

A FAMILY IN TROUBLE

Genesis 34:1- 35: 29; 37: 1-11

After Jacob and Esau parted, Jacob moved on towards Shechem. There Jacob settled with his family for awhile. All the children were growing up and becoming more independent. One day Jacob's only daughter Dinah decided to go out on her own and visit the daughters of the land. Because she was unprotected, she got hurt. In revenge for what had happened to their sister, Simeon and Levi killed the men of the city of Shechem. It was a wicked thing to do, and God rejected the two brothers from there place of blessing because of it.

Jacob was in fear that the people of the country would destroy his family out of revenge for what Simeon and Levi had done, but the Lord protected them.

The Lord told Jacob to go to Bethel and live there. He told Jacob to build an altar and worship.

Jacob called all his family together and told them to gather all the idols that they had with them, and to get rid of them. He told everyone to bathe and put on clean clothes for they were going to worship God. Then Jacob took all the idols that had been collected, and all the earrings that they wore which were associated with false religion, and buried them under an oak tree near Shechem.

After that they traveled to Bethel, and Jacob built an altar to the Lord. God again appeared to Jacob and blessed him, reminding him that his name was no longer to be called Jacob, but that now he was to be called Israel. God said, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of you, and kings shall come out of you. The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, I will give to you, and to your descendants after you."

Jacob called that place where he met God Bethel, which means the house of God.

Jacob's family continued traveling on from there. Along the way, Rachel who was pregnant, came to her time of delivery. But things did not go well, and as she delivered her son, she died. Jacob named the little boy Benjamin.

Jacob traveled on to Edar, where he set up his tents and stayed for awhile. At that place, Jacob's oldest son Reuben did wicked thing. Because of Reuben's wickedness, God did not allow him to receive the blessing and birthright, even though he was the oldest son.

Jacob had twelve sons, and these are their names: The sons of Leah; Reuben, the firstborn, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulon. The sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin. The sons of Bilhah Rachel's handmaid were Dan, and Naphtali. The sons of Zilpah Leah's handmaid were Asher and Gad.

Jacob continued traveling until he came to Mamre where his father Isaac lived. Isaac died there at the age of one hundred eighty years. His sons Jacob and Esau buried him.

Jacob stayed in the land of Canaan. His sons were in charge of tending the flocks and herds. At this time Joseph, Rachel's oldest son was seventeen. He had been sent to care for the sheep with the sons of Bilhah, and Zilpah. And because those boys did not do what they were supposed to, Joseph reported their bad behavior to his father. Now Jacob loved Joseph better than his other sons, because he was the son of Rachel. He gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors. This coat set Joseph apart as the favorite, and whenever Joseph wore it, everyone was reminded of Jacob's special love for Joseph. The other brothers, seeing the special favor extended to Joseph, were very jealous of him and began to hate him. Whenever Joseph did something that displeased them, their hatred grew, and day by day things got worse. It got to the place where Joseph's brothers never had a good or kind word to speak to him. their anger against him was always ready to spill over.

Then one night Joseph had a dream, and he foolishly told the dream to his brothers. This caused their hatred to grow even greater. Joseph dreamed that all the brothers were in the field binding sheaves. Joseph saw all his brother's sheaves bowing down before his sheaves. The brothers said to Joseph, "Do you think that you will rule over us?"

Again Joseph dreamed a dream. He told this dream to his brothers and parents. In this dream Joseph saw the sun and the moon, and eleven stars bow down to himself. This time his father scolded him, saying, "What have you dreamed? Do you think that your mother and I and your brothers will bow down to you?"

After this his brothers envied Joseph even more, but Jacob remembered the dream and thought about what it might mean.

How difficult things had become in Jacob's family. Even though he loved God, Jacob was still responsible to train his children in God's way. It seems that many times Jacob just let his children do what they pleased, and so they become involved in danger and sin. Jacob himself caused problems because he favored one son over the others. Let us be reminded that God gives us the plan on how to live in peace and harmony in our families. It is parent's responsibility to train their children and require right behavior from them. It is children's responsibility to honor and obey their parents. It is also children's responsibility to love their brothers and sisters and seek to be a joy to them, not to rule over them or boss them around. Can you remember to honor and obey your parents? Can you serve and help your brothers and sisters, rather than trying to get them to serve you? What a happy family you will have, if everyone, especially you, treat the others as you would like to be treated.

PRINCIPLE: Honor and obey your parents. Treat everyone as you want to be treated.

LEARN: Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

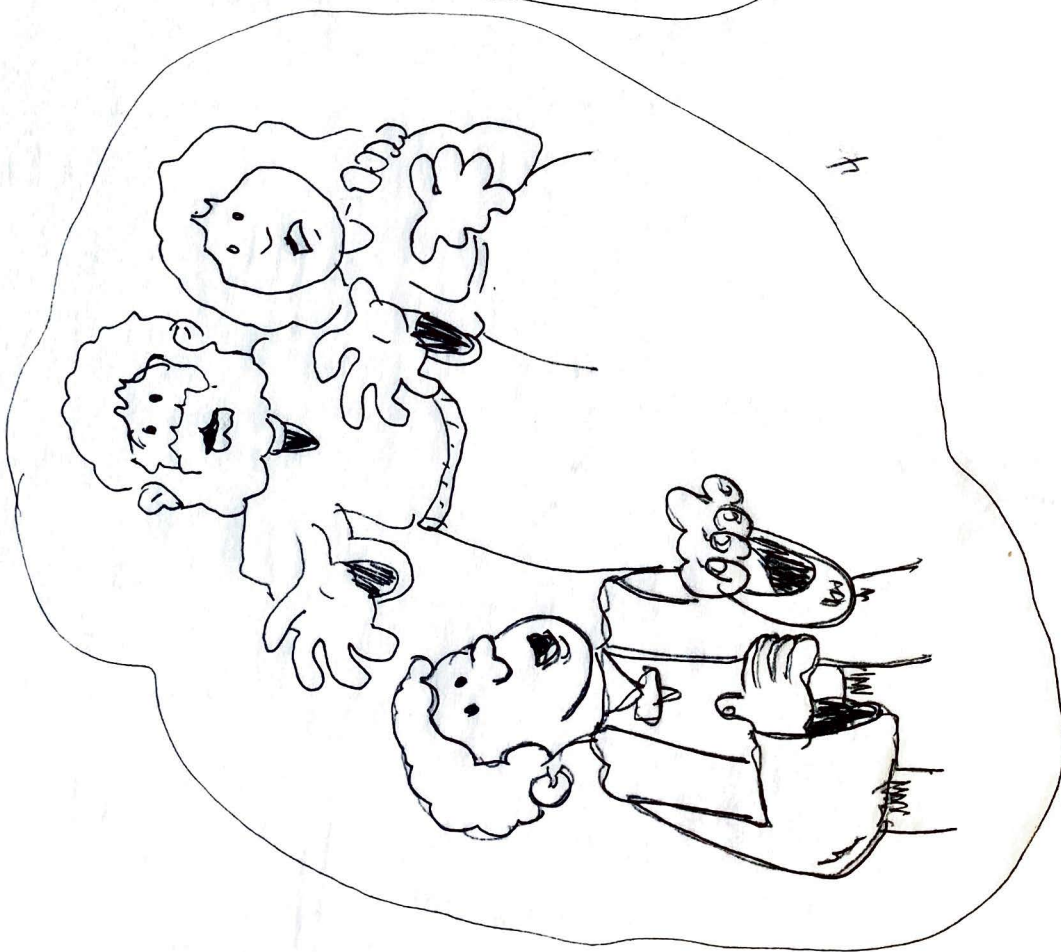
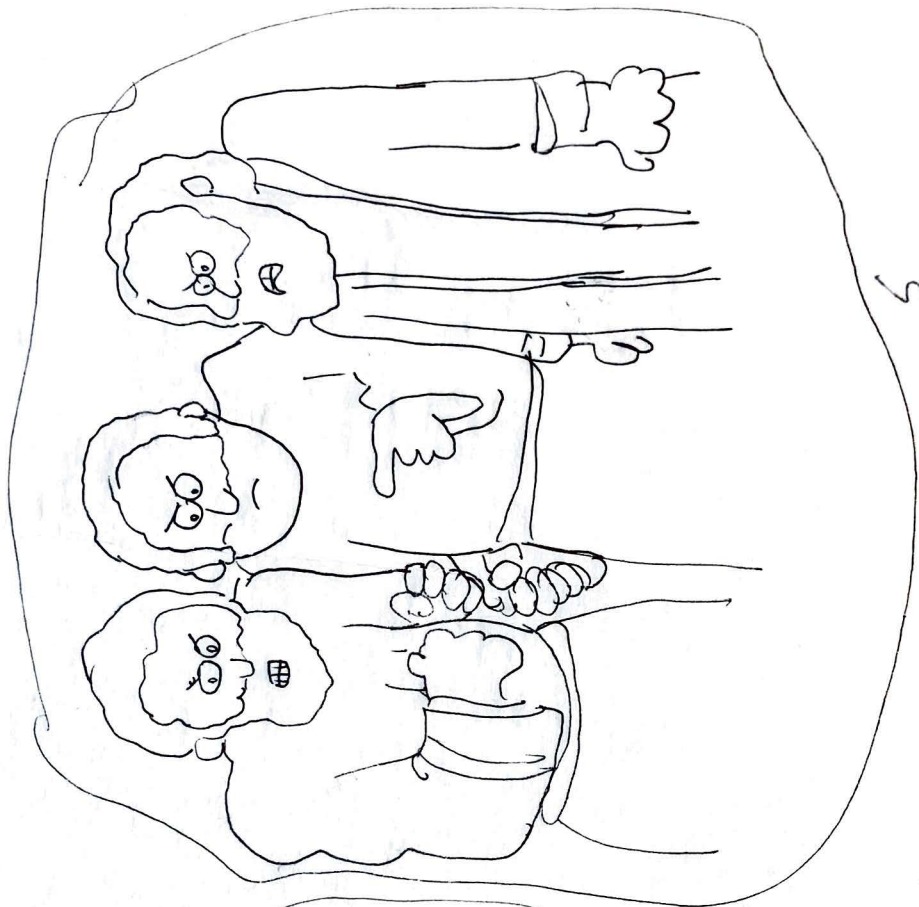
Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;

Romans 12:9,10

Dissimulation means hypocrisy

God is telling us that our love should be genuine, not serving ourselves, but serving those that we say we love.

- 1 Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob.
One day Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors.
Joseph's brothers envied him.
- 2 Joseph dreamed that his brother's sheaves bowed to his sheaf.
The brothers said, "Do you think that you will rule over us?"
- 3 Joseph dreamed that eleven stars, and the sun and moon bowed to him.
Joseph told his parents the dream.
- 4 Jacob scolded Joseph and said,
"Do you think that your mother and I will bow before you?"
- 5 Joseph's brothers grew to hate Joseph, because he was favored.
Soon the brothers spoke to Joseph only in anger.





1. Color all the pictures
2. Cut them out.
3. Paste into booklet in correct order.
4. Paste correct captions beneath each picture.
5. Make Cover for booklet.

This is a two part book - we will add more pages next week.

make your booklet out of construction paper about 6" x 7" sheets

