



Jacob and Esau Reconcile

Jacob decided to return home and reconcile with his brother, led by his confidence in God. Like him, we too can draw strength from God to make peace with those whom we have hurt.



When Jacob reached Canaan, he heard Esau was on his way with 400 men to meet him. Afraid, he kept his wives and children at a safe place and sent his servants with presents to Esau.



Know Now: *Edom* was an ancient kingdom in Transjordan located between Moab to the northeast, the Arabah to the west and the Arabian Desert to the south and east. Most of its former territory is now divided between Israel and Jordan. Esau is the father of this nation.

Know Now: *Bethel* means "House of God" and it was an ancient Israelite town, located about ten miles north of Jerusalem, and it was the place where altars were established by both Abraham and Jacob. Bethel is the land where God told Jacob to settle down after the reconciliation with Esau.

While he was alone in the wilderness, a stranger appeared and wrestled with Jacob the entire night. Realising he couldn't win against Jacob, the stranger struck him on the hip and tried to free himself.

But Jacob refused to let go until the stranger blessed him with the words: "Your name shall be Israel, because you have wrestled with God and with man and you have won."

Next day, Jacob saw Esau coming with his men and went to meet him with his head bowed. But Esau ran towards him, embraced and kissed him.

Esau wanted his brother to go along with him. But God told Jacob to move to Bethel, where He had first appeared and promised to protect him.



Then Jacob prayed, "God of my grandfather Abraham and God of my father Isaac, hear me! You told me, Lord, to go back to my land and to my relatives, and you would make everything go well for me. I am not worth all the kindness and faithfulness that you have shown me, your servant. I crossed the Jordan with nothing but a walking stick, and now I have come back with these two groups. Save me, I pray, from my brother Esau. I am afraid—afraid that he is coming to attack us and destroy us all, even the women and children."

Genesis 32: 9-11

Practice the gesture of asking pardon at home. Join your palms and say SHALOM to one another. Do you know the meaning of Shalom? It means peace. Learn to sing the song: Shalom my friends (2), Shalom, Shalom, God's peace be with you, Shalom, Shalom!





After 21 years, God told Jacob to return home. Despite his confidence, he is stuck and needs to reach fast. Can you help Jacob find his route?

