

Jacob's New Name

Genesis 32:1-32

Level B | Lesson 6 | Teacher Overview



Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.... And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But Jacob said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me....” And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

Genesis 32:24,26,28

For Teachers

This lesson has several activity options. You may wish to choose 2-3. Reading through all of the options will help you identify the activities that are best suited to your group's size, student mix, available supplies, and the time you have to prepare. You may also want to mix and match activities from other age levels.

Activity Options

1. Talk About It
2. Illustration: Jacob Wrestling
3. Memory Verse
4. Make: A Name Banner
5. Make: Animals for Esau Mural
6. Coloring Picture: Jacob Wrestling

Talk About It

Reading: Genesis 32:1-32

Jacob sends a messenger telling Esau that he is coming. The messenger returns reporting that Esau is already on his way and has 400 men with him. Fearing Esau's intentions, Jacob prays and makes plans for protecting his family. He divides this family into two groups, and sends Esau animals as gifts. After sending his family on ahead of him, Jacob spends the night alone. During the night he wrestles with a man—a spiritual being—who touches his leg, causing him to limp. Jacob will not let Him go, and begs for a blessing. In response, the man gives him a new name: Israel.

1. Have you ever looked forward to seeing someone that you have not seen for a long time? How did you feel? What kinds of things might you wonder about? (e.g. aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents, friends; will they look different? be different? remember you? will you still be friends?)
2. In our story today, Jacob was thinking about seeing his brother Esau. He had not seen Esau for twenty years—since he had stolen Esau's blessing. He remembered how angry Esau had been. What might Jacob have been worried about?
3. Jacob sent a messenger to Esau to let him know that he was coming, and that he was sending presents for Esau. The messenger came back and told Jacob that Esau was already on his way and that he had 400 men with him. What did Jacob do? (he divided his family into two groups and prayed for the Lord's protection)
4. What do you do when you are afraid? Have you ever prayed when you are afraid? The Lord is always near us. We can always ask him for help—even when we are afraid and He feels far away from us.
5. What gifts did Jacob send to Esau? (animals in separate groups; sheep, goats, cattle, camels, donkeys and foals; the servants who met Esau told him that each group of animals was a present for Esau)
6. Jacob sent his family on ahead and was left alone. What happened when he was alone at night? (he wrestled with a man)
7. What new name did the man give Jacob? (Israel. The last part of the name, "el" is one of the Lord's names in Hebrew. Israel means "one who perseveres"—Jacob wrestled all night and did not give up!)
8. Have you ever worked hard at something that is difficult for you and not given up? How did you feel when you finished?
9. Why did Jacob limp? (because the Man touched him and his *tendon shrank) [Note: translations vary. Some translations refer to a muscle that shrank.]



**Memory Verse:
Jacob's New Name**



“Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

Genesis 32:28

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Genesis 32:28

Cut in quarters and give one to each student to take home.

Make: A Name Banner

At a Glance:

In our story, Jacob wrestled with a Man all night, refusing to stop struggling until he had received a blessing. The blessing he received was a new name—Israel. This new name represented a new quality Jacob had gained. The –el at the end of Israel means “God”, indicating that the Lord’s qualities had become a bigger part of Jacob’s life. In this activity, children choose a quality that they would like to have, pick a name associated with that quality, and create a banner illustrating the quality and name.

Supplies Needed:

- a copy of the *Qualities and Names* chart for each student, folded in half
- multiple copies of the 3 banner pictures (each child will choose one to use)
- markers or colored pencils
- *optional*: scissors

Teacher Preparation:

- Fold the *Qualities and Names* charts in half so that only the *Qualities* show.

Directions:

1. Introduce the activity by reminding the children of Jacob’s new name and that he was given a new name meaning “one who perseveres” because he had gained that quality in his life. Perseverance means holding on to something even when it is difficult, seeing a job through until it is finished.
2. Ask, “What were some of the ways that Jacob showed perseverance?” (wrestling all night and refusing to let go; serving so many years for Leah and Rachel; continuing to work for Laban even though he kept changing Jacob’s wages and their agreement)
3. Explain that most names have a meaning. Parents often think about the meaning of names as well as the sound of them when they are choosing a name for a baby. (If time allows, ask if the students know what their names mean.)
4. “In heaven, people are given new names—names that represent the qualities that they developed during their life on earth. Today you are going to choose a quality that you would like to have.”



Make: A Name Banner continued

5. Hand out the folded charts, telling the children to only look at one side—the side with the qualities—for now. Read through the qualities together and explain any if needed. Ask each child to choose one of the qualities for him or herself and circle it.

6. Once everyone has chosen a quality, have the students open the chart and read the names associated with the quality they chose. (Names are in two columns—one typically female, one typically male, but are not labeled that way as several of them could be used for either gender.)



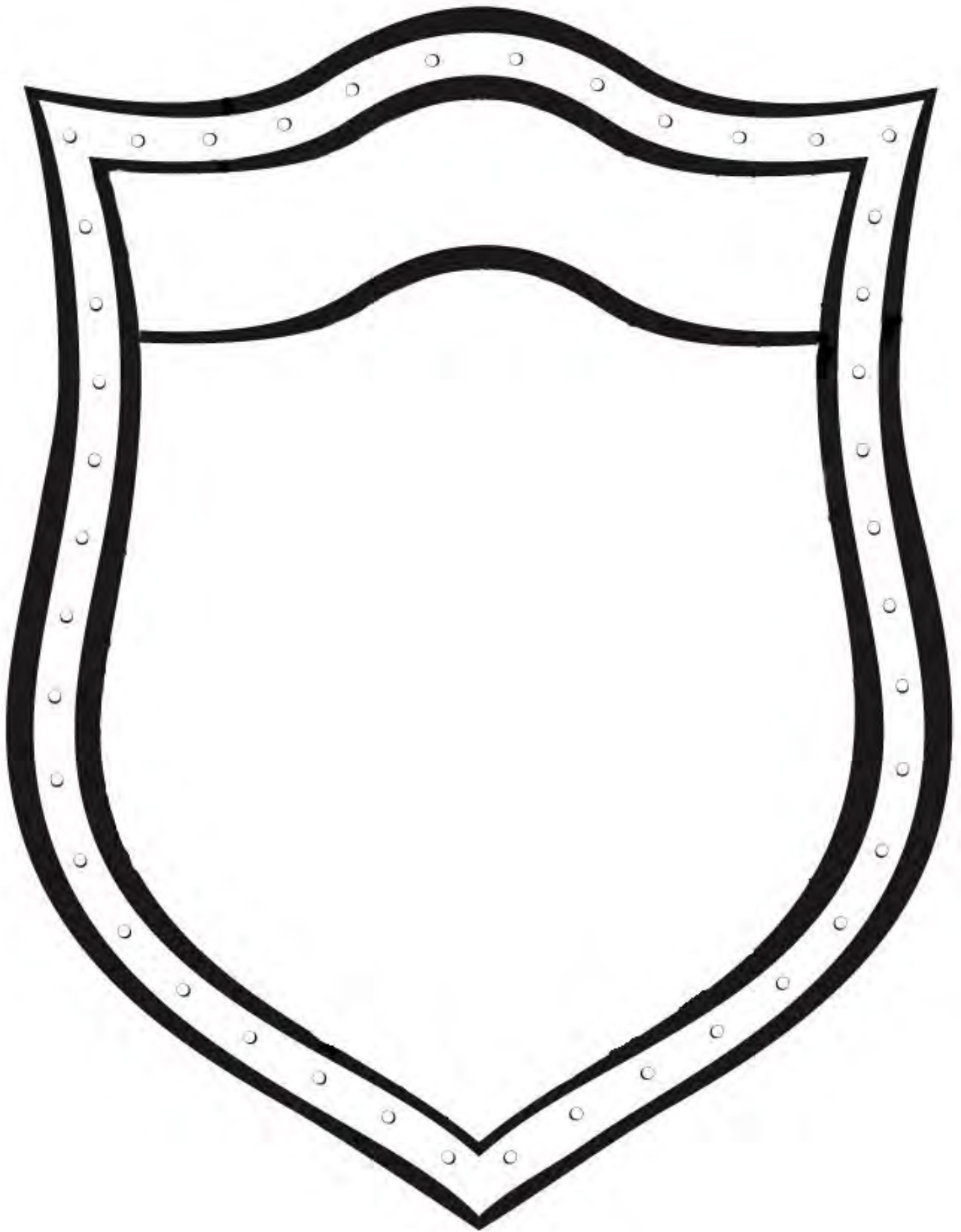
7. Each child should choose one of the names associated with his or her quality.

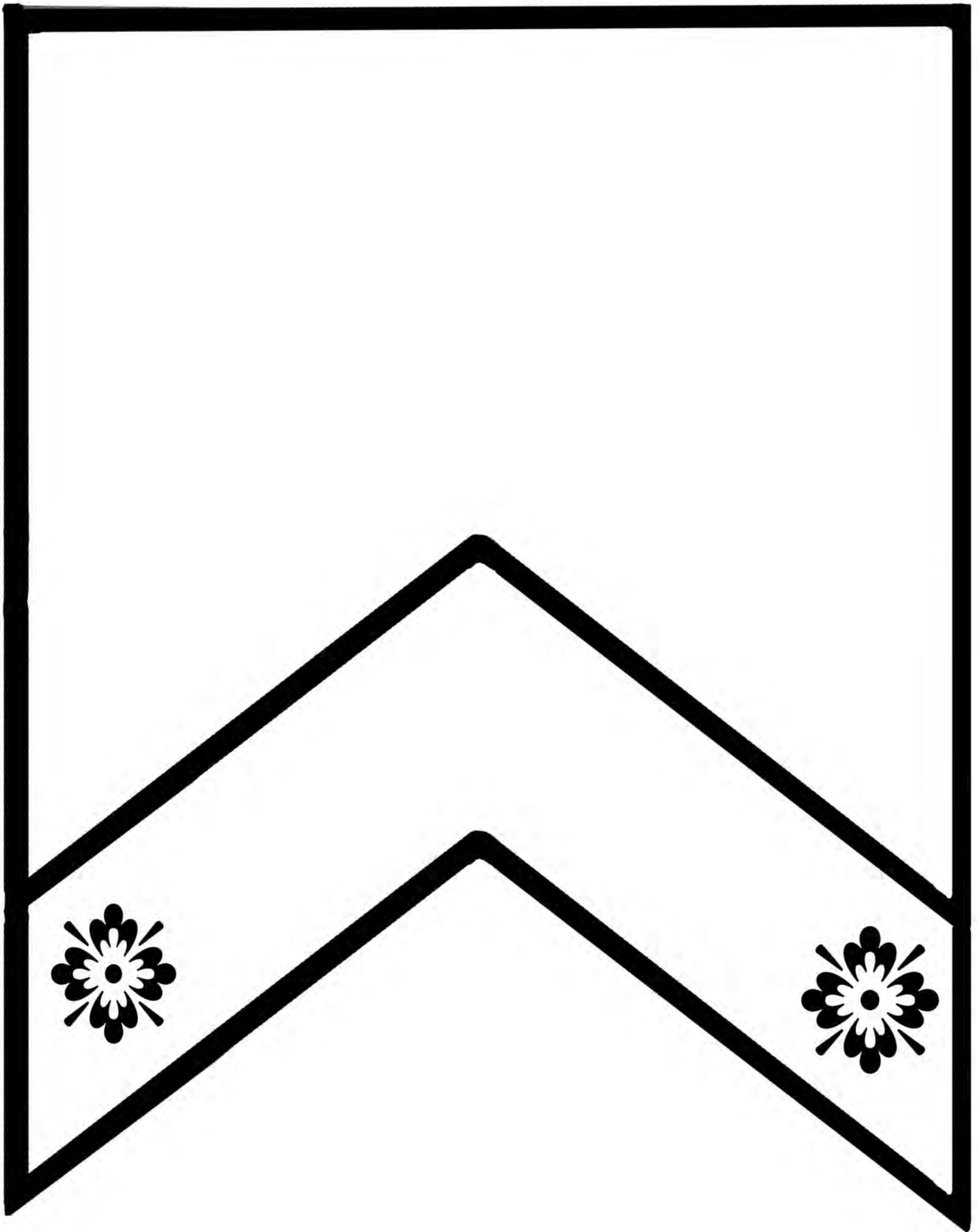
8. Have children choose one of the banner pictures and write the name they chose in the narrow space set aside. The rest of the space should be filled with pictures and symbols that depict the quality.

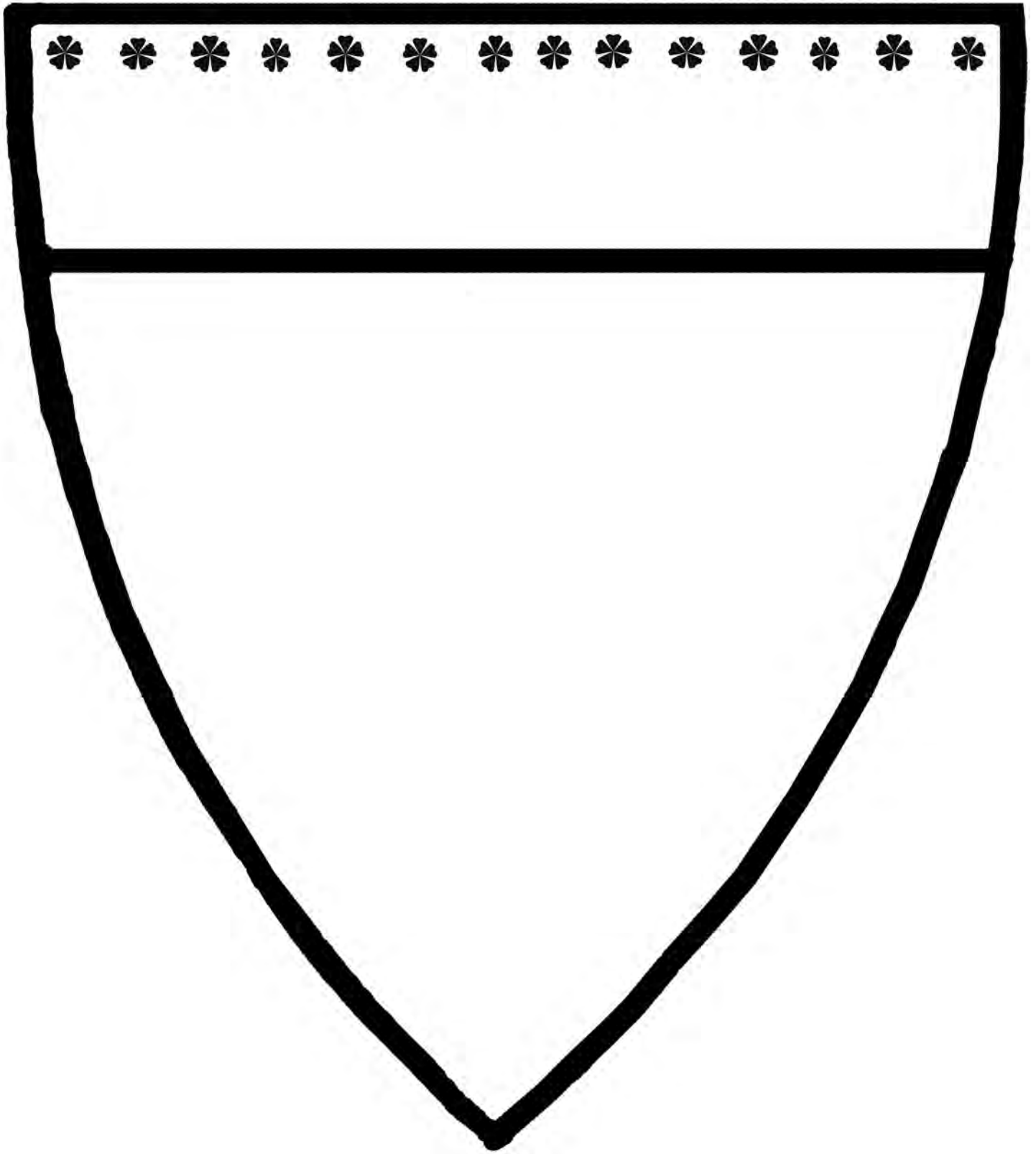
9. Write the quality on the back of the name banner.

10. *Optional:* Have children cut out their banners.

Qualities	Names	
Brave	Bernadette Marcia Nanna	Conrad Howard Kurt Richard
Strong	Andrea Carla Gabrielle Gertrude	Andreas Charles Ethan Gabriel
Wise	Rae Sage Shannon	Kiran Raymond Sean
Kind	Adele Alina Mercedes Mildred	Gareth Kevin Mungo
Defender	Alexis Sondra Wilma	Alexander Edward William
Happy	Abigail Beatrix Chara Rani	Felix Gil Ron Winston
Generous	Janet Josephine	Jonathan Joseph
Fair	Danielle Dinah Justine	Daniel Jadon Justin
Truthful	Amina Annora Vera	Gilbert Timothy Tom
Hard Working	Amelia Emory	George Mason
Friendly	Amity Dakota Ruth Wendy	Alden Dakota Ennis Phil
Peaceful	Alana Frieda Irene Serena	Frederick Galen Noah Wilfred







Make:

Animals for Esau Mural

At a Glance:

Using their fingers and a stamp pad, children will create thumbprint pictures of the animals Jacob sent to Esau. This can be done individually or as a group mural project. While children will likely not create the exact number of animals Jacob sent to Esau, the project will demonstrate that it was a numerous, valuable gift.



Supplies Needed for Each Student:

- pen
- stamp pad (can substitute a large non-toxic black marker if necessary)
- step-by-step animal creation instruction sheet
- several sheets of blank paper
- damp paper towels for wiping off fingers

Additional Supplies Needed for Group Mural:

- text slips cut apart
- large bulletin board, wall, etc. to arrange pieces of paper to create the mural
- tacks or tape

Teacher Preparation:

- Decide if you are going to have children create a mural together or create individual pictures.
- Look over the step-by-step animal creation instruction sheet.

Directions:

1. Remind students of all the animals that Jacob sent ahead as gifts for Esau
 - 220 goats (200 female; 20 male)
 - 220 sheep (200 female; 20 male)
 - 30 camels with their colts
 - 50 cows (40 female; 10 male)
 - 20 donkeys and 10 foals

Make: Animals for Esau

Mural continued

2. Demonstrate to the children how to make finger and thumb prints using the stamp pads. (If you don't have stamp pads show them how coloring the end of the finger or thumb with a marker and then pressing it down on paper can achieve the same effect.
3. Demonstrate how the prints can be turned into animals by adding a few marks with a pen.
4. Distribute the step-by-step animal instruction sheet and supplies.
5. If you are doing a group mural, designate one or two pieces of paper for each kind of animal. Each child starts with making one kind of animal. The pieces of paper are passed around the group so that every child gets a chance to make every kind of animal. Each child should make several camels, cows, and donkeys, and as many goats and sheep as they can.
6. If you are having the children do the projects individually, give each child 5 pieces of paper, one for each kind of animal. Each child should make several camels, cows, and donkeys, and as many goats and sheep as they can.
7. If you are creating a group project, photocopy the goat and sheep pages to approximate the high number of animals Jacob gave Esau. Arrange the pages in groups on a wall or bulletin board along with the text slips, as shown in the photograph above.



GOAT



Thumb-print body



Pinkie-print head



2 lines for neck



4 lines for legs



Nose, ear, eye



Curly horn, tail

SHEEP



Thumb-print body



Pinkie-print head



4 lines for legs



Ear, tail



Nose, eye

CAMEL



Thumb-print body



Pinkie-print head



Pinkie-print hump



2 lines for neck



4 lines for legs

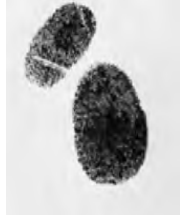


Ears, nose, tail

COW



Thumb-print body



Finger-print head



2 lines for neck



4 lines for legs



Horns, tail

DONKEY



Thumb-print body



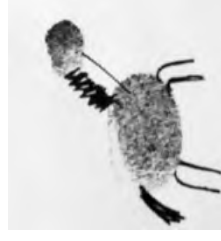
Pinkie-print head



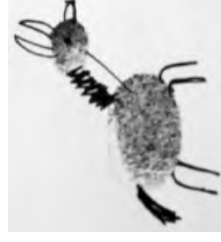
2 lines for neck



4 lines for legs



Mane, tail



Nose, ears, eye

Text Slips
for Mural

220 Goats

220 Sheep

50 Cows

30 Camels & Colts

20 Donkeys & 10 Foals

Jacob's Gifts for Esau

