

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 1.

APRIL 1st, 1894.

2nd QUARTER.

Jacob's Prevailing Prayer. Gen. 32: 9-12, 24-30.

GOLDEN TEXT: "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." Gen. 32: 26.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 28-30. CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, 45, 150, 161, 103.

PROVE THAT—Earnest prayer prevails with God. Jas. 5: 16.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 95. To whom is baptism to be administered?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH
Gen. 32: 9-12, 24-30	Gen. 32: 1-8	Gen. 32: 13-23	Gen. 33: 1-11	2 Kings 19: 14-20, 32-35	Luke 18: 1-8	Ps. 34: 15-22

To the Teacher.—Do not credit any Scholar with having prepared the lesson who does not at least try to answer the questions. Take the Leaflet home and assign a value to each answer, announcing the result on the following Sabbath. *Take, or send, the Leaflet to absent scholars.*

Always bring your Bible and Shorter Catechism to the Sabbath School.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—Jacob remained in Haran twenty-one years, serving Laban. He married Leah and Rachel, Laban's daughters, and by God's blessing had prospered. He is still the same crafty, shrewd, almost dishonest man. Laban's deceit is met by more skillful tricks, and Jacob seems to rely more upon his own cleverness than God's blessing. Our lesson shows how he came to see how far wrong he was, and how much better it always is to "trust God and do the right." His cousins, Laban's sons, began to grow jealous of him and he felt that it was neither safe nor pleasant to remain at Haran any longer. Read the story of his departure in chapter 31. Why did Laban pursue him? What kept him from harming Jacob? What was stolen from him, and who was the thief? What is the meaning of "Mizpah"? Who were Jacob's real protectors? (ch. 32: 1-2). Who saw a similar sight? (2 Kings 6: 17). Read Ps. 91: 11; 34: 7; Heb. 1: 14.

LESSON PLAN. I. Jacob's Prayer. vs. 9-12. II. Jacob's Persistence vs. 24-26. III. Jacob's Princely Name. vs. 27-30.

I. JACOB'S PRAYER. 9. Read Ps. 50: 15. This is what Jacob did. When had God told him to return? (ch. 31: 3, 13). He asked protection because he was in the path of obedience. Ps. 91: 11, 12. We have no right to expect that God will keep us from harm if we are where he does not wish us to be. 10. God's past mercies are a pledge to us that he will not forget to be gracious. When Jacob last went over this road he had nothing, now he was a very wealthy man. He was able to make a princely present to Esau without seriously impoverishing himself. The Bible never promises that serving God will bring wealth, but it does assure us that it will bring contentment and a quiet conscience. God's people will get all the riches that is good for them. Read Job 8: 6, 7; Ps. 18: 35; Matt. 6: 33; Ps. 37: 25; Mark 10: 29, 30; 1 Tim. 4: 8. 11. Jacob felt the truth of Prov. 18: 19. He knows that Esau has good reason to be angry with him. Jacob does not ask to be delivered because he has done nothing wrong, but because others are likely to suffer who are innocent, and because God's promises cannot be fulfilled if he perishes. **Smite me,—the mother upon the children**—He represents himself as a mother bird bending over with outspread wings to protect her brood. His wives and children and the whole tribe would be slain if Esau were allowed to wreak his vengeance. 12. When had God said this? (ch. 28: 13-15). There is no danger that God will break his word, Num. 13: 19, Matt. 24: 35, Titus 1: 2; Heb. 6: 17. **I will**

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surely do thee good—This is Jacob's version of "I am with thee and will keep thee." Read the verses left out of our lesson. Jacob prepared a present for his brother, and sent all the company over the brook. He then returned to the north side to be alone for a little while. Then the mysterious scene described in the following verses occurred.

II. JACOB'S PERSISTENCE. 24. There wrestled a man with him.—In verse 30 Jacob calls him "God," and in Hos. 12: 4, 5 he is called "the angel," i. e. the Angel of the covenant, which is the name of Christ in the Old Testament. Jacob had not yet made a complete sacrifice of himself and his plans to God. He thought that he did something, and God did something; that he only needed God's help when he could not help himself. Christ came to teach him in this way that he could do nothing, and that God did everything. It was not his clever plans but God's protection that made him safe and prosperous. He touched the hollow of his thigh—The Angel allowed Jacob to struggle for a long time, and perhaps fancy that he was going to prove the best wrestler. Then he just touched him, and the self-sufficient Jacob saw how foolish he had been in fighting against God. Omnipotence did not need his help, and Omnipotence could not be hindered by his opposition. His whole past life had been a wrestle with God, although he did not know it. Now he gives up striving and only asks for a blessing. I will not let thee go—He now prays as earnestly as he had wrestled. Read Matt. 15: 22-28; Luke 24: 28; 2 Cor. 12: 9, 10.

III. JACOB'S PRINCELY NAME. 27, 28. Jacob—"supplanter," (ch. 25: 26; 27, 36) Israel—"a prince of God," a soldier prince. He was a new man. 2 Cor. 5: 17. He could now say Ps. 56: 11. 29. Thy name—See Judges 13: 18; Isa. 9: 6. Jacob got better than he asked for. He wanted to be able to say who his mysterious antagonist was, and he got a blessing that brought him closer to God, and His heart of unfathomable love. Jer. 9: 23, 24. In this way we should know Christ. John 17: 3; 1 John 5: 11. Peniel—Compare John 1: 18; Ex. 33: 20. No mortal could endure the sight of God's glory. But we see him in the person of Jesus. The highest bliss of the redeemed in heaven is seeing God, Rev. 22: 4. If we do not love to gaze on the face of Christ, God manifest in the flesh, we shall never look on the unveiled face of his Father.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following without accepting a tid from any quarter after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—Why did Jacob fear Esau? (6)
- 2.—For what did he pray? (6)
- 3.—Who wrestled with him? (3)
- 4.—What put an end to the contest? (3)
- 5.—For what did Jacob entreat? (3)
- 6.—What is the meaning of "Jacob"? of "Israel"? (4)

Name

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to I was at church

I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.