

## Bible Story 7: JACOB: HIS NAME CHANGED TO ISRAEL

**SCRIPTURE:** GENESIS 25:19-20,24-34; 27:1-27,41-45; 28:10-22; 30:25-26; 31:3,22,38,41; 32:11,22-30; 33:1-17

**MEMORY VERSE:** “DO NOT STEAL. DO NOT LIE. DO NOT DECEIVE ONE ANOTHER.” LEVITICUS 19:11 NIV

### BIBLE STORY:

Isaac was the son of Abraham and he married Rebekah. They had twin sons called Esau and Jacob. Esau was born first. They grew. Jacob liked to be in the fields, hunting animals. His brother, Jacob, liked to be near the home.

One day Jacob was cooking a stew. Esau had spent the day in the field and arrived very hungry. He asked his brother for some food. But Jacob only gave him food when Esau promised to give him his birthright. (*This meant that now Jacob would receive a larger inheritance than his brother Esau.*)

Time passed and his father Isaac became old and blind. The father asked his son Esau to hunt and prepare a special meal that he liked. After that he would give him the special blessing for the oldest son. Esau obeyed and left.

Jacob deceived his father. He dressed in Esau's clothes. Because his brother was very hairy, Jacob covered his hands and neck with goatskins to trick his father. Jacob went into his father's tent with the prepared food that his father liked. He lied to his father and said that he was Esau. The father could not see. The father noticed that the voice was of Jacob, but the hands were hairy and he could smell the odor of Esau's clothes. Thinking that this was his son Esau, Isaac gave the special blessing for the oldest son. Then Jacob left, and soon afterwards Esau arrived. He discovered that his brother Jacob had deceived his father and received the special blessing. Esau was very, very angry.

Jacob was afraid of his brother and received permission to visit his Uncle Laban's home. He quickly left. On the road he stopped to rest. He used a stone as a pillow and slept. He dreamed and saw a ladder that went from the ground to the sky. Angels went up and down the ladder. God told Jacob that He would be with him everywhere he went and protect him. Jacob made a promise that he would serve God.

Jacob visited and worked for his Uncle Laban for many, many years. He married and God blessed him. One day he decided to return home. On the journey God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Jacob sent many gifts ahead to his brother. When Esau saw his brother, he ran to Jacob. They cried and hugged each other. Esau forgave his brother for the wrong things that he had done to him. They lived in peace with one another.

When Jacob arrived in Canaan he made an altar and worshiped God.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

### RETELL THE STORY:

Ask volunteers from the group to retell the story.