

YOUTH



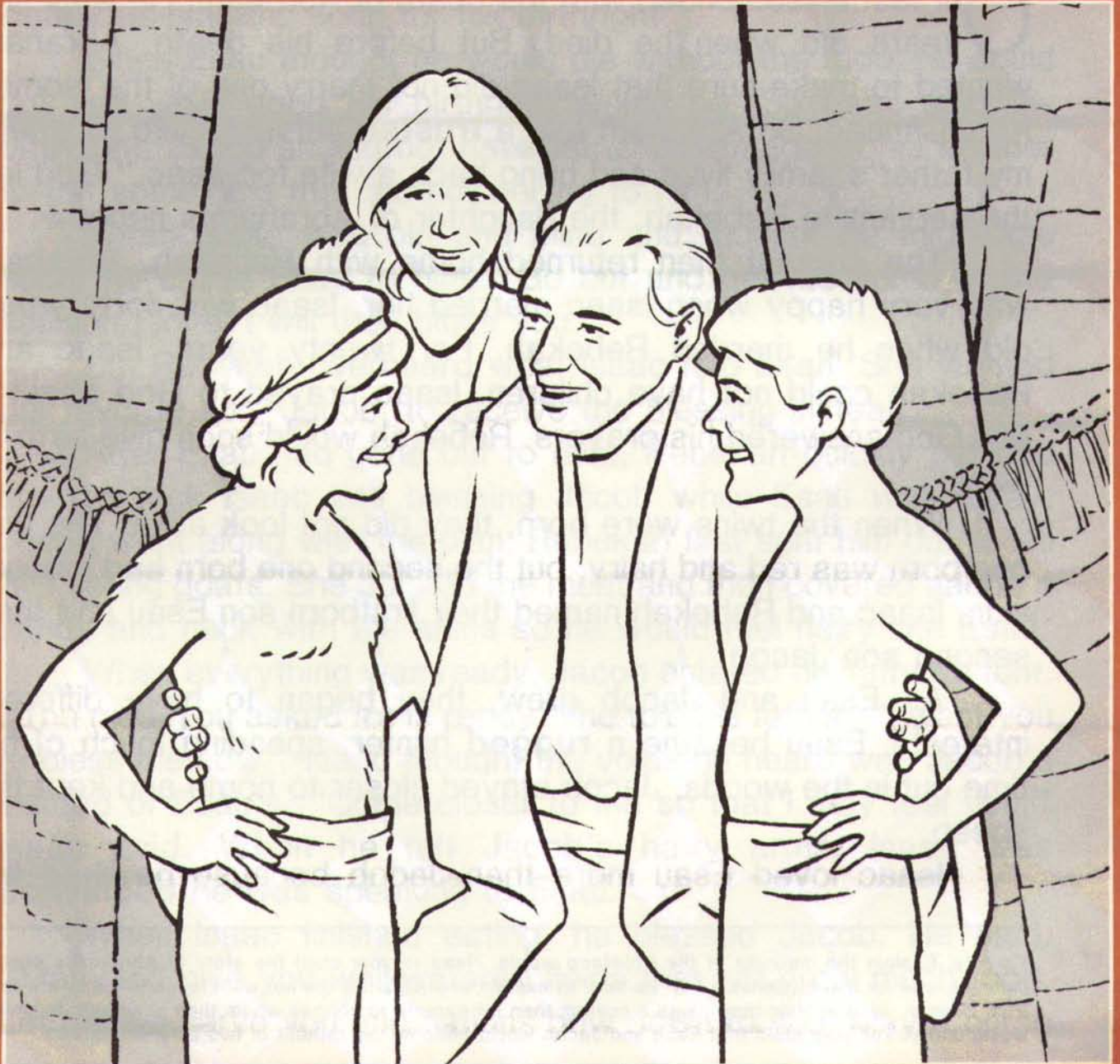
LEVEL 1

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 7



Esau and Jacob

ESAU AND JACOB

Our last lesson ended with the death of Abraham. He was 175 years old when he died. But before his death, Abraham wanted to make sure that Isaac did not marry one of the women from Canaan. So Abraham told a **trusted** servant, "Go to where my father's family lives and bring back a wife for Isaac." God led the servant to Rebekah, the daughter of Abraham's nephew.

The servant then returned home with Rebekah. Abraham was very happy when Isaac married her. Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. For twenty years, Isaac and Rebekah could not have children. Isaac prayed to God about it and God answered his prayers. Rebekah would soon give birth to twins!

When the twins were born, they did not look alike. The first one born was red and hairy, but the second one born had smooth skin. Isaac and Rebekah named their firstborn son Esau and their second son Jacob.

As Esau and Jacob grew, they began to have different interests. Esau became a **rugged** hunter, spending much of his time out in the woods. Jacob stayed closer to home and kept the sheep.

Isaac loved Esau more than Jacob because he liked the

Parents: Explain the meaning of the **boldface** words. Read to your child the story of Abraham's servant finding a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24). Be sure to explain why Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman from Canaan. Also explain that it was a custom then for parents to choose whom their sons and daughters would marry. Tell your child that Esau and Jacob would become the fathers of two different nations.

venison which Esau brought home. But Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau.

Because Esau was the firstborn son, he had the birthright. This meant that he would receive a larger part of his father's wealth when his father died.

One day Esau returned home from one of his hunting trips, dirty and **famished** from hunger. He could not resist an offer Jacob made to him. Jacob offered to sell Esau a bowl of **delicious**-smelling soup for his birthright.

Since Esau thought he would die without the food, he could not see what good his birthright would be. So Esau sold his birthright! Jacob should not have taken advantage of his brother to get something that did not belong to him.

When Isaac was old and blind and thought he might die soon, he called Esau to him. "Go out and get me some of the venison I love. I will then bless you."

But Rebekah overheard what Isaac told Esau. She wanted her favorite son, Jacob, to receive the blessing instead.

After Esau had gone out to hunt, Rebekah quickly planned how to trick Isaac into blessing Jacob while Esau was away. Jacob went along with the plan. Rebekah first sent him out to kill two young goats. She cooked the meat and then covered Jacob's hands and neck with the skins so he would feel hairy like Esau.

When everything was ready, Jacob entered his father's tent. "The meal you asked for is ready," he told his father. "I want you to bless me now." Isaac thought the voice he heard was Jacob's instead of Esau's. "Come closer to me so that I may feel you," Isaac said. When he felt Jacob's hairy arms, Isaac was **convinced** he was speaking to Esau.

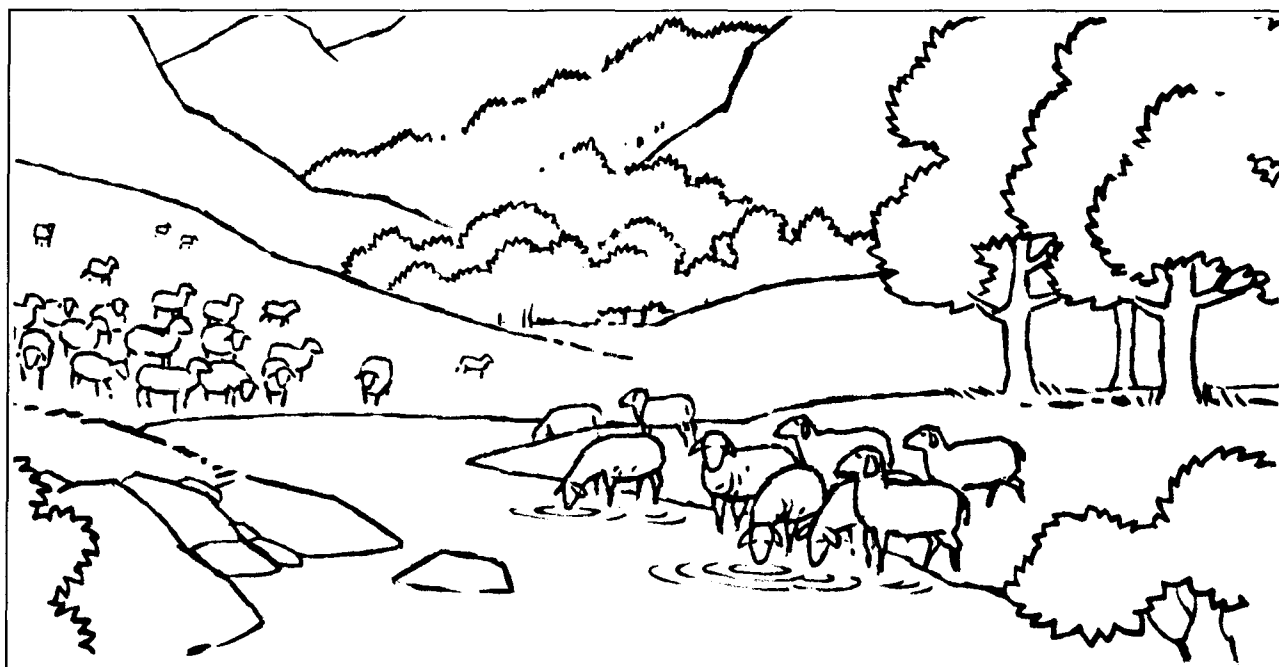
When Isaac finished eating, he blessed Jacob. He said, "May God give you well-watered fields that will grow much food. Let people serve you and nations bow down to you. May a curse

be on those who curse you and may a blessing be on those who bless you.”

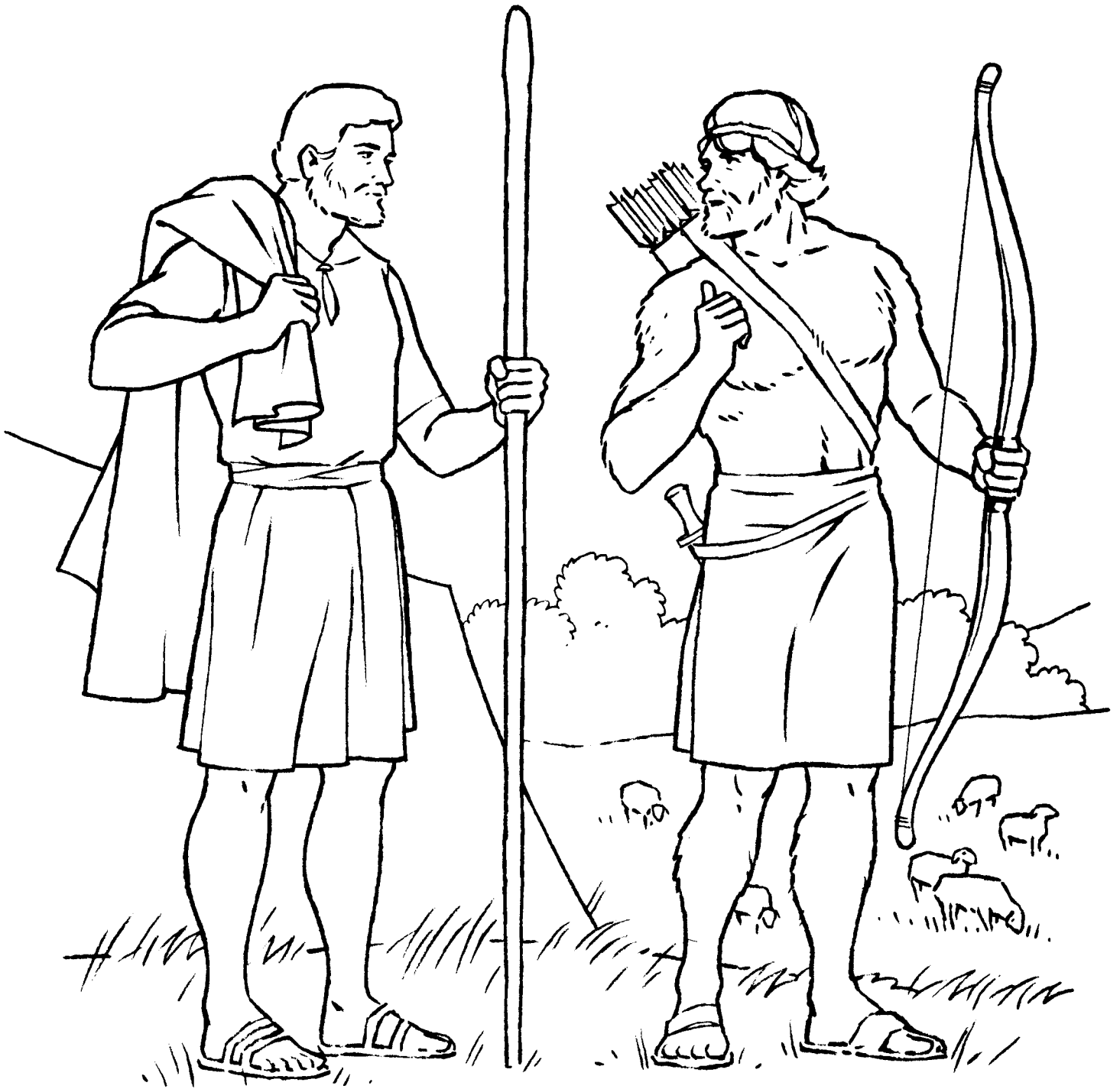
After the blessing, Jacob left his father and went outside. A few moments later, Esau came in with the meal of venison he had prepared. Esau was very angry when he learned what Jacob had done. The blessing could not be taken back and given to Esau, now that it had already been given to Jacob. Once again, Jacob had taken something that belonged to Esau.

Not long after this, Rebekah learned that Esau planned to kill Jacob as soon as Isaac died. Fearing for her favorite son’s life, Rebekah asked Isaac to send Jacob far away to where her brother Laban lived, to find a wife. Since Isaac did not want his sons to marry women from Canaan, he agreed.

In our next lesson, we will pick up the story of Jacob’s trip to his Uncle Laban’s home. Some very important things happened during this trip.



Parents: Ask your child some of the following questions to prompt further discussion: Was it right for Jacob to ask Esau to sell his birthright for the soup? Why didn't Esau tell his father that he had sold his birthright? How did Jacob know when Isaac was going to bless Esau? Why was the blessing so important—what would it mean for Jacob’s descendants? Why did Rebekah want Jacob to go to his Uncle Laban’s home?



Esau liked to hunt in the woods.
Jacob stayed closer to home
and looked after the sheep.



Esau sells his birthright
for Jacob's soup.



Jacob and his mother
plan a way to steal
Esau's blessing.



Isaac is tricked into blessing Jacob.



Rebekah says good-bye to her favorite son, not knowing when she will see him again.

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Abraham chose a wife for Isaac. T F
2. Esau was the firstborn twin. T F
3. Jacob was Isaac's favorite son. T F
4. Laban was Rebekah's father. T F
5. Esau was a hairy man. T F
6. Esau twice took something that was Jacob's. T F
7. Isaac married a woman from Canaan. T F
8. Jacob loved to hunt. T F
9. Isaac loved deer meat. T F

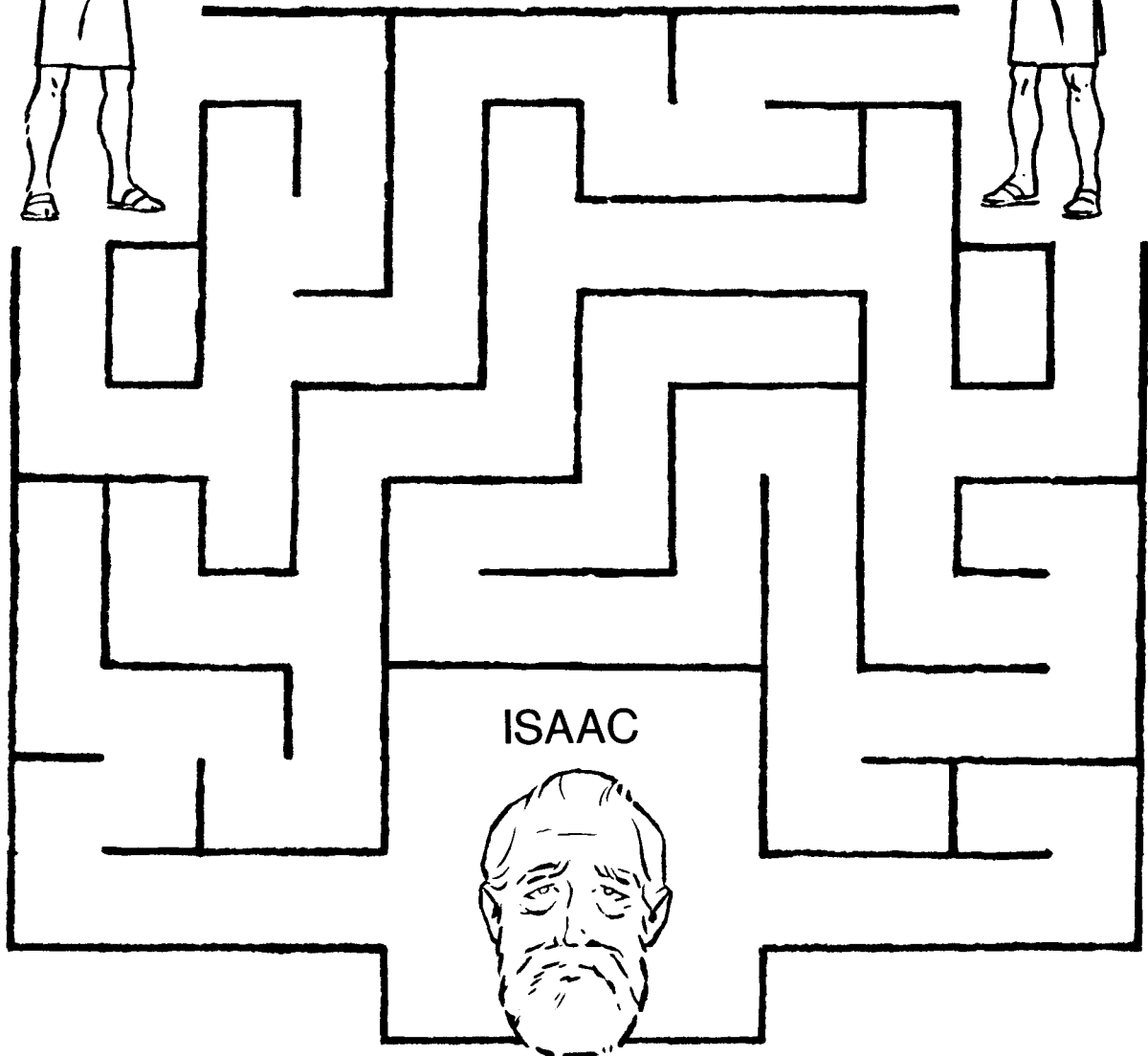
Parents: Read each sentence to your child and have him or her circle the "T" if it is true, or the "F" if it is false. You may need to explain the meaning of the word "false."

ESAU



**WHO RECEIVED
THE BLESSING?**

JACOB



With a crayon, take the son who received the blessing through the maze to Isaac.

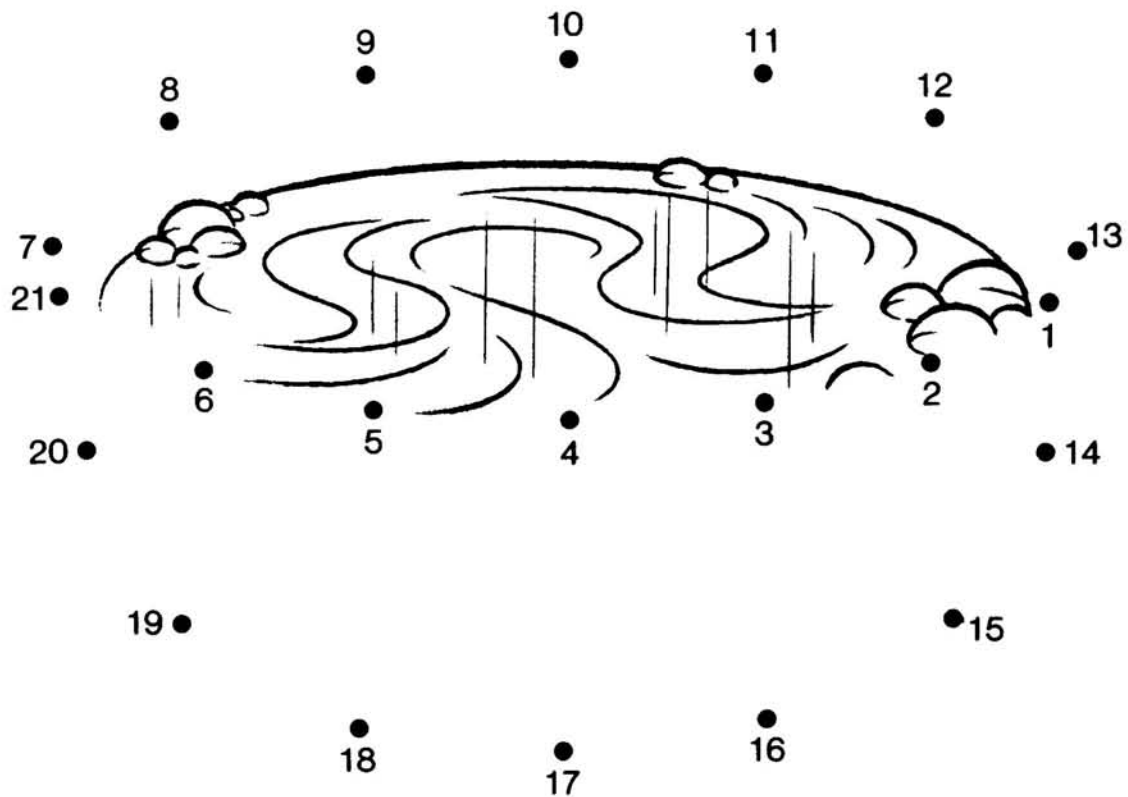
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BIBLE MEMORY

Books of the
New Testament

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|---------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. I Timothy | 5. Hebrews | 9. I John | 13. Revelation |
| 2. II Timothy | 6. James | 10. II John | |
| 3. Titus | 7. I Peter | 11. III John | |
| 4. Philemon | 8. II Peter | 12. Jude | |



Connect the dots to find out what
Jacob traded for Esau's birthright.