

Volume 71, Quarter 1, 2021

## Sons of Abraham and Parables of Jesus

Click on the title to view the lesson.

January 3	<b>A Wife For Isaac</b>	Prayer by the Well
January 10	<b>Esau Sells His Birthright</b>	Foolish Actions
January 17	<b>Isaac Digs Another Well</b>	Keeping Peace
January 24	<b>Isaac Blesses Jacob</b>	Deceit, Lies, and Trickery
January 31	<b>Jacob's Vision</b>	A Ladder from Heaven to Earth
February 7	<b>Jacob Marries Rachel</b>	Great Love
February 14	<b>Jacob and Laban</b>	Resolving a Quarrel
February 21	<b>Jacob Wrestles All Night</b>	A New Name
February 28	<b>The Prodigal Son</b>	
March 7	<b>The Wise and Foolish Builders</b>	
March 14	<b>The Good Samaritan</b>	
March 21	<b>The Lost Sheep</b>	And the Lost Coin
March 28	<b>Sower of Seeds</b>	

# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ January 3, 2021

*Sons of Abraham*

## A Wife For Isaac

Prayer by the Well



Abraham was now 140 years old, and Sarah had been dead for three years. Abraham wanted to find a wife for his son, Isaac, but, living in Canaan, he had a problem.

God's instructions were clear: "Do not marry people from the land of Canaan because they will cause your sons and daughters to turn away from following me, and they will serve false gods." (*God still does not want us to marry someone who will turn our hearts away from Him!*)

So, Abraham called his most trusted servant and gave him an important job to do.

An Important Job: "Go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son, Isaac." The servant questioned, "But what if the woman will not follow me back here?" Abraham assured the servant the angel of

the Lord would go with him. So, taking ten camels, along with many gifts, the servant began the long, 500-mile journey through the desert to the city of Nahor. (*Note: Nahor was named after Abraham's brother.*)

The servant arrived at the well outside of the town late in the day. It was the time when women came out to draw water from the well. After making his camels kneel by the well of water, the servant prayed—not out loud, but in his heart:

*A Specific Prayer:* "O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day. Let the woman you have chosen for Isaac to marry be the damsel to whom I will say, 'Let down thy pitcher that I may drink,' and the damsel says, 'Drink, and I will give your camels something to drink also.' Then I will know you have shown kindness to my master."

*Before the servant was even finished praying,* the beautiful granddaughter of Nahor, Rebekah, came to the well with a pitcher on her shoulder. "Drink, my lord," she said, as she hurried to let down her pitcher into the water. After giving the servant a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also."

**Bowing his head, the servant worshipped the Lord for such an immediate response to his prayer.**

In awe and wonder, the servant told Rebekah who he was, offering her gifts of gold.

"Come! Lodge with us," Rebekah exclaimed. Running excitedly back home, she told her family what had just happened.

Laban, Rebekah's brother, greeted Abraham's servant, "Come in, thou blessed of the Lord." They brought water with which to wash the tired feet of the servant and the men with him. The camels were given straw to eat.

Refusing to eat a meal until he had spoken of the errand on which Abraham had sent him, the servant told how God had blessed Abraham greatly, giving him many flocks, herds, silver, gold, and servants. He told of the miraculous birth of Isaac. He told of Abraham's desire to find a wife for Isaac. He then told them about his prayer at the well.

After hearing the servant's story, Laban had no doubt that God had sent him, and Rebekah willingly agreed to become Isaac's wife. The servant then gave Rebekah, her mother and her brother the many valuable gifts which Abraham had sent.

**Once more, God proved Himself faithful! ■**

### Lesson Discussion

- Why didn't God want Isaac's wife to be from Canaan? Why is it important to marry someone who serves God?

#### Memory Verse

The Lord, before whom I [Abraham] walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way.

Genesis 24:40

#### Key Thought

Pray specific prayers to God—He hears them before you even finish praying and will answer them at the right time.

- How many miles did the servant have to travel? What specific prayer did he pray when he got to Nahor?
- Talk about the difference between a general prayer and a specific prayer. Do you think God can "handle" your specific prayers? Does he always answer right away? Why or why not?

• What was the name of Rebekah's grandpa? Her brother? Did she agree to make the long journey back with the servant to marry Isaac?

## A Lesson in Hard Work

**Needed: 2 full gallons of water and a basin in which to “pretend” to pour water.**

*Think of this: Abraham’s servant had 10 camels who had just completed a 500-mile journey to the town of Nahor. When the servant prayed, asking God to bring the right woman to the well,—a woman who would be Isaac’s wife—he had two specific requests: 1) the woman would offer him a drink of water, and 2) the woman would offer his camels water, as well.*



Let’s do some conservative math: If the servant’s 10 thirsty camels drank 20 gallons of water each, how many gallons did they drink? *The Answer: 200!*

It is realistic to assume Rebekah, the beautiful woman who came to the well, had a 1-gallon pitcher. To give water to the servant’s 10 camels, she would have had to put her pitcher down into the well 200 times! The Bible does not actually say how many gallons of water she gave them to drink, but we can conclude that she worked very, very hard to draw the water!

Have the students pick up one or two gallons of water from a *pretend well* and carry them to the *pretend basin* from which the camels will drink. Have them carry until they are too tired to carry any more, until they reach 200 gallons, or until the teacher calls an end to the activity.

*Lesson: Rebekah was not only beautiful; she was a hard worker. Have the students talk about times they had to work hard. Volunteering for a hard job is not always the most fun thing to do, but it brings a sense of accomplishment that playing a game cannot bring! No wonder the servant bowed his head and worshipped God for answered prayer after Rebekah finished the watering job she had offered to do!*

## General or Specific?

Put a check mark in each box in which the sentence gives general information.

Put a star in each box in which the sentence is more detailed and specific.

☐ It is a nice day.

☐ The day was 76 degrees, the sun was warm, and the birds were singing.

☐ Tom’s ice cream was filled with caramel, peanut butter cups, chocolate, almonds, and toffee pieces.

☐ Tom’s ice cream was sweet.

☐ After a day of hard work, the children were sweaty, dirty, had some scrapes and bruises, but were happy.

☐ The children worked hard.

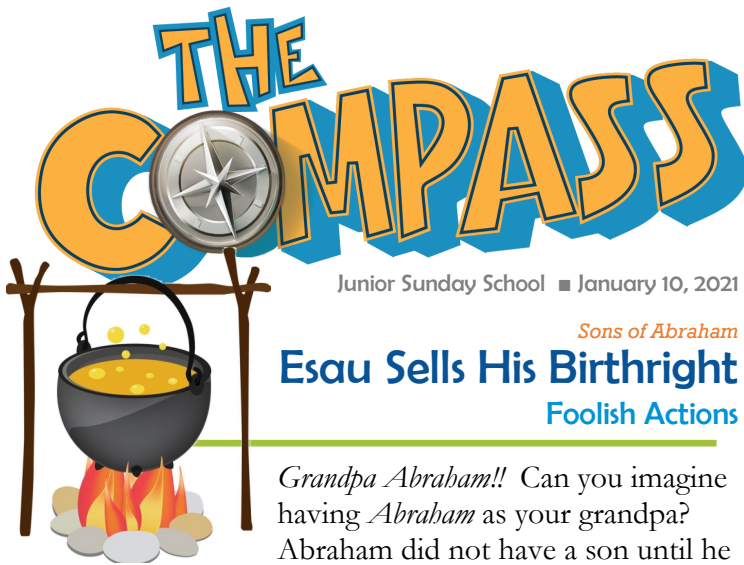
**Write a “general” prayer of thanksgiving to God. Write a specific prayer of thanksgiving to God.**

**General:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Specific:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Learn to pray specific prayers to God—prayers containing specific thanksgivings and/or prayers containing specific requests. God already knows what our requests are before we speak them, but He wants us to take the time to share our hearts *fully* with Him.**

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two grandsons joined his family—twin boys named Esau and Jacob. For 15 years, these boys knew their grandpa—the man who was called a “friend of God.” *(Imagine the stories their grandpa told them at night over the fire!)*

Let’s go back in time a little bit: Abraham’s son, Isaac, loved his new wife, Rebekah, very much. Year after year of marriage passed. Still, no children were born. Isaac was extraordinarily rich, but he wanted more than cattle and flocks and gold and silver. He wanted children. After 20 long years, God answered Isaac’s prayer. At 60 years of age, Isaac learned he would be a father—not just of one son, but of twins!

**The day came when the two boys were born. They were as different as brothers can be.**

### Memory Verse

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised (did not value) his birthright. Genesis 25:34

### Key Thought

Living *in-the-moment* and doing what feels good right now is dangerous; it can cause us to make foolish decisions that will separate us from God.

### Lesson Discussion

- What were the names of Abraham’s grandsons?
- Name some interesting facts about the differences between them.
- What is a birthright, and which son received it?
- What foolish decision did Esau

make? Why did he make it?

- Do you think Jacob did anything wrong?

Esau was born first, covered with red hair. As he grew, he loved to be outdoors in the fields, and he was a skilled hunter! Jacob was born second. He was quieter and liked staying close to the tent. He was what we would call a “home-body.” Isaac loved Esau because he liked eating his venison, but Rebekah loved Jacob. *(Playing favorites is not a good idea, and it caused a problem later on—but that is a story for a different day!)*

One day, when the boys were older, an exhausted and hungry Esau came in from the field. The delicious smell of Jacob’s lentil soup simmering over the fire filled the air. Esau begged Jacob, “Feed me your red soup. Please! I am faint with hunger.”

**But, Jacob wanted something too!**

*The Birthright:* Even though Jacob was only born minutes after his brother, Esau was the *firstborn* son. In those days, the firstborn son was more privileged than the younger sons. They received twice as much of their father’s inheritance and were given other privileges of leadership. *(Remember, Abraham and Isaac were both rich!)* Perhaps through the years, Jacob had felt like it wasn’t fair that Esau would get more than he would!

Jacob, seeing his chance, demanded of his hungry brother: “Sell me your birthright this day!”

**Esau did not stop to think about the great riches of his father or grandfather or of all he would inherit.**

He was hungry, and he wanted some soup. Now! So, Esau willingly and impulsively agreed to his younger brother’s request. Jacob set the steaming bowl of red lentil soup in front of Esau, and the trade was made. Later on, Esau tearfully regretted his foolish decision; but, it was too late.

Many years later, Esau married women of Canaan in direct disobedience to God’s commandment and all he had learned from his father and grandfather. He also married a daughter of his great-uncle Ishmael. *(Although it was not what God wanted, it was common to marry multiple wives and to take a wife from within the same family.)* These marriages caused grief to his mother and father.

The descendants of Esau were called Edomites. *(Edom means red!—can you figure out why?)* ■



# Soup for a Birthright

**Needed:** A can of lentil soup and a \$20 actual cash (as this will make the point more effectively).

Pair the students into groups of two. Give one student a can of lentil soup, representing Jacob. Give the other student the \$20 bill, representing Esau and the birthright. Have them reenact the scene between the two brothers—making a foolish trade of lentil soup for the \$20 bill.

An especially important lesson of our story is this: Both brothers came from a home where their parents believed in God. *Their grandfather was Abraham!* Their father was Isaac—perhaps he had told his sons about the day he lay, tied with ropes to an altar, and Abraham almost sacrificed him to God (the angel stopping him just in time)! They were born into a home where not only did they learn of God, but they were not poor—they were very rich!

The problem was Esau did not take any of this very seriously and was willing to throw it away for what felt good. Many, if not all, of you come from good homes too! If you know about God, you have a RICH inheritance! The devil will try to get you to throw away all the good things God wants to give you—a happy life and a good home, not to mention an eternal home in heaven!

THINK before you make decisions that take you away from God! Will sinful fun be worth the sacrifice? In the end, sin brings pain and tears, even if there is fun for a little while. Remember Esau! Even if you come from a good home and while you have to obey your parents now, eventually the decision on how you live your life will be yours to make! Now EVERYONE has a birthright in Christ—not just the firstborn son. Don't despise it or treat it lightly!



## Down

2. Worldly possessions

3. Esau didn't stay home. He was a \_\_\_\_.

4. A bowl of \_\_\_\_ for Esau's birthright.

6. The younger brother.

8. This means "red" and Esau's descendants were named this.

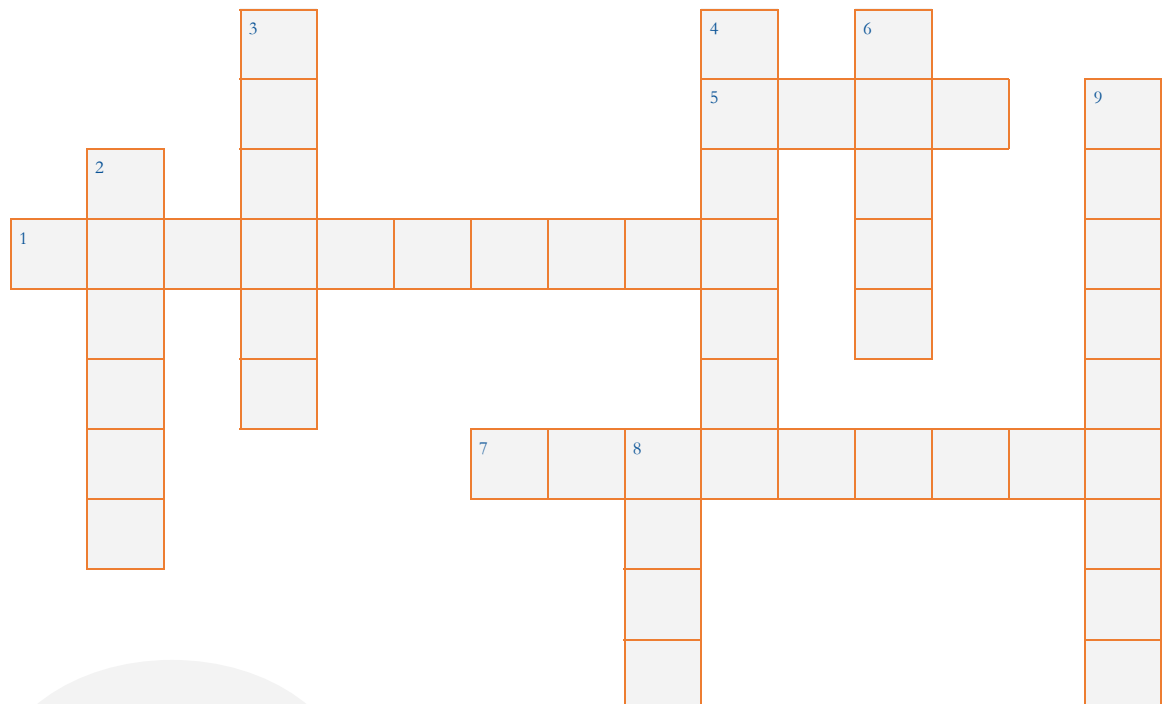
9. Esau was not cautious/thoughtful. He was \_\_\_\_.

## Across

1. Jacob gained the \_\_\_\_ when he sold a bowl of lentils.

5. The older brother.

7. Esau and Jacob grew up with many \_\_\_\_.



## Word Bank:

Birthright, Blessings,  
Edom, Esau, Hunter,  
Impulsive, Jacob, Lentils,  
Riches

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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ January 17, 2021

Sons of Abraham

## Isaac Digs Another Well Keeping Peace



The sun beat down relentlessly on **Beer-lahai-roi** [BEE-er-luh

-**HAI-roi**] as a famine visited Isaac's hometown. God told Isaac, "Do not go down to the land of Egypt. Stay in this land. I will tell you where to go, and I will be with you and will bless you and your family." Obeying God, Isaac folded his tents, loaded his donkeys and moved to **Gerar**, a city of the Philistines where Abimelech was king; this was also a city in which his father once lived.

Isaac worked hard, planting his crops. The Lord blessed him, and in one short year, his crops multiplied one hundred times! Isaac became rich. He continued to become even richer until he was very wealthy. He owned so many flocks, herds, and servants that the Philistines envied him.

Isaac drew water for his crops and herds from wells dug by Abraham and his servants many years before;

but because the Philistines were jealous of Isaac's wealth and power, they filled his wells with dirt. King Abimelech said, "Go somewhere else. You are much stronger than we are."

**Isaac did not fight but simply left,**

pitching his tent in the nearby valley.

Isaac's servants dug wells in their new location and found water. Once again, the herdsmen of **Gerar** fought with Isaac's herdsman saying, "The water is ours!" Isaac named the well **Esek**, which means argument.

**Isaac did not want an argument, so he packed up and moved again.**

Isaac dug yet another well of water. Once again, the envious Philistines fought for the water. What did Isaac do? Stand his ground? No. He named the well **Sitnah**, which means accusation.

**Isaac did not want to be unjustly accused or for there to be hostility or hatred between his servants and the Philistines, so he packed up and moved a fourth time.**

Finally, the Philistines must have gotten tired of fighting and left Isaac alone! Isaac dug yet another well and named it **Rehoboth**, which means, "For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we will grow in the land."

This is not the end of the story! An amazing thing happened. King Abimelech, a friend of Abimelech, and the chief captain of Abimelech's army knocked on Isaac's tent door one day. Surprised, Isaac said, "Why have you come to see me? You hate me and sent me away!"

"We saw the Lord was with you," was their humble answer. "Let us take an oath, promising that we will not hurt each other from now on." Isaac could have argued that he did not want to make a promise because the men of Gerar had filled all his wells with dirt, but he did not! Instead, he made a feast, and all the men ate and drank together! The next morning, they again agreed to get along, and the men departed in peace. (*A "get-even" spirit usually ends in even more fighting, but a humble attitude that strives for peace has a much better chance of a happy ending!*)

The very same day, Isaac's servants came to him. "We have found water!" Isaac named this fifth well **Shebah**, which means "an oath." It represented peace! Arguing, being rude, and "standing your ground" is not pleasing to the Lord! When you are tempted to fight, remember Isaac. Quietly leave and go dig another well!

### Lesson Discussion

- For what reason did Isaac leave his hometown? Who told Isaac not to go to Egypt, and did he obey?

#### Memory Verse

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

#### Key Thought

As much as is in your control, be a peacemaker. Take the humble way. Don't pick a fight or perpetuate a fight.

- Did God bless Isaac in the town of Gerar? What happened to his crops?
- Why did the Philistines keep picking fights with Isaac's servants? What were the names of the different wells Isaac's servants dug?
- Did Isaac's actions to keep peace pay off? How?

- Discuss different things you can do to keep the peace when someone wants to pick a fight with you.

## Dig Another Well! Compose Another Song! Keep Taking the Godly Action!

Johann Sebastian Bach was a famous piano composer. After several jobs and moves, he finally settled down in the town of Leipzig in 1723, becoming the music director and choirmaster at Saint Thomas's church and school. However, he faced a lot of opposition. The town council fought him often, and no one appreciated his musical genius. They paid him a very small salary and spoke unkindly of him.

Even so, these were the best years for Bach musically. While most composers wrote one lengthy song per year, Bach wrote one nearly every week! After Bach died, his music was still not appreciated; in fact, while some of it was sold, some of it was used to wrap garbage.

Years later, the world began to appreciate the great musical talent Bach possessed. Today, over 202 of his compositions are being performed

Lesson: When Isaac faced opposition, he dug another well. When Bach faced opposition, he wrote another song. What about you? What will you do when people oppose you and want to fight? What will you do when Satan fights you hard, trying to make you do something you know is wrong? If you will obey God and just keep doing what you know to be right, God will make a way for you! Dig another well! Compose another song! Don't give up on God. Keep on doing the right thing!

**A VERSE TO REMEMBER:** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Romans 12:18



### Isaac's Wells

Have the students find the names of each town/well Isaac dug on the map and write what the name of each city/well means. Use the lesson to help you remember.



**Beer-lahai roi:** What happened in this town? \_\_\_\_\_

**Gerar:** How many times did God multiply Isaac's crops in this town? \_\_\_\_\_

**Esek:** What does this name mean? \_\_\_\_\_

**Sitnah:** What does this name mean? \_\_\_\_\_

**Rehoboth:** What does this name mean? \_\_\_\_\_

**Shebah:** What does this name mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ January 24, 2021

*Sons of Abraham*

## Isaac Blesses Jacob

**Deceit, Lies, and Trickery**



Isaac was now 130 years old. His eyes became too weak to see, and he did not know how long he would live. *(As it turns out, he lived to be 180 years old!)*

One day Isaac called Esau, the son whom he loved. “My son, take your bow and arrow, go to the field, and kill one more deer. Make me your delicious meat, and then I will bless you before I die.”

Rebekah overheard Isaac’s conversation with Esau. Perhaps she remembered God’s words concerning their sons—that the younger son would rule over the older son—or perhaps, wrongly, like Isaac, she was playing favorites between her sons, but as soon as Esau left, she quickly called Jacob. She wanted to trick Isaac so that Jacob would receive his father’s blessing, not Esau!

*A Blessing:* A blessing was different from a birthright. The birthright was the greater portion of money and property, but the blessing was a gift money could not

### Memory Verse

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

### Key Thought

God hates lies and deceitful actions, and they only bring trouble in the end.

### Lesson Discussion

- How old was Isaac in our story? How old were the twins, Esau and Jacob?
- What is the difference between a birthright and blessing?
- How did Rebekah and Jacob trick Isaac?
- Esau wanted to \_\_\_\_ Jacob when he found out his blessing (as well as his birthright) had been taken from him.
- Is there a difference between playing a harmless “trick” on someone and lying and being deceitful? What is the difference?

buy. Speaking under the authority of the Spirit, a father would ask God’s special and specific favor on that son.

“I will cook the tender meat of two goats and season them just the way your father likes,” said Rebekah. Take them to him, and pretend you are Esau so that he will bless *you before his death.*”

Jacob protested, “But I am not hairy like Esau. If he feels my skin, he will know the truth, know I have deceived him, and will curse me!”

Rebekah said, “I will take responsibility for this sin.”

After preparing the meat, Rebekah took Esau’s nice clothes and put them on Jacob. Then putting the skins of two goats on his hands and neck so that he would feel hairy like Esau, she gave the meat to Jacob. “Now take this to your father,” she urged.

**Jacob was a grown man, almost 70 years old, so he was not innocent in this deception!**

*(He could not just blame the whole thing on his mom!)*

“Here I am with the meat you asked for, Father,” said Jacob. “Arise and eat so that you may bless me.” Surprised, Isaac asked, “How did you find and prepare the meat so quickly?” Jacob replied, “The Lord brought it to me.”

“Come over here, my son,” Isaac said. “Let me feel you to see if you are Esau.” *(Isaac must have been suspicious!)* “The voice is Jacob’s,” he said, “but the hands are the hands of Esau.” However, Isaac ate the food and then requested, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” When Isaac smelled Esau’s clothes, he knew they smelled like the field, so he gave Jacob the blessing.

Very shortly after Jacob left the room, Esau came in with the meat *he had prepared!*

When Isaac realized he had been tricked, he began to shake badly, explaining to Esau that he had just given the blessing to Jacob.

**With a bitter cry Esau begged his father to bless him too.**

Esau did receive a blessing, but it was not the better blessing he had just given to Jacob! From that moment on, Esau hated his brother and set a purpose to kill him.

Rebekah urged Jacob, “You must flee to my brother Laban’s house until Esau’s anger is gone, and he forgets what you have done to him.” Jacob, having stolen Esau’s blessing, fled from his home. *(This is not the end of this story of these two brothers! Stay tuned for more!)*

■



## A Mouthful of Gravel

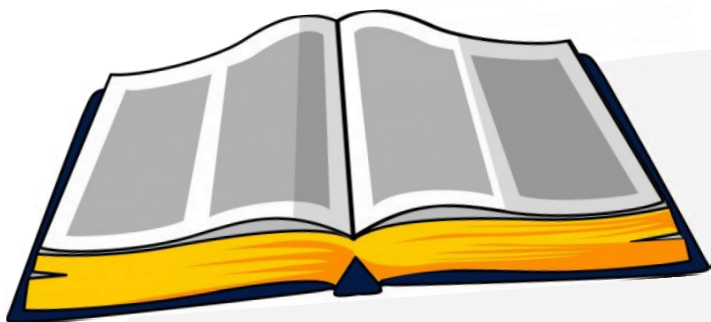
**Needed:** Cupcake(s) (or cake cut into enough pieces for each student) with the word “Deceit” written with frosting on the top. Sandwich bag(s) of gravel/rocks. Plates.



Hand out a cupcake and a bag of rocks to each student. Tell them they cannot eat the cupcake unless they are also willing to put the gravel into their mouths and hold it there for a (*teacher-designated*) period of time after they eat the cake. Deceitfulness—making someone think something other than truth—and lies are represented by the cupcake.

Read the memory verse again. Deceitfulness might seem like the right and “good” thing to do in the beginning, but as time goes on, truth almost always comes to light. Rather than the sweet taste of a cupcake in one’s mouth, there is left a mouthful of gravel. Ask if there are any volunteers to talk about a time they lied or were deceitful and if it turned out well for them. *Teacher: Have an example or story ready to illustrate that truth.*

The Bible tells us Esau did not value his birthright, but Jacob was not without a major character flaw himself. The name Jacob means supplanter, which means one who grasps, trips up, or deceives. Although God really did prophecy a blessing on Jacob in the beginning, He would have to work on Jacob’s natural character to make him a godly man of truth. Don’t be discouraged if you have told a lie or been deceitful! Ask for God’s forgiveness and for his help to tell the truth! He loves you too much not to help you!



### Open Your Bible!

Open your Bible to Genesis 27 and use it to help you fill in the blanks below. Check the word bank to make sure you use all the words! These are the words Isaac spoke to Jacob when he blessed him and gave him his birthright:

Therefore God give thee the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and wine: Let people \_\_\_\_\_ thee, and nations \_\_\_\_\_ down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let the mother’s sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and \_\_\_\_\_ be he that blesseth thee.

### WORD BANK:

Blessed, Bow, Corn, Dew, Earth, Fatness, Heaven, Plenty, Serve

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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ January 31, 2021

Sons of Abraham

## Jacob's Vision

A Ladder From Earth to Heaven

Scripture Reference: Genesis 28:1-22

Jacob left his home in Canaan. He was running away from his brother, Esau, who wanted to kill him. He also left in obedience to his father and mother who gave him this charge: "You shall not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan." Jacob started his long, 500-mile journey over the hot desert to his Uncle Laban's house.

As the sun set, Jacob lay down on the ground, using a hard stone for his pillow. Perhaps the uncomfortable ground and stone-pillow also mirrored an uncomfortable weight inside his heart. He had sinned by lying and being dishonest. *(Have you ever sinned and felt its heavy weight inside of you?)*

As Jacob's eyes closed in sleep, he dreamed. But it was more than just a dream. God sent Jacob a vision. A ladder *(or stairs)* sat up on the earth, and the top of it reached all the way to heaven.

**Angels of God walked up and down the ladder. At the top of the ladder, stood the Lord.**

### Memory Verse

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

### Key Thought

Jacob's ladder connected heaven and earth with angels ascending and descending--one more piece of proof that God, angels, and heaven are real.

### Lesson Discussion

- Name the two reasons Jacob was leaving home.
- What did Jacob use for a pillow?
- Describe Jacob's vision. What did he see walking up and down the ladder? Who was at the top, and what was the message that

God gave Jacob?

- When Jacob awoke, what did he do?

The Lord spoke to Jacob from the top of the ladder and repeated a familiar promise he had given to both Jacob's Grandfather, Abraham, and his father, Isaac. *(But God knew Jacob needed to hear the message too! God is a God to every single person.)*

**He does not just talk to your parents and grandparents—He wants to talk to you, too!**

"I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: I am going to give you the land on which you are now lying. The number of your children will be more than the dust of the earth and will be blessed." The Lord continued to speak in Jacob's vision, "I am with you and will keep you every place you go. I will not leave you until I have done that which I have spoken of."

Jacob awoke and exclaimed, "God was here, and I didn't even realize it." He said, "This is none other than the house of God, and this is a gate to heaven." Arising, in solemn awe, he took the stones that he had used for his pillows and made an altar from them. He poured oil on the top and worshipped God.

Jacob made a vow *(a promise)* to God, "If God will be with me on this journey, if He will give me food and clothes, and if I one day return to my father's house in peace, then the Lord will be my God." Jacob named the place where God had met him, Bethel. Jacob made one more promise to God. He told God that he would give him one-tenth of everything he had. After such a wonderful vision, Jacob wanted to give back to God.

Jacob needed his own meeting with God. It wasn't good enough that God had talked to his grandfather and father. Jacob also needed to take his own stand of faith and trust in God! It is the same for you and me! God will talk to us, but what will our response be when He does?

**Jacob still had many changes and much spiritual growth ahead of him, but it was a good beginning! ■**

## Our Cheering Section!

**Needed:** Twine, masking tape, and a good imagination (or a real ladder)

Cut two long pieces of twine to make the outside rails of an imaginary ladder. Secure them onto something solid on each end or have the students hold the ends of the “ladder.” Cut multiple masking tape strips and place them on the ground to represent rungs of the ladder. *(The idea is to create an imaginary ladder—it will be horizontal, not vertical unless a real ladder is used.)* With the help of the students, write life milestones on each “rung” of the ladder, i.e., Birth, Start elementary school, Sickness, Loss, Birthdays, Loneliness, A fun trip, A New Job, Maybe Marriage and Children, Missionary work, Young Adulthood, Middle Age, Retirement, Grandchildren, Beautiful Days, Stormy Days, Sickness/Death. What is written on the ladder rungs can be anything, really, that pertains to life—the good and the bad.



Heaven is real, and God is at the end (or the top) of our life's trip. There will be good days and bad days. There will be times when you feel like you are flying above the mountains and times when you are in the valley. **All along the way, even though we cannot see them, we have a cheering section in the angels of heaven!** Angels are real, too! God sends his angels to protect and guard us all the way through life.

Many, many stories have been told of angels ministering to people, both in the Bible and people you probably know today. *(I have my own personal testimony of angels being real!)* Psalms 91:11-12 says,

“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”

### The Gospel Ladder

They're holding up the L\_\_\_\_\_ that I'm climbing on  
I'm climbing up the ladder and I'm going home  
At the top of the ladder oh what I\_\_\_\_\_ there will be  
And the angels are holding up this ladder for me.  
As I C\_\_\_\_\_ this gospel ladder always heeding every sign  
I know my Savior's with me and He's teaching me to climb  
Every day that I am climbing there's a battle for me  
Every S\_\_\_\_\_ on the ladder is another victory.  
There's a M\_\_\_\_\_ being built for me somewhere in glory land  
And this ladder that I'm climbing is part of the plan  
I can hear the A\_\_\_\_\_ beckoning, "Keep climbing, don't stop  
There's a crown of life awaiting for you when you reach the top.  
Come all ye Christian soldiers show the world your light can shine  
Get on this G\_\_\_\_\_ ladder and don't be afraid to climb  
Can't you hear the angels cheering, "Soon the battle will be o'er"  
We'll celebrate the V\_\_\_\_\_ when we reach the other shore.

The real challenge is this:  
Don't quit climbing—don't  
give up serving God no matter  
how you feel or what is  
happening. Climb one rung of  
the ladder at a time! You don't  
have to climb the whole ladder  
today! And know this: the  
angels are cheering you on,  
and God Himself has promised  
He would never leave you to  
the very end!

Word Bank:

Joy, Climb, Ladder,  
Mansion, Victory, Gospel,  
Angels, Step

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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ February 7, 2021

*Sons of Abraham*

## Jacob Marries Rachel Great Love



**Scripture Reading: Genesis 29:13-30**

At 77 years old, it was time for Jacob to learn some hard lessons.

After making a long desert-journey, Jacob finally arrived in the faraway land of his mother's

family. **Laban (1)**, his mother's brother, welcomed Jacob warmly, embracing and kissing him. "Stay with my family," Laban urged, which Jacob was happy to do! Rising early every morning for a month, Jacob worked hard.

One day Laban said, "You shouldn't be working for free—you are family! What can I pay you?" Jacob immediately knew what he wanted, and it was not money!

Laban had two daughters. The older was named Leah and the younger named Rachel. Jacob **loved (6)** Rachel, a very beautiful woman. He told Laban,

**"I will serve (10) you for seven years, and then I want Rachel for my wife!"**

### Lesson Discussion

#### 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

#### Key Thought

Great love makes service and sacrifice easy.

- How old was Jacob when he left home, and why did he leave home?
- How did Laban trick Jacob?
- How many years did Jacob serve Laban for Rachel?
- List the good things God has done for us. Should it make it easy for us to

love Him compared to whatever sacrifice we have to make to serve Him?

Laban agreed to this plan.

**Seven (3)** years sped by quickly as Jacob served Laban, but Jacob did not mind. He worked hard knowing Rachel would soon be his wife. In fact, Jacob loved Rachel so much that his seven years of service sped by so fast, they seemed like only a few days.

At long last, Jacob's wedding day arrived, and Laban prepared a great feast for Jacob and his daughter. However, Jacob was about to be tricked—and very unpleasantly **surprised (11)**!

**Jacob excitedly and maybe with a pounding heart finally was able to say his wedding vows to the woman he loved and had worked so hard for!**

There was a **problem (4)**, however! Women used to cover their faces with a veil on their wedding day, and their faces could not be seen. Later, after the wedding, Jacob was surprised to find he had married **Leah (9)** instead of Rachel!

Jacob demanded of Laban, "Why have you done this to me? I worked seven years for **Rachel (7)**!"

"It is not right the younger daughter should be married before the older daughter," Laban replied. "If you serve me another seven years, I will give you Rachel."

Because Jacob loved Rachel so much, he agreed to work seven more years so that she could be his wife; that is 2,555 additional days!!

Perhaps in those next seven years, Jacob remembered the times he had been deceitful, except this time he was on the receiving end, and it did not feel good.

**(Be careful of your actions—they might come back to you!)**

Finally, seven long years later, **Jacob (8)** was given the desire of his heart. He married Rachel. Twelve **sons (2)** were born to Jacob by Leah and her handmaiden Zilpah, and by Rachel and her handmaid Bilhah.

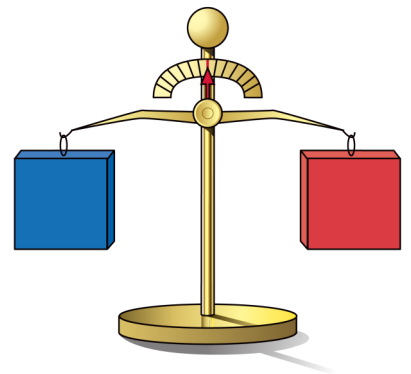
Jacob wanted to take his now-large **family (5)** back home to Canaan. Laban *knew* God had **blessed (12)** him because of Jacob, and he did not want to let Jacob go. So they agreed to a plan. Jacob would get all the spotted and colored lambs, goats, and cattle (*which were rare*), and Laban would get the rest.

For seven additional years, Jacob's cattle increased greatly because God was with him. ■

## Love or Sacrifice

### Which One is More Valuable?

**Needed:** Kitchen scale, light plastic container, jar of honey, popped popcorn, two pieces of paper, a pen, and tape.

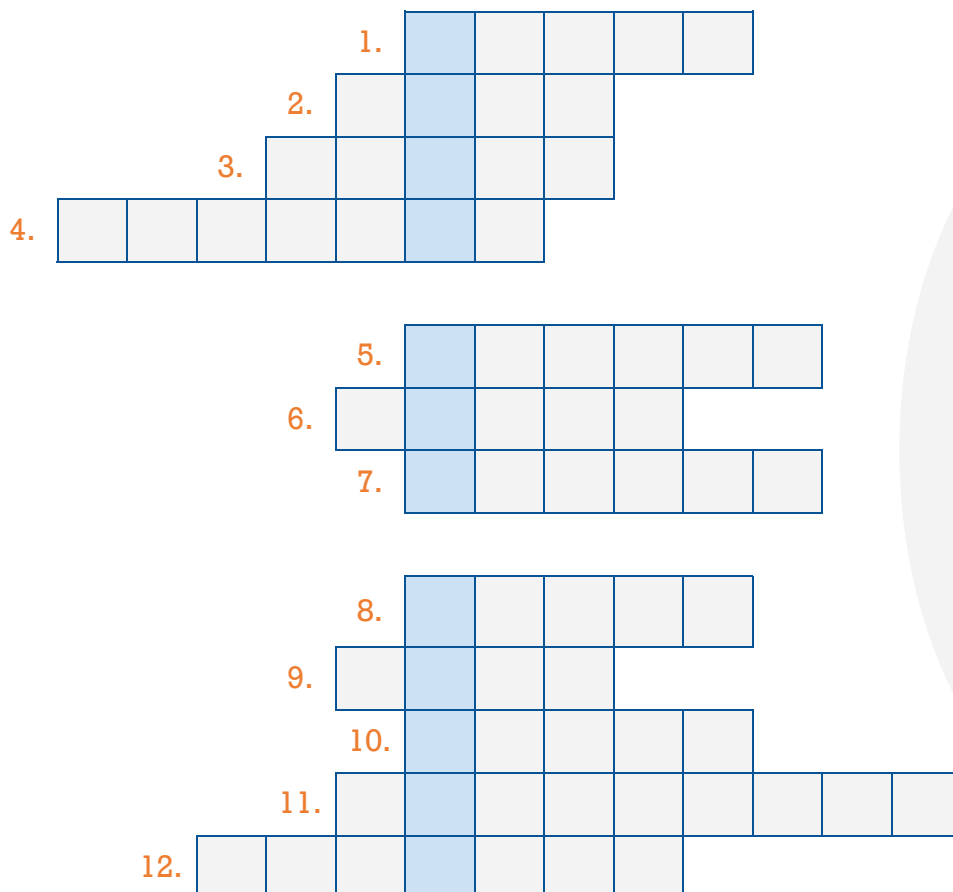


Title the first piece of paper “Why I LOVE to serve God.” Have the students write down every gift God has given them. (Breath, Strength, Sight, Hearing, Taste, Home, etc.) Tape this list to the jar of honey.

Title the second piece of paper “Sacrifices I make to be a Christian,” and write down the reasons it can be hard to be a Christian. (Peer pressure, Keeping right attitudes, Asking for forgiveness, Modesty, etc.) Tape this list to the lightweight container of popcorn.

Setting them side-by-side, explain that whichever container is heavier has more value. Place them on the kitchen scale and record their weights! The jar of honey with all of God’s benefits is **HEAVIER** and thus has more value than the sacrifices we make as a Christian!

Yes, it can be hard to sacrifice—Jacob worked a total of 5,110 days for Rachel—that was a sacrifice! But because his LOVE was so great, it had more value to him than all his days of service. Let’s remember how good God is to us! Without Him, we would not even be alive! And then, live **ALL** the days of our lives in service to Him, knowing that there will be many rewards in this life for our service—and then one day, Heaven will be our ultimate reward!



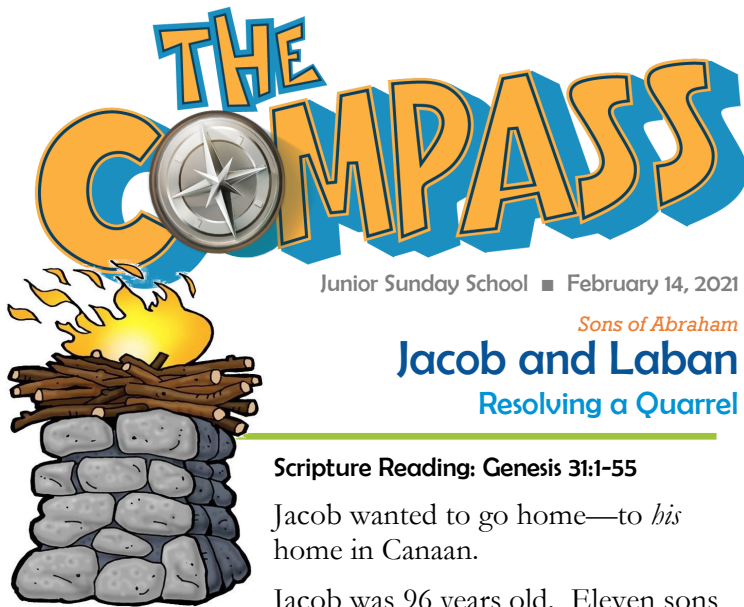
Go back through the lesson and find the words that are with a number in parenthesis beside it: **Jesus (1)**. Match the numbers to the puzzle and fill in the blanks. Who should you love unconditionally, just like Jacob loved Rachel?

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Junior Sunday School ■ February 14, 2021

*Sons of Abraham*

## Jacob and Laban

### Resolving a Quarrel

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 31:1-55**

Jacob wanted to go home—to his home in Canaan.

Jacob was 96 years old. Eleven sons had been born to his two wives, Leah

and Rachel, and to their handmaidens.

Laban's flocks and herds increased greatly while Jacob worked for him, but his sons became envious at Jacob's success. They said evil things against Jacob. Laban had once greeted Jacob with a smile, but the smiles disappeared when Jacob's small herd of animals grew to a great number.

One night, God appeared to Jacob in a vision, speaking words Jacob longed to hear. He said,

**"Return home to your family."**

Fearing Laban would stop him from leaving, Jacob waited until Laban was not around before packing his belongings and setting his wives and sons on the backs of camels for the long journey back to the home of his childhood. He was finally going home!

### Lesson Discussion

- Why were Laban and his sons envious of Jacob?
- Where did Jacob want to return? Did he tell Laban what he was doing? Why or why not?

### Memory Verse

The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.

Genesis 31:49

*(Laban's words to Jacob!)*

### Key Thought

The power of love and compromise—with God in the middle—is stronger than revenge.

he tell Laban what he was doing? Why or why not?

• Who stopped Laban from hurting Jacob, and what did He tell him?

• Describe the scene of Jacob and Laban's reconciliation.

• Is it always easy to resolve a quarrel? Talk about ways to resolve differences.

Three days later, the news reached Laban's ears, "Jacob is gone!"

Unhappily, Laban gathered his men together and chased after Jacob. After seven days, Laban overtook Jacob, bent on revenge. *How dare Jacob leave without telling him!*

However, in the same way God had appeared to Jacob in a vision, He also appeared to Laban.

**"Be careful," God said. "Do not speak nicely to Jacob at first and then get so angry your words become injurious."**

When Laban saw Jacob the next morning, he controlled his anger, but demanded, "Why did you leave without telling me? You have taken my daughters away like captives. You foolishly left without even allowing me to kiss them goodbye."

"I have the power to hurt you," Laban continued, "but last night your God warned me against doing so."

Jacob was also unhappy. He told his father-in-law, "I was afraid to tell you what I was doing, because I did not want you to take your daughters away from me."

Jacob justified leaving by saying, "In the time I served you, I have never cheated you, but you changed my wages ten times!" *(Every time Laban saw Jacob that prospered, he changed his pay to try and benefit himself!)*

Perhaps Laban realized Jacob was right, or perhaps he remembered God's warning. Proposing a truce, he said, "Let us make a covenant of friendship and build an altar."

Readily, Jacob agreed.

**Stones were gathered into a heap as a testimony of the covenant between Laban and Jacob.**

These were the terms of the agreement:

1. Jacob agreed to always treat Laban's daughters well and to take no other wives.
2. Laban agreed to never cross over the pillar they had built with the intent of harming Jacob.

Earnestly, they consecrated the altar, asking God to take possession of the heap and stand on it as a watch-tower to prevent either of them from breaking the promises they had each made. They called the place Mizpah, meaning watch-tower, and Galeed, which means a heap of witness.

What did they do next? Rather than quarrelling over differences, they called their brethren to join them. Eating bread together, they talked all night.

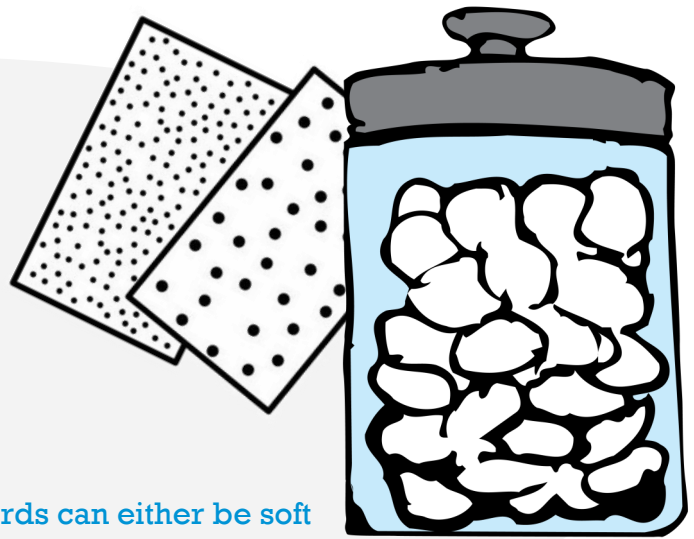
Early the next morning, Laban rose up, kissed his daughters, and returned home. ■



## Soft and Kind Words

**Needed: Cotton balls, sand paper, and two pieces of cardboard**

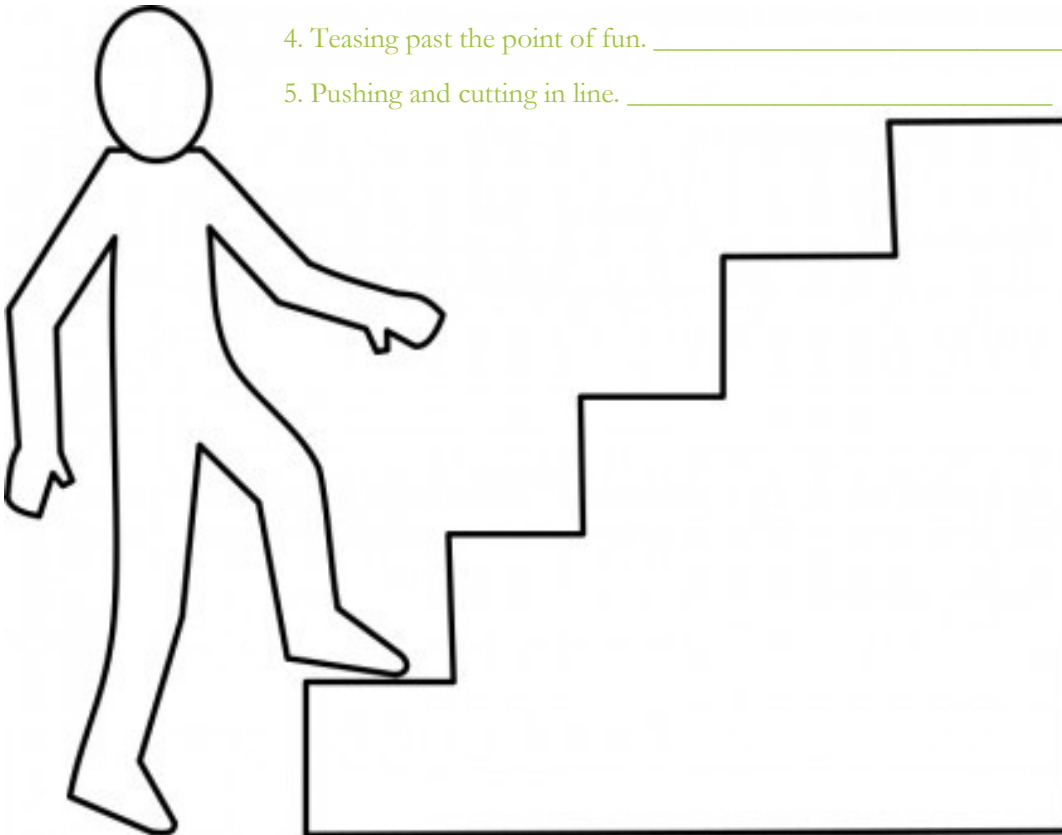
Glue the cotton balls to one piece of cardboard and sandpaper to the other piece. Present the two pieces of cardboard to the class. Explain the cotton balls represent kind words and the sandpaper represents unkind words. Let each of the students feel both with their hands and talk about the difference of the feel of them both. Our words can either be soft or rough.



Rub the cotton ball against the sandpaper. A little rubs off. Rub again and again, the cotton ball does not change and become scratchy, but the sandpaper becomes softer. Kindness wins!

Choose which represents sandpaper words/actions and which represents cotton words/actions:

1. Name-calling: "Meanie-head!" \_\_\_\_\_
2. Compliments: "I like your shoes." \_\_\_\_\_
3. Good manners: "Please." \_\_\_\_\_
4. Teasing past the point of fun. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Pushing and cutting in line. \_\_\_\_\_



God told Laban not to speak kindly at first and then have the conversation turn into a nasty conversation with injurious words. Words can sometimes start out with smiles but can turn into a problem. *(Draw smiley faces at the bottom of the escalator and have them progressively turn into frowny and angry faces.)* Our words can either escalate a problem (make it worse) or de-escalate a problem (make it better). Cotton words are the best way to make problems smaller.

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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ February 21, 2021

Sons of Abraham

## Jacob Wrestles All Night

A New Name

Scripture Reading: Genesis 32

What would happen when Jacob finally met his brother, Esau, after many years? Jacob knew he had been deceitful toward Esau and had stolen his birthright. Would his life be in danger or, even worse, the lives of his wives and children?

As Jacob journeyed toward home, he was no doubt comforted when the angels of God met him. "This is God's host," Jacob said when he saw them. However, Jacob's comfort soon turned to great fear when messengers met him saying, "Esau has 400 men with him!" Quickly, he divided his family and flocks into two groups. If Esau killed one group, the other could escape!

Jacob then did two things:

**He prayed fervently and humbly that God would deliver him from being slain by his brother.**

Next, he took 220 goats, 200 sheep, 20 rams, 30 milch camels with their colts, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 donkeys, and 10 colts and told his servants to take them to Esau

### Memory Verse

To him that overcometh  
will I give to eat of the  
hidden manna, and will  
give him a white stone,  
and in the stone a new  
name written.

Revelation 2:17

### Key Thought

When we repent of our  
sins, God will give us a new  
name.

### Lesson Discussion

- Why was Jacob afraid? Describe the gift he prepared for Esau.
- What did Jacob do all night before he met Esau? Did he give up?
- What does Jacob mean? What was the

new name God gave Jacob, and what did it mean?

- Did Esau forgive Jacob?

as a gift. (*A GREAT gift!*) Jacob hoped Esau would accept his gift—and him!

That night, Jacob was about to go to sleep alone. But he didn't sleep. He wrestled with a man all night! When the man saw he was not able to overpower Jacob, he put his hand on Jacob's thigh and dislocated it. Still, Jacob wrestled on, telling the man,

**"I will not let you go until you bless me!"**

Jacob was desperate. He knew his life was at stake.

A surprising thing then happened. "What is your name?" asked the man. Perhaps Jacob replied hesitantly, knowing his name meant "deceiver." But the man told Jacob, "You will no longer be called Jacob. Your new name is Israel because you have power with God and you have prevailed."

As the sun broke over the horizon, Jacob may have been tired and his hip was out of joint (*for the rest of his life*), but he was peaceful. Who was this man with whom he had wrestled? The answer was in the name Jacob gave to that location. He called it Peniel, which means *face of God*, for he said, "I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

A little later, Jacob joined his family. As he lifted up his eyes, he saw his brother, Esau, with all his men. As he drew closer, Jacob bowed himself to the ground seven times.

**This was a different attitude and posture than he had assumed in his younger years!**

But he need not have worried.

Esau ran to meet Jacob. He embraced and kissed him and fell upon his neck as they both wept for joy. The many long years of separation had ended—they were brothers! When Esau asked who the women and children were, Jacob gave God the credit. He said, "These are the wives and children whom God has graciously given me."

When Jacob tried to give Esau the gift of the animals, Esau said, "I have enough, my brother. Keep them for yourself." But Jacob urged Esau to accept his gift, telling him how greatly God had blessed him. So Esau accepted Jacob's gift. Jacob and Esau lived thereafter in peace and love.

Jacob, now called Israel, journeyed to Canaan where he pitched his tents and his family continued to multiply.

■

## Plugged In to Power!

**Needed:** Ice cubes, one for each student, paper towels and paper bowls; straws, salt and any other items you think could be used to melt an ice cube; hair dryer with access to electricity. Keep the ice cubes frozen until time for object lesson.



Give each student a paper towel and a paper bowl. Explain that they are in charge and will have a minute to think of a way to most quickly melt their ice cube. Pass around the straws and salt as ways to melt the ice cube, and tell them students they may use their warm hands. Meanwhile, plug the hair dryer in and blow hot air on your ice cube, melting it.

After time is called, compare the different ways the students melted their ice cubes. Which was most effective? Explain that your ice cube melted fastest because you (*the teacher*) had the hair dryer that was plugged into POWER.

Wrestling is one of the oldest sports in the world dating back thousands of years. Have you ever wrestled with someone? Wrestlers have to be strong and determined to win. In our lesson today, Jacob spent an entire night wrestling with an angel of God. Why? Because he **KNEW** he needed God's blessing. The problem was, Jacob did not have more power than the angel. He had always tried to do things his own way, but was not very successful. This time, he was **DETERMINED** to access the power of the angel of God. God saw that Jacob's desire and determination—and because of it, Jacob prevailed with God. In other words, he won! He received God's blessing and a new name. However, for the rest of his life he limped—as a reminder that God's power was really greatest. In the same way, we can try to do things our way, but it is only when we plug into the power of God that we will prevail—that we will **WIN** victories over ourselves, our human nature, and the hard situations in our lives.

## ALL ABOUT JACOB

Answer the following questions about Jacob:

1. What was Jacob's new name? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you remember the names of his two wives? L \_\_\_\_ and R \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_
3. Below are listed the names (*in birth order*) of Jacob's 12 sons, which later became the 12 tribes of Israel. Cross out the FIVE names which do NOT belong. You may work together with the other students.

Reuben  
Simeon  
David  
Levi

Judah  
Stephen  
Dan  
Naphtali

Gad  
Asher  
Issachar  
Zebulun

Samuel  
Joseph  
Mark  
Benjamin

4. What was Jacob's twin brother's name? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Jacob's new name, Israel, meant:

- A. Determined      B. Power with God  
C. Wrestler      D. Deceiver



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Contributors: Sister Julie Elwell and Sister Nicole Gellenbeck.  
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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ February 28, 2021

Parables of Jesus

## The Prodigal Son

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-24,  
Proverbs 22:6

*Note: Do the first part of the object lesson before reading the story.*

Jesus had drawn the tax collectors and sinners near Him. To them, He proceeded to share three parables concerning things that are lost. The final one we know as the parable of the prodigal son.

A man had two sons, and the younger one came to him asking for his part of the inheritance. Quickly after this, the son took a journey to a far country and wasted all of his money in wild living.

**When the money was gone, a great famine came upon the land, and he found himself wanting.**

He started working for a man feeding pigs. He was so desperate that he was willing to eat the pig's food.

### Memory Verse

And he arose, and came to his father. 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

### Key Thought

If we have sinned or done wrong, our Heavenly Father is always waiting for us to return to Him. He waits with compassion, open arms and ready to rejoice!

### Lesson Discussion

- Why do you think the son wanted to leave his father's house?
- The Jews thought feeding pigs was the lowest of all jobs. What job is comparable in today's society?
- If someone with this occupation walked into the church today, what would be your reaction? What

should our reaction be?

- What does this parable tell us about human nature?

History tells us feeding pigs was the lowest of all jobs, especially for Jews. In some places, those who fed swine were not allowed to mix with people of society or worship gods publicly, nor would the lowest cast of their culture allow their children to marry anyone with this occupation.

Sadly, the prodigal son had fallen for a trick of the enemy, which had landed him in this place. The devil is constantly trying to convince us life would be better "out there." He does not tell us the end of the story: we end up broke, friendless, hungry, and desolate.

The Bible says the prodigal son came to himself, and he began to think of his father's house. He realized while he was hungry, his father's servants had enough to eat.

**He decided to return and tell his father of his sins and acknowledge he was not worthy to be his son.**

He would ask his father to make him a lowly servant.

He arose and went to his father's house. When he was a great way off, his father saw him, had compassion, ran, fell on his neck, and kissed his son. The son started to tell his father how he had sinned, but the father cut him short, telling the servants to bring the best robes for his son and instructing them to kill a cow in preparation for a celebration.

**The father said, "This is my son! He was dead, but he is alive again. He was lost, but now he is found!"**

When the older son learned of the party and the reason for it, he was so upset that he refused to enter the house. When his father came out to talk to him, he said, "I have served you for many years, following your commandments, and you haven't done this for me! But your son that wasted his money at parties came home, and you do this for him?" The father answered in love, saying, "Son, all that I have is yours."

What a beautiful illustration of our Heavenly Father! Even if we take the blessings he gives us and waste them, he still eagerly awaits our return to Him, with open arms!

We can also learn a lesson from the older son. No doubt the prodigal son looked and acted different after his time in sin and feeding swine. If we know someone who returns to the Lord after a time like this, let us not be like the brother who was judgmental. Jesus told us there is great rejoicing in Heaven when one returns home—let's join in on the celebration! ■

## Arms Open Wide!

**Needed:** A big stick, a robe (bathrobe is fine), and slippers

Have two volunteers stand on either side of you. Give one the big stick and instruct them to look angry/upset. Have the other volunteer wear the robe and slippers, and look off into the distance. Tell him/her to act as though they are looking for something/someone.

**Read today's story.**

Now, which volunteer do you think best represents the loving father in the story? The angry one who is ready to punish or the one filled with love and waiting for his son to return?

God is just like the father in the story today. He doesn't stand around, waiting for us to mess up just so He can punish us. We do have to suffer the consequences of our sins, just like the son in the story.

However, when we run back to God, He will always be waiting with open arms, a table full of food, and His acceptance back into His household.



**This is God! This is who Jesus was describing in His story.**

## Two Brothers

Now let's think about the two brothers. One ran away and wasted his inheritance on irresponsibility and wickedness. The other brother stayed home and worked faithfully for his father. Which was the obedient son? That's a trick question! Use the chart below to compare and contrast the two brothers. There's a lesson to be learned from both of them!

<b>Younger Brother</b> (ran away)	<b>Older Brother</b> (stayed home)
How did this brother dishonor his father?	How did this brother dishonor his father?
How did the father respond to this bad behavior?	How did the father respond to this bad behavior?
What do you think it would take to make the father stop loving this son?	What do you think it would take to make the father stop loving this son?
What did this son do right?	What did this son do right?

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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 7, 2021

Parables of Jesus

## The Wise and Foolish Builders

Scripture Reading:  
Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:47-49

Today's parable is Jesus' conclusion to His Sermon on the Mount. He had been teaching a great multitude of people on a mountainside.

The Sermon on the Mount was a strong and life-changing message for the people listening—and still is for us today. In it, Jesus gave us the new testament teachings, which deal with the heart and inward man rather than the outward rituals the Jews were used to keeping. At the end of this powerful sermon, we find the parable of the builders. Jesus said:

**“Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man,**

which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not:

### Memory Verse

**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

James 1:22

### Key Thought

**We must know and read God's word, but we also need to apply it in our everyday lives. When the storms of life come our way, we have built on a solid foundation, and we will be like the wise man who is not shaken.**

### Lesson Discussion

- How important is a good conclusion for a speech or paper? Do you think Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount with this parable on purpose?
- Give an example of a storm of life that may come our way.
- If you are building your life on

sand, do you think you can fool those around you to think you are building on the rock? Why or why not?

for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

Have you ever built in the sand? What happens when the ocean comes close to your structure? It lasts only until the ocean water or rain comes near it. Rain and storms prove the strength of the foundation. In Jesus' time, and still today, many build their homes out of sunbaked mud and sticks. But when the rain storms come, their homes collapse around them, causing damage and possibly taking their lives.

**Just like the foolish builders, we will lose everything if we do not build our lives on Jesus.**

It sounds nice to build our lives on Jesus, but how do we do that? Look at Jesus' first sentence—what action word does He use? Whoever does what he says. This is an important distinction from simply hearing. Jesus calls him a wise man that obeys the principles laid out in the Sermon on the Mount. Let's look at one of these principles.

Retaliation. Read Matthew 5:38-39. Jesus was referring to the following Mosaic law: if someone hurt someone else, they were required to suffer the same injury. If someone cut off a hand, their hand was to be cut off too.

**Jesus brought us a new way to live.**

We should be long-suffering and not seek revenge on those who do us wrong.

To illustrate how it can harm us to not follow this principle is the following story. There was a man who thought the person in front of him was driving too slowly. When they stopped in the parking lot, the man wanted to retaliate in anger, thinking the slow driver was doing it on purpose. He pulled out a gun, but accidentally shot his wife instead of the supposed slow driver. For his anger and attempted retaliation, he now spends his days in jail—how sad and foolish!

Do you think this was the first time this man tried to get revenge? Most likely, it started when he was young. Our choices when we are young build the foundation for our lives. If we make poor choices, over time, they will crack our foundation and our lives will be in ruin. Imagine if this man, as a young boy, learned to cool his anger and consistently asked Jesus to help him when others did him wrong. How different do you think his life would be today? ■





## Where Should I Build?

**Needed:** Two monopoly houses, super glue or hot glue, a flat rock, pie plate, sand, pitcher or bucket of water (towels or tub to catch the water if you're performing the experiment inside)

We read today about the two builders. Jesus used these two men to make a point, but sometimes it's easier to understand what someone means if you can see it in action! Since we can't go outside and build a real house on the rock or the sand, let's do a little experiment here today to test out Jesus' story.

### Instructions:

1. Glue the first monopoly house to the rock.
2. Fill the pie plate with sand and then glue the second house to the sand.
3. Give adequate time for each house to dry.
4. Pour water on each house from about a foot above, and watch to see which house can withstand the rainstorm!

What happened? Which house stood up to the power of the rainstorm?

Did you know that Jesus did not promise that our lives would always be easy? He didn't say we would live a comfortable, carefree life with no problems at all. We will all face hard times! Those are called the storms of life. Thankfully, Jesus promised to be our rock. We have a solid place to build our house, and when the storm comes, He will enable us to withstand the rain!

## Jesus' Sermon

Let's review the Sermon on the Mount. The answers to the table below can be found in Matthew 5-7. One has been completed as an example.

Scripture	Subject	Actions/thoughts of a wise builder	Actions/thoughts of a foolish builder
Matthew 5:38-39	Retaliation	Longsuffering Forgiveness	Seek revenge Hateful towards others
Matthew 5:43-44	Love your enemies		
Matthew 6:1-4			Giving in front of others to impress them
Matthew 6:19-21		Care more about heavenly things than earthly	
Matthew 7:24-29			

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Please email questions or input to [gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com](mailto:gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com).  
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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 14, 2021

Parables of Jesus

## The Good Samaritan

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37,  
Matthew 22:39

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” a lawyer asked

Jesus one day. Jesus replied with a question of his own: “What does the law say you must do?”

The man replied,

**“You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and [you should love] your neighbor as yourself.”**

“You are right,” Jesus answered. “If you do this, you will live.” But, the lawyer wanted Jesus to make him feel good about himself, so he asked another question. He inquired, “Who is my neighbor?”

Jesus responded with the following parable: A certain man was traveling from Jericho to Jerusalem. It is likely this road was one of the main roads of the day. Even

still, it was common for bandits to prey on people. This is exactly what happened to the man in the story—

### Memory Verse

Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matthew 22:37-39

### Key Thought

The Good Samaritan loved without boundaries. He saw a fellow man in need and responded with care and compassion. This is the example we are to follow if we want to follow Jesus.

### Lesson Discussion

- Do you know a modern-day Good Samaritan story?
  - What does this story tell you about human nature?
  - How should we, as Christians, be different than those around us?
- Give an example of loving God with all of your:  
a. Heart   b. Soul   c. Mind   d. Strength

robbers beat him, took his clothes, and left him for dead.

Three men passed by the wounded and almost-dead man.

*The Priest:* Priests were religious men who worked in the temple. Surely, someone who was a man of God would have compassion on this man. But no. He looked at him and walked around him.

*The Levite:* Levites were the tribe of Israel whose job it was to serve in the temple. A Levite passed by the poor man and actually stopped and looked at him! But did the professed man of God have mercy on the wounded man? No. Perhaps he was in a hurry to do God’s work and could not be inconvenienced, so he also left the man lying on the ground.

*The Samaritan:* Surely, this man would pass by the groaning man! The Samaritans and Jews had a deep prejudice between them. They just did not like each other. Do you have people you do not like? Did this man walk right by the dying man holding onto his dislike for Jews—no, he did not!

Bending down, the Samaritan took care of the dying man’s wounds, gently picked him up, and placed him on his animal. Walking him to an inn, the Samaritan paid for the man’s care until he recovered.

Jesus asked the lawyer, “Which of these men was a neighbor to the dying man?” The lawyer admitted, “The one who showed mercy.” Jesus answered, “Go and do likewise.”

**The two greatest commandments of the law both start with LOVE.**

We should love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And just like we love God, we should love our neighbor. Does this mean we only love people that come from our own country or that look like us? Should we show more love to the cool kid or the poor kid from our neighborhood? How about the man on the street that has messed up his own life in sin? We should love them all!

Love is a verb—an action word. Love shows kindness to people we do not like. Love is willing to be inconvenienced. Love sacrifices for others. Love is, and should be, how people identify the life of a Christian.

**Jesus said, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, in that you have love one for another.” ■**

## "I" is the Problem

Needed: Five large pieces of paper/poster (11x14 is large enough). Write the letters L, I, V, E, O on separate pieces of poster board. Set "O" aside to begin with. Have four volunteers stand at the front and hold the letters L, I, V, E in order to spell "Live." (Letters may be propped against a chalkboard.)



Can someone read this four letter word for me? That's right, it spells "Live." God has given us life and we are thankful to be living right now, aren't we? But the question is, how are we living?

We learned in today's lesson that Jesus gave us specific commandments that taught us how to live. However, not everyone follows God's commandments. When they aren't following God, they are following the enemy--that is the only other option.

*(Rearrange the letters to spell "evil.")*

Many people break God's commandments and live evil lives. God is merciful and loving, but He will judge the sins that people commit and warns everyone of the consequences of evil actions. Evil actions can lead to vile lives.

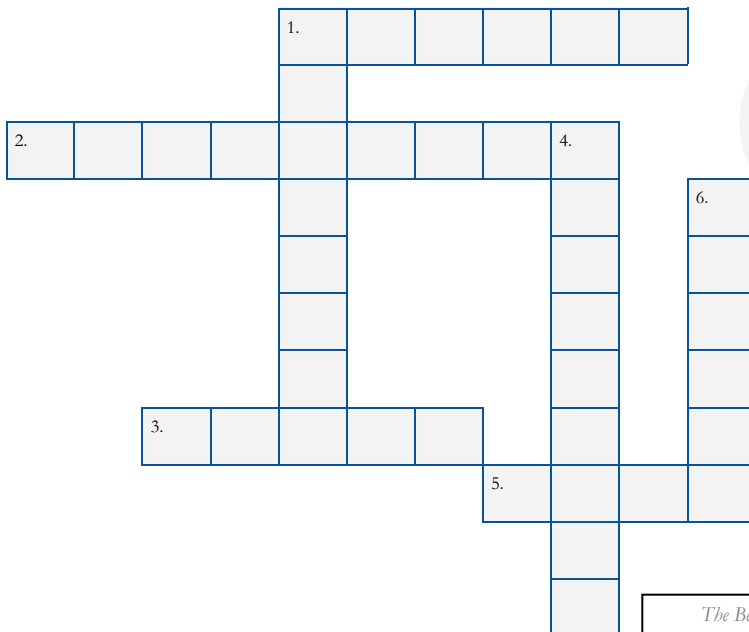
*(Rearrange the letters to spell "vile.")*

Who knows what "vile" means? It means wicked, or of little value. When a person has been corrupted by evil, they no longer care about living a clean or valuable life.

It seems like there is just one letter that is messing all of this up. Can anyone think of which one?

*(Remove the "I" and replace it with the "O.")*

When we remove "I"--when we remove ourselves and all of our selfishness and sin--then this word is perfect. We have to learn to live a life that serves God and others. There is no room for selfishness in perfect love. The Samaritan man showed no selfishness when he rescued the Jewish man from the road. God showed no selfishness when He allowed His son to die for our sins. That's the kind of love we need to have for God and for others!



### Word Bank:

Jesus, Levite, Love, Neighbors, Parables, Priest, Samaritan

### Down

1. Jesus used these stories to help explain His teachings.

4. These are the people around you that Jesus wants you to love.

6. This is the man from a certain tribe in Israel who did not help the wounded man.

### Across

1. This was the professed man of God who did not help the wounded man.

2. This is the man who acted like a good neighbor and helped the wounded man.

3. The greatest teacher and our Savior.

5. The greatest commandment focuses on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Contributors: Sister Julie Elwell and Sister Nicole Gellenbeck.

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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 21, 2021

Parables of Jesus

## The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

Scripture Reading: Matthew  
18:10-14, Luke 15:1-7

*\*Teacher: See object lesson  
prior to starting lesson*



**Publicans (5)**, or tax-collectors, and sinners were drawn to Jesus. He openly showed them hospitality and accepted their company. This made the **Pharisees (1)** upset and they murmured against Jesus. In response to their complaining, Jesus told the parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost **Coin (9)**.

Jesus said, "If a man has one hundred sheep, but he loses one, wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine and go find his lost sheep? When he finds it, he rejoices! Maybe it's muddy or it has a small injury, but he is happy! He places the sheep on his shoulders and brings it home. Then calling his family and neighbors, he rejoices with them over his lost sheep! Just like there is rejoicing over the lost sheep,

**there is rejoicing in Heaven when one sinner repents of his sins more than over the ninety-nine already saved."**

### Lesson Discussion

- Why did Jesus tell these parables in response to the murmuring Pharisees?

#### Memory Verse

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

#### Key Thought

Jesus loves you so much that He is willing to search until He finds you and brings you home!

- Give an example of something you would spend time and effort looking for if you lost it.

- Why do you think Jesus used sheep as an example instead of another animal?

- Who else in the

Bible did God pursue?

Sheep can be dumb creatures. Some say that if you give them everything they need to live, they will still wander and roam and get themselves into dangerous situations. One shepherd, believing his sheep were safe, left his flock and went inside to eat lunch. Little did he know, his sheep were not safe! One sheep went off a cliff edge, and the other 1,500 sheep willingly followed right off the cliff after the first one!!

When Jesus finished telling the Parable of the Lost **Sheep (2)**, He told another similar parable, the Parable of the Lost Coin, saying, "A woman had ten pieces of silver and lost one. She lit her candles, swept her house, and looked diligently until she found it. When she found her coin, she called her **friends (3)** and told them excitedly that she had found her coin!

**There is joy in the presence of God when one sinner repents."**

If you lost money, would you look for it? Or would you think, "Well, I have more \$20 bills. It doesn't matter if I lose one." Maybe you have a few pets that are really important to you. If you lost one of several dogs, would you be okay if it never returned home?

People and souls are important to Jesus. Just like you would put effort into a search for something you lost, Jesus puts effort into finding His lost sheep. Luke 19:10 tells us Jesus' entire purpose was to "to seek and save the lost."

When someone is lost, God, in his love, pursues after them. In the Garden of **Eden (7)**, God looked for Adam and Eve asking, "Where are you?"

God followed **Moses (4)** into the wilderness until he met him at the burning bush.

God did not give up on **Jonah (6)**, following him right into the ocean!

In the New Testament, Jesus followed after His disciples when they were out on the sea fishing.

Jesus loved **Lazarus (10)** so much, He pursued him beyond death and brought him back to life.

**The greatest of all: Jesus pursued each of you by dying (8) on the cross! ■**



## Seek and Search

**Needed:** Hide golden foil-covered chocolate coins around the classroom



Today you will go on a treasure hunt! Hidden around the classroom are golden coins—yes, the chocolate kind! There are two hidden for each of you. Ready? Set? Go find the coins!

### Discussion After Finding the Coins:

How did it feel? Were you content with one chocolate coin, knowing there was another one out there waiting for you? That is how Jesus feels about us--He is not content if there is someone who is lost (not saved), waiting to be rescued.

Go back through the lesson and find the words that are with a number in parenthesis beside it: **Jesus (1)**. Match the numbers to the puzzle and fill in the blanks. When is Jesus going to rejoice?

1.

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2.

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5.

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6.

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7.

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8.

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9.

--	--	--	--

10.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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# THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 28, 2021



Parables of Jesus

## Sower of Seeds

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:3-23 and 2 Peter 3:18a

Surrounded by a multitude of people by the sea, Jesus again

teaches about the kingdom of God in a parable.

He told them this story: A farmer went out to plant seeds. Some of the seeds fell on a hard-beaten path where birds came and snatched away the seeds.

Some of the seeds fell on stony ground. The seeds started to grow, but when the sun came out, the plants died; their roots did not go very deep into the earth.

Next, some of the farmer's seeds fell into thorny ground. Did these seeds grow up and give the farmer a crop? No, they did not! The thorns took over and choked out everything trying to grow.

**Lastly, some of the seeds fell on good soil, and the farmer had fruit for his labor.**

### Lesson Discussion

#### Memory Verse

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18a

#### Key Thought

The word of God is like a seed that is planted in your heart. It is your job to have a soft and open heart to receive it and let it grow!

- Name the four types of soil.
- How much fruit did the good soil produce?
- What does the devil do when we have heard the Word of God? Which seed was this?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said "cares of life" choked out His word? What are some examples of this?
- *Bonus question:*

*Where in the Bible does it list the fruits of having God's spirit? What are those fruits?*

Jesus finished his parable by crying, "whoever has ears, let him hear."

The disciples came to him asking for clarification because they did not understand the parable. Jesus told them, "The prophet Isaiah foretold this happening. Isaiah said, 'you will hear and not understand. You will see, but not notice.'"

Jesus continued, "Just like Isaiah prophesied, you do not see or understand. People's hearts are fattened, their ears are half asleep, and their eyes are closed.

**But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and blessed are your ears, for they hear.**

I will explain the parable to you."

Jesus went on to clarify that the seed is the Word of God. The types of soil represent the types of listeners. The first type of soil is someone who hears the Word but does not understand it. The devil comes to snatch it away! Sadly, this person does not benefit from hearing God's word.

The second type of soil, the stony ground, is the person who receives the word of God joyfully! They are excited about it, but when hard times come, they die out. Their roots do not go very deep. Have you ever had to pull weeds from the garden? Did you notice the weeds with the shortest roots are easy to pull, and they die quickly?

The third type of soil is the thorny ground. This group of people, after hearing God's word, they go their way, and cares of this life and deceitfulness of riches choke out the Word.

Finally, we get to some good soil! The good soil brings fruit for the farmer! Some of the seeds multiplied thirty times, some seed sixty times and others a hundred times over!

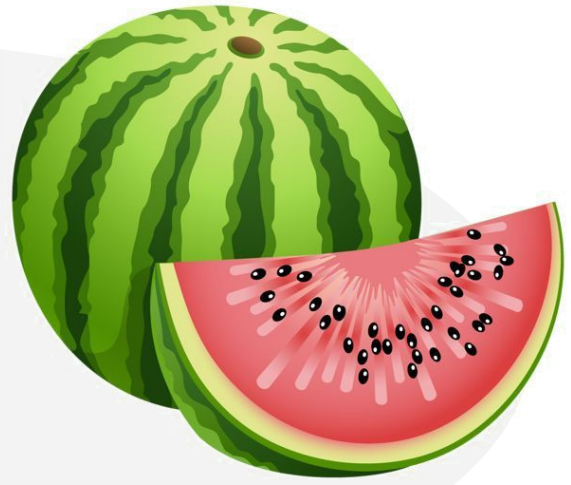
Have you ever had a small patch of ground with which you did nothing? What is the condition of the soil? Oftentimes, it is like the first three types of soil Jesus discussed: it is hard, stony, or has thorns.

Does the ground automatically have good soil? Most of the time, it does not. It requires some hard work and digging or tilling to make it soft and ready for the seeds. The same is true in our lives.

**If we do not work to prepare the soil of our hearts for God's word, it will not bear any fruit in our lives. ■**

## Seeds that Multiply!

A watermelon is a good example of one seed producing many more seeds, just like the good soil that brought forth much fruit. Pass around one watermelon seed. Do you think this seed can multiply into a hundred seeds?



Cut open a small watermelon and pass a piece to each child. As the children are eating, have them count how many seeds their part of the watermelon has and add up the total number of seeds inside the watermelon.

Just like this watermelon that is sweet and good to eat, so are our lives when we yield fruit in Jesus' kingdom. It is sweet to the farmer (God), and everyone around us enjoys it too!

*(Other types of fruit may also be used).*

### READ EACH EXAMPLE AND DECIDE WHICH TYPE OF SOIL EACH PERSON REPRESENTS:

Harry's friend invited him to his church's Vacation Bible Study. Harry had never gone before, but he said no because he was much too busy playing with his friends to try VBS. It just was not for him.	Madison brought her friend Jessica to Sunday School. For a while, Jessica eagerly participated in Sunday school. She learned all the songs and memorized Bible verses. But eventually, Jessica lost interest and stopped coming.
Soil:	Soil:
Adam reads his Bible and prays every day. When the preacher is speaking, he listens eagerly and tries to understand and apply what is being taught. His mom notices he is more patient these days.	Stacy loves Jesus and prays every night before bedtime. When she turned 16, she got a job and spent her money dressing just like her friends. Pretty soon, instead of praying in the evenings, she was talking on the phone to her friends about the latest fashions and what clothes she should buy next.
Soil:	Soil: