

Story 33: Jacob Got a New Name

In Haran, Jacob married his Uncle Laban's two daughters, Rachel and Leah. Jacob and his wives had 12 sons and one daughter. After many years, Jacob decided to return to his home in Canaan. But he was afraid, because he did not know if his brother Esau was still angry with him. One day he sent his family and animals ahead of him. He wanted to pray alone that night. As he was praying, an angel came and wrestled with him until morning. Then the angel blessed Jacob and told him that his name was now Israel. Later that day, Esau came to meet Jacob. He ran to Jacob and hugged and kissed him. Esau was no longer angry with his brother Jacob.

Read this story in the Bible in Genesis 28:10 – 33:20.

Words to Know

ahead – in front of

wrestle – to fight hand-to-hand with an enemy to try to hold him down

Questions

1. Who did Jacob marry?
2. How many children did Jacob and his wives have?
3. Why was Jacob afraid to return to Canaan?
4. Why do you think Jacob wanted to be alone to pray?
5. What three things did the angel do with Jacob?
6. Who came to meet Jacob when he arrived in Canaan?
7. What did Esau do to show he was no longer angry with his brother Jacob?

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