



THE NATURE OF MAN

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Lesson 1

JACOB: BORN WITH A SINFUL NATURE

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Abraham was declared righteous because he believed God. This did not mean that Abraham never sinned. But God forgave Abraham because of his faith in God. Likewise, we who are Christian believers are justified by faith (Romans 5:1) and accepted in the Beloved (Jesus Christ). (See Ephesians 1:6.) Our sins are forgiven through His blood (Ephesians 1:7) and we are no longer under God's condemnation (Romans 8:1). However,

this does not mean we will never sin again. Instead, like Paul (Romans 7:18-25), we continue to do things which we know are sin and which we do not want to do. We each have an old sin nature which daily wants its own way. Consequently, there is a constant battle within each heart. (See Galatians 5:17.) Help your students to understand this conflict.

Scripture to be studied: Genesis 24:1-67; 25:24-34; 27:1-46

The aim of the lesson: To show that Christian believers still have their old sin natures which disobey God.

What your students should know: That the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9).

What your students should feel: A desire to obey God and let Him plan their lives.

What your students should do: Yield themselves each day to the One Who is able to give them victory over the old sin nature.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Jacob's parents (Genesis 24:67; 25:19-23).
2. Jacob's birth (Genesis 25:24-26).
3. Jacob's youth (Genesis 25:27-34).
4. Jacob's deceit (Genesis 27:1-33).

The verse to be memorized:

Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
(Galatians 5:16)

THE LESSON

1. JACOB'S PARENTS

Genesis 24:67; 25:19-23

Isaac was a living miracle. When he was born, his father, Abraham, was 100 years old. Sarah, his mother, was 90 years old. People that old do not have babies. So the birth of Isaac was indeed a miracle.

Growing up, Isaac learned that there is only *one* God: the living God, who created the world and everything in it. He learned, also, that there is only one way to be accepted by God. To have his sins forgiven he would have to offer the blood of an animal as a sacrifice.

Abraham also explained to Isaac that through their family all the nations of the earth would one day be blessed. The Son of God would come to earth through him.

When Isaac was about 40 years old, his father became concerned about getting him a wife. The Canaanites, among whom they lived, worshiped idols. They did not trust in the living God.

One day Abraham said to his oldest servant, "Eliezer, my son Isaac needs a wife. God has promised to bless all of the nations of earth through me and my family. Isaac must have a wife who will trust and worship the true and living God. Go to my homeland. Find the right wife for Isaac from among my people."

Eliezer had a question. "Suppose the girl will not come to this land to marry a man whom neither she nor her family has ever seen."

"Do not worry, Eliezer. The Lord God of Heaven who led me, will lead you. He will show you the right girl. He will make her willing to come."

Eliezer loaded expensive gifts on ten of Abraham's camels and, together with other servants, began the long journey.

When Eliezer got near Haran (where Abraham's relatives lived), he stopped by a well. "Lord God," he prayed, "please show me the girl You have chosen for Isaac. I will wait here by the well. When the girls come to water their animals I will ask them for a drink of water. Cause the girl of Your choice to give