7

Seek and Find

Key References: Genesis 25:21-34; 32:22-30; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 18, pp. 195-203; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 32-35; Our Beliefs, nos. 11, 3, 10.















power**text**

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7, NIV).

power**point**



God blesses us when we persistently seek a relationship with Him.

People are so different! Some of your friends love nothing more than being outside; other friends are more quiet. Most of the time our differences make our friendships more interesting. Sometimes, however, those differences lead to trouble.

Before their mother, Rebekah, knew that she was carrying twins, she wondered why the "baby" inside of her was so active. It seemed as though there were two babies continually fighting with each other. She prayed and asked God why this was happening, and God told her that she was carrying twins. (See Genesis 25:21-23.) Two nations and two kinds of people were inside of her. "One people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger" (verse 23, NIV).

The first baby was covered with so much red hair that they named him Esau, which means "hairy." Then the second baby boy was born. Because he was holding on to his brother's heel, they called this baby Jacob, "grabber" or "heel-holder."

Unfortunately, Rebekah and her husband, Isaac, each had a favorite child. Because Esau enjoyed hunting as he got older, he was Isaac's favorite. Jacob, on the other hand, enjoyed staying home with his mother, learning to cook and take care of the goats and sheep; he became his mother's favorite.

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 60.

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Sunday

READ Read Genesis 32:22, 23 and this week's story, "Seek and Find."

WRITE On a piece of paper, write the power text and cut it out. Place it where the text is found in your Bible, that is, Matthew 7:7.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you a strong desire to seek Him every day.

Monday

READ Read Genesis 32:24-30.

PLAY Get together with a friend or family member and engage in some kind of fun activity in which you are competing (for example, a Bible game that requires problem solving and intelligent discussion). Afterward, discuss how this experience is similar to the way in which you might seek God.

THINK Think about how eager you are to be successful in a family game. Are you that eager to know God?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the awesome privilege of knowing Him.

Tuesday

READ Read Hebrews 11:6.

THINK Think of everyday situations that illustrate how one should seek a relationship with God.

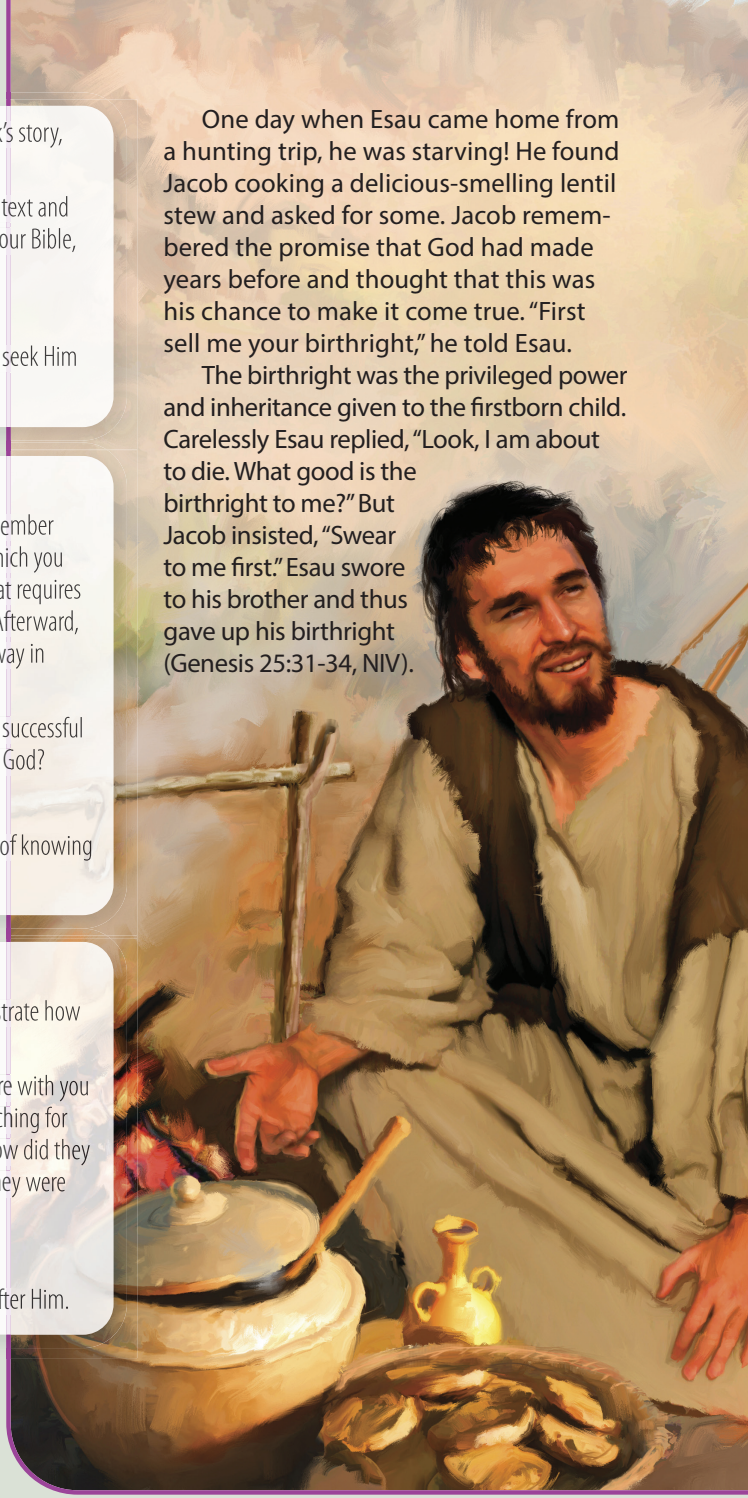
ASK Ask a family member or a friend to share with you an experience they had when they were searching for something that they really wanted to find. How did they feel when they finally found that for which they were searching?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to daily remind you to seek after Him.

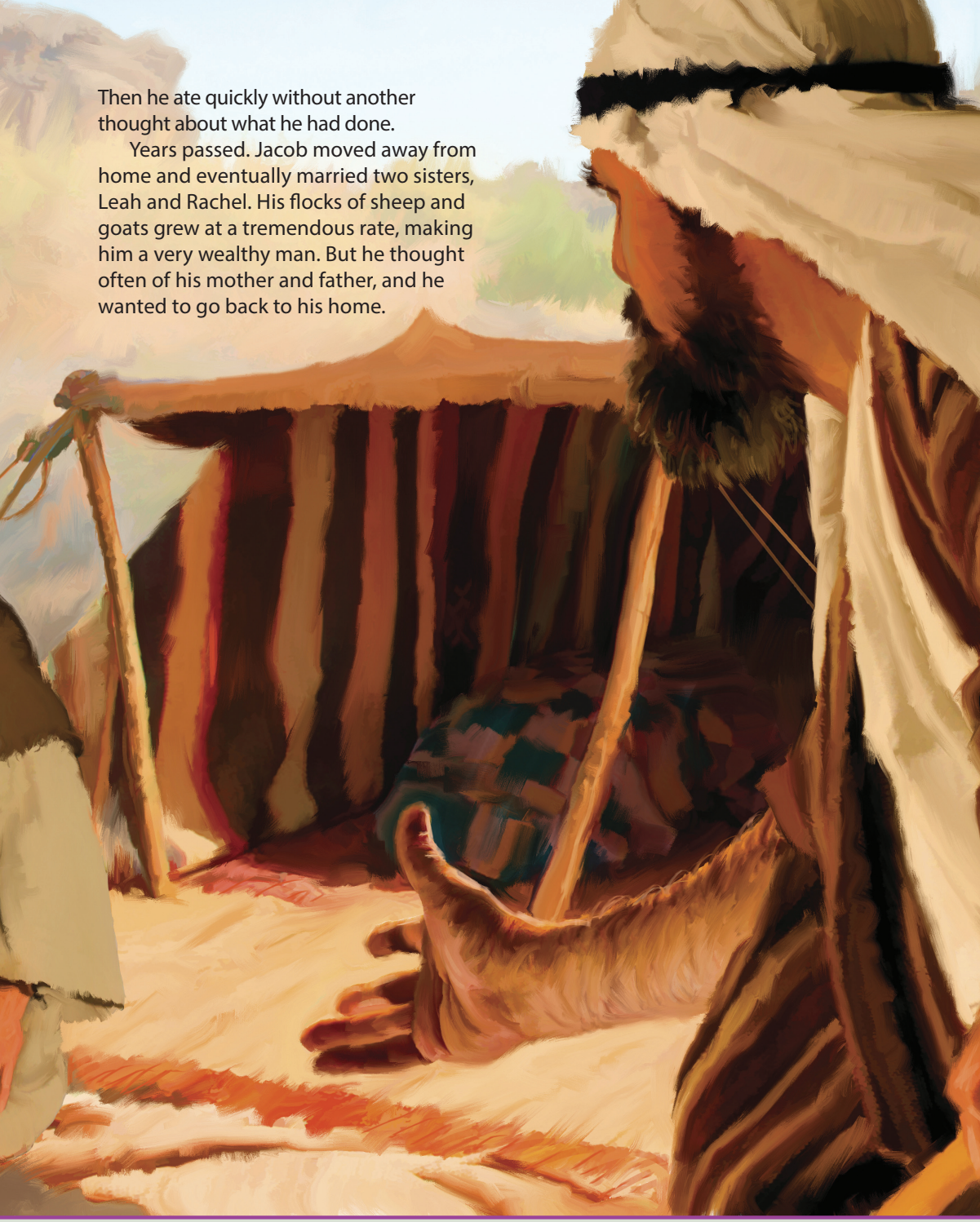
One day when Esau came home from a hunting trip, he was starving! He found Jacob cooking a delicious-smelling lentil stew and asked for some. Jacob remembered the promise that God had made years before and thought that this was his chance to make it come true. "First sell me your birthright," he told Esau.

The birthright was the privileged power and inheritance given to the firstborn child. Carelessly Esau replied, "Look, I am about to die. What good is the birthright to me?" But Jacob insisted, "Swear to me first." Esau swore to his brother and thus gave up his birthright (Genesis 25:31-34, NIV).



Then he ate quickly without another thought about what he had done.

Years passed. Jacob moved away from home and eventually married two sisters, Leah and Rachel. His flocks of sheep and goats grew at a tremendous rate, making him a very wealthy man. But he thought often of his mother and father, and he wanted to go back to his home.



7

Wednesday

READ Read Psalm 9:10.

FIND Look up "seek" in a concordance and find three other scriptural references that talk about seeking God.

THINK When have you been so hungry you would have given anything for some food the way Esau did? Have you felt that hungry for knowing God? Why or why not?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you a deep hunger to know Him.

Thursday

READ Read Amos 5:4.

SING Sing at least the first verse of "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 567).

THINK How are the words of this song like Jacob's request, found in Genesis 32:26, when he was wrestling with the angel? How are they different?

REVIEW Review the power text.

LIST List 10 blessings you received from God.

PRAY Thank God for the blessings He freely gives.

Friday

READ Read Matthew 7:7, 8.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write a letter to God about how you want to seek Him. Write it as if to a friend you want to know better.

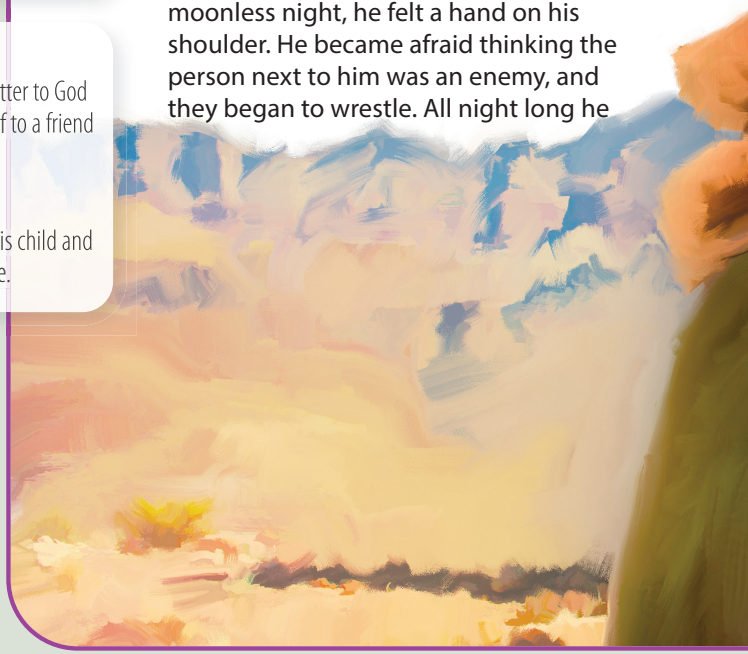
SAY Say the power text from memory.

PRAY Thank God for the privilege of being His child and receiving unconditionally the gifts of His grace.

Finally he rounded up all his servants, his children, and his herds and began the long journey. As he neared the town of Edom, where his brother lived, Jacob remembered the birthright and realized that Esau might still be angry. Suddenly he was very nervous about his family's safety. So he sent some of his men ahead with this message: "Your servant Jacob says, I have been staying with Laban and have remained there till now. I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes" (Genesis 32:4, 5, NIV).

But the return message was less than friendly: Esau would meet Jacob with an army of 400 men! Jacob was frantic with fear.

Jacob decided to spend the night seeking God's blessing and asking Him to soften his brother's heart toward him. As Jacob was praying during that dark moonless night, he felt a hand on his shoulder. He became afraid thinking the person next to him was an enemy, and they began to wrestle. All night long he



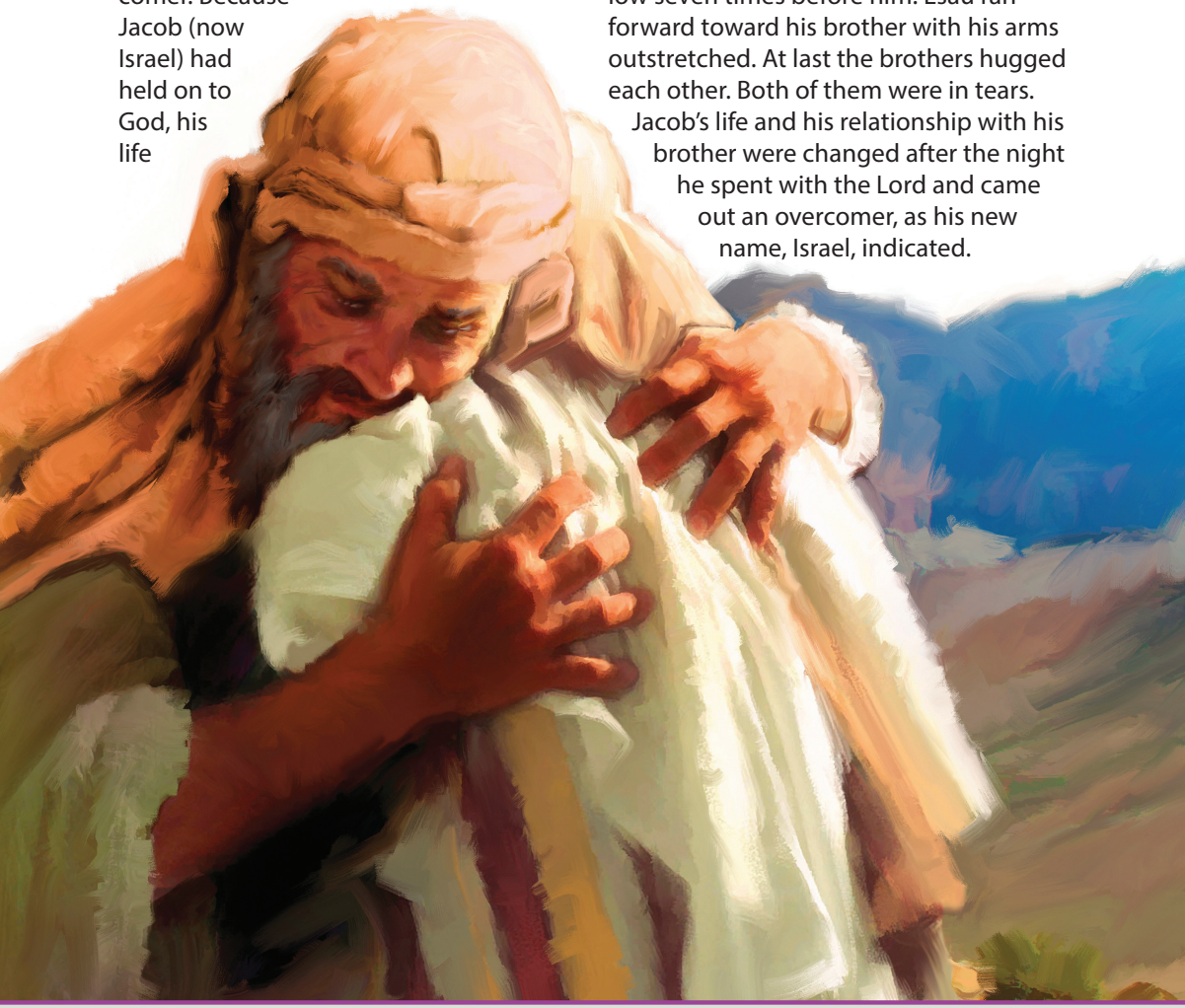
wrestled with this person whom he could not identify. As the sun slowly crept up on the horizon, the stranger touched Jacob's hip, and it immediately went out of joint. The stranger said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

Somehow Jacob suddenly knew that he had wrestled with God all night. He panted, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" (verse 26, NIV). Then God changed Jacob's name to Israel, the overcomer. Because Jacob (now Israel) had held on to God, his life would be different from that moment on.

Though exhausted, Israel limped toward Edom. Way off in the distance he saw a cloud of dust grow larger—and nearer. He knew it was Esau, coming with his 400 men, expecting to meet his selfish brother, the cheater who took away his birthright. But Jacob—that is, Israel—had much changed since then. He was now a new person.

As Esau approached, Israel bowed low seven times before him. Esau ran forward toward his brother with his arms outstretched. At last the brothers hugged each other. Both of them were in tears.

Jacob's life and his relationship with his brother were changed after the night he spent with the Lord and came out an overcomer, as his new name, Israel, indicated.



PUZZLE 7

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

Instructions: A Bible verse that tells us what to do is hidden in the grid below. Also hidden in the words of the Bible verse (in the grid) are eight letters that spell out when we are to do it. Can you separate the two messages, reading left to right, top to bottom?

Clue: Found in Matthew 6 (NIV)

B U R T S E E
K F I R I S T
G H I H S K I
N T G D O M A
N D H N I S R
I G O H T E W
O U S N E S S