

VOLUME 71, QUARTER 1, 2021

SONS OF ABRAHAM AND PARABLES OF JESUS

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Primary Sunday School January 3, 2021

A Wife for Isaac

Abraham called his faithful servant of many years. have an important job for you to do. Go to the city where my brother lives and bring back a wife for my son, Isaac." Loading many expensive and beautiful gifts on the backs of ten camels, the servant began the long journey across the hot desert! After many days of dusty travel, the servant arrived late in the afternoon. The thirsty camels sat down by the well outside of town. Abraham's servant prayed that God would send the right woman to the well and that she would offer him and his camels a drink of water! God answered his prayer! A beautiful woman approached the well, offering the servant and his camels water! Humbled and amazed, the servant learned the woman's name was Rebekah. He was even more amazed to learn the woman was from Abraham's family. Rebekah invited the servant and his animals to lodge at her house. Running ahead, Rebekah excitedly told her brother who she met at the well. Fresh water to wash the servant's feet was brought out. The camels were given hay to eat. When the servant told them about the important job Abraham had given him to do and how God answered his prayer at the well, Rebekah's family knew God had sent him! After Rebekah agreed to become Isaac's wife, the servant gave them the gifts Abraham sent. God will answer your prayers the same way he answered prayer for Abraham and his servant!

> Memory Verse: LORD, before whom I

The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house. Genesis 24:40

It's Love

Violet giggles when she sees her dad wrap his arm around his wife Kathryn and give her a big kiss.

Jack rolls his eyes.

Carrie Ann and Carter laugh because Violet laughs. They wave their chubby hands in the air and blow kisses at each family member.

"Why is everyone so mushy?" Jack groans with dramatic flair

"Because," Violet says a little too sweetly as she passes him by the table, "it's love, Jack." She quickly kisses him on the head and darts backward to avoid the reaction she expects.

He yells and swats the air behind him, but Violet is safely against the wall. She laughs and says, "Come on. Love isn't so bad, is it?"

Jack lifts his jaw with stern resolution. He really is too old for these silly games, he thinks to himself.

"One day I will fall in love," he says gravely. Everyone stops to listen. "But I have a lot of growing up to do first. I better grow a little taller so my head stays high above the steering wheel of a truck. I need to figure out if I'm going to be a mechanic or if I still want to be a fly-fisherman in Alaska. I'm only fourteen. I don't know the answers yet."

Kathryn stares at her son. She smiles as she blinks her misty eyes. "How grown-up you sound, Jack. You are right, there is no reason to rush. You've got lots of growing up to do, and growing up is very important."

"But," Jack adds thoughtfully, "when I do fall in love, she better know how to skin a rabbit just as fast as I can and be as smart and pretty as you, Mom."

Kathryn and Anderson laugh. "That's a tall order, son," Anderson says. He ruffles Jack's hair. They sit down at their family dinner table.

The Mackey family eat together.

Speaking of rabbits, tonight the menu is hot rabbit stew. Chunks of meat and soft carrots, onions and sweet potatoes melt into rich brown gravy. Hunks of homemade sourdough bread and winter greens complete the meal.

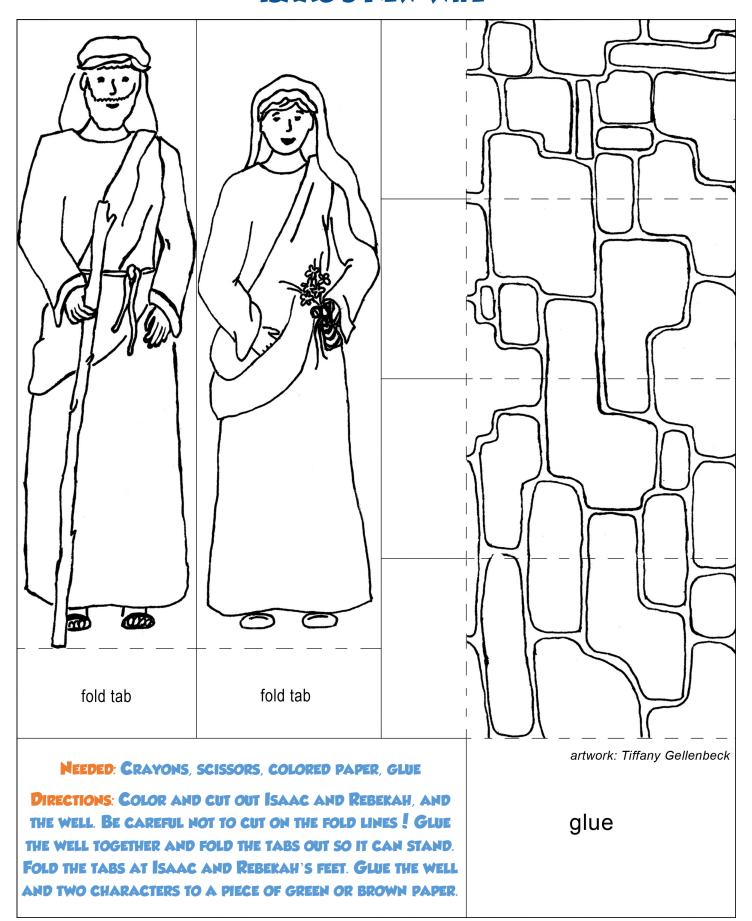
Anderson says, "Speaking of love, there is nothing like the love I feel sitting with my family, eating good food and enjoying this warm, cozy house. Children, always listen to that still, small voice inside your heart. The Lord is faithful, and He will lead you better than I ever can through every decision you make in life."

The Beautiful Way can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

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ISAAC'S NEW WIFE





January 10, 2021

V7I, QI, W2

Esau Sells His Birthright

Twin boys were born to Isaac and Rebekah! The first boy was named Esau. He was red and hairy and liked to hunt deer. The second boy was named Jacob, and he liked to stay closer to his tent. One day Esau came in from hunting. He was tired and hungry. wonderful smell of Jacob's red lentil soup that was simmering over the fire filled the air. Esau begged Jacob for his soup, but Jacob wanted something, too! Even though they were twins and Esau was only a few minutes older than Jacob, Esau was still the firstborn son. As the firstborn son, he would inherit twice as much of their father's riches. Jacob bargained, "I will give you a bowl of soup if you will give me your birthright." Because Esau only cared about his hungry stomach, he foolishly agreed to Jacob's request. So, Jacob placed the steaming bowl in front of Esau, and the trade was complete. Later, Esau cried bitter tears and wished he could go back and change his actions, but it was too late. Did you know God wants to give you many riches if you live for Him? Don't trade the good life God wants to give you for sins that make you feel good in the moment. Later, Esau married wives from the land of Canaan in direct disobedience to God's commandment. God did not want His people to be influenced to serve false gods. Esau's wives caused his parents to be very sad.

Memory Verse:

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

Genesis 25:34

A Pot of Beans

"Oowee, something sure does smell good!" a deep voice proclaims behind Violet.

Violet spins around, holding a hot soup ladle. She grins. "Hi, Mr. Jasper! Good to see you again. I was wondering if you'd come today!"

Mr. Jasper is a regular at Violet's makeshift soup kitchen.

Last fall, Violet decided she would help people who were homeless. She visits the Willamette river bank each Saturday morning with her father.

She and her mother cook food in slow-cooker machines the night before, then Violet transfers the slow-cookers to a folding table on the grassy bank and sets up shop.

Violet has developed many friendships, and quite the crowd shows up each Saturday for a bowl or plate of hot food.

This morning is particularly cold. Violet pulls her wool knit cap over her ears. Many of her guests also wear wool knit caps, a project Violet and her brother, Jack, worked on through Christmas.

Violet fusses over her friends, urging them to button their coats or sit closer with the group. She wants her friends to feel like family, and she has an impressive way of turning each Saturday morning into a near-dinner party.

Today, she fills a vase with twigs and branches for a centerpiece on the food table. She passes out clean cloth napkins, wrapped with a holly sprig, to each person. Once everyone is seated and served, she prays.

"Dear Jesus, thank You for this food. Thank You for my friends. Keep them warm, and help us all to know how much You love us. Amen."

A hearty round of "amens" follow, then the ragtag group digs into bowls of hot beef stew with a side of cornbread.

"I gotta tell ya," Mr. Jasper says. "I was walking this way from the bridge. I've got a packaged moon pie in my pocket, something I found yesterday. I was pretty hungry this morning and wanted to eat it, but I told myself "No, I'm not trading my appetite for a bowl of beans, er, a moon pie! I'll ruin my appetite for Violet's good food."

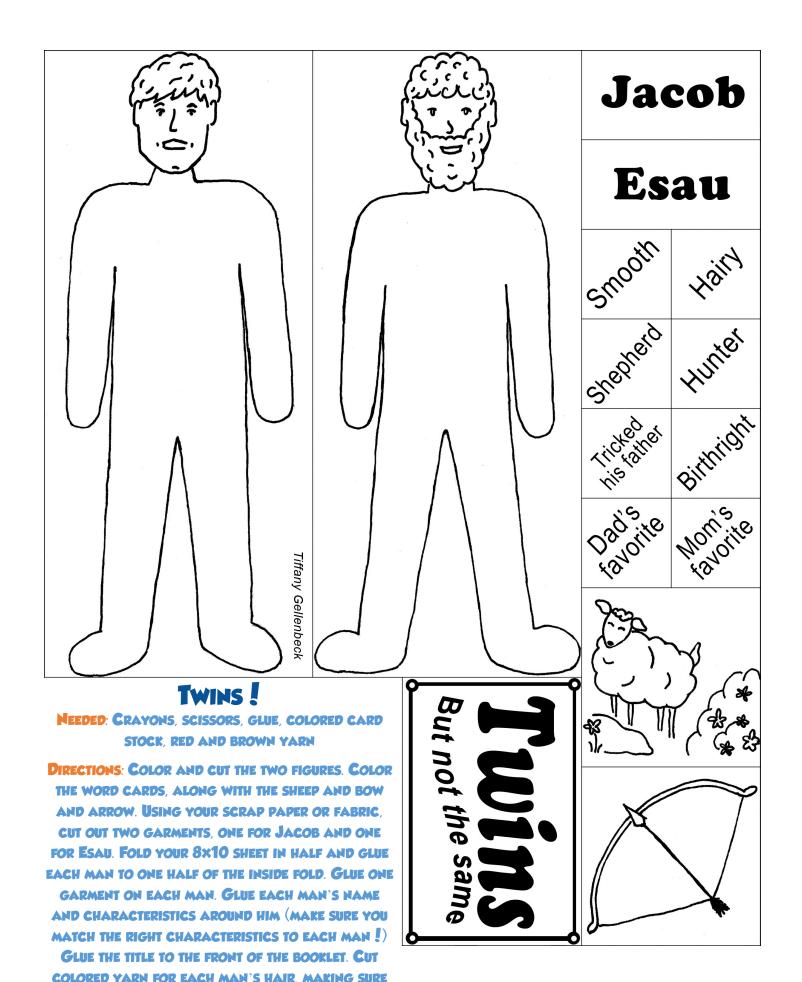
He smacks his lips appreciatively as he takes a bite of the stew. "This was worth the wait!"

Violet giggles. She chats with each person and makes sure every bowl is always full. Before her guests leave, she presses a bag of fresh cookies into each hand.

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Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 71, Quarter 1, Week 2. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck.



TO GIVE ESAU MUCH MORE THAN JACOB!



January 17, 2021

V7I, QI, W3

Isaac Digs Another Well

God blessed Isaac, and he became very rich. Isaac's produced times more than crops 100 planted! When the Philistines and King Abimelech saw how Isaac became richer and richer, they were jealous and afraid. King Abimelech told Isaac, "You have become stronger than we are. We want you to move somewhere else." Rather than fighting, Isaac simply packed up his tents and belongings and moved with his animals and servants to a nearby valley and dug another well of water. The Philistines still did not like him living so close. They argued with Isaac's servants saying, "The water is ours!" Because he could not live without water and because he didn't want to argue or fight, he once again packed up his things and quietly moved again. What do you think happened? The Philistines one more time fought for the water out of Isaac's well. Isaac knew to keep peace was more important than fighting for his water, so one more time he moved and dug another well. Finally, a surprising thing happened. King Abimelech visited Isaac. Isaac said, "Why are you here? You don't like me and sent me away." But the King wanted to make peace and be friends. Isaac could have been rude and ignored the King, but he didn't! He agreed to be friends. God blessed Isaac for acting the right way and not When you are tempted to fight back, remember Isaac. Quietly walk away and remember that God values peace more than fighting.

Memory Verse:

When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. Proverbs 16:7

Peace, Brother-Part 1

Jack lets the door slam. He carelessly drops his books on the table and turns to leave.

"Jack?" his mother, Kathryn, calls.

He stops, but doesn't turn around.

His mother senses she must tread carefully if she wants her boy to talk to her today.

"I just finished reviewing these papers from my young writers club. I was going to take a quick break and enjoy tea. Want some hot chocolate and a snack first?"

How can a boy, even a young teenage boy wrestling with the growing pains of manhood, resist hot chocolate?

Jack slumps into a chair, still avoiding eye contact. He doesn't admit he'd like to talk to his mom, but Kathryn already knows because, well, she's his mom.

After Jack downs half the content in the warm mug, his tongue and heart feel more relaxed.

"It wasn't a good day today," he says quietly.

"I can tell," Kathryn responds, just as quietly. Jack looks at her and gives a tight grin. She waits for him to continue.

"Some days I want to hit Tommy Jenkins right in the eye," Jack fumes. His hands clench tightly and he works his jaw.

Kathryn knows Jack must be under a heavy burden, because her son is normally easy-going.

"But then I remember the one time Tommy told me that before his dad left their family, he used to hit him. I get so angry at him some days. He does things that make no sense. He says stuff to the other boys like he's trying to pick a fight! He doesn't know when to be quiet. One day another boy is gonna lay into him, I'm sure."

Kathryn is quiet. She has plenty she could say to her son, but she discerns it's best to let him vent without offering a solution.

Violet's voice breaks the stillness.

"I hope you don't mind, but I could hear you talking. I was in the living room. Jack, you know the man I've talked about, Mr. Jasper? He lives by the river. He told me a story once that sounds a lot like you and Tommy. Could you come with me next time I visit? I'll ask him to tell it to you."

Jack looks curious, shrugs his shoulders, and says, "Sure. I'll go."

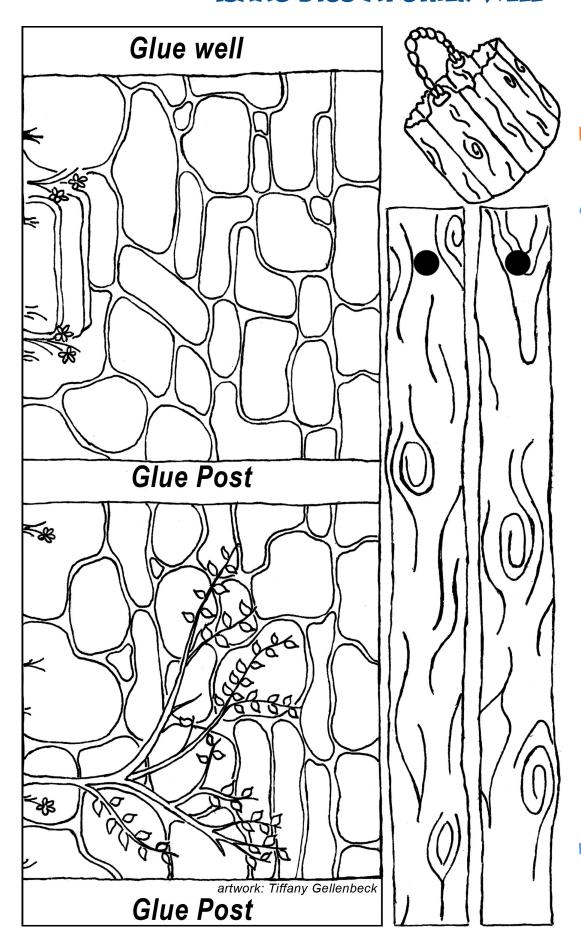
To Be Continued

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Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

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ISAAC DIGS ANOTHER WELL



NEEDED: CRAYONS, SCISSORS, GLUE, PASTIC STRAWS, YARN OR STRING

DIRECTIONS: (HINT: IF YOU DO NOT PRINT THIS CRAFT ON CARDSTOCK PAPER. IT MAY BE USED AS A TEMPLATE ON HEAVIER PAPER IN ORDER TO GIVE THE WELL MORE STABILITY. COLOR AND CUT OUT THE WELL, BUCKET, AND TWO SIDE PIECES. GLUE THE WELL INTO A CIRCLE AND THE TWO SIDE POSTS IN THE INDICATED PLACE. POKE OR **PUNCH HOLES IN THE** TOPS OF THE SIDE **POTS WHERE** INDICATED, AND INSERT THE PLASTIC STRAW THROUGH EACH HOLE. TRIM ENDS OF STRAW. THREAD A PIECE OF STRING OR YARN THROUGH THE TWO HOLES ON THE BUCKET AND TIE IT TO THE PLASTIC STRAW.



January 24, 2021

V7I, QI, W4

Isaac Blesses Jacob

Isaac was now old and blind. "Go to the field and hunt a deer," he told Esau. "Cook the meat the way I like it and then I will bless you." Rebekah overheard what Isaac said. Because she wanted Jacob to receive Isaac's special blessing, she decided to trick Isaac. "Put on Esau's clothes and take this goat meat to your father. Act like you are Esau." Jacob protested, "But Esau is hairy and I am not." Rebekah said, "I will put the skin of goats on your hands and neck. Your father will think you are Esau." Isaac was suspicious when Jacob entered the room. He knew it was Jacob's voice he heard. "Let me feel your hands," he said. When he felt the hairy hands and smelled Esau's clothes, he reluctantly accepted that he was talking to Esau. So, Isaac gave Jacob a blessing, asking for God's special favor. Almost immediately after Jacob left Isaac's room, Esau came in with the cooked deer meat! Isaac shook badly when he realized he had been tricked by Jacob. With a bitter cry, Esau begged his father for a blessing, too. Esau did receive a blessing, but it was not the better blessing usually reserved for the firstborn son. Esau hated Jacob and decided he would kill him. Rebekah urged Jacob to leave home quickly and go to her brother's house. Stay there until Esau forgets what you have done, she told him! Telling a lie does not please God and never has a good ending!

Memory Verse:

Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel. Proverbs 20:17

Peace, Brother-Part 2

Violet, Jack and their father arrive at the river. A crowd is gathered, waiting for Violet.

She greets each person. Jack watches. His sister shows no hesitation toward these people--people who are homeless and often dirty. Jack thinks that Violet is stepping into a role many turn from.

Soon, Violet tugs on the frayed cuff of a tall man. Jack assumes this is Mr. Jasper.

Mr. Jasper flashes a wide smile at Jack and motions for him to come over. Jack approaches.

"You must be Jack," Mr. Jasper says in a drawl Jack has never heard before. Mr. Jasper is very tall, and his hand is so large Jack feels like a little boy when they shake hands.

"Violet says you havin' trouble at school. She wants me to share a story I told her. Well, let's sit and I'll tell it."

Mr. Jasper begins.

"I grew up in Louisiana, where the food cooks in cast-iron pots and tastes best sitting on grandma's fine china plate come Sunday afternoon.

People are either poor or rich. Everyone knows how to make any day a celebration.

But when you grow up as a Black boy in a small southern town, you get treated differently than if you grow up white. I don't know how much you know about our nation's history, but racial division is alive and well--even today.

I say that for my story. There was a boy that raised Cain all over our town. He was the mayor's son. Got away with every wrongdoing, too.

He tried to pick many fights with me. I knew I could whop him. But I knew how much trouble I'd be in--what could happen to my family--if I touched that boy. So I held back. Avoided him at all cost.

One day, I was sixteen with a new license. I was driving my dad's truck down an old dirt road and saw another truck on the side.

I recognized real fast it was the mayor's son and his shiny new truck. The truck were stuck in muddy ruts. Well, I pulled up and said a prayer to the Lord to keep me safe.

I didn't ask what happened, just asked if I could tow him back to town.

He said "yes," and I did.

We never were friends, but from that day he left me alone. He never thanked me, but I didn't help him for the thanks. I helped him because I knew I'd want the same if I was on the side of the road.

Moral of the story, Jack: Jesus wants us to treat even our enemies with respect. He loves each person in a way we can't fathom. I'm so glad I didn't pass by that day.

Jack sits by Mr. Jasper for a long time. He asks him questions about his childhood and family. He could listen to his new friend's deep, silky drawl all day.

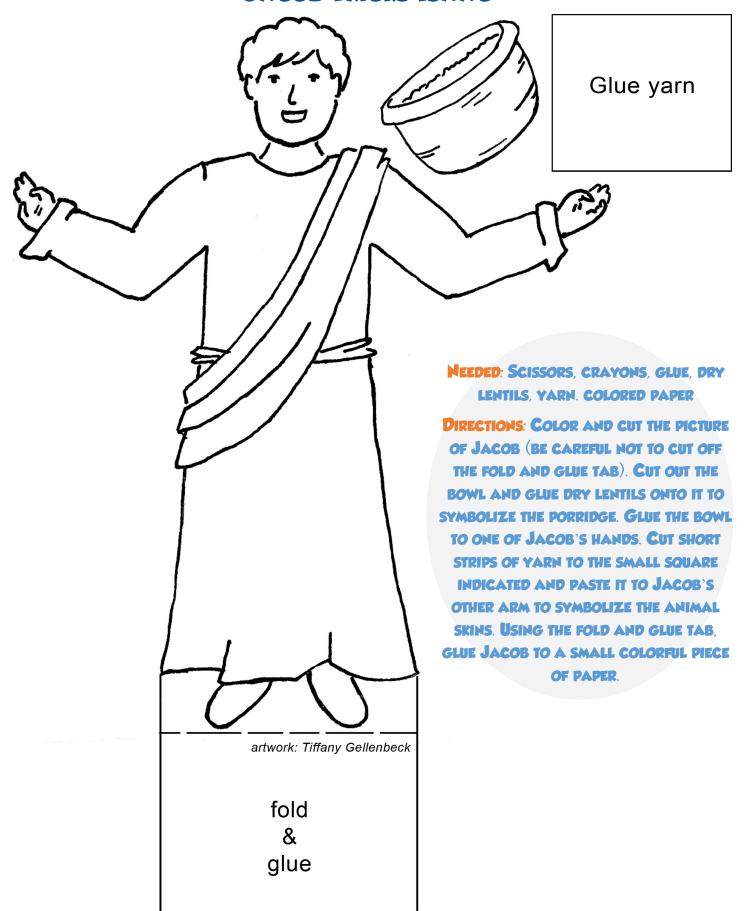
He tells Mr. Jasper that he will be back next week, and thanks him for the reminder to treat even his enemies with respect and kindness.

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JACOB TRICKS ISAAC





January 31, 2021

V7I, QI, W5

Jacob's Ladder

Jacob left home. Esau wanted to kill him and it was because Jacob had tricked and disobeyed his father. Now, he was on his way to his Uncle Laban's house. The sun set and Jacob lay down on the ground, using a stone for a pillow. His bed was just as uncomfortable as the guilt in his heart.

As he slept, Jacob dreamed. God gave him a vision of a tall ladder reaching from the earth into the heavens. The angels of God were walking up and down the ladder, and at the top, stood the Lord Himself.

God spoke to Jacob and promised him that his children would be so plentiful that they couldn't be counted. He said to Jacob, "I am with you every place you go. I will not leave you until I have done that which I have said."

Jacob woke up and exclaimed, "God was here and I didn't even realize it!" He needed to hear the same promise that had been given to his grandfather, Abraham, and his father, Isaac. He arranged stones into an altar and anointed it with oil. His heart was full of worship for the faithful God who had spoken to him in the night.

Because of his vision, Jacob promised to God that he would be a faithful servant, and that he would give one tenth of his wealth back to Him. There would still be challenges in Jacob's life, but he had committed to serving God from that day forward!

Memory Verse: And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest. Genesis 28:15

Lost Again-Part 1

Jack and Violet spend Saturday afternoon the way they like best: in the woods. They walk along the deer trails, listen to the sharp cry of a hawk and turn over rocks in search of bugs.

"We've gone kind of far," Violet says as she notices the sun beginning to dip behind the hills. "We don't have too much light left."

"No worries!" says Jack exuberantly. "I have a flashlight this time!"

They both remember the last time they got lost in the woods.

"And I brought this backpack. It has supplies," Jack says with great confidence. "I have the flashlight, a compass, a water bottle, and a few snacks! Oh, and some matches!"

"Do you even know how to start a fire?" Violet asks dubiously.

"Yes!" Jack says, offended. "Of course I do."

"Well, ok. We might need it. There's no way we can get back before dark. And some of these trails are barely visible."

"Follow me!" shouts Jack. "I will lead you home."

Violet rolls her eyes but grins. It's fun to spend quality time with her brother. She's glad he likes looking for bugs with her.

The children walk quickly. They know they must cover a lot of ground before they get home, and they need all the light they can get.

"Mom is going to be worried," Violet muses. "We probably won't get home for another hour once the sun sets."

"I thought of that, too," Jack says almost gleefully. "I told her we were heading straight north and that it might be dark when we arrive back home."

Violet is quiet, but thinks in her mind, "I'm sure you didn't include the part that it could be an hour after dark."

Soon, the sun slips away and darkness covers the quiet forest. An owl hoots and bushes rustle with night life.

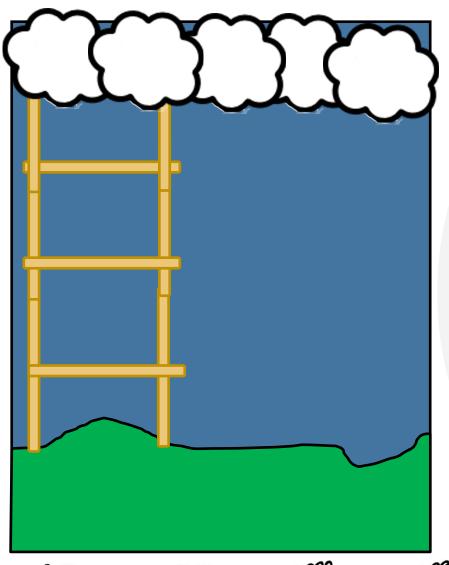
Violet pulls her cap over her ears. Jack switches on his flashlight and plods ahead.

To Be Continued

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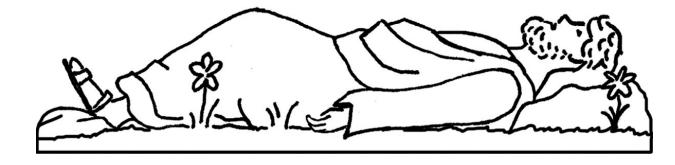


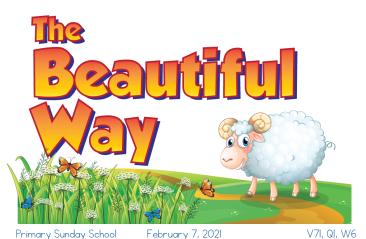
JACOB'S VISION

NEEDED: SCISSORS, CRAYONS, BLUE AND GREEN PAPER, COTTON BALLS, POPSICLE STICKS

DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT OUT
JACOB AND THE ANGELS. GLUE
POPSICLE STICKS TO A DARK BLUE
PAPER IN THE SHAPE OF A LADDER.
GLUE COTTON BALLS TO THE TOP OF
THE LADDER AS CLOUDS. TEAR OR CUT
A PIECE OF GREEN PAPER FROM THE
BOTTOM OF A GREEN PAGE AND GLUE
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BLUE PAGE.
GLUE JACOB TO THE GROUND AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE LADDER AND THE
ANGELS IN VARIOUS PLACES UP AND
DOWN THE LADDER.







Jacob Gets Married

After running in the wilderness, Jacob finally made it to his Uncle Laban's house. Laban greeted Jacob warmly and urged him to stay with his family. Jacob was happy to stay and work!

After a while, Laban said, "You are family! You should not be working for free. What can I pay you?"

Jacob already knew what he wanted. Laban had two daughters, and Jacob had already fallen in love with Laban's beautiful younger daughter. Her name was Rachel. Jacob told his uncle, "I will work for seven years and then I want Rachel to be my wife." Laban agreed.

Seven years passed very quickly! On Jacob's wedding day, Laban prepared a feast. However, Jacob was about to be tricked just like he had tricked his very own father.

According to their traditions, the groom did not see the bride's face until after the wedding was over. You can imagine how surprised Jacob was when he lifted his wife's veil only to find Leah beneath instead of his beloved Rachel! Jacob was not happy about being tricked and asked Laban, "Why did you do this to me?! I worked seven years for Rachel!"

Laban answered, "The younger daughter should not marry before the older. If you work seven more years, you may have Rachel as your wife as well."

Jacob loved Rachel so much, he worked another seven years. Maybe Jacob remembered how many times he had not told the truth and felt bad for them. Finally, the day arrived when he married Rachel.

Memory Verse:

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. Genesis 29:20

Lost Again- Part 2

Jack checks his compass and frowns. He is sure they are on the same trail as before, but the compass is pointing southeast. He knows they can correct back south but is worried about doing it until he is confident of his location.

He catches Violet looking at him. "I know that look," he says grudgingly. "You know, don't you."

"Yes, Jack. You aren't the only one who knows these woods. I do, too. We are heading toward Salmon River, east of our house. We'll have to correct when we get closer. We'll get lost trying to find a new trail now."

Jack is secretly impressed with his sister's knowledge. "Yeah. Well, let's keep walking. I'm glad I have this flashlight.

Don't fall in any holes and twist your ankle this time!" he says jokingly.

Thirty minutes pass. The siblings trudge quietly. "I'm hungry," Violet finally says.

Jack reaches in his backpack and pulls out an apple and a cheese wedge.

"You ok?" he asks, shining the light close enough to Violet to see her face.

She nods. "Yes. We know these woods well enough. Still, I don't like it. I don't like it being dark and not knowing our trail."

She shares the apple with Jack. "Do you have more cheese? I'm actually very, very hungry and want to eat it all."

"Go ahead," Jack laughs at his sister's comment. It gives him something to laugh at, because he's nervous too.

"I even have a bag of chocolate chip cookies!"

"Jack! Did you take those from the cooling rack? I know Mom would not have given us more than two each!" Violet laughs.

Jack laughs with her. "You know me well."

They munch on their cookies and continue to walk home. "The compass is still southeast," Jack says after checking. "I suspect we've been walking for an hour now. There should be a clearing up ahead. If it's there, we turn right from the clearing, find the trail and get home soon after."

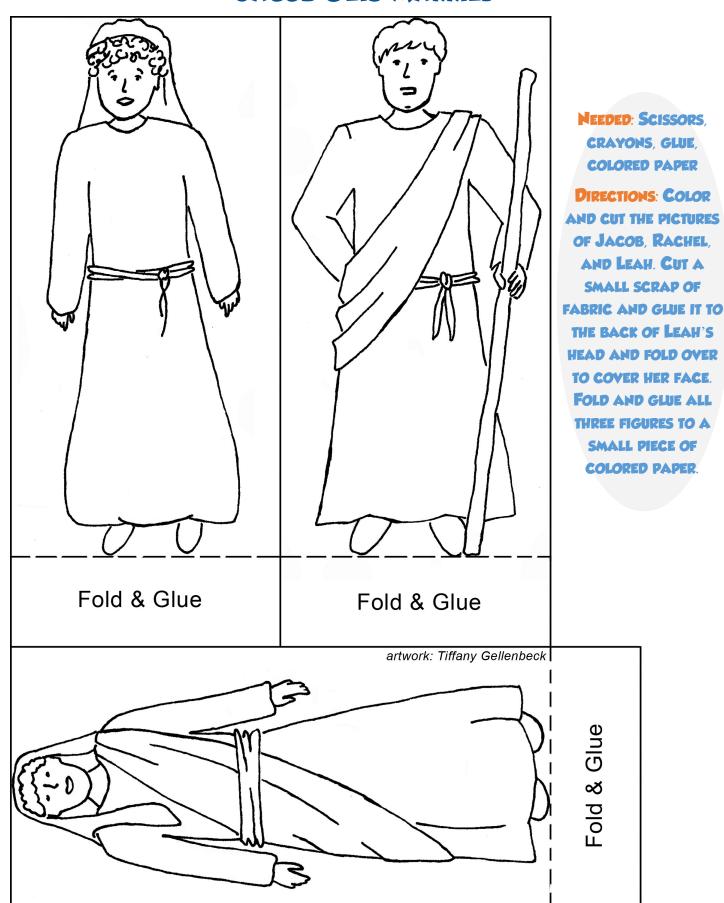
To Be Continued

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JACOB GETS MARRIED





February 14, 2021

V7I. QI. W7

Jacob & Laban Make a Promise

Jacob was 96 years old, and he wanted to return to his own land--Canaan. All these years, he had worked hard for his father-in-law, Laban, and because of God's blessings on Jacob, Laban's herds of sheep and goats had increased by a lot! One night God appeared to Jacob in a vision and told him to take his family and return home. Jacob was scared that Laban would stop him from leaving, so he waited until Laban was not around, then loaded his two wives and all his children onto camels and began the journey back home.

Three days later, the news that Jacob was gone finally reached Laban. He was angry, so he gathered his men together and chased Jacob. God appeared to Laban in a vision and warned him not to be hurtful or cause a fight with Jacob. So when Laban finally caught up with Jacob's party, he controlled his anger.

Neither Jacob nor Laban were happy with each other, but they knew God did not want them to fight. They talked about Jacob going home and agreed to build an altar. They called it a watch-tower between them and promised not to come across it with the intention of hurting each other. Laban also wanted to make sure Jacob didn't marry any other wives. They ate together and talked all night. The next morning, they parted in peace!

God is always pleased when we can solve problems without fighting with each other.

Memory Verse:
The LORD watch between me and thee,
when we are absent one from
another. Genesis 31:49

Lost Again-Part 3

Violet sighs happily as they step into the clearing about ten minutes later. They switch off the flashlight and watch the deer graze on the other side of the large clearing under the light of the moon.

Then they turn right, find the correct deer trail with little difficulty and continue home.

They both breathe easier. Soon the trees break and they are in the back pasture of their land.

"Race you to the house!" Violet says. She takes off running for home. "Home has never looked so good," she thinks. "Well, since last time we got lost!"

She feels the cold air bite at her cheeks and play in her hair. Her pigtails fly out behind her and her feet hit the hard ground rhythmically. Jack catches up with her and paces himself beside her. His eyes twinkle.

"Last time I carried you home when you twisted your ankle. I was a lot smaller then. I carried you, but barely. Want to hop on my back and I'll carry you home in style?"

Violet crawls on his back and holds on around his neck. Jack supports her behind her knees and takes off running. Violet shrieks with happy laughter.

They see the back door fly open. Their mom stands on the step.

"Hello, most beautiful woman!" Jack shouts exuberantly as he sets Violet down.

Kathryn gives them a big hug. "I was getting ready to send your father out to find you again. And I noticed the missing cookies, Jack," she says and playfully tousles Jack's head.

Violet chatters about their adventure once the children are inside. She tells her parents how Jack led them home, and Jack tells them how well Violet knows the land.

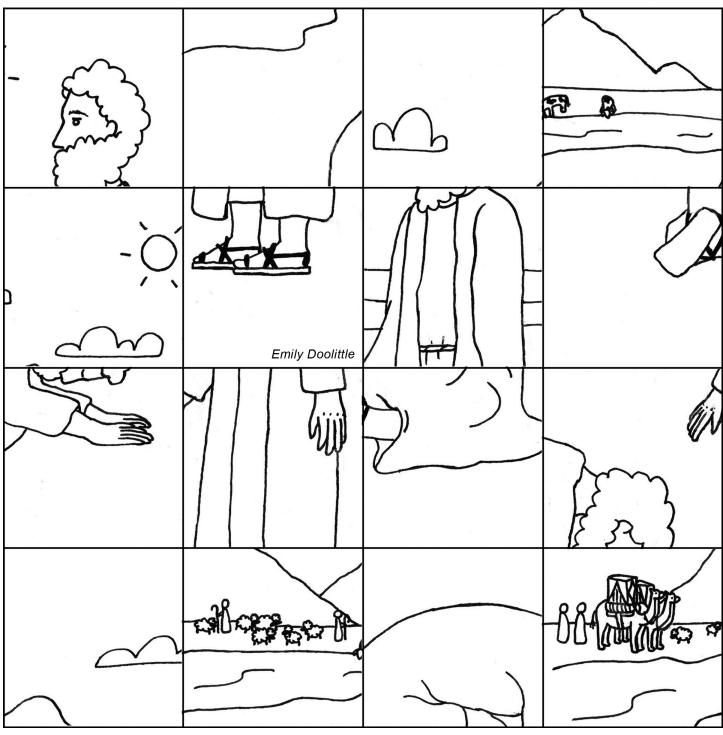
Anderson and Kathryn listen, occasionally sharing smiles above their children's heads.

"It's good to be back home," Violet says. She takes a big bite of her chicken-and-dumplings.

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Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

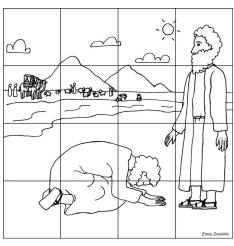
Volume 71, Quarter 1, Week 7. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck.

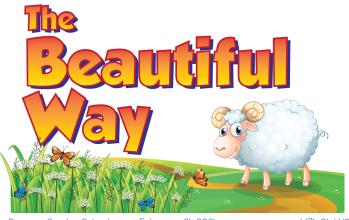


ESAU FORGIVES JACOB

NEEDED: CRAYONS, SCISSORS, GLUE, SEPARATE PAPER

DIRECTIONS: COLOR THE PUZZLE PIECES AND THEN CUT
THEM OUT AND GLUE THEM TOGETHER ON A SEPARATE
PIECE OF PAPER.





February 21, 2021

V7I, QI, W8

Jacob Wrestles All Night

Jacob and his family were on their way home to Canaan. But Jacob remembered that he had tricked his brother when he was young. Would Esau still be angry about the way Jacob had treated him?

The angels of God comforted Jacob as he traveled. When his messenger came back and told him that Esau had 400 men, however, Jacob was suddenly very afraid. He prayed fervently that his brother would accept him, and sent him a gift of almost 500 animals. That was the equivalent of a lot of money!

That night, Jacob slept alone. Only, instead of sleeping, he wrestled all night with a divine man--maybe it was an angel or maybe it was God! When the man saw that Jacob would not give up, even though he was very tired, he injured Jacob's hip. Still, Jacob kept wrestling. He told the man, "I will not give up until you bless me!"

The man answered, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, which means 'deceiver,' Your new name will be Israel because you have power with God and you have prevailed."

When morning came, Jacob was tired and his hip was injured (he never recovered from this injury!), but he had been blessed by God.

A little later, Jacob had rejoined his family. He lifted up his eyes and saw his brother, Esau. Instead of trying to kill Jacob, Esau ran *for joy* to meet him, kissed him, and wept for joy.

Jacob and his family lived in the land of Canaan and there was peace between the brothers.

Memory Verse: And will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. Revelation 2:17

Jack Wrestles Arthur

Jack paces the house. "I've got energy and don't know how to get it out," he mutters to himself. "If I tell mom, she'll tell me to run laps outside and I don't feel like doing that. That's too boring."

Then he has a wonderful idea. "I know! I'll wrestle Arthur!" He grins broadly to himself, whistles cheerfully, then saunters outside.

"Arthur thinks he's such a grown little bull. I'll show him!" Jack says about the very heavy, very strong little Highland bull.

"Jack, what are you doing?" a voice calls. It's Violet.

Jack turns around with a grin. "I'm going to wrestle Arthur," he announces.

Violet stares at him, unsure whether she should scoff or laugh. "Why," she finally asks.

"I dunno. I think it has something to do with me getting older. I get all these feelings inside. I don't know if I want to break something or make something. So I decided a good way to burn my energy is to wrestle Arthur."

"Jack, he could accidentally step on you and you would squish!" Violet croaks. Then, "Remember when we tried to ride Arthur as a calf?" she remembers with a laugh.

"Yup. That's how I'm going to start this little wrestling match," Jack says.

He climbs the fence to sit on top of a pole. Arthur wanders over, hoping for a treat.

"Arthur ole boy, I bring you excitement on this wet winter day," Jack announces. Then he flings himself on Arthur's back. Arthur jumps then starts to run. Jack slides, gets a good grip around the bull's neck and rotates so his arms and legs are wrapped around Arthur's neck.

Arthur snorts, annoyed. He slows as he reaches a muddy puddle. Then with a flick of his muscular body, he sends Jack tumbling into the puddle!

Violet laughs. "Arthur did that on purpose!"

Jack laughs too. "I kind of want to jump back on. But that burned my energy." He wrings his wet shirt. "Race ya to the house?"

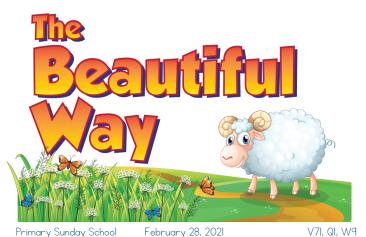
Brother and sister shout and laugh as they run to the house. Arthur watches them with what looks like a grin, if little bulls can grin.

The Beautiful Way can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 71, Quarter 1, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck.





The Prodigal Son

Jesus told a story to the tax collectors and sinners near Him to explain salvation:

A man had two sons. One son came to him and asked for his portion of his inheritance, or the money his father had set aside for him. The son took his money and went on a long journey where he wasted everything he had on wild and disobedient living. Not long after that, a great famine came on the land, and the son found himself feeding pigs to make it by. He was so hungry, even the pig slop looked good for him to eat.

Suddenly, the son realized that even the servants in his father's house ate and lived better than he did. He realized what a big mistake he had made in wasting his money and leaving his father's house. He thought to himself, "I will go back and beg my father to let me be a servant in his household."

When he was a great way off, his father saw him coming down the road and ran to meet his son, hugging and kissing him when he reached him. He had been standing on the road, waiting and praying for his beloved son to return.

When we come to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us of our sins, He runs to meet us and joyfully welcomes us to His house.

Memory Verse:

But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. Luke 15:20

A Girl Called Grace

"There's a new girl in my class," Violet says between bites of food at the dinner table. "Her name is Grace, but she doesn't give herself very much of it."

"What's that mean?" Jack says as he fills his bowl with a second helping of beef stew.

"Today was her first day. She doesn't know us, and I guess she felt nervous. During our craft, she dropped her scissors on the floor and it made a loud noise. She almost cried! At recess, my friends and I spoke with her. She kept talking about how nobody is going to like her and how she keeps messing up and how she is so embarrassed. We tried to remind her that being new is hard, and that we want to be her friends, but she was so down on herself. I wonder why?"

"What do you think, Mom?" Jack asks.

Kathryn says, "Violet is right. Grace isn't giving herself grace! She may be a perfectionist and think that anything less than perfect isn't good enough. It's called conditional love."

"What does conditional mean?" Violet asks.

"Do you remember the story of the prodigal son? His father loved him unconditionally. This is the opposite of conditionally. Unconditional love means that no matter what you do, parents will always love their child. The prodigal son made unwise decisions. But his father never stopped loving him. His father did not treat him differently. He was so happy to see his son come home!

If he had loved his son conditionally, he would not have accepted him with open arms. He might have said, "You made a bad decision. I won't talk to you for a long time. I will treat you differently now, since you did something I do not agree with."

"That would have been a really sad story," says Violet.

"That story represents God's love for us, doesn't it?" says Jack thoughtfully.

"Yes, son. God is our parent-figure. We are like children. God waits for us with open arms, no matter what. He wants to save us, help us and love us. He does not ignore His children's cries. He loves us too much to act like that!"

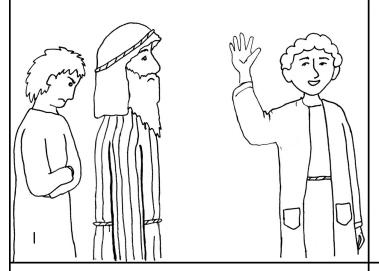
"Violet, Grace needs to know about unconditional love. I hope she lets you and your friends become her friends. I'm sure that she will blossom from some love and attention."

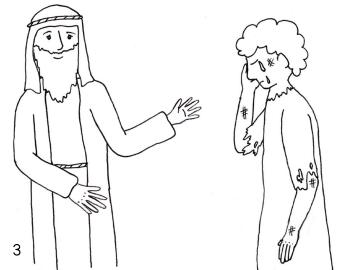
The Beautiful Way can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 71, Quarter 1, Week 9. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck.

A certain man had two sons. One son came to him and asked for his inheritance. He took his money and went on a long journey where he wasted everything he had on wild and disobedient living. He realized that even the servants in his father's house ate better than he was eating. He decided he would return to his father and say he was sorry for all of his sins. He would beg his father to let him be a servant.

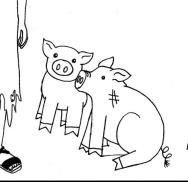




When the son was a great way off, his father saw him coming down the road and ran to meet his son. He hugged and kissed him and rejoiced that he had returned. Then he threw a large party in his son's honor.



When a famine came to the land, the son took a job feeding some pigs. He was so hungry that even the pig slop looked good to eat.

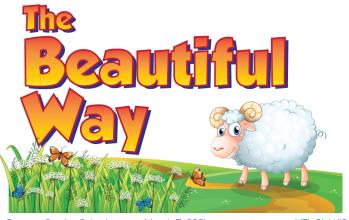


artwork: Emily Doolittle

THE PRODIGAL SON

NEEDED: CRAYONS, SCISSORS, STAPLER

DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT THE FOUR PAGES. STAPLE TOGETHER IN ORDER TO CREATE A MINI BOOK OF THE PRODIGAL SON.



March 7, 2021

V7I, QI, WIO

The Wise and Foolish Builders

Jesus told a story after He finished the Sermon on the Mount. He had just given His listeners many instructions on how to live a godly life, and He wanted to make sure they knew how important it was to follow His words:

"Whoever hears my words and obeys them is like a wise man. This man built his house upon the rock, and when the storms and winds beat upon his house, it stood firm and did not fall. It was founded upon the rock and it was strong because of it.

Whoever hears my words and does not obey them is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on the sand, and when the storms and winds beat upon his house, it shifted and crashed down, and great was it's fall. It's foundation was not strong enough to hold it together."

Have you ever built a sandcastle on the beach? What happens when a wave gets close to it? The water pulls the sand right out from underneath the sandcastle. Jesus wanted to make sure His listeners understood that following the enemy meant their lives would collapse and fall around them, but obeying His own teachings meant they would be safe and secure.

Jesus is the solid rock!

Memory Verse:

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. Mathew 7:24

Project: Crash!

Jack is excited about a new class project. Each student is tasked with building a to-scale house from popsicle sticks. Once the projects are complete, each house will undergo a stress test.

Jack's teacher will first pour a bucket of water over each house followed by a blast of fake wind from a blow-dryer.

He can't wait to get home and tell his family all about it!

"Guess what!" Jack says as the Mackey family sits down to their evening meal. "I have the coolest project coming up. We're making a home out of popsicle sticks and then our teacher is going to test the strength of the home! It's a project for physics!"

"Wow!" says Violet. "That sounds really fun. Just keep it away from these little destruction workers!" she laughs and nods at the twins. "They get into everything these days."

"Va-va-va!" Carrie Ann coos back, trying to say Violet. Violet giggles and taps the tip of Carrie's little nose.

"Dad, will you help me with my project?"

"Of course, son. Sounds fun to me, too. Any ideas on the build?"

"Well, I keep thinking of the parable about the wise man and foolish man. The wise man's house stood against the storms because it was built on a strong foundation. So I'd like to make sure my home is strong from the bottom-up."

"Sounds like a solid plan to me. Let's get started tonight," Anderson says.

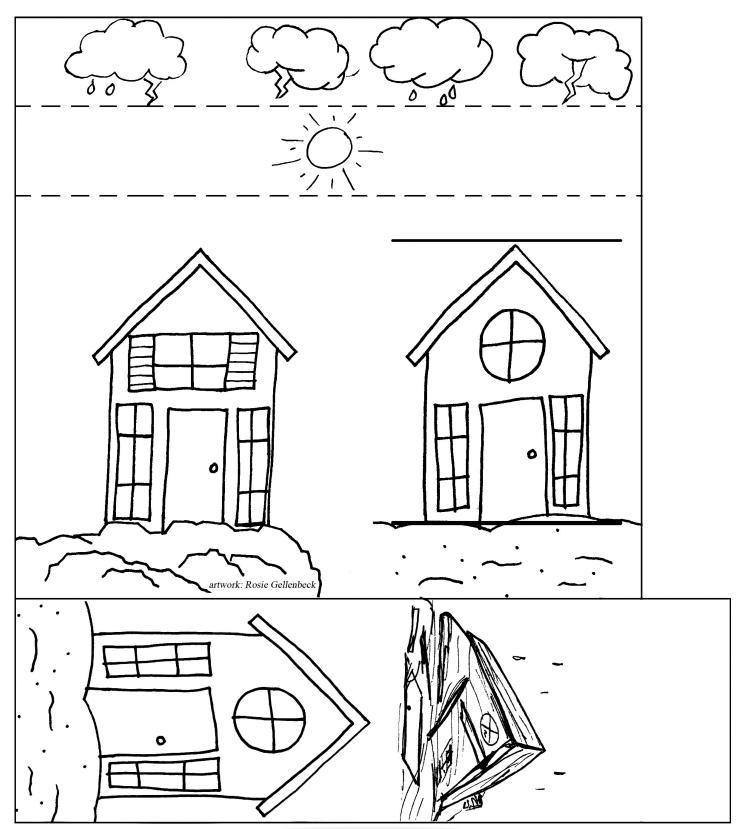
Father and son set up shop on the kitchen table after they clear the used dishes from dinner. Violet stays to watch them. Katherine puts the twins to bed then enjoys some quiet moments with a hot cup of tea and a book.

To Be Continued

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Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

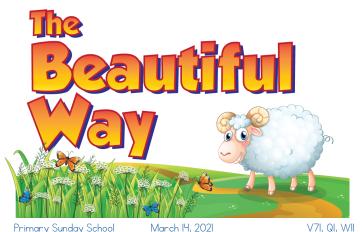
Volume 71, Quarter 1, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck.



THEN THE RAIN CAME!

NEEDED: CRAYONS, SCISSORS

DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT OUT THE LARGE PICTURE AND SMALL RECTANGULAR SLIDER. FOLD THE TWO TABS AT THE TOP TO SHOW WHERE THE WEATHER CHANGED. CUT SLITS IN AND FOLD WHERE INDICATED ON THE LARGE PICTURE. INSERT SLIDER INTO THE SLITS AND SHOW HOW THE FOOLISH MAN'S HOUSE CRASHED DOWN!



The Good Samaritan

A lawyer came to Jesus and asked him a simple question. "What must I do to gain eternal life?" Jesus answered with a question: "What does the law say to do?" The man replied, "To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself."

The man answered correctly, but Jesus wanted to make sure he understood how to do that.

There was a certain man traveling from Jericho to Jerusalem. Robbers came upon him, beat him, stole his clothes and belongings, and left him to die. Soon, a priest walked by on the road. A priest is a man who works in the temple. Surely he would stop and help! But the priest walked by without saying a word.

Not long after, a man from the tribe of Levi walked by. The Levites were the tribe God had chosen to work in the temple. A man who served God would definitely have compassion and help a wounded man! However, he kept walking too.

Finally, a Samaritan walked by. The Samaritans and Jews did not like each other. They just could not get along. Did this man stop and help the wounded man?

Yes! The Samaritan bound the man's wounds, loaded him onto his donkey, and took him to an inn where he paid for his care.

Jesus asked the lawyer who the wounded man's neighbor was and the lawyer replied, "The one who showed mercy."

Memory Verse:
And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:39

Project: Crash! Part 2

Jack and his father, Anderson, work on Jack's class project for a week. Jack is building a to-scale house from popsicle sticks that will undergo an experiment to see how strongly it is built.

Violet enjoys watching the work each evening after their family meal.

Jack and Anderson glue together a solid foundation of popsicle sticks. Anderson uses this time to talk to his children about parables. They start with the wise and foolish man since it is easy to relate that parable with the project.

Then they talk about the parable of the good Samaritan. "I feel so sad and angry inside at the part where people walk past and ignore the hurt man! How could they?" Violet cries.

"For the very reason Jesus told this parable. To remind those listening how easy it is for us to ignore our neighbor. It wasn't convenient or comfortable for the priest or Levite to stop. So they didn't. Violet, you've been a real example of a good Samaritan. You have a heart for the underdog, and your mother and I are very proud of your little mission feeding people who don't have a home," Anderson says.

Violet turns a little pink, this time from the praise of her father instead of anger at the men in the story.

"Yeah, Violet," Jack adds as he carefully places popsicle sticks on top of each other to make a wall. "I never would have thought of that. And I didn't have an easy childhood for a while. I should have been the one thinking of others. But I wasn't. You were. Now I notice kids at school who need a friend."

The family sits quietly for a few minutes, listening to the clock tick.

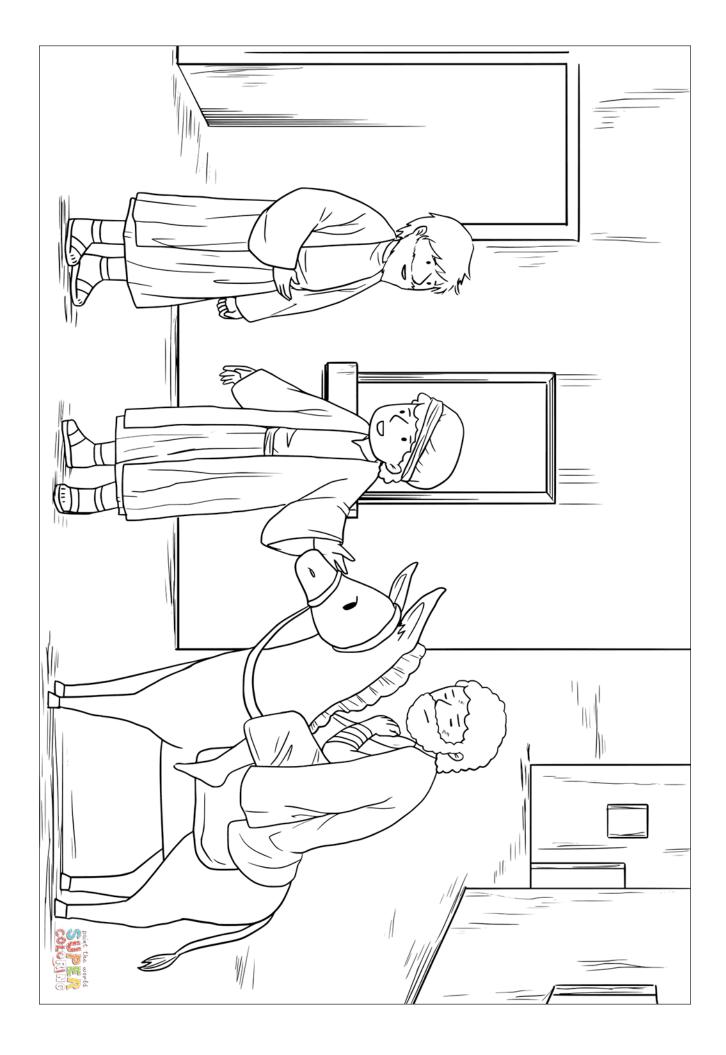
"Well, Jack," says Anderson at last, "I think we are building a fine, strong home. It should be complete by tomorrow evening!"

Jack proudly takes his little house to school that Friday. The teacher lines up the homes and dumps water over their roofs. Some of the homes cave in. A few still stand. A blast of wind knocks over two of the three standing ones. Jack is delighted to see that his little house stood firm and strong, just like the parable of the home built on a firm foundation.

The Beautiful Way can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 71, Quarter 1, Week 11. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck.





March 21, 2021

V7I, QI, WI2

Lost Sheep

The tax collectors, publicans, and sinners were drawn to Jesus' teaching. He didn't reject them like a lot of people did, and this made the Pharisees upset. Jesus told a story to help them understand:

"If a man has one hundred sheep and loses one of them, wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine to go find the lost sheep? When he finds the lost sheep, he carefully places him on his shoulders and takes him back to the flock. There is more rejoicing in heaven when one lost soul is saved than over all the ninetynine that stayed."

Jesus told one more story to show how happy He is when someone accepts Him as his/her savior:

"A woman had ten pieces of silver and lost one somewhere in her home. She lit all her candles, swept the floor, and searched in every corner and under every piece of furniture. When she finally found it, she called her friends and told them excitedly that she had found her lost coin!"

Jesus used these two stories so everyone could understand how happy He is when one person gets saved. The Bible says there is joy in the presence of God when a sinner repents!

Memory Verse:

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10

One Lost Chicken

"I love spring," Violet sighs happily. She flops down in the soft grass, rolling and laughing. Carter watches her from his nearby blanket. He laughs and scoots to his big sister.

"You big one-year-old boy!" Violet coos. "How did this year go by so fast? You'll be walking soon, I can tell!"

Carter grins and lunges forward, toppling on Violet. Violet hugs him close, smelling his baby hair and giving him a kiss on his soft cheek.

"Let's go see the new chicks! They are cute and fuzzy. Just like you!"

Violet steps behind the coop. She sees a big group of chicks cheeping, sleeping and eating. Miss Daisy covers a few extra-sleepy babies with her wings.

"Where's Morning Glory?" Violet asks. "She's always close to her babies!"

Violet looks around the yard. She runs to the garden and tells her mother that Morning Glory is missing. Two fat tears run down her cheeks. "I have to find her!" Violet wails.

Katherine speaks gently and quietly to Violet. "Why don't you go back to the henhouse and look again. Morning Glory has a way of getting herself stuck."

Violet walks back to the chickens and looks for places Morning Glory might be hiding. All of a sudden, she sees something that makes her laugh. A cardboard box is walking through the grass! And two chicken feet are moving the box. "Is that you, Morning Glory?" Violet asks.

She runs to the moving box and picks it up. A disgruntled chicken blinks her eyes at the sunlight, shakes her feathers, then marches back to her chicks. She squawks and rounds her babies up until they are all under her wings. Then she sits down in dignity. Violet thinks she's trying to recover from the embarrassment of the cardboard box.

Violet laughs and runs back to the garden to tell her mother the good news. "I'm so happy I found her! I don't know what I would have done if she were lost. I would have stayed up all night looking."

"I know you would," Katherine smiles at her daughter.

The Beautiful Way can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 71, Quarter 1, Week 12. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck.

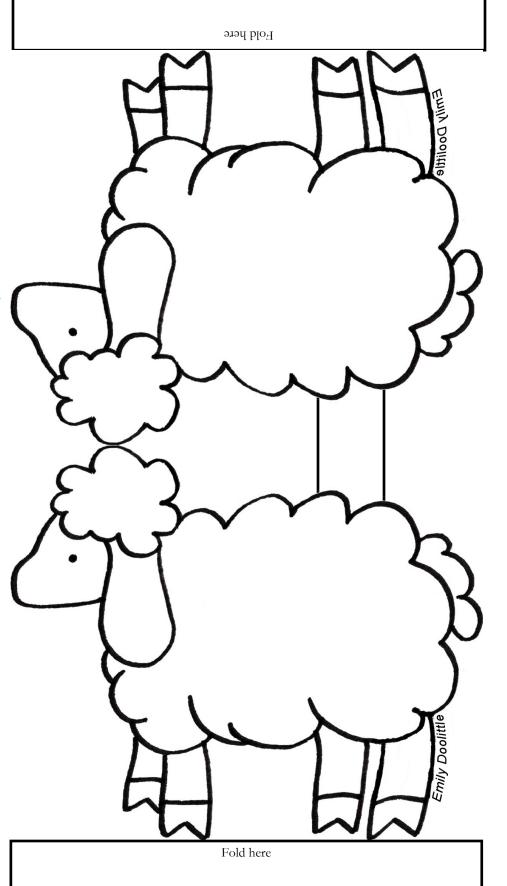
Clue

LOST SHEEP

NEEDED: SCISSORS, GLUE, GOOGLY EYES, COTTON BALLS

DIRECTIONS: COLOR AND CUT THE SHEEP, BEING CAREFUL NOT TO CUT THE TWO SIDES OF THE SHEEP APART, INCLUDING WHERE THE HEAD IS ATTACHED, THE FOLD TAB ON THE BACK, AND THE TWO FOLD AND GLUE TABS BY THE FEET.

GLUE COTTON BALLS AND A GOOGLY EYE TO THE SHEEP. GLUE THE BOTTOM TABS TOGETHER, AND FOLD WHERE INDICATED ON THE TOP OF THE SHEEP.



Glue



March 28, 2021

V7I, QI, WI3

The Seeds and the Soil

Jesus told lots of stories to help people understand the kingdom of God. This time, He told them about a farmer:

There was a farmer who went out to plant seeds. Some of the seeds he spread landed on the hard-beaten path and the birds came and snatched them all away.

Next, some of the seeds fell on stony ground. When the sun came out and warmed the ground, the seeds sprouted and began growing. The rocks in the soil kept them from making good roots so they could not grow deep into the ground.

There were some seeds that fell into thorny ground. Did these seeds give the farmer a good crop? No, these seeds were choked out by all the thorns. They could not grow there!

Last, some seeds fell on good soil, and the farmer got a wonderful crop from them!

Jesus explained that different people were like these types of ground. The first ground is someone who hears the word of God but doesn't understand it, so the devil snatches it away. The second type is a person who hears the word of God and is happy to receive it, but when hard times come, they can't grow like they should so they die out.

The third ground is like people who let their work and worries choke out God's word in their lives.

The last soil is like the people who accept God's word and let it grow strong and tall in their lives!

Memory Verse:

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Peter3:18

Planting Time

Today is planting day in the Mackey garden.

Katherine planted lettuce, spinach, radishes and peas a month ago while the ground was still very cold. But today, at the end of March, she is ready to transplant tomatoes, peppers and eggplants into the garden. She also plans to sow seeds that will turn into beans, melons, carrots, cucumbers and okra.

And she has every member of her family in the dirt to help.

The twins pick up handfuls of rich Oregon soil and watch the dirt slide through their chubby fingers. Katherine shows Jack and Violet how to plant the seeds in the rows she makes. Anderson tills up a patch of soil that is still hard and cold.

The chickens run free through the garden, clucking joyfully as they hunt for bugs and grubs.

Jack laughs and tells Violet, "They're good fertilizers, too."

"Eww!" Violet says. "Mom, I don't want the chickens going to the bathroom in the garden!"

Katherine laughs, too. "Jack's right. It is good fertilizer. Wait till you taste a juicy red tomato this summer. God's design is perfect beyond measure. Our soil here is among the most fertile. Combine that with some healthy chickens and lots of spring and summer sunshine and our garden produce will taste divine."

Violet sits in the dirt and dreams how the garden will look in summer and at full bloom. She knows one of her responsibilities will be pulling any little weed that springs up, so the fruits and vegetables don't get choked out.

She can't wait to see all the flowers bloom that her mother plants around the vegetables. This year, she has her own section in the flower patch. She is planting dandelions, something her brother laughed at.

"We have enough of those things that grow all around the yard!"

One stern look from little sister to big brother and the words, "Dandelion roots, leaves and flowers can all be used to make tea, medicine and dye. You might want to learn a little more about it before you laugh," quieted him up fast.

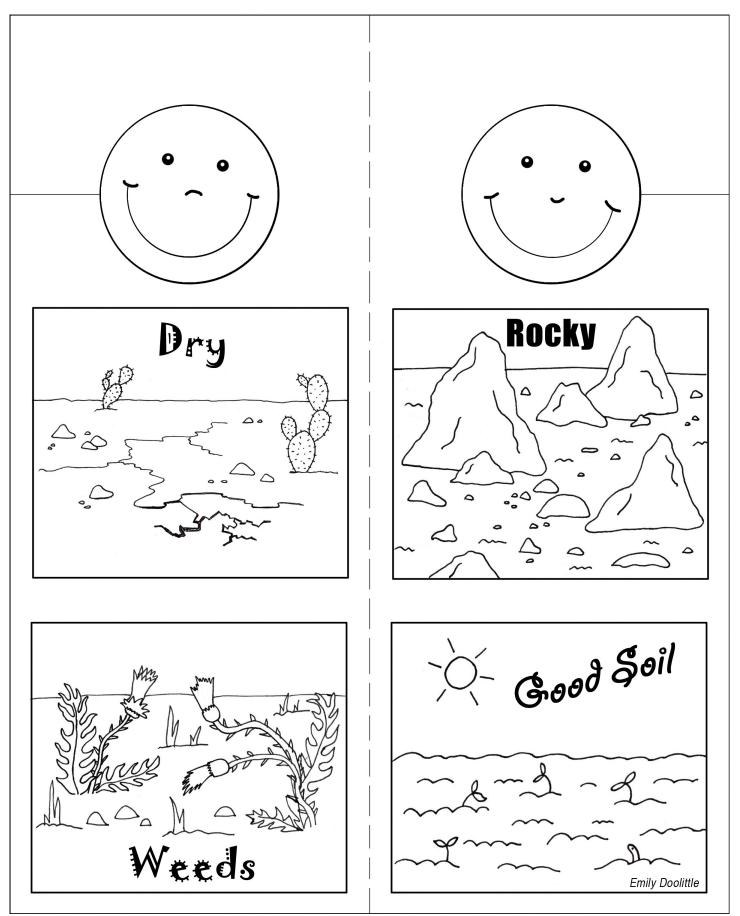
Now, Jack and Violet complete their planting and laugh together as they gaze up at the sky, dirt tickling their ears and neck. Jack rubs soil into his palms and Violet makes little dirt circles with her fingers.

"How can you get better than this?" Jack asks. "I feel God right here in the garden."

The Beautiful Way can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Contributor: Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 71, Quarter 1, Week 13. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck.



DOOR HANGER