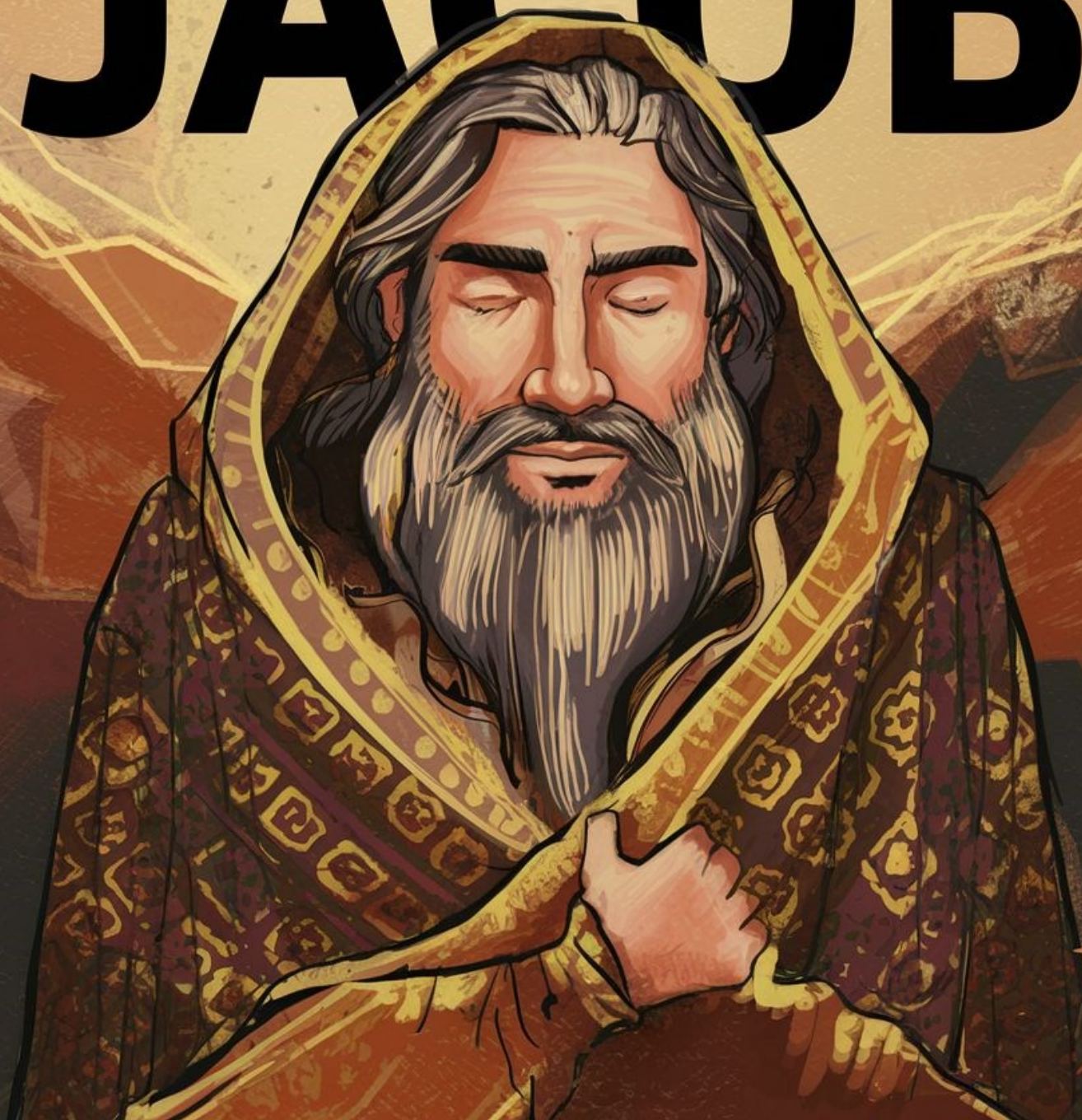


JACOB





Jacob

Jacob was a Twin

Once upon a time, in the ancient land of Canaan, there lived a boy named **Jacob**. He was a twin, and his brother's name was **Esau**. Now, Jacob was a clever fellow, but sometimes he got into trouble because of his tricks.

One day, their mommy, **Rebekah**, asked God about her twin boys, and guess what? God told her that these two brothers would grow up to be the ancestors of two great nations. Jacob would lead the people of Israel, and Esau would lead the people of Edom.

Jacob's name means "one who follows on another's heels." It's because when he was born, he was holding onto Esau's heel! But Jacob wasn't just a heel-grabber; he was also a bit of a trickster. He once traded a bowl of soup for Esau's birthright, which was like a special blessing from their dad. And then, he even fooled their uncle Laban to get the best sheep and goats!

But here's the exciting part: Jacob wrestled with God! Imagine that—a wrestling match with the Almighty! God gave Jacob a new name, **Israel**, which means "he struggles with God." From then on, Jacob wasn't just a trickster; he became a hero. He learned that God's love could change him, and he became the father of the twelve tribes of Israel.

So, remember Jacob's story when you face challenges. Just like Jacob, we can all grow and change with God's help.

RECAP: God had a special plan for Jacob even though Jacob made mistakes. We learn from Jacob's life that God will use even bad circumstances in our lives to fulfill his

Power Point

With God, it is
never too late to
move in a new
direction.

MEMORY VERSE

Deuteronomy 32:3, "I
will proclaim the
name of the Lord.
Oh, praise the great-
ness of our
God." (NIV)

Apply the Lesson

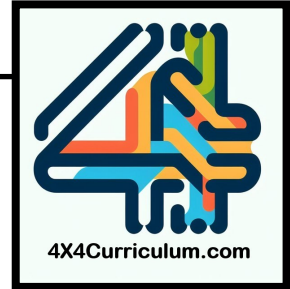
Say: The story of Jacob is really a summary of the whole Bible. The Bible tells us that mankind made a bad choice by rebelling against God. Adam and Eve sinned, and they put all of us on the wrong path, just as Jacob did when he deceived his father.

But rather than leave us to stay on the wrong road, God took action. He used men like Jacob to bring about his plan of salvation. Hundreds of years later, Jesus was born to one of Jacob's descendants. Jesus was God's Son, and he died for our sins. Because he died, he is able to forgive our sins, all the bad choices we make.

What's more, Jesus can set us on the right path. He can help us **make a U-turn** so that we can lead a life that honors and pleases him. We've all made bad choices, haven't we? When we make fun of someone, that's a bad choice. When we ignore or disobey our parents, that's a bad choice. When we lie, when we cheat, when we act selfishly, those are bad choices.

Many people get so down on themselves for their bad choices. They begin to think they are truly bad people, and they don't think anyone can forgive them. **Remember:** God loves us, in spite of our bad decisions. And even though we continue to make bad choices, he can use us to share his love with others. When we give our lives to Jesus, we are telling him, "I'm sorry. Please help me make this right." It's the first step in the right direction, the first step down the path God wants us to follow.





Object Lesson: Hot Wheels Racetrack

ITEMS NEEDED: Hot Wheels cars and racetrack

Pick a few kids from the group who love Hot Wheels. Let them pick cars, and then race them. See who can get his car to go the fastest and the farthest.

Then ask them to do a trick. I want to know if any of you Hot Wheels experts can do a trick. Who can make his car drive down the track and do a U-turn? Can anyone get his car to turn when it's not in his control?

You can't do it, can you? Sure, if you curve the track, you could do it, but without something to turn that car around, there's no turning back once it leaves your hand.

Some people feel that way about their life and the choices they make. They think they are stuck going one way and can never turn around.

Thankfully, we have help. God can step in.

He can forgive us our sins and get us on the right track. Hot Wheels can make turns when we help them, whether we guide them by hand or lay out the track for them. Let's thank Jesus that he has a hand in our lives and the power to get us back on the right path when we go astray.



Game: U-Turn Relay

ITEMS NEEDED: Four orange cones, two trays, eight Solo cups

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose two teams of four. Each team will be given a tray with four cups on it. This is a relay race. Players will race from one cone to the next and then back, making a U-turn as they round the farthest cone from the start. If they drop any cups, they must stop and put them back on the tray before continuing. First team to complete the race wins.

VARIATION: To make it extra difficult on the older kids, have them round the second cone and return to the first cone and their team backwards.

WHAT'S THE POINT? God can help us make a U-turn when we make a wrong decision.



Jacob Wrestles With the Angel of God

Genesis 32

