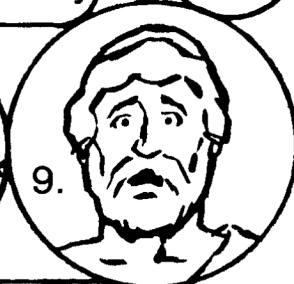
6. thought about very carefully



5.



8.



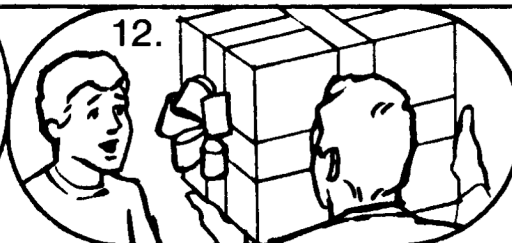
9.

7. Go!

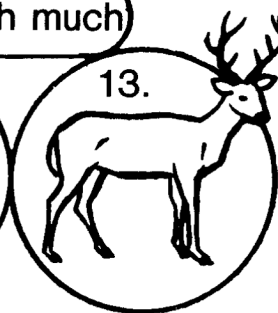
11. thought of as low, not worth much



10.



12.



13.

Find these words in the lesson.

Write out on a separate piece of paper the sentences in which they are used.