Make: Reunion Diorama

At a Glance:
In this activity, students will create a set of diorama figures to depict the reunion of Jacob and Esau. The set includes 8 figural pieces, along with bases to make them stand up. Some additional bases are provided so children can make additional figures if they wish.

The figures provided here are highly stylized in the manner of Byzantine art from the 500 and 600s AD. It was deliberately abstract, non-naturalistic and symbolic, primarily religiously themed. Hallmark large distinctive eyes.



Supplies Needed for Each Student:
- 4 page set of diorama figures printed on heavy paper
- colored pencils, crayons, or markers
- scissors
- sequence of events list
- *optional:* bag to take figures home in

Directions:
1. Tell students that they will be making a set of figures for a diorama of Jacob and Esau's meeting.
2. Hand out the sets of figures, coloring implements and the scissors.
3. Have students color the figures first, then cut them out using the thin line around each figure.
4. The slits on the bases and at the bottom of the figures should also be cut.
5. The thin line along one of Esau's arms can be cut. This will allow the two brothers to embrace.
6. Have children bend each of the bases in half, then slide the slits together with those on the figures.
7. Children can use the figures to set up a scene and enact the reunion of Jacob and Esau, using the sequence of events list.
8. If time allows, children could create extra figures for their dioramas, such as some of Esau's men or more animals.



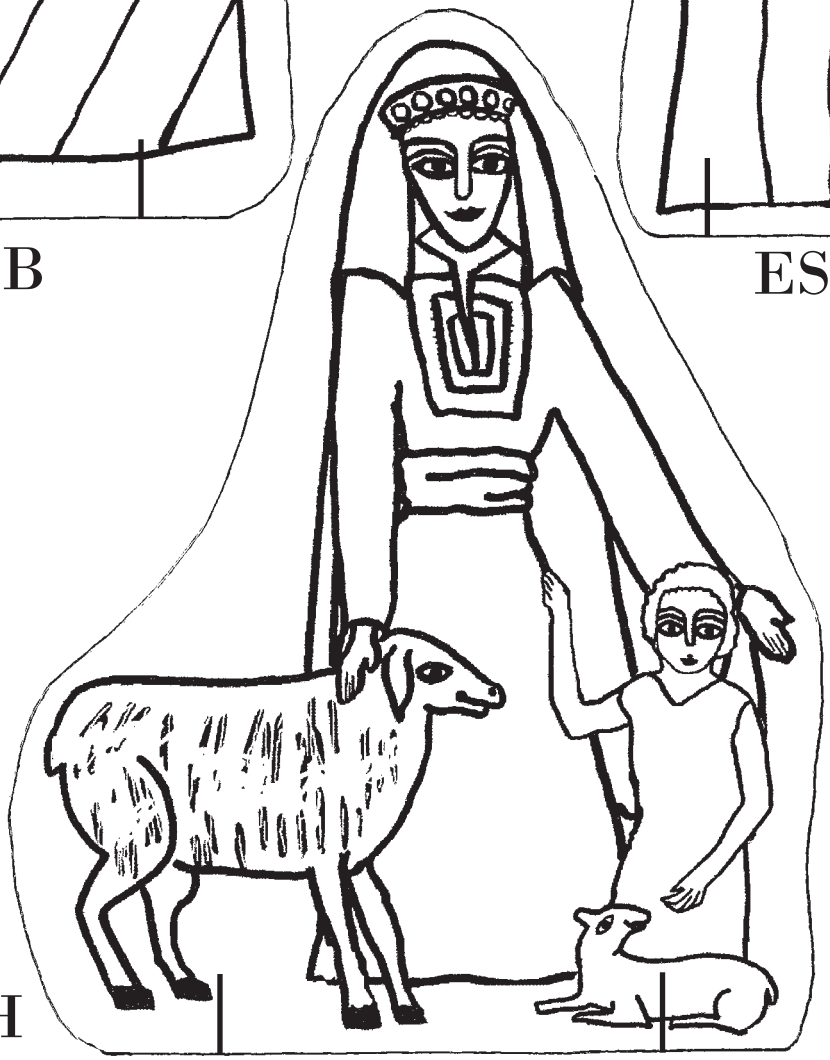
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JACOB



ESAU

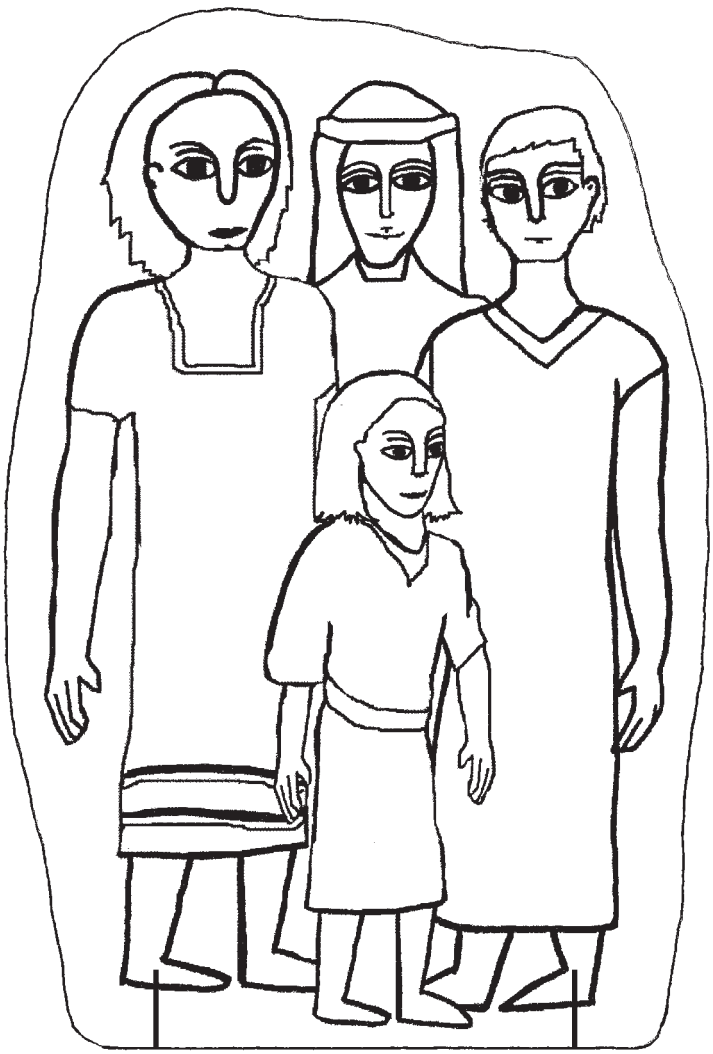


RACHEL
AND JOSEPH

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MAIDSERVANTS



MAIDSERVANTS' SONS

MAIDSERVANTS
MAIDSERVANTS' SONS
ESAU
JACOB
RACHEL AND JOSEPH

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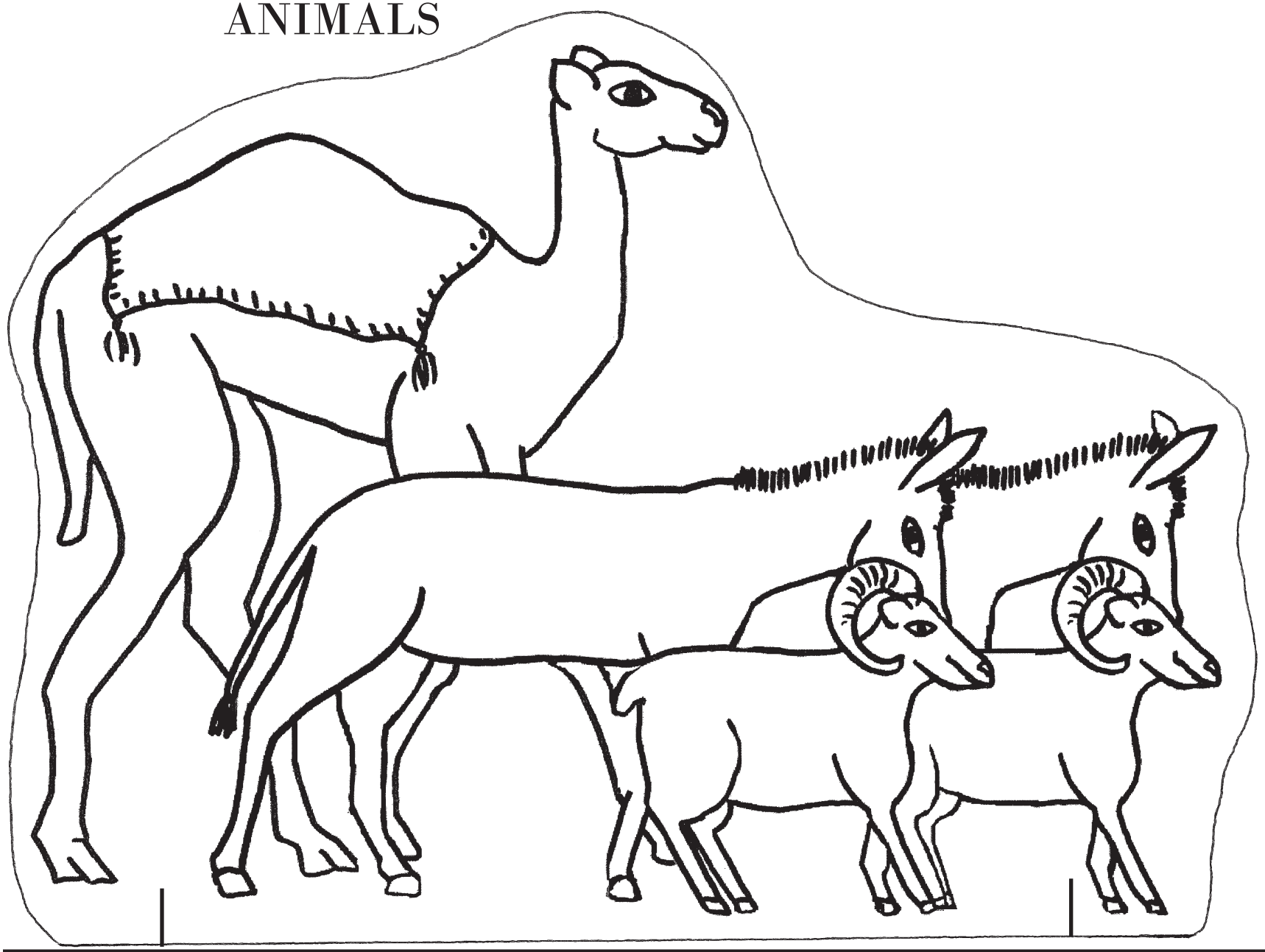
LEAH



LEAH'S CHILDREN

LEAH
LEAH'S CHILDREN

ANIMALS



ANIMALS

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Jacob and Esau Reunite Sequence of Events

1. Jacob sees Esau coming. He is afraid.
2. Jacob puts the maidservants and their sons directly behind him. Next is Leah and her children. Rachel and Joseph are at the back so they will be the most protected if Esau is angry.
3. As they come close to each other, Jacob bows before Esau seven times.
4. But Esau runs to meet Jacob, hugs and kisses him. They both cry.
5. Esau asks about the people who are with Jacob.
6. Then the maidservants and their sons come and bow down to Esau.
7. Then Leah and her children come and bow down to Esau.
8. Finally, Rachel and Joseph come and bow down to Esau.
9. Jacob asks Esau to accept the gifts of animals that he had sent. Esau finally agrees.
10. Esau and his animals and men leave and go ahead of Jacob and his family.

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