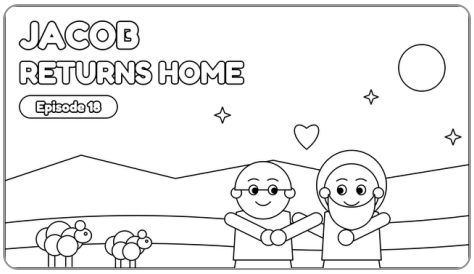
The Bible Under the Baobab · Discussion sheet for episode 18

Jacob Returns Home

Genesis 31 to 33 · For ages 3 to 10 · Video: 6 min 33



The story in brief

Jacob Returns Home. After twenty years with Laban, God tells Jacob to go back to his own land. But on the way, frightening news arrives: his brother Esau is coming to meet him with four hundred men. Jacob prays, gets a gift ready, then stays alone by the river. That night, someone wrestles with him until daybreak and gives him a new name: Israel. In the morning, Jacob bows seven times before his brother. Esau runs to him, takes him in his arms, and they both weep. Grandma Adjoua tells this story to Kofi and Nia, who are angry over a spilled gourd of water.

> **Note for parents.** The Bible does not say right away who the stranger in the night is. The episode keeps that mystery and uses the words of the text: “you have wrestled with God and with men”. The words of forgiveness spoken by the two brothers are added; the Bible shows the embrace and the tears.

Let’s talk about it

1. Why is Jacob afraid to see his brother Esau again?
2. What does Jacob do when he is afraid?
3. What new name is he given after the night by the river?
4. What does Esau do when he sees Jacob bowing before him?
5. Who could you say sorry to, or forgive, this week?

> **Notes for the grown-up.** Jacob had taken his brother’s blessing, and Esau is coming with four hundred men. Jacob prays: he tells God that he is afraid. After a night of wrestling, he is given a new name, Israel. In the morning, he bows seven times before his brother. Esau runs to him, takes him in his arms, and they both weep.

To remember

Take the first step, say you are sorry. God changes hearts, peace comes back, do not worry.

The song: Take the first step

Take the first step, say you are sorry.
God changes hearts, peace comes back, do not worry!

To do

Think of someone you had a quarrel with. Make them a little gift (a drawing, a flower, a kind word) and take the first step.

Watch the episode and hear the song: labiblesouslebaobab.com/en/episodes/jacob-returns-home/
From the book of Genesis, chapters 31 to 33. Free for home, Sunday school and children’s ministry.