

# Jacob's New Name

Genesis 32:1-32

## Level A | 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 the options will help you identify the activities 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. Take Action: Presents for Esau
5. Make: A New Heart
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? (e.g. aunt, uncle, grandparent, friend.)
2. Today we will learn about Jacob going home to his family. He lived far away from his family for many years. His brother Esau was very angry with him when he left and so Jacob wondered whether Esau was still angry or not. Do you like being with people when they are angry?
3. Jacob sent a messenger to talk to Esau. What did the messenger tell Jacob? (Esau was already coming and had lots of men with him)
4. How did Jacob ask the Lord for help? (he prayed; we can pray to the Lord for help when we are worried too)
5. What did Jacob send Esau as a present? (lots of 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. What happened when Jacob was left alone? (he wrestled with a Man)
7. What new name did the man give Jacob? (Israel; let's say it together: Israel. Israel is a special name. The last part of the name, "el" is one of the Lord's names in Hebrew)
8. The man touched Jacob and afterwards he walked with a limp. Let's try walking like Jacob. (stand up and try walking with a limp)



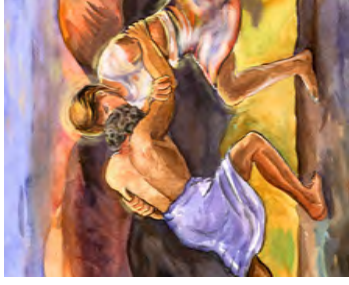
**Memory Verse:**  
**Jacob's New Name**



“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

**Memory Verse:**  
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“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

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

**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

**Memory Verse:**  
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“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

# Take Action: Presents for Esau

## At a Glance:

In this activity the teacher and children recite a series of questions and answers, using 5 different hand motions to illustrate the different animal gifts that Jacob sent to his brother Esau. The hand gestures refer to a distinctive characteristic of each animal. The refrain or repeated questions and answers are based on Genesis 32:17-20. The activity finishes with a picture of the animals for the children to color.



## Supplies Needed:

- script page for the teacher
- 1 copy of each of the five large animal pictures to show the children
- copy of the animals all on one page for each child
- crayons or markers

## Teacher Preparation:

- Read the Script page so you are familiar with it and with the distinctive hand gesture for each animal.

## Directions:

1. Read the script and act it out with the children, showing them the pictures of the animals when prompted.
2. Hand out the pictures of the animals (all on one page) and crayons or markers so children can color them.

# Presents for Esau Script

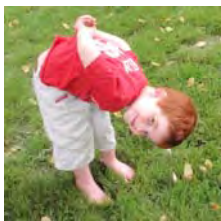
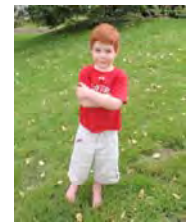
## Introduction:

In today's story, we heard about how Jacob was worried about meeting his brother. He was afraid that his brother Esau would be angry with him. So Jacob decided to send some gifts to Esau before they met. He hoped these gifts would help Esau to forgive him.



First Jacob sent Esau some **goats**. Do you know what goats look like? (Show the picture of the goat.) Goats have beards. Can you pretend that you have beards like a **goat**? (Put hand on chin as shown in the photograph and encourage children to mimic you.)

Next Jacob sent Esau some **sheep**. Sheep have warm woolly coats. (Show the picture of the sheep.) Let's pretend we have warm woolly coats on like **sheep**. (Hug yourself as shown.)



Next Jacob sent Esau some **camels**. Have any of you ever seen a camel? Camels look like this. (Show picture.) Camels have humps on their back that help them to store water for long journeys. Can you put your arms on your back to look like a **camel**'s hump? (Demonstrate as shown.)

Next Jacob sent Esau some **cows**. Here is a picture of a cow. (Show picture.) Do you see its horns? What would you look like if you had horns? Let's put our hands on our heads to pretend we are **cows**. (Demonstrate as shown.)



Last, Jacob sent Esau some **donkeys**. Look at this donkey. (Show picture.) What kind of ears does a donkey have? Long ears! Raise your arms over your head to pretend you have long ears like a donkey. (Demonstrate.)

That was a lot of animals that Jacob sent to Esau! Do you remember them all? There were five different kinds. (Make the correct gesture as you go through each animal.) There were **goats**...and **sheep**...and **camels**...and **cows**...and **donkeys**!

Now, after Jacob sent these groups of animals ahead, each one was stopped by a servant of Esau. The servant asked each group two questions: "Who do you belong to?" and "Where are you going?"

Do you remember who the animals belonged to? Jacob. Where were they going? They were going to Esau because they were presents for him. I'll pretend to be Esau's servant and ask these two questions and you answer them, OK? Let's also show what each kind of animal looks like as we say it's name.

# Presents for Esau Script *continued*

## Refrain with Actions:

(Say the children's lines with them. Make the correct gesture as each animal is named):

Teacher: Who do you belong to and where are you going?

Children: These **goats** belong to Jacob. They are a present for his brother Esau.

Teacher: Who do you belong to and where are you going?

Children: These **sheep** belong to Jacob. They are a present for his brother Esau.

Teacher: Who do you belong to and where are you going?

Children: These **camels** belong to Jacob. They are a present for his brother Esau.

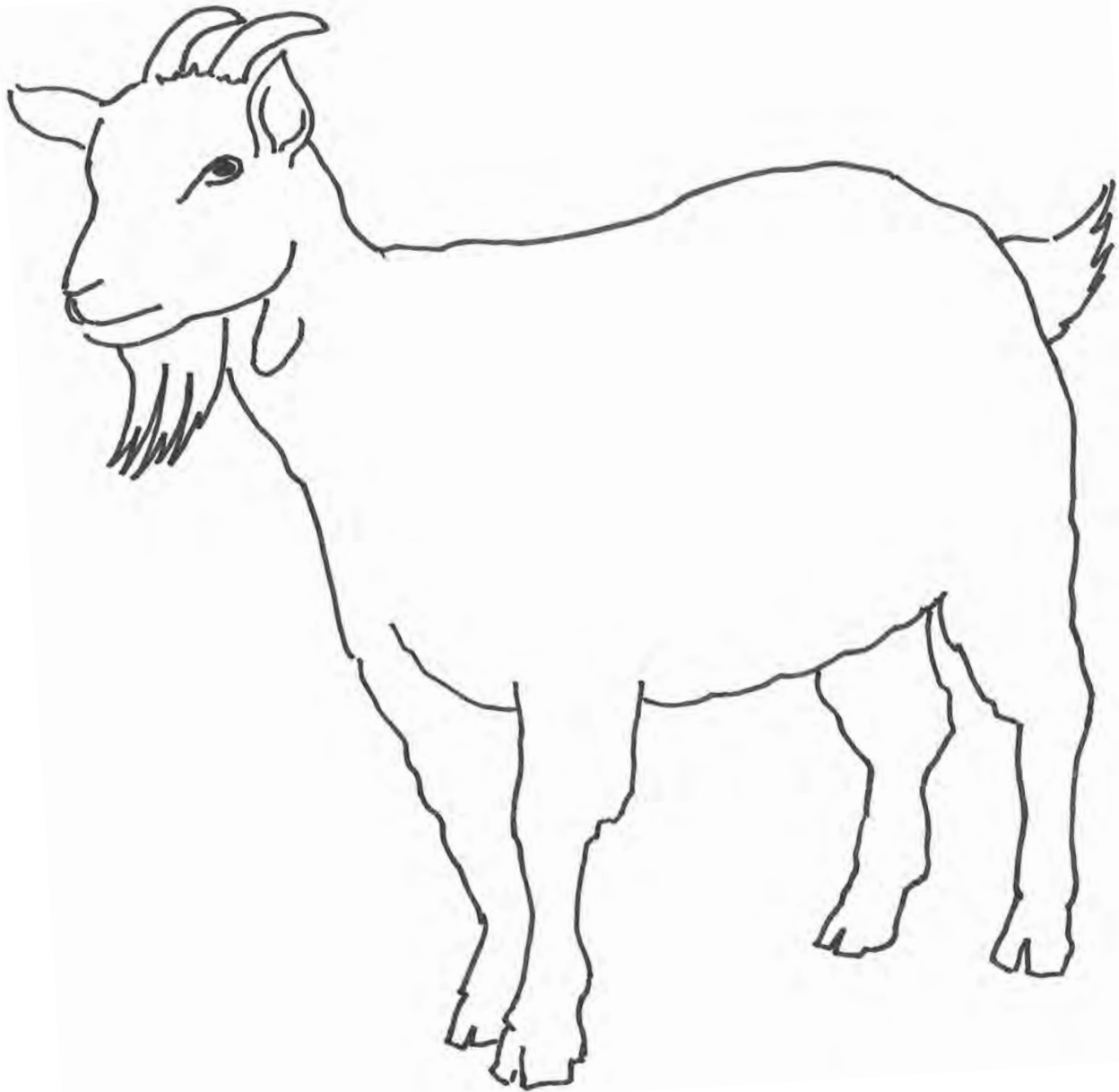
Teacher: Who do you belong to and where are you going?

Children: These **cows** belong to Jacob. They are a present for his brother Esau.

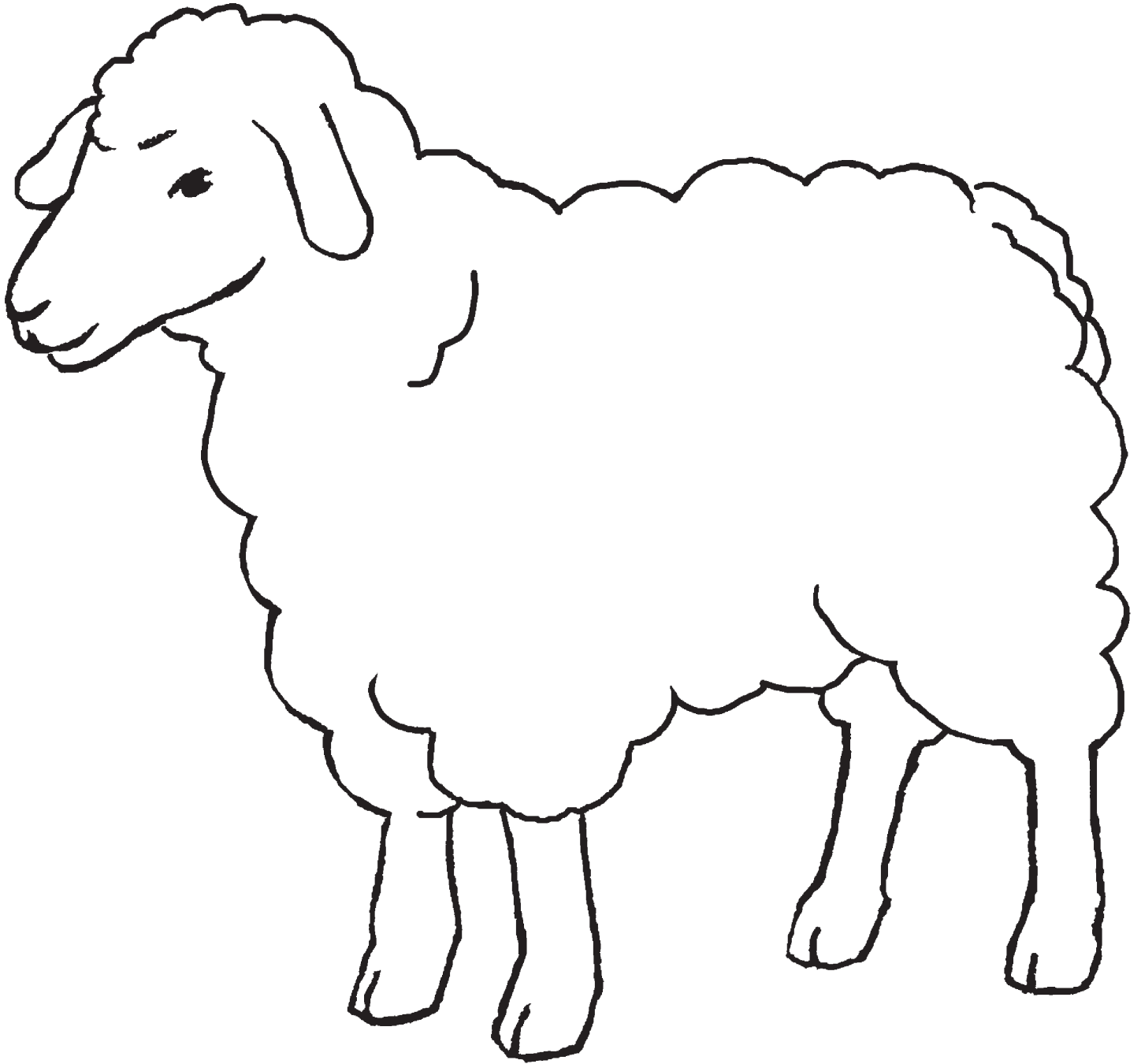
Teacher: Who do you belong to and where are you going?

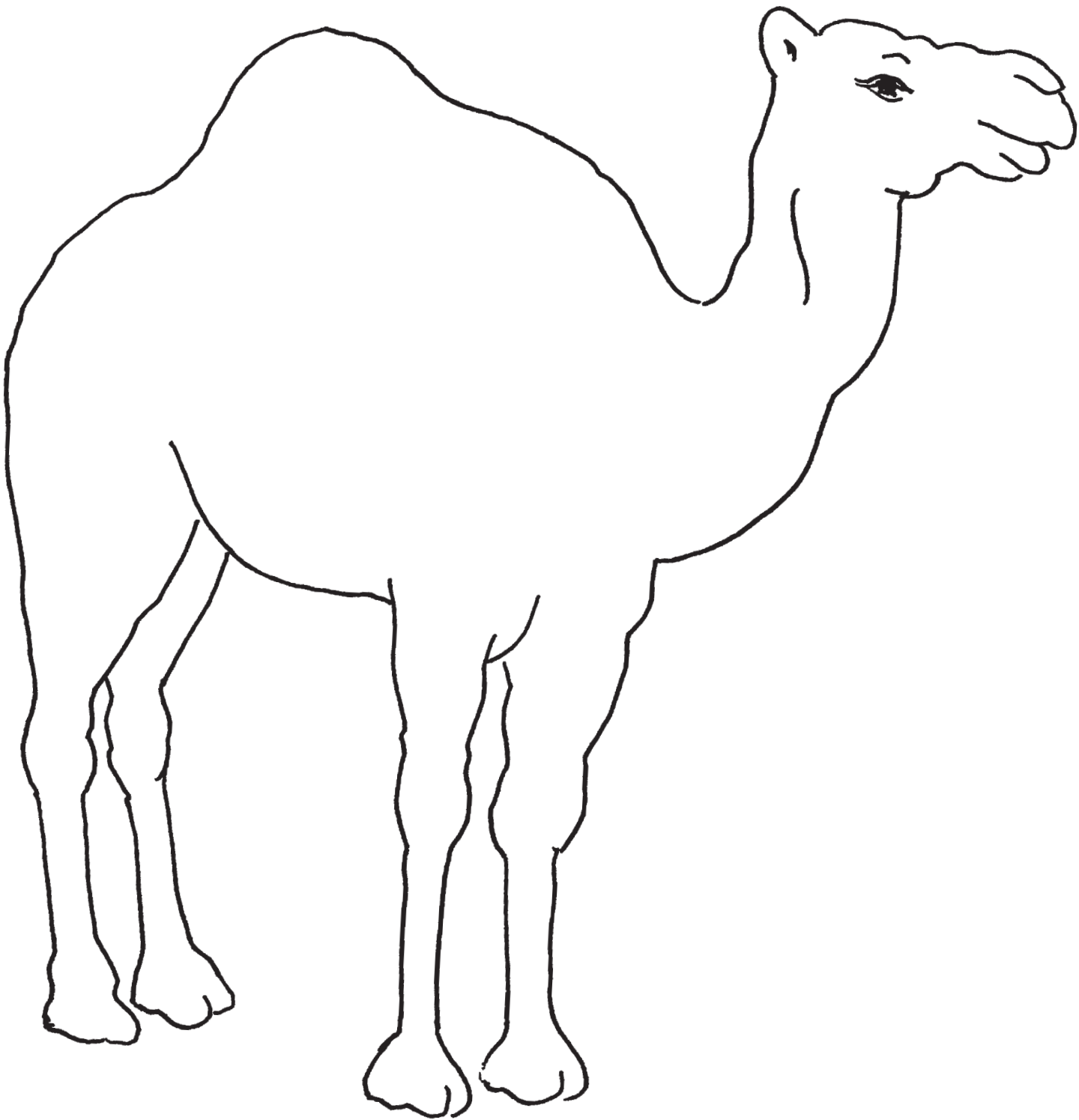
Children: These **donkeys** belong to Jacob. They are a present for his brother Esau.

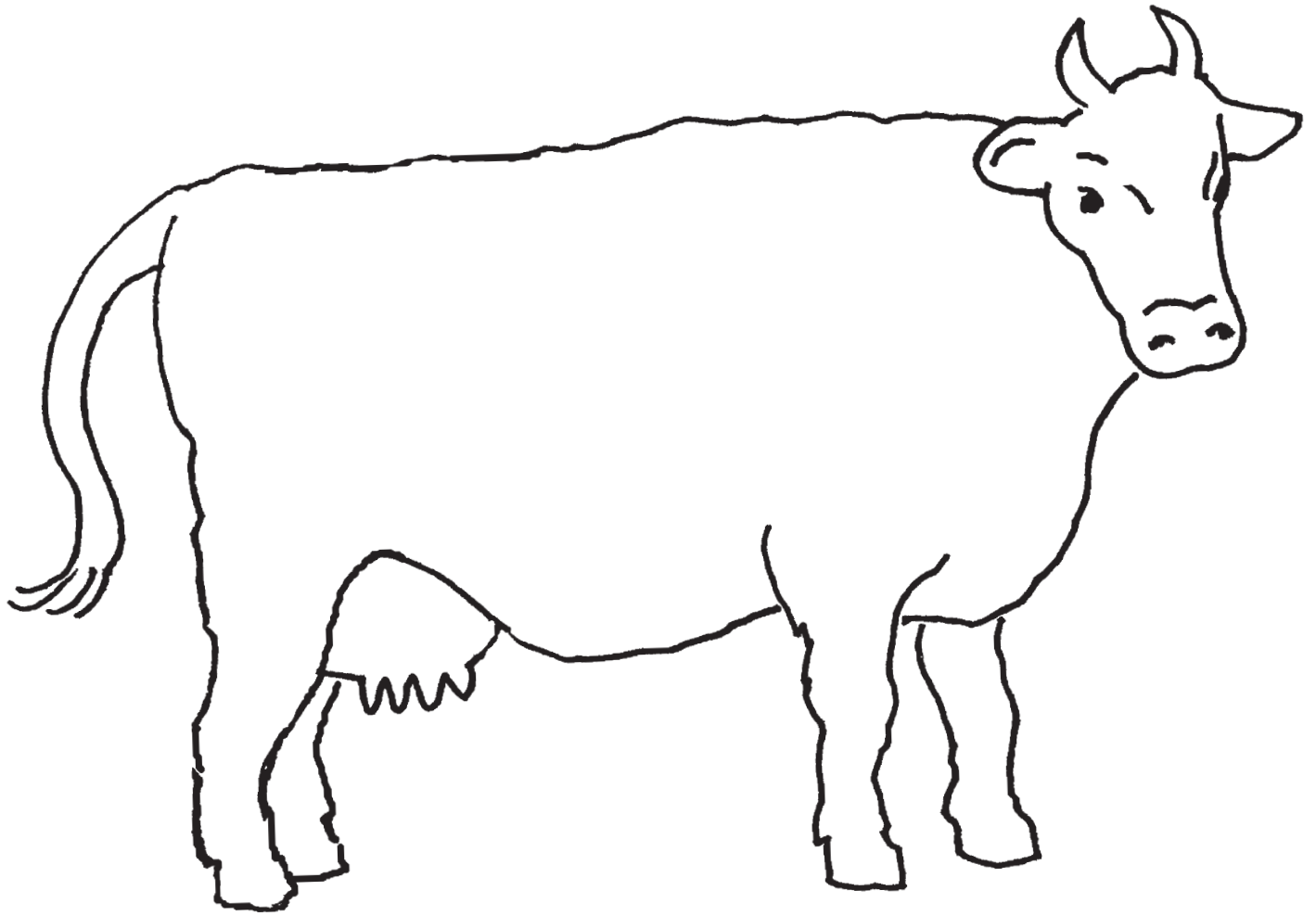
The series of 5 questions and responses can be repeated as desired.

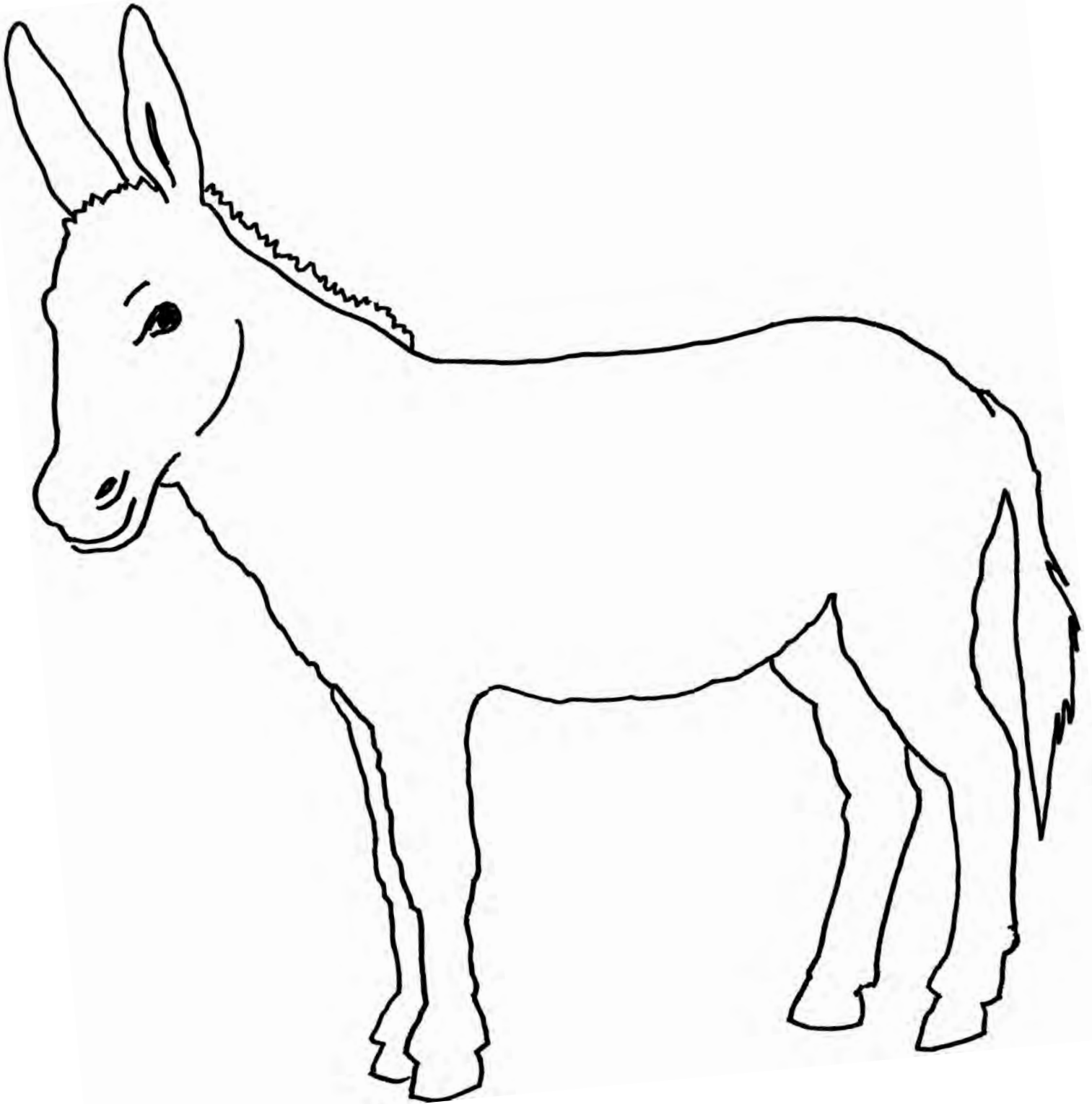


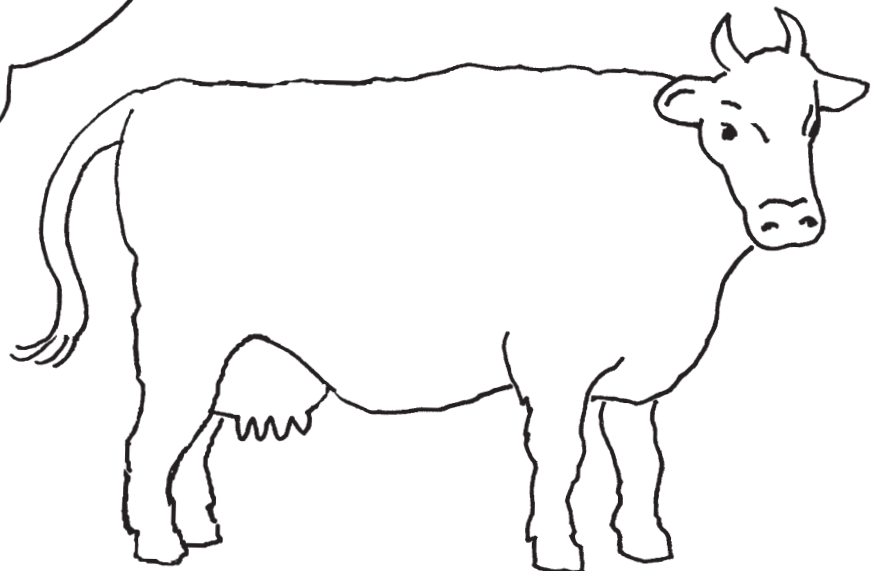
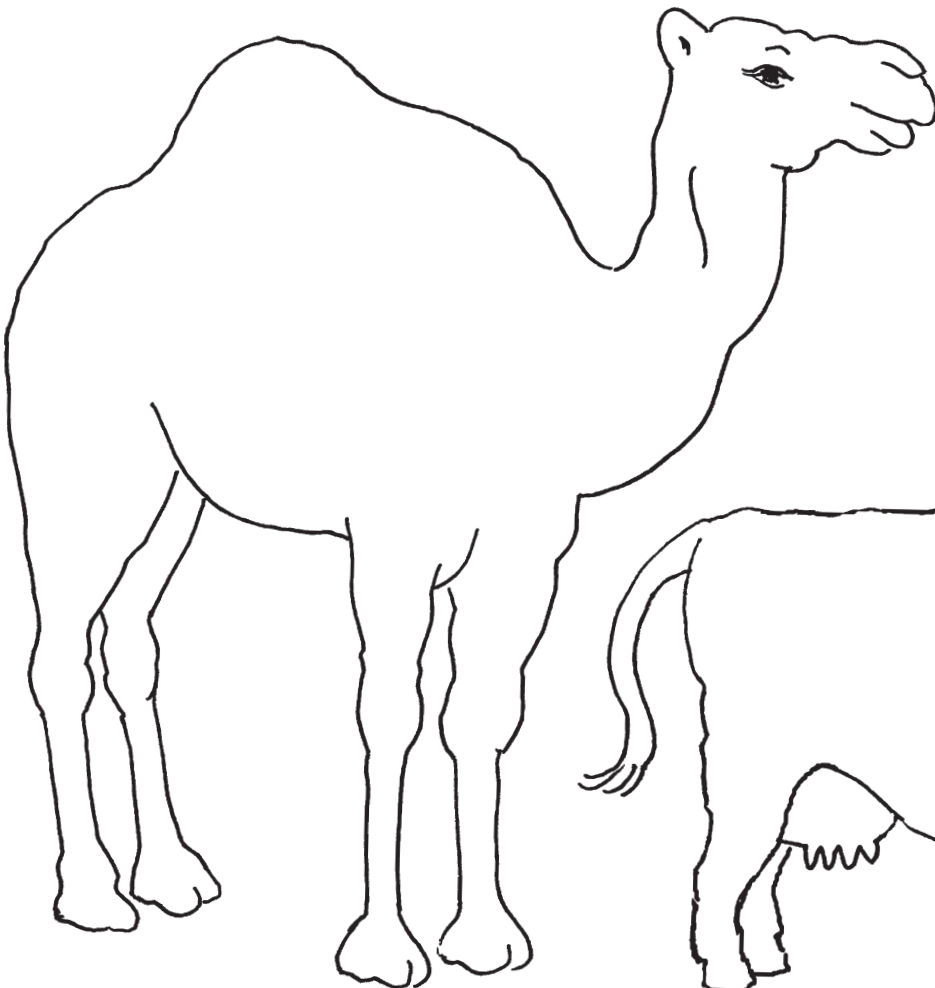
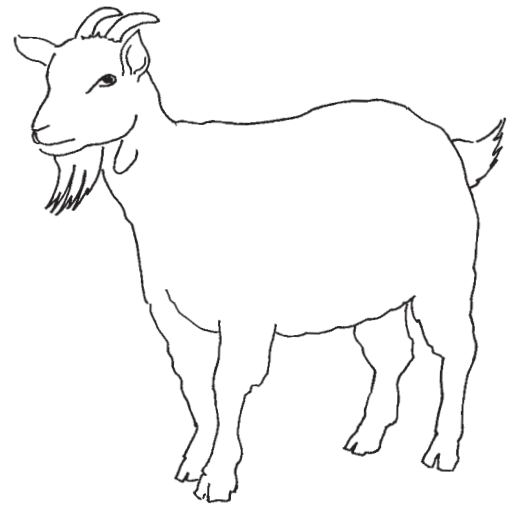
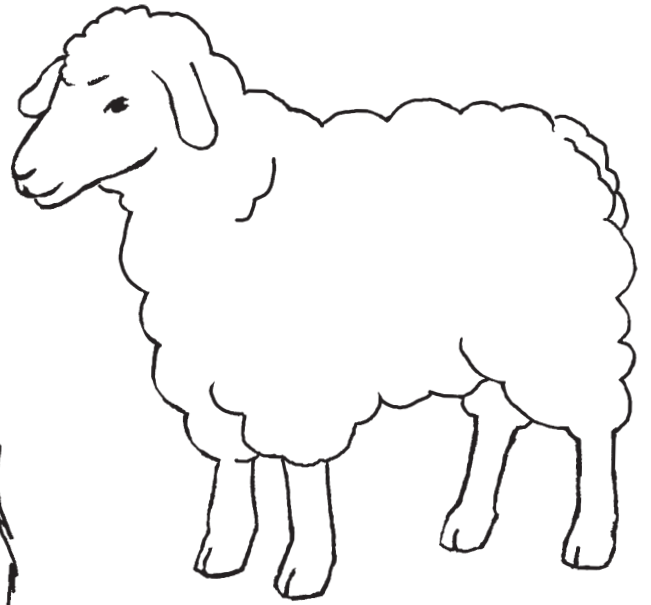
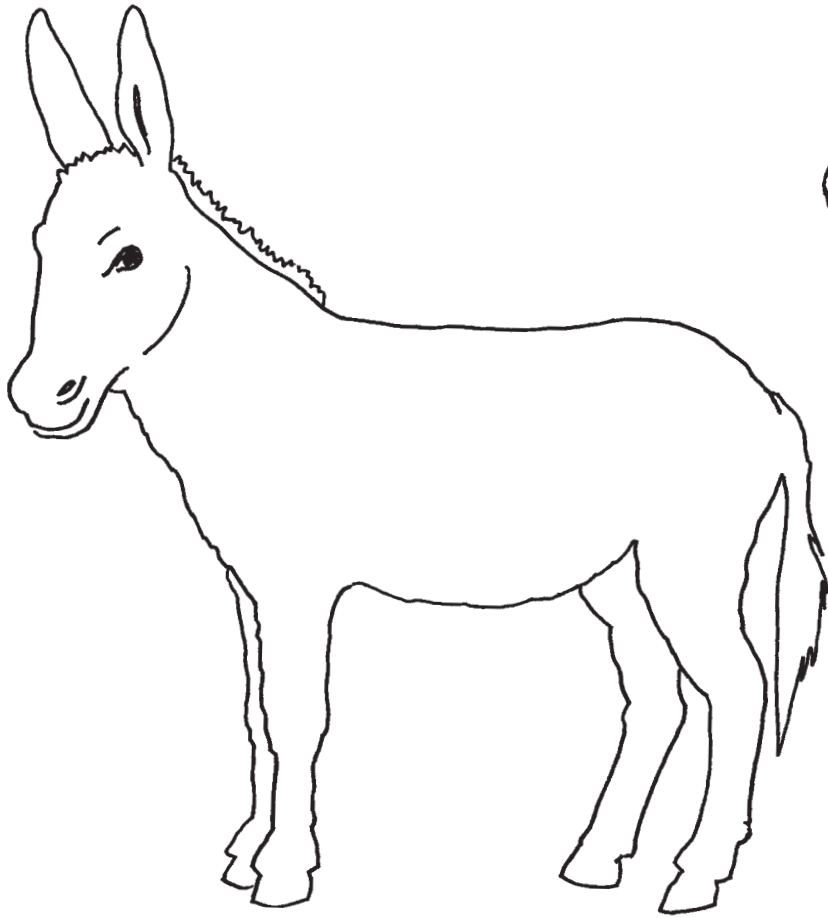












# Make: A New Heart

## At a Glance:

In this week's story, Jacob was given a new name—Israel. The new name represented a change that had taken place in Jacob's heart. No longer was he the heel-grabber, the usurper of his brother Esau. The "el" in his new name means "God" and the Lord now had a more central place in Jacob's heart than before. In this project children will create and decorate a heart-shaped pocket. In it they will put pictures of things they want to have in their hearts.

## Supplies Needed for Each Child:

- double-heart page printed on heavy paper
- page of pictures representing different qualities on regular paper
- crayons
- stapler or tape
- scissors
- *optional:* glitter, stickers, sequins or other decorations and glue



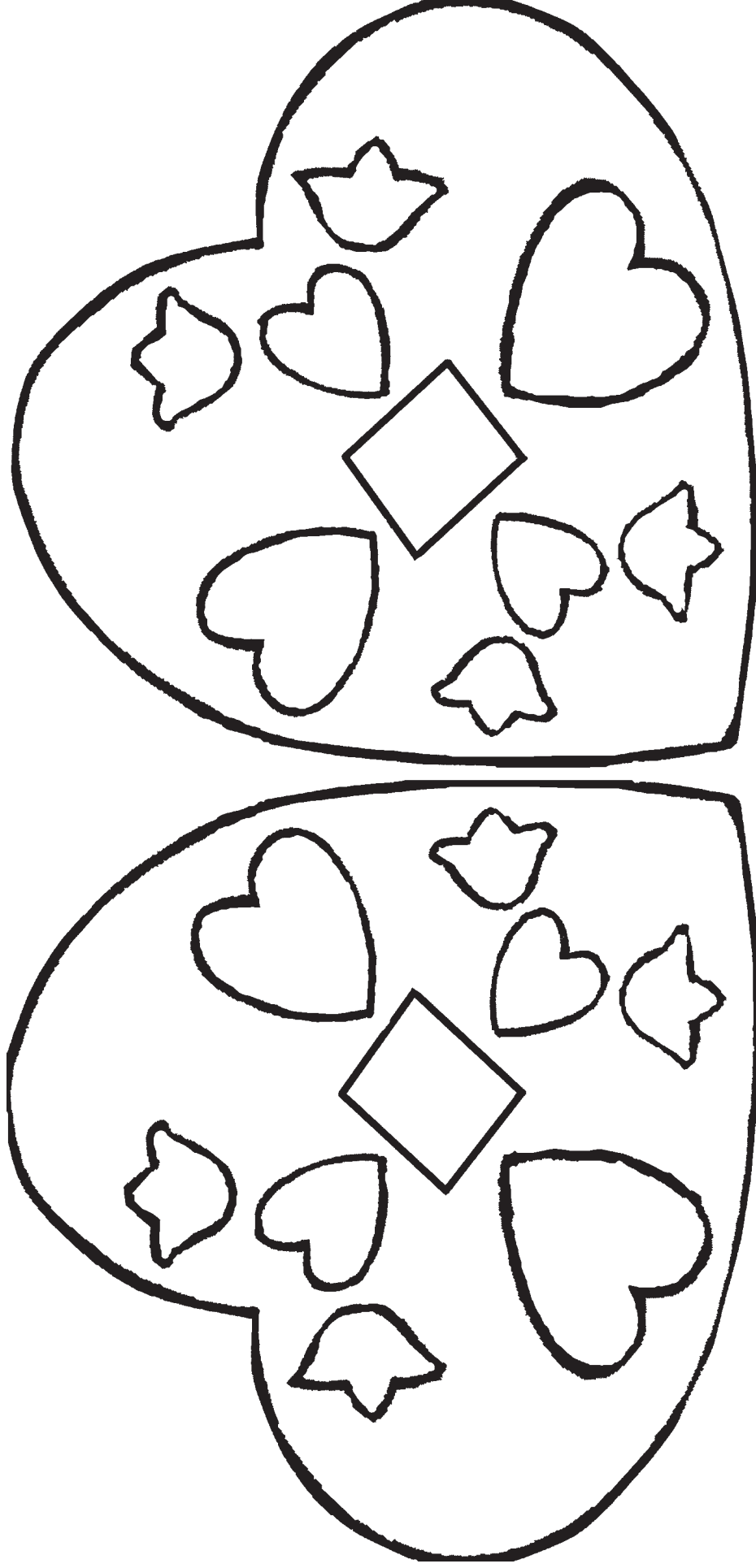
## Teacher Preparation:

- Make a sample pocket heart, following the directions below.
- Cut apart the pictures, keeping a set together for each child
- Note: Depending on the age and abilities of your group, you may want to fold and cut the heart pocket out as described in step 4. below. The child can unfold the heart to color the two sides.

## Directions:

1. Remind children about Jacob being given a new name in the story. Explain that this showed that his heart had changed. He cared less about what he wanted and more about what the Lord wanted now.
2. Explain to the children that they are going to make a project to show the kinds of good things they want to put in their hearts. Show them your sample heart and how the pictures can fit inside it.
3. Hand out the heart pages and the crayons. Have children color the heart first on both sides. (If you wish, help the children to put their first initial in the square on one side of the heart.)
4. Once the hearts are colored, help the children fold the pages in half and then cut around the other edges of the heart (not cutting the folded edge!). The cutting does not need to be too exact.
5. Help the children staple or tape the edges of the two hearts together to form a pocket.
6. Hand out the sets of pictures. Tell the children the quality that each one is depicting.
7. Let the children color the pictures if they wish and choose which ones to put in their heart pockets.

# A New Heart Pocket



# A New Heart Pictures

**Praying**



**Growing**



**Helping**



**Sharing**



**Loving**



**Learning**





