

## Book Background and Lesson Content

The book of Genesis contains some of the most memorable accounts in the Old Testament, including those of Isaac, and his sons, Jacob and Esau. Isaac, who was Abraham's son, and his wife, Rebekah, were blessed with twin sons. Jacob, the younger twin, was jealous of his brother, Esau. Through cunning and deceit, Jacob managed to get both Esau's inheritance and his father's blessing. Esau was enraged at losing both his birthright and his father's blessing, so he vowed to kill Jacob. Jacob fled to Paddan Aram, the home of Rebekah's brother Laban.

During the journey, Jacob had a dream of angels ascending and descending a ladder, or staircase, leading up to heaven. God spoke to Jacob in this dream and offered him the covenantal promise that He had offered to Abraham. Jacob called the place where he had the dream *Bethel*, which means *house of God*.

Jacob made an agreement to work for his uncle Laban seven years in order to marry Laban's younger daughter, Rachel. However, Laban tricked Jacob by sending Rachel's older sister, Leah, into Jacob's tent on the wedding night. Jacob married Rachel too, but he had to work an additional seven years as payment for her to be his wife.

Years passed and God told Jacob to return home. Jacob was worried that Esau might still be angry. He prayed to get him home safely. God reaffirmed His covenant with Jacob and changed Jacob's name to *Israel*. Jacob placed his faith and trust in God. He lived in peace with Esau from that time on.

## INFORMATION

**Reference:** Genesis 28:10–35:26

**Author:** Moses

**Date:** 1450–1400 BC





# Lesson Preparation

## Jacob Is Transformed

### MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 4:24

### ★ MATERIALS

#### Day 1:

- Deck of cards
- TM-2 Map: The Ancient World
- TM-2 Map: The Ancient World (Extension)
- BLM 3A Jacob's Ladder Quilt Block (Extension)

#### Day 2:

- Canteen
- BLMs 3B–J Books of the Bible Cards, Parts 1–9 (Extension)

#### Day 3:

- Sock, cloth
- Card stock (Extension)

#### Day 4:

- VHS video tape, DVD
- Cardboard, BLM 3K Map: Canaan, BLM 3L Salt Dough Recipe, paint (Extension)

#### Day 5:

- BLMs 3M–N Lesson 3 Test

### Expected Student Outcomes

#### KNOW

God chooses Jacob despite his deceitful nature. Jacob responds in faith.

#### DO

Students will:

- sequence the events of Jacob's dream at Bethel
- answer questions to recall events of Jacob's life in Paddan Aram
- determine whether Jacob's actions showed faith or fear
- compare the covenant that God made with Jacob to His promises to a believer today

#### APPLY

Students will respond with a sensitive heart toward God and be willing to serve Him.

### Teacher Resources

*Deluxe Then and Now Bible Maps*. Rose, 2008.

Roper, David. *Jacob: The Fools God Chooses*. Discovery House, 2002.

### Student Resources

Hunt, Susan, and Richie Hunt. *Discovering Jesus in Genesis*. Crossway Books, 2002.

*Throw & Tell: Storytellers Ball*. Group, 2006.

## Lesson Outline

- I. Jacob's deceitful nature
  - A. Biography (Gen 25:21–34, 27:18–29)
  - B. Background (Gen 28:1–9)
  - C. Jacob's dream at Bethel (Gen 28:10–16)
  - D. Jacob's vow to serve God (Gen 28:17–22)
- II. The trickster is tricked
  - A. Laban tricks Jacob (Gen 29:1–30)
  - B. Jacob's family and flocks increase (Gen 29:31–Gen 30:43)
  - C. Jacob flees from Laban (Gen 31)
- III. God affirms his covenant
  - A. Jacob wrestles with God (Gen 32:1–32, Rom 5:1–5)
  - B. Jacob returns home (Gen 33–35)
- IV. God's new covenant (Gen 35:9–15, Heb 8–9)

## ♥ TEACHER'S HEART

If you have been teaching for a few years, you have probably encountered a student with a less-than-honest nature. This rascal has likely attempted to convince you that he or she “wasn't doing anything wrong” despite evidence to the contrary. Perhaps this student has tried to talk his or her way to a better grade or has lied to gain some type of advantage in the classroom. Often these students are extremely charming, and you really want to believe their tales! At the same time, your heart sinks because you wish that they would simply tell the truth.

Jacob was such a character. He tricked his brother, Esau, out of the birthright of the oldest son by trading him a bowl of stew for it. Then Jacob went on to deceive his father, Isaac, by telling an outright lie about his true identity. Isaac gave the blessing due to the firstborn son to Jacob instead of to Esau. Jacob's deceitful nature caused an incredible amount of pain to his parents. He had to flee from his brother and settle in Paddan Aram with his uncle Laban.

Through it all, God did not let go of Jacob. He promised that, if Jacob would learn to trust Him, all the promises given to his grandfather, Abraham, and to his father, Isaac, would be extended to him as well. Once Jacob learned to trust God, he was able to live a life without dishonesty or deceit.

Remember, God is not finished working in the life of any dishonest student! Pray that he or she will learn to trust God as Jacob did.

## GLOSSARY WORDS

• grace

## NOTES

# Jacob Is Transformed

Focus: Jacob's Deceitful Nature

## MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 4:24

## MEMORY WORK

• Write the Memory Verse on the board. Read it together as a class. After the first reading, erase a few words and read it again. Continue to read and erase until the verse can be recited from memory.

## PREPARATION

Have a **DECK OF CARDS** on hand. (Introduction)

Have available **TM-2 Map: The Ancient World**. (Directed Instruction)

## EXTENSION

**1A** Use **TM-2 Map: The Ancient World** and point out to students the locations of Beersheba, Bethel, Haran, and Paddan Aram. Use the mileage scale at the bottom of the map to calculate the distance Jacob traveled from Beersheba to Bethel (**about 90 miles**) and then to Haran (**about 650 miles total**).

**1B** The Bible truth of Jacob's dream about the ladder has inspired a popular quilt pattern. Make a copy of **BLM 3A Jacob's Ladder Quilt Block** for each student. Have them look up the verses, draw a line from each verse to the appropriate promise, and then use the specified colors to color the numbered quilt pieces.

## Introduction ★

Hold up the **DECK OF CARDS**. Ask students if they have ever seen a card trick. (**Answers will vary.**) Explain that card tricks are not magic at all, but carefully planned tricks designed to make someone believe something that is untrue. Deception in the case of card tricks is done all in fun, but sometimes deception can be very hurtful. Have students think of a time when they were purposely deceived by someone. Explain that today's lesson teaches about Jacob and how he deceived his family.

## Directed Instruction ★

Provide a brief summary of the events in the lives of Abraham and Isaac as background to this week's lesson. Review Abraham's call to leave his home and travel to the land that God promised. Ask students to recount the covenant, or promise, that God made to Abraham. (**God would make of Abraham a great nation, make his name great, cause him to be a blessing, bless those who blessed Abraham and curse those who cursed him, bless the earth through him, and give land to his descendants.**) Explain that when Isaac grew up, Abraham sent his servant back to the area near Haran to find a wife for Isaac. God blessed this servant and sent him to the home of Bethuel, a relative of Abraham. Bethuel's daughter Rebekah became Isaac's wife (Genesis 24).

Select students to read **Genesis 25:21–34** and **Genesis 27:18–29**.

Teach that Jacob hurt his family through his deception, by discussing the following:

- Jacob deceived Esau by asking him to sell him his birthright for a bowl of stew (Genesis 25:29–34).
- Jacob's mother, Rebekah, convinced Jacob to deceive his father, Isaac. Jacob went along with his mother's plan and received the blessing from his father, Isaac. The blessing would have normally gone to Esau (Genesis 27).

Point out that after Jacob stole Esau's blessing, his mother was worried about Esau's anger toward Jacob. Isaac and Rebekah sent Jacob away to live with his uncle Laban, Rebekah's brother, in Paddan Aram. As Jacob was traveling to Paddan Aram, God identified Himself to Jacob in a dream by reminding him of God's prior relationship to Abraham and Isaac. God confirmed His covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob made a vow to the Lord, agreeing to the promise and accepting the Lord as his God (Genesis 28:20–21). In Jacob's dream, God showed him a ladder, or staircase, leading up to heaven. Angels were ascending and descending on this ladder. Jacob set up a pillar to God at Bethel and anointed it with oil. He made a vow to God that he would accept God's covenant as long as God would protect and care for him.

Display **TM-2 Map: The Ancient World** to show where Jacob lived in Beersheba and the location of Paddan Aram where his uncle lived.

Remind students that even though Jacob was guilty of sin, God did not abandon him. God knew that Jacob needed to trust Him. By learning to trust God, Jacob would finally be able to put away all falsehood and deceit (Ephesians 4:25).

### Student Page 3.1

Direct students to complete the page independently.

### Review

- What is a covenant? (**a promise**)
- Why did Jacob leave home? (**His brother, Esau, had threatened to kill him because of Jacob's deceit, and his mother was worried.**)
- Where did Jacob go? (**to his uncle's home in Paddan Aram**)
- What happened the first night that Jacob was away from home? (**God spoke to him in a dream.**)
- How did Jacob acknowledge that Bethel was a holy place? (**He set up a pillar and poured oil over it.**)
- How did Jacob respond to God's call? (**He told God that he would accept His offer as long as God would protect and care for him.**)

### APPLICATION

- How is trust in God the cure for dishonest or deceitful behavior? (**Answers will vary, but should include that when I trust God to take care of me, I don't need to lie to get what I want.**)
- Read **John 1:51**. What does Jesus say about Himself that reminds you of Jacob's dream? (**Jesus says that heaven will be open and angels shall ascend and descend on Him, like the ladder, or staircase, in the dream. He describes Himself as the way by which all people have access to God.**)

### REINFORCEMENT

The birthright that Esau so casually sold is a right or possession that a person is entitled to by birth (Genesis 25:29–34). In his culture, that meant Esau was entitled to honor, status, and the privilege of inheriting the majority of his father's flocks and herds. It also granted him a special relationship with God. But Esau was not a spiritual man, and he did not want to be responsible for flocks and herds because his interest was in hunting. He cared so little for his birthright that he sold it to his brother for a bowl of stew. But Esau got very angry when his mother and Jacob tricked him out of his father's blessing, which really was part of the birthright. The blessing given by Isaac called for God's favor upon his son and authority over others. Esau was furious that Jacob had tricked him, his twin brother, and that the best part of the birthright—the blessing—was gone.

## DAY 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Jacob Is Transformed

3.1

Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac had two sons, Jacob and his twin brother, Esau. Jacob, the younger twin, had his heart set on receiving the Promised Land and blessing. These were rightfully his older brother's. Rather than trust God with his future, Jacob decided to get what he wanted by tricking both Isaac and Esau. First, Jacob tricked Esau into trading his birthright as older son for a bowl of stew. Second, Jacob disguised himself as Esau in order to trick Isaac. He did this to gain the blessing of the oldest son. When Esau discovered Jacob's deceit, he was so angry that Jacob fled to his uncle's home in Paddan Aram (Genesis 28:1–9). One night as Jacob lay down to sleep, God spoke to him through a dream.

Read Genesis 28:10–21 and the sentences to the left. Write the sentences in order beside the ladder. The verse numbers will help you.

Jacob vowed to accept the Lord God as his God.

God told Jacob that He is the Lord, the God of Abraham and Isaac.

God promised to bless all the people on Earth through Jacob.

Jacob took the stone that had been his pillow and set it up on end.

Jacob dreamed of a ladder, or staircase, going up to heaven.

God promised to be with Jacob and to watch over him.

1. Jacob dreamed of a ladder, or staircase, going to heaven.

2. God told Jacob that He is the Lord, the God of Abraham and Isaac.

3. God promised to bless all the people on Earth through Jacob.

4. God promised to be with Jacob and to watch over him.

5. Jacob took the stone that had been his pillow and set it up on end.

6. Jacob vowed to accept the Lord God as his God.



# Jacob Is Transformed

Focus: The Trickster Is Tricked

## ★ PREPARATION

Bring a **CANTEEN** to class.  
(Introduction)

## ↻ EXTENSION

**2A** Invite students to research the lyrics and the background of the African-American spiritual “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder.” Explain that spiritual songs not only communicated the basics of the Scripture, but often told of the hardships endured by the people who wrote the songs.

**2B** Make two-sided copies of **BLMs 3B–J Books of the Bible Cards, Parts 1–9** on card stock and cut the cards out. (Consider laminating the cards before cutting them out.) Randomly distribute the cards to students. Allow five minutes for students to put the cards in the correct order of the books of the Bible. Have a student read the titles aloud to check how well students did.

## Introduction ★

Hold up the **CANTEEN**. Ask students if they have ever been on a hike where they had to carry a canteen. (**Answers will vary.**) Were you glad you had it when you became really thirsty? (**Answers will vary.**) What was it like to be able to take a drink of water? (**Answers will vary.**) Explain that people’s physical bodies cannot live very long without water; neither can people have spiritual life without “drinking” God’s Word. Inform students that today’s lesson focuses on how God works with Jacob, not only to provide for him physically, but also to help him gain the necessary growth in character to become the father of a great nation.

## Directed Instruction ↻

Read the following Bible truth based on Genesis 29:1–31:38.

As Jacob neared Laban’s home, he came across some men with flocks of sheep at a well. He inquired if they knew of his uncle Laban, and they responded that they did. As they talked, Rachel, a shepherdess who was one of Laban’s daughters, approached the well to water her flock of sheep. Jacob told Rachel that he was her father’s relative, and she ran to get her father. Laban came and welcomed Jacob into his home.

Jacob lived with his uncle’s family and began to work for Laban during this time. After a month passed, Laban asked him how he could pay Jacob for his work. Jacob had fallen in love with Rachel and replied that he would work seven years so he could marry Rachel. Laban agreed to this. However, when the seven years were up, Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah. Jacob asked Laban why he had tricked him, and Laban replied that it was customary for the firstborn daughter to be wed before any other daughter. However, Jacob still loved Rachel, so he made an agreement with Laban to wait one week and then marry Rachel, with the condition that he would work for Laban another seven years. At the end of those seven years, Jacob worked six more years for Laban in order to earn sheep and goats.

Point out to students that Laban was just as deceptive and scheming as his sister Rebekah. Remind them that she had helped Jacob trick Isaac into giving Jacob his blessings. So the trickster Jacob is now tricked by his uncle, just as Jacob had deceived his brother and father. Ask students what God might have been teaching Jacob through this. (**Answers will vary, but should include that it hurts to be deceived, it destroys trust and ruins relationships, and what you sow you will reap.**) Discuss how sins have a way of catching up to a person. Emphasize that living a life of deception is not how God wants His children to live.

Jacob was the third generation to receive the promises from God’s covenant. This was not because of Jacob’s righteousness, but because of God’s **grace** and faithfulness. Explain that *grace* means *favor given that is not earned or deserved*. Even though Jacob had some serious character flaws,

God kept His promise. He graciously protected Jacob while teaching him and shaping his character.

### Student Page 3.2

Have students complete the page.

## Review

- Who did Jacob meet at the well? (**men with flocks of sheep and his cousin Rachel, the daughter of his uncle Laban**)
- What did Rachel do when Jacob told her who he was? (**She ran home to tell her father.**)
- How long did Jacob agree to serve his uncle in order to marry Rachel? (**seven years**)
- After working for seven years, why did Jacob marry Leah and not Rachel? (**Laban tricked Jacob and gave Leah to Jacob instead of Rachel.**)
- How many more years did Jacob agree to work in order to marry Rachel? (**seven years**)
- Jacob worked six additional years to earn flocks of sheep and goats. How many years in all did Jacob work for Laban? (**20 years**)

## APPLICATION

- How did God turn the negative experience of being cheated by Laban into a positive experience in Jacob's life? (**Answers will vary, but should include that Jacob learned how it felt to be wronged.**)
- Can you grow spiritually during hard times? (**Yes, I often grow more during difficult times than during times when all is going smoothly.**)
- God extended grace to Jacob by providing for him even in the midst of hard times. Share ways that God has shown undeserved favor to you. (**Answers will vary.**)

## DAY 2

### 3.2 Jacob Is Transformed

Read Genesis 29:1–18. Write the name of the person who matches each description.

1. Jacob's mother: Rebekah
2. Jacob's uncle: Laban
3. Jacob's uncle's older daughter: Leah
4. Jacob's uncle's younger daughter: Rachel



Read the following paraphrase:

Jacob was in love with Rachel. His uncle Laban asked Jacob to work for seven years in order to marry Rachel. Jacob thought nothing of it. In fact, Jacob felt that the years flew by. At the end of the seven years, Laban invited all the people living in the area to the wedding feast. However, Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah instead of Rachel. Jacob demanded an explanation from his uncle. Laban's excuse was that it was the custom of his land for the older daughter to marry before the younger daughter. Jacob had no choice but to accept this and work another seven years for Rachel.

Answer the following questions:

5. How do you think Jacob felt after he discovered that he had been tricked?  
**Possible answers: angry, embarrassed, sorry for what he had done to his father and brother**
6. How could the experience of being deceived have helped Jacob to grow spiritually?  
**Answers will vary, but should include that Jacob learned through experience how badly deception hurts and that he wanted to be closer to God in order not to live by deceit.**
7. Have you been deceived by someone? How did that make you feel? Were you able to extend God's **grace** to that person?  
**Answers will vary, but should include feelings of embarrassment or anger and whether the student received grace.**
8. Have you deceived someone else? How did that affect your relationship?  
**Answers will vary.**



# Jacob Is Transformed

Focus: God Affirms His Covenant

## ★ PREPARATION

Have available an **OLD SOCK** and a **CLOTH**. (*Introduction*)

## ↻ EXTENSION

**3A** Read the following passages: **Genesis 17:5, Genesis 17:15, Mark 3:16, Acts 13:9**. In each passage, a person's name was changed. Make a chart showing each person's former name and his or her new name.

**3B** Hebrew names had meanings. Jacob's name meant *one who supplants* or *one who deceives*. God changed Jacob's name to *Israel*, meaning *struggles with God* or *prince with God*. Ask students to give themselves another name by using a few words that describe their character. Direct them to use names that honor God. Have students make name tags for their new names with **STRIPS OF CARD STOCK** and some colored markers.

## Introduction ★

Play the game Let's Strike a Deal with one of your students. Place an **OLD SOCK** under a **CLOTH** so that none of the students can see the sock. Call for a volunteer, and tell the student that in return for doing a small chore in the classroom, he or she may have the choice of a classroom privilege or what you have hidden under the cloth. Entice the student to consider choosing what is under the cloth, but tell the student that all deals are final and that he or she may not reconsider once a choice is made. If the volunteer chooses the old sock and is disappointed, point out that deals made between people may turn out to be disappointing. People sometimes break their word or are unfair to others. God, however, is always good. He is faithful to fulfill all that He has promised in His Word.

## Directed Instruction ↻

Remind students of the covenant God had initiated with Abraham, Jacob's grandfather. God promised to bless Abraham with many descendants and a land of their own. The promised Savior, Jesus, would one day come from Abraham's family line. God reaffirmed this covenant with Jacob in his dream at Bethel (Genesis 28:10–22). Ask students what the result of the covenantal dream was. (**God promised to bless all the people on Earth through Jacob. God promised to be with Jacob and to watch over him. Jacob agreed to accept God's covenant as long as God would protect and care for him.**)

Point out that it is through God's grace that people have a relationship with Him at all. Inform students that in today's lesson, God reminds Jacob once more that He is with him. God tells Jacob to return to the land of Canaan and that He will be faithful to remain with him.

Read **Romans 5:1–5**. Explain that Paul, the author of Romans, urged believers to rejoice whenever they faced tribulations or sufferings. He encouraged believers to use these times as opportunities to grow in their faith and character. Emphasize that tribulation and suffering often work to produce humility in the life of a believer. *Humility* is a characteristic of maturing in faith—a quality God desires His followers to have (Romans 12:3). It is defined as *thinking and caring about God and others first*.

## Student Page 3.3

Challenge students as they read the Scripture and complete the page to notice how Jacob humbly submitted to Esau. Read **Genesis 32:3–6**. Complete Exercises 1–2 as a class. Instruct students to work in pairs to read the identified Scriptures and complete the rest of the page. Encourage students to take turns in reading the Scripture for the exercises. Explain that the Man who wrestled with Jacob was an angel or a messenger from God, or possibly even Jesus Himself (Hosea 12:4). Point out that all of Jacob's fears, schemes, and plans for escape from his brother's anger were pointless. God had everything taken care of. Esau forgave Jacob and welcomed him back. Esau never threatened to take Jacob's life after this. Then have students complete Exercises 3–7.



## Review

- Describe how God kept His covenantal promise to Jacob while Jacob lived with Laban and his family. (**God protected and cared for Jacob.**)
- Why was Jacob afraid to return home? (**Esau had threatened to kill him years before.**)
- What was Jacob's plan to save his family in case Esau was still angry? (**He divided his family and herds into two groups. If Esau attacked one of the groups, the other group might be able to escape.**)
- Who wrestled with Jacob after he had sent his family ahead? (**A Man wrestled with him. This Man was an angel or possibly Jesus Himself.**)
- What physical defect did the Man place on Jacob's body? (**He made Jacob's hip go out of joint.**)
- What new name did the Man give Jacob? Why? (**The Man changed Jacob's name to Israel. Jacob was no longer a deceiver; now he was a man who trusted God.**)

## Notes:

## APPLICATION

- Worries and fears can stop you from doing God's will in your life. What is the opposite of worry and fear, and how can your relationship with God grow in difficult times? (**Faith is the opposite of worry and fear. I need to trust God and go to Him in prayer during worrisome and fearful times.**)
- Do you think that Jacob continued to trust God for the rest of his life? Why or why not? (**Answers will vary.**)
- Share an example of someone in the Bible who lived a life of trusting God. (**Answers will vary.**)

## REINFORCEMENT

*Esau's* name means *hairy* (Genesis 25:25). But later *Esau* was also known as *Edom*, which means *Red*, because of the red stew for which he traded his birthright (Genesis 25:29–30).

Esau was a loner, a hunter, and a wanderer. But Jacob was a herder of flocks, and he lived in the tents with the family. The word used to describe Jacob is the Hebrew word *tam*, which has been translated both as *plain* and as *perfect*. God used the same word when He talked to Satan about His servant Job, a perfect man (Job 1:8). Although Jacob was scheming and crafty, he had a heart that longed for God, as Job did.

## DAY 3



Name \_\_\_\_\_

After serving Laban for 20 years, God told Jacob that it was time to leave Paddan Aram and return home. Naturally, Jacob feared that his brother, Esau, would still be angry with him and try to kill him. Read Genesis 32:3–6. Answer the questions.

1. What message did Jacob send to his brother, Esau?  
**Possible answers: I (Jacob) am returning with all my possessions; I am your servant; I want to find favor in your eyes.**
2. What did the messengers say was Esau's response?  
**Esau was coming with 400 men.**

Read Genesis 32:7–21. Did Jacob's actions show faith or fear? Circle Jacob's motivation for each of his actions.

- |   |  |                                       |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3. Jacob divided his family and herds into two groups.                    | faith                                  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> fear |
| 4. Jacob prayed to God and told Him that he was unworthy of His kindness. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> faith | fear                                  |
| 5. Jacob remembered God's covenant.                                       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> faith | fear                                  |
| 6. Jacob sent gifts to Esau, hoping that Esau would forgive him.          | faith                                  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> fear |

7. Read Genesis 32:22–31. Use the Word Bank to complete the paragraph below.

On the night before Jacob went out to meet Esau, he sent his wives and children across the Jabbok River. Then a Man came and wrestled with him until dawn. Jacob must have been tired and discouraged, but he did not give up. When the Man saw that Jacob would not quit, He told Jacob to let him go. Jacob would not let the Man go until He blessed him. Then the Man asked Jacob his name. Jacob told Him his name, which meant **deceiver**. The Man gave Jacob a new name, Israel, which meant **struggles with God** or **prince with God**. Jacob finally relied only on God.

### Word Bank

wrestled  
Jabbok  
blessed  
Israel

# Jacob Is Transformed

Focus: God's New Covenant

## ★ PREPARATION

Have a **VHS VIDEO TAPE** and a **DVD** available in the classroom.  
(*Introduction*)

## ↻ EXTENSION

**4A** Have students read **Mark 11:25–26**. State that *forgive* means *to let go of resentment toward an offender*. Direct students to rewrite the Scripture inserting this definition in place of the word *forgive*.

**4B** Obtain a **10" × 12" PIECE OF CARDBOARD** for each student. Make copies of **BLM 3K Map: Canaan**. Use **BLM 3L Salt Dough Recipe** to make salt dough for each student. Encourage students to collectively research the land elevations of Canaan. Have students glue the map from **BLM 3B** to a piece of **CARDBOARD**. Give each student some salt dough. Tell students to place the dough on the map to model the elevations of the region. Allow the maps to dry, and then have students color them with **PAINT**.

**4C** Have students turn to the Bible Journal in the back of their Student Edition. Explain that this is a place to record their thoughts and prayers throughout the year. Direct them to write the following prompt and then complete it: *God works through imperfect people like Jacob. This week I saw God working in people or situations around me when ...* Allow 10 minutes for students to write in their Bible Journal.

## Introduction ★

Show the students both a **VHS VIDEO TAPE** and a **DVD**. Ask students to tell you how the two are alike. (**Both can record movies or television shows and be replayed.**) Ask students to suggest ways in which the DVD is superior to the VHS video tape. (**Possible answers: DVDs can be played over and over without wearing out; they require less storage space; they have better picture quality; they are divided into chapters.**) Explain that new technologies often have advantages over older technologies and that they gradually replace the older technologies. Inform students that today's lesson is about a new covenant from God.

## Directed Instruction ↻

Remind students that God affirmed His covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in many ways. Read **Genesis 35:9–15**, and point out that God was not only affirming His covenant with Jacob, but he was reaffirming Jacob's new name, *Israel*. God promised Jacob the following:

- Jacob would be the father of a great nation, and kings would come from him.
- Through his descendants, all the families of the earth would be blessed. This promise was particularly talking about Jesus.
- The land of Canaan would be his home and the home of his descendants.

In this covenant, or promise, God offered Jacob the same things that He had offered Abraham and Isaac. However, this covenant was limited; it did not offer a way to be spiritually reconciled to God. Point out that through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God offers a new covenant of grace to all people. To everyone who believes in Him, He offers forgiveness of sins and everlasting life (Acts 10:43, John 3:16).

Explain to students that the original (Abrahamic) covenant was entirely external and provided no power to keep it. Because God is omniscient, or all-knowing, He knew His children would need a new personal covenant with Him—through the sacrificial giving of His Son, Jesus. Believers in this new covenant of grace and mercy are empowered by the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 8:7–13). Teach that God's gift of salvation is free to anyone who accepts His gift in faith (Ephesians 2:8–9).

## Student Page 3.4

Have students work in groups to complete the page. When students have finished, discuss the answers for Exercises 2–3.

## Review

- What promises did God make to Jacob in Genesis 35:9–15? (**God promised Jacob that he would be the father of a great nation and kings would come from him, that through his family all the families of the earth would be blessed, and the land of Canaan would be their home.**)
- What promises does God make to you? (**He promises the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through faith in His Son, Jesus.**)