

**JACOB AND ESAU MEET AGAIN**

Old Testament Lesson #26

After many years of separation, Jacob was going to be reunited with his brother, Esau. Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming. The waves of gifts he had sent to Esau had preceded him (200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 female sheep, 20 rams, 30 female camels with their young, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys and 10 male donkeys).

When Esau arrived with his 400 men, Jacob grouped his children, putting the maidservants and their children first, followed by Leah and her children, and lastly Rachel with her son Joseph. Jacob went on ahead of them and bowed before Esau seven times. Esau ran and hugged and kissed his brother Jacob. They both wept. Esau then asked Jacob who all these people were, and Jacob indicated, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant."

Esau then asked Jacob why he sent all the gifts. Jacob explained that it was to find favor in his eyes. Esau told him that he already had plenty and that Jacob should keep them. Jacob insisted that Esau accept the gifts, and Esau did.

Esau then said that he and his men would accompany them on their way. Jacob said it was not necessary, and he desired to go at a pace more suited to the children and the flocks he had. Esau then said he could leave some men behind to assist, but again Jacob refused the assistance and asked Esau just to let him find favor in his eyes. Esau then left for Seir (SEE-ir).

Jacob crossed the Jordan River, purchased some land in the city of Shechem (SHE-kem), and built an altar there to worship God.

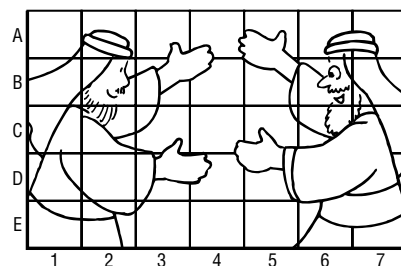
**POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

- Seir is the mountainous area to the south and east of the land of Canaan. It was also called the land of Edom. It was named Edom after the man Esau. Edom means "red." It was a name given to Esau after he sold his birthright for a mess of "red" stew (Genesis 25:30).
- Shechem is the location where Abraham first built an altar to God when he arrived in Canaan (Genesis 12:6-7). It was here that God promised Abraham that he would give the land to his offspring.
- Esau had been successful, but it was outside the land of Canaan, which was promised to Jacob and his descendants. This agrees with the blessing bestowed upon Jacob by Isaac, as well as with what Isaac had foretold about Esau, that his dwelling place would be away from the land of promise (Genesis 27:39-40).

**Jacob and Esau Meet Again**

- I. Esau and his 400 men approached Jacob.
  - A. Jacob was accompanied by his wives and children and servants.
  - B. Esau ran to Jacob and kissed him.
  - C. They cried and talked about all the people and the gifts Jacob had sent.
  - D. Jacob insisted that Esau keep the gifts.
- II. Esau offered to help Jacob as he traveled.
  - A. Jacob said he only wanted to find favor with Esau.
  - B. Jacob declined all offers of help.
  - C. The brothers parted company.
  - D. Jacob built an altar for God when he reached the city of Shechem.

**ANSWER KEY:**



house, heart, umbrella, suitcase, wheel, paddle, camel  
 Shechem