



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for October 28, 2007
Released on October 24, 2007

"Peace Between Brothers"

MEMORY VERSE:

"And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept" (Genesis 33:4)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Genesis 33:1-11

1 And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids.

2 And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost.

3 And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

4 And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.

5 And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.

6 Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves.

7 And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves: and after came Joseph near and Rachel, and they bowed themselves.

8 And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

9 And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself.

10 And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

11 Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that we need to ask God to help us when we are afraid. God can make us strong and brave when we are weak and afraid.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. All blessings come from God.
2. It is good to forgive others.
3. We need to face our problems, not ignore them.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For "Telling the Lesson," find pictures of goats, sheep, rams, camels, cows and bulls, and donkeys.

For the "Helping to Remember" section, you will need paper and markers to trace students' hands, scissors (safety version for little ones), crayons, and glue sticks.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

At the end of last week's lesson, Jacob had married Leah and Rachel, had started his family and was continuing to work for his father-in-law, Laban. This week's lesson takes place about twenty years after Jacob had left his parents' home. The last thing that he had known about his brother was that Esau wanted to kill him. Both Jacob's and Esau's families and possessions had become large over the time that they were apart.

Now Jacob was returning home with a large caravan that included his families, servants and possessions. The night before his meeting with Esau, Jacob sent his entire caravan across the Jabbok River (Genesis 32:22-23) and he was left alone in the camp. That night Jacob wrestled with "a man" (Genesis 32:24) until daybreak. In this encounter, Jacob declared that he had seen God face to face (Genesis 32:30). Jacob was given the new name of Israel that would be the name of a great people and nation. So with a new name and a large entourage of people and cattle, Jacob returned to the Promised Land trusting that God would protect him and that he would be reconciled with Esau.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Jacob feared that when he returned home, Esau would attack him and his family. As he traveled he sent some men to meet with Esau and to tell him about how God had blessed Jacob. The men returned to tell Jacob that Esau and four hundred men were coming to meet him. Jacob was scared and prayed to God for help. Jacob sent a gift of many animals to Esau hoping that he would forgive him. He sent goats, sheep, rams, camels, cows, bulls and donkeys (pictures of these would be helpful for young children to see what Jacob offered as a gift to his brother). After sending the gifts, Jacob went forward, trusting that God would protect them.

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

1. Why had Jacob left home, and what promise did God make to him at that time?

Jacob had left home because of his feud with Esau. This feud between the twins had begun in the womb with the two fighting for position before birth. The final breaking point in their relationship came when Jacob and his mother (Rebekah) tricked his father Isaac into bestowing his fatherly blessing on Jacob instead of Esau (Genesis 27:1-40).

Because of this, Esau had planned to kill Jacob after their father died (Genesis 27:41). Jacob fled from his home to put space between him and his brother and to save his life.

God promised Jacob that he would be blessed. The promises made to Abraham and Isaac would also be extended to Jacob (Genesis 28:13, 14). This promise included the land of Canaan; so in this week's lesson, Jacob is returning to the Promised Land as God had commanded (Genesis 31:3).

2. How long had Jacob been living with his uncle Laban and how had he been blessed during this time?

Jacob had been at his uncle's home for 20 years (Genesis 31:38, 41). During this self-imposed exile, Jacob had served his uncle for 14 years for his daughters and 6 years for cattle. Jacob had prospered and been blessed during this time. Eleven of his sons (11 of the tribes of Israel) and a daughter had been born (Genesis 30:7, 12, 20-24). Jacob had also increased exceedingly in servants and cattle (Genesis 30:43).

3. What concerns did Jacob have about meeting his brother again?

Jacob had not seen Esau for 20 years. The last time he had seen his brother, Esau wanted to kill him for the trick he had played on their father to receive the blessing usually reserved for the firstborn. Now as he prepared to return home, he did not know how Esau would receive him. Jacob feared that Esau might still seek revenge against him.

4. What provisions did Jacob make for preparing a peaceful meeting with his brother?

Prior to meeting Esau, Jacob wanted to make sure that the meeting would be a peaceful one. He sent messengers ahead of him to "find grace" in Esau's sight (Genesis 32:3-5). He divided his caravan into two camps and separated them so that one might escape should Esau attack the other (Genesis 32:7-8). He prepared gifts of goats, sheep, rams, camels, cows, bulls and donkeys to Esau (Genesis 32:14-20) and sent each group over in separate droves as peace offerings to Esau.

Jacob's final preparation for meeting Esau was to divide his camp into 3 groups. He placed his 2 handmaids and their children in front, Leah and her children next, followed by Rachel and Joseph (Genesis 33:1-2). He then went out before all of them to meet Esau. This way, if a peaceful reunion did not happen, any attack on his family would allow those he loved the most a chance at escape.

5. Describe the meeting between Jacob and Esau?

Jacob took the lead to face Esau and his four hundred men. As he came near Esau, he bowed seven times. By doing this he showed his respect for Esau and indicated that he regarded himself to be in a position of submission to his brother. Note that bowing seven times was the custom when approaching a king or ruler.

When Esau saw Jacob, he ran to meet his brother. Esau was filled with emotions and glad to see his brother. He embraced him, kissed him and wept – tears of joy and reconciliation. After they recovered, Esau asked about the people with Jacob and was introduced to Jacob's wives and children. Following Jacob's example, his family also bowed to Esau. Jacob and Esau also discussed the animals that had been sent to Esau as peace offerings. Esau inquired as to what their purpose was. Jacob explained the intent of his gifts, and Esau initially refused to accept them. Because Jacob insisted, Esau eventually accepted the gifts. Esau returned to his own home in Edom, and Jacob continued his journey into Canaan.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

We can learn some lessons from what happened to Jacob in our lesson. The first thing we can learn is that when someone has done something mean to us and later asks for forgiveness, God wants us to forgive him. God has forgiven us for the bad things that we have done so we should forgive those who do bad things to us.

Also, we need to remember that all the things that we have are blessings from God. We might not have as much as other people, but we should thank God for what we do have. Whether we have a lot or a little, we must praise God.

When we are afraid, we need to do as Jacob did. He prayed to God for help and then faced his problem with Esau.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Use a marker to trace both hands of each student. Help them cut out the hands and attach at the wrists to make praying hands. Let them color the hands and discuss the importance of praying when we need help.

A word search is included at the end of this lesson summary. Use these and other activities to further discuss and emphasize the important truths of the lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept" (Genesis 33:4)

Esau's actions showed that he had forgiven Jacob for the things he had done to him when they were younger. God wants us to forgive others also.

When we encounter God, like Jacob did, it affects not only our character but also our relationship with others. When we experience God, we will change. It is impossible for God's touch not to have any effect on our lives and in how we relate to others.

PRAYER

Father in Heaven, as we follow You, we thank You for transforming our lives. Help us to face our problems and to trust You in every situation. Thank You for all our many blessings, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Joseph Had a Dream". Read Genesis 37.

Lesson Summarized By:

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WORD SEARCH

**Peace Between Brothers
(Genesis 33:1-11)**

Find each of the following words.

JACOB

BROTHERS

LEAH

DIVIDED

RACHEL

HANDMAIDENS

ESAU

SERVANT

PEACE

BOWED

BLESSING

GIFTS

EMBRACE

GRACE

ENOUGH

CHILDREN

N I M C C E L D N D E D B T F D S G M D E E T
P I C C H S O S E E R S E R V A N T A B E B E
C S A E C B H L A D H E G N I S S E L B I N R
H G N T U B R H N G I S E L C I E E T A E L L
S E T A O G A E F D L V P R E A C E C S R D A
E A S W I D C E N C B S I L T A M R B E L R B
S E E R H E H C D H A P W D S I H L B M S H S
T D O E D E E A S H E I H E H V C S U B H G N
F S R G D L L R C E M H B O C A J R D R A U D
I B E I E N S G E A G P E A C E S E E A D O S
G D H A N D M A I D E N S G E E E H S C E N A
A E D A A D R A N T H H T C R I G T I E S E D
S C A R D E A E E E A U B R S L N O I E S U R
C H I L D R E N I U C S R A G H H R J E D I I
B B E L B V S B H V H E E B L E S B E A B N U
B L E E N A N E E V T E I T S T M E H E U E S

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH (Peace Between Brothers, Genesis 33:1-11)

D
E S E R V A N T
D G N I S S E L B
U B R I L
A O A V E
S W C E I A E
S E E H C D H M H
T D E A S B G
F L R B O C A J R R U
I G P E A C E E A O
G H A N D M A I D E N S H C N
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O
C H I L D R E N R
B