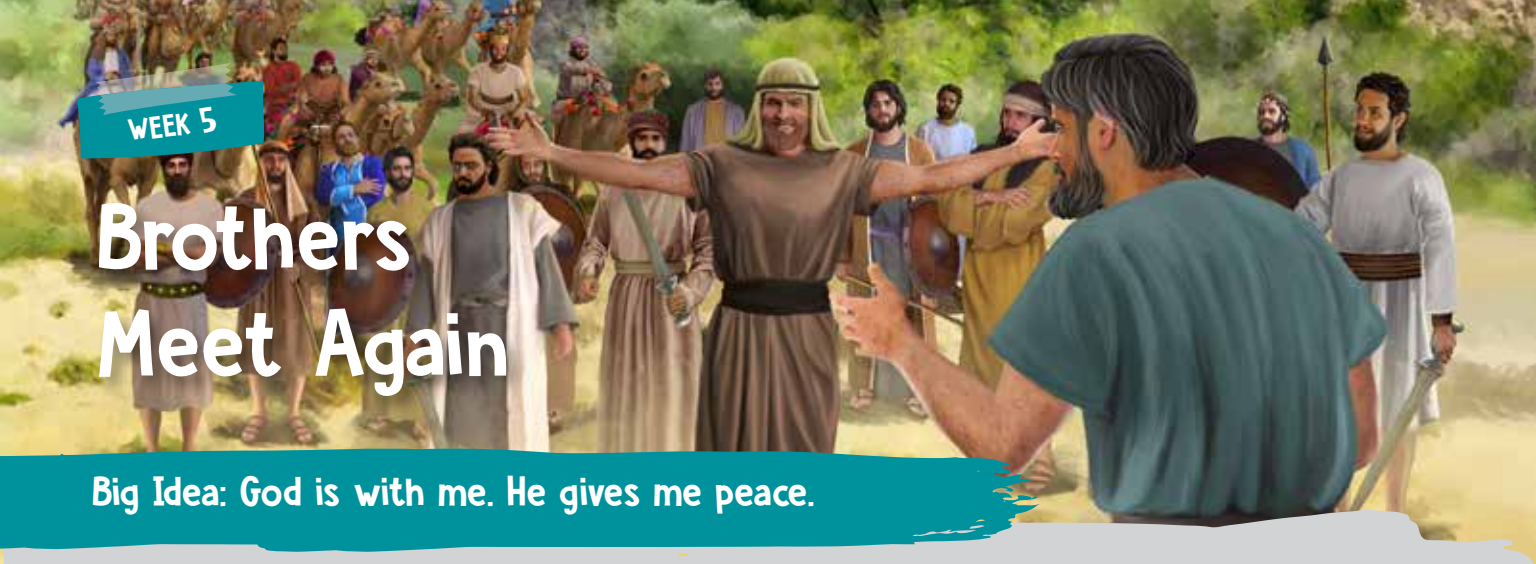


WEEK 5

Brothers Meet Again

Big Idea: God is with me. He gives me peace.

Memory Verse
***"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you"* (John 14:27).**

Word of the Week
"Peace" - Peace is quiet and calm. God's peace in our hearts gives us a safe and content feeling deep inside. Our peaceful words are soft, gentle, and forgiving. Peace means no fighting or war.

This week's lesson
is based on **Genesis 32**, **33** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 195-198.

Sunday

Going Home!

With a wave of his stick, Jacob chased the spotted goats up the rocky path. His sheep, camels, donkeys, servants, and family all followed behind. What a great big line of people and animals on their way to Canaan. Together, they were going home!

Back in Haran, Uncle Laban didn't know that Jacob had left. How long did it take Laban to find out they were gone? Read **Genesis 31:22**.

Laban was very angry! He jumped on his camel and chased after them. But God spoke to Laban and said, "Be careful! Do not say anything to Jacob, good or bad" (Genesis 31:24, ICB). God was asking Uncle Laban to have peace. He needed to be quiet and listen.

Finally Laban caught up with his big family. With God's words of peace in his mind, he went to talk with Jacob. "Why did you run away without telling me?" he asked (Genesis 31:27, ICB).

"I left without telling you, because I was afraid!" Jacob answered. "I thought you would take your daughters away from me" (Genesis 31:31, ICB). After they talked together, they agreed to make peace—no more tricks, lying, or fighting. To show that they really meant it, they made a pillar out of a big pile of rocks.



They called it Mizpah, meaning "A Pile to Remind Us." Then Laban headed back to Haran and Jacob traveled on. As Jacob came closer to Canaan, he began to think about his angry brother Esau. Had God given him peace and forgiveness too?

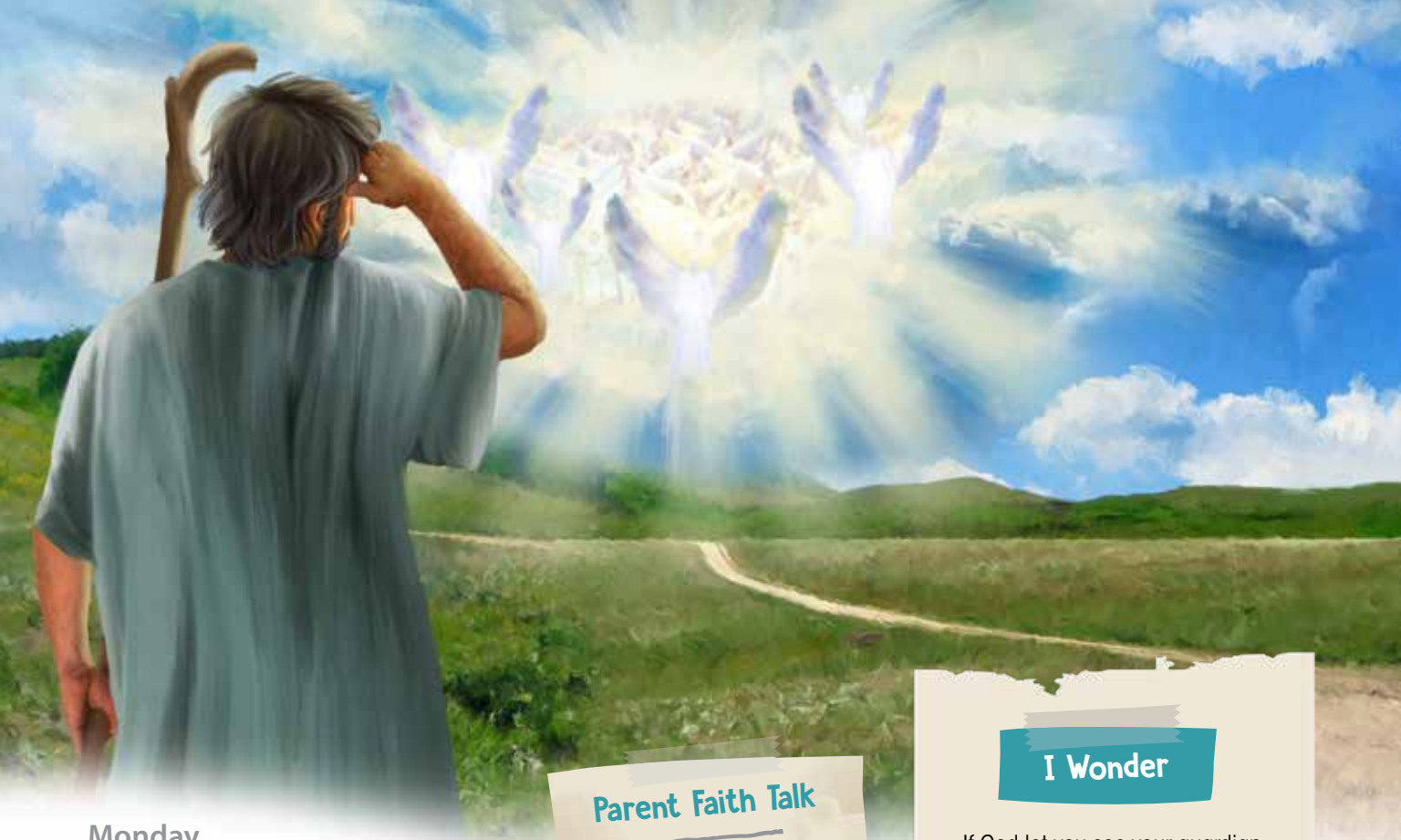
I Wonder

» Do you think it was hard or easy for Jacob and Uncle Laban to chat peacefully? Why?

» How could you learn from them?

Prayer Idea
Thank God that we can trust Him even when we don't know what is going to happen tomorrow.

Do
James 1:19 says, "Always be willing to listen and slow to speak" (ICB). Play a listening game with your family. Take turns giving instructions and listening. For example, jump on one leg three times, then blink, and sit down. Were you quick to listen?



Monday

Angel Protection

Parent Faith Talk

Thank God for the angels He sends to watch over us.

As Jacob came closer and closer to his home in Canaan, he felt a warm coziness inside. He noticed the familiar green hills in front of him and smiled. He was almost home!

But his smile soon disappeared. He began thinking about his brother Esau. He remembered his angry words and waving fist. What would Esau think when he found out Jacob was on his way home? What would he do?

God could see that Jacob was worried. He wanted to give Jacob peace instead of worry. Who did God send to meet him? Read **Genesis 32:1**.

Suddenly Jacob blinked. Wow! He rubbed his eyes and looked again. Up ahead and behind him were big, bright angels. It was like God had put special glasses on Jacob to let him see the invisible angels. A whole army of guardian angels were traveling with his family, keeping them safe!

Jacob's heart instantly filled with peace. He had nothing to fear because God and His angels were near! God was stronger and bigger than any problem he could ever face.

The Bible says, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you" (John 14:27). The next time you feel scared or worried, remember you can have God's peace because His angels are busy protecting you just like they were protecting Jacob. God "has put his angels in charge of you. They will watch over you wherever you go" (Psalm 91:11, ICB).

I Wonder

» If God let you see your guardian angels, just like Jacob, how would you feel?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for the angels He sends to watch over us.

Do

Imagine and draw what you might see if God showed you your guardian angel right now.

Mission Challenge

Set up a Sabbath School at home for your toys. What would you sing, say, and share if you were the teacher? Invite a young family member or friend to join you. Invite them to your Sabbath School on Sabbath.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Messages of Peace

As Jacob sat staring at the crackling fire, he thought hard. How could he meet Esau in a *peaceful* way? He had an idea.

He called over one of his servants and asked them to send a peaceful message. What was it? Read **Genesis 32:4, 5**.

Jacob had used his words carefully. He had said, "My *Master*, Esau," and told him the message was from "Jacob, your *servant*." He didn't want Esau to think he wanted to be a boss over him. God helped Jacob to be wise, polite, and peaceful.

The messengers came racing back, puffing and panting. They told him, "He is coming to meet you. And he has 400 men with him" (Genesis 32:6, ICB).

Poor Jacob began to tremble with fear. Esau was coming with an army of men, ready to fight him! He looked at his wives and children. They weren't soldiers! They couldn't possibly fight against an army.

Then Jacob stopped. How could he forget so quickly? He *did* have an army with him. It was an invisible angel army! He knelt down and asked God for help.

"Lord, you told me to return to my country and my family. You said that you would do good to me" Jacob prayed. "Please save me from my brother Esau. I am afraid" (Genesis 32:9,11, ICB).

God says in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you" (John 14:27). Whenever you are afraid, you can trust God to give you His peace.

I Wonder

» Jacob's words to Esau were peaceful words. What are some peaceful words you might use if someone tries to pick a fight with you?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to fill your heart with peace when you are scared.

Do

Write your memory verse on a piece of paper. Keep it somewhere safe. The next time you see someone looking worried or scared, give them the Bible verse.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

A Long Line of Gifts

Jacob's head bent low as he prayed to His peace-giving God. The sun set, but Jacob kept on praying. As he spoke to God, a great idea came into his mind. He had sent a peaceful message to Esau, now he would send a peaceful gift. And not just one gift—lots and lots of gifts! He would send them one after another, like the longest line of birthday presents ever. Esau would get a present, then another present . . . and another present.

Esau stared in surprise as a gift of goats trotted toward his camp with a servant. Then came a herd of goats . . . then rams . . . then plodding camels . . . bulls . . . donkeys . . . and finally, foals! Esau must have laughed with delight!

Each time a servant brought a new animal gift to Esau they said, "These animals belong to your servant Jacob. He sent them as a gift to you my master, Esau. And Jacob also is coming behind us" (Genesis 32:18, ICB).

What did Jacob hope would happen? Read **Genesis 32:20**.

While his servants were giving the gifts, Jacob stayed in camp praying that God would fill Esau's heart with peace and forgiveness. Praying for Esau was even more generous than giving him animals! The Bible says, "Give, and you will receive . . . The way you give to others is the way God will give to you" (Luke 6:38, ICB).

I Wonder

» When did you last give someone a gift? What did they say and do?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to be giving, kind, and peaceful to others.

Do

Choose a person in your family and plan to give them something special tomorrow: a craft or card, something you've collected or built.

Memory Verse

Thursday

A Night to Remember

All was dark as Jacob finally lay down after his busy day of giving gifts. He had moved his family to a new camp across the river. Then he'd crossed back to their old camp by himself. Closing his eyes, he began to pray.

Suddenly strong arms grabbed Jacob. Jacob grabbed them back. He twisted and turned, pushed and pulled. *Who was this enemy?* he wondered. It was so dark that he couldn't see His face.

As Jacob fought, he remembered all of his mistakes. Then he remembered God's promises. With new strength Jacob kept fighting. The unknown stranger would not give up, but neither would Jacob. On and on they wrestled.

How long did they wrestle? Read **Genesis 32:24**.

Jacob was exhausted, he had been wrestling for so long! But he held on tight. Then suddenly, the One Jacob had been wrestling with reached out and touched Jacob's hip. Instantly Jacob fell down to the ground in a heap—his hip was badly hurt. That was no ordinary touch! Jacob instantly realized he had been wrestling with God.

Jacob held onto God even tighter and cried, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" (Genesis 32:26). He knew he needed God's forgiveness, strength, and peace.

God heard him and "He blessed him there" (Genesis 32:29). God also gave him a brand-new name. Jacob's name had meant *tricker*. But God changed his name to *Israel* which means *blessed prince*. He would be a special leader, just as God had promised.

I Wonder

» What do you think Jacob's face might have looked like when he realized he was wrestling with God?

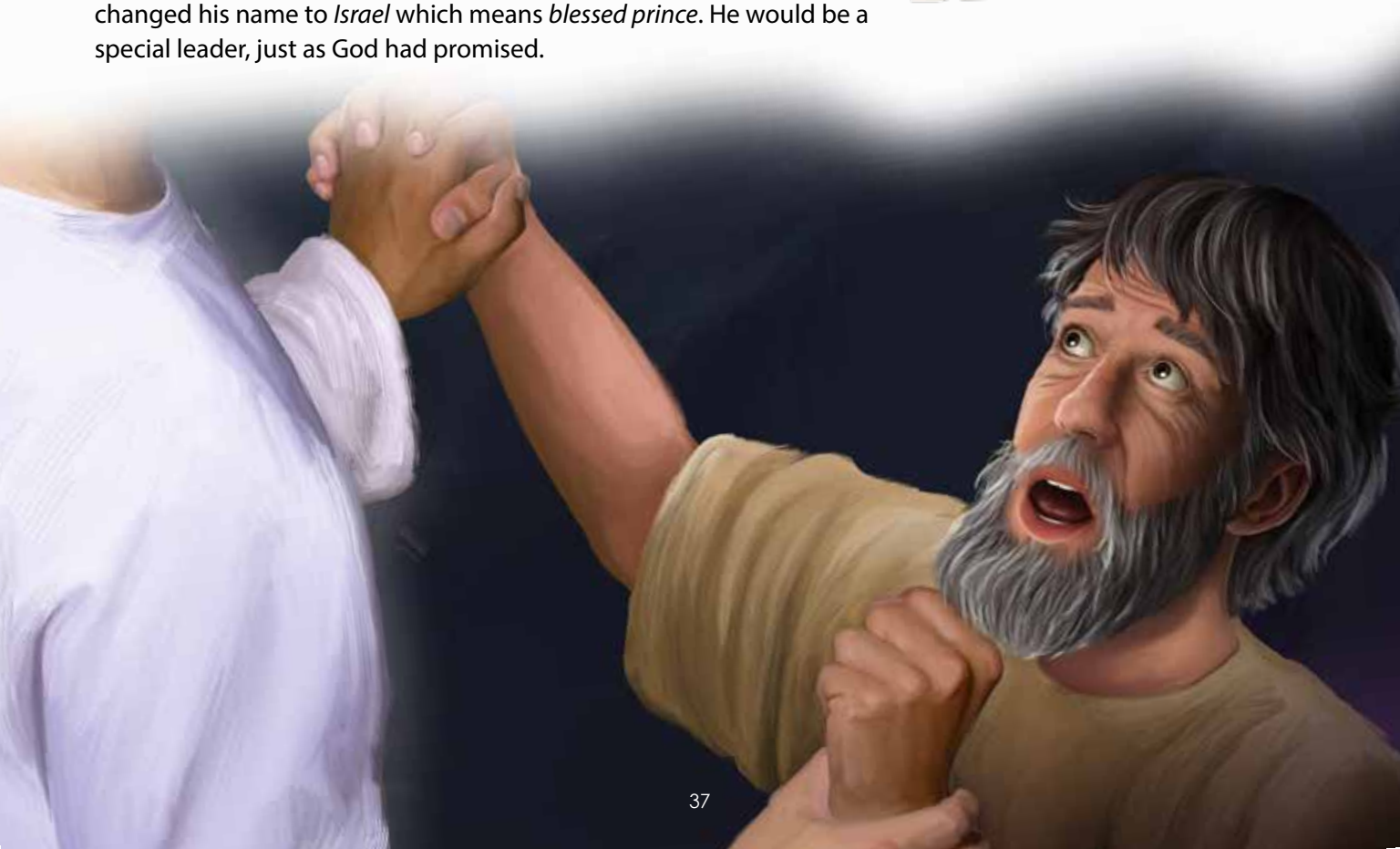
Prayer Idea

Thank God for always having His loving arms around us when we need Him.

Do

Go for a walk outside, if possible. Find a spot to sit quietly and close your eyes. What things can you hear and feel that remind you God is close? Say a prayer like Jacob, asking God to bless you.

Memory Verse





Friday

Brothers Meet

Jacob limped back to his family camp, tired but filled with God's peace. God had promised to be with him. God had blessed him.

As Jacob looked out into the distance, he saw Esau and his 400 men coming toward him. Had God been able to change Esau's angry heart?

Jacob hobbled slowly toward his brother, his face bright with joy. Then he stopped. What did he do? Read **Genesis 33:3**.

Esau began running straight toward his brother smiling. "Esau put his arms around him and hugged him. Then Esau kissed him, and they both cried" (Genesis 33:4, ICB).

God had heard Jacob's prayer. He had changed Esau's anger and hatred into love and forgiveness. Esau was actually happy to see his younger brother! What a wonderful miracle God had done.

Sometimes it is hard to forgive people when they hurt or upset you. But God promises in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you." God can change your heart too, so that you can love like Him.

I Wonder

» Why do you think Jacob bowed down low before his brother, Esau?

» What might the brothers have talked about that night?

» What might they have said in prayer to God?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for being a God of peace. Ask Him to help us fix hurting friendships.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

» What did you learn this week about peace? Think about your memory verse.

» What did you learn about listening?

» What did you learn about peaceful words?

» How can giving to others help make peace?

For You, Parents

"The question of forgiveness needs no interpretation. There is never a time or place where it is right for you or for me to say, 'I will not forgive my brother; I will not walk in fellowship with him.' He who does this places himself in opposition to the teachings of Christ" (Ellen G. White, in *Southern Watchman*, Jan. 1, 1903).

Sabbath

The Gentle Giant

In the warm waters between America and Africa lives an animal called a manatee. This large roly-poly creature looks a bit like a swimming elephant except it doesn't have a trunk or legs. Instead this ocean giant has flippers and a flat tail, like a paddle.

A manatee spends most of its days swimming slowly through the water eating seagrass and other floating plants. When their front teeth fall out from all the munching, new teeth grow and move to the front of their mouth.

Manatees are usually quiet animals but sometimes they talk to each other with squeaks and squeals. Although they may have just a small brain, manatees have shown that they are very smart.

But there is one thing that really makes this creature extra special. Most wild animals can become dangerous or angry at times but not the manatee. It is known for always being gentle and peaceful.

They are happy to share their patch of water with any other manatee and will nuzzle and kiss each other. They even use their flippers to give hugs.



Manatees have been seen playing games like tag and bodysurfing together. How beautiful! There's a lot to learn from the manatee. God made a promise in John 14:27 when He said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you." God's Holy Spirit wants to give us the heart of a manatee; to be filled with His peace, kindness, and gentleness in every situation.