



## BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 7

### JACOB WRESTLES (GENESIS 32)

**Scripture:** Genesis 32:22–31

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Family Tree printout

#### Summarize:

Last week, we talked about how Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. Later on in life, Jacob tricked his father into also getting his blessing. His dad was blind, and asked Esau to go hunt and make him a special dinner so he could bless him. While Esau was hunting, Jacob dressed in Esau's clothes and put goat skin on his arms because Esau was a hairy man. He went in to his father, claimed to be Esau and received the blessing meant for his brother. When Esau found out what had happened, he wanted to kill Jacob, so Jacob ran away.

Over the time away, Jacob got married and had 12 sons. He also was tricked a lot by his uncle and got a taste of his own medicine for how he had tricked his father and brother. Now in our story, God has called Jacob to return.

**Read:** Genesis 32:22–30

#### Explain:

That is kind of a crazy story, isn't it? Jacob wrestled God and wouldn't let him go until he was blessed. There, God also changes Jacob's name. His name becomes Israel, and he is the father of the Israelites, God's chosen people. His 12 sons become the 12 tribes of Israel and the story of the Bible follows the history of these people.

#### Activity:

Let's wrestle! Have the kids compete in a thumb war wrestling tournament. If you don't know what a thumb war is, you can find a video online.

**Explain:**

Jacob made a lot of mistakes in his life, and he lived a life of trickery. But God still used him to be the father of the people of Israel. From Abraham and the promise of a son to Isaac. From Isaac and his sons Jacob and Esau. From Jacob, whose name got changed to Israel and his 12 sons which would become the 12 tribes of Israel, God used people who make mistakes to bring his plan about.

He can use you, too! Even if you make mistakes, even if you are on the run, he can call you back and use you mightily for his purposes. Jacob wrestled with God and wanted to be blessed. Sometimes we will struggle, but God can help us overcome and can bring blessings from our struggles.

**Activity:**

Fill out the family tree page of the people we've talked about so far. Have the kids draw a picture next to the ones we've studied.

**Comic Book Bibles:**

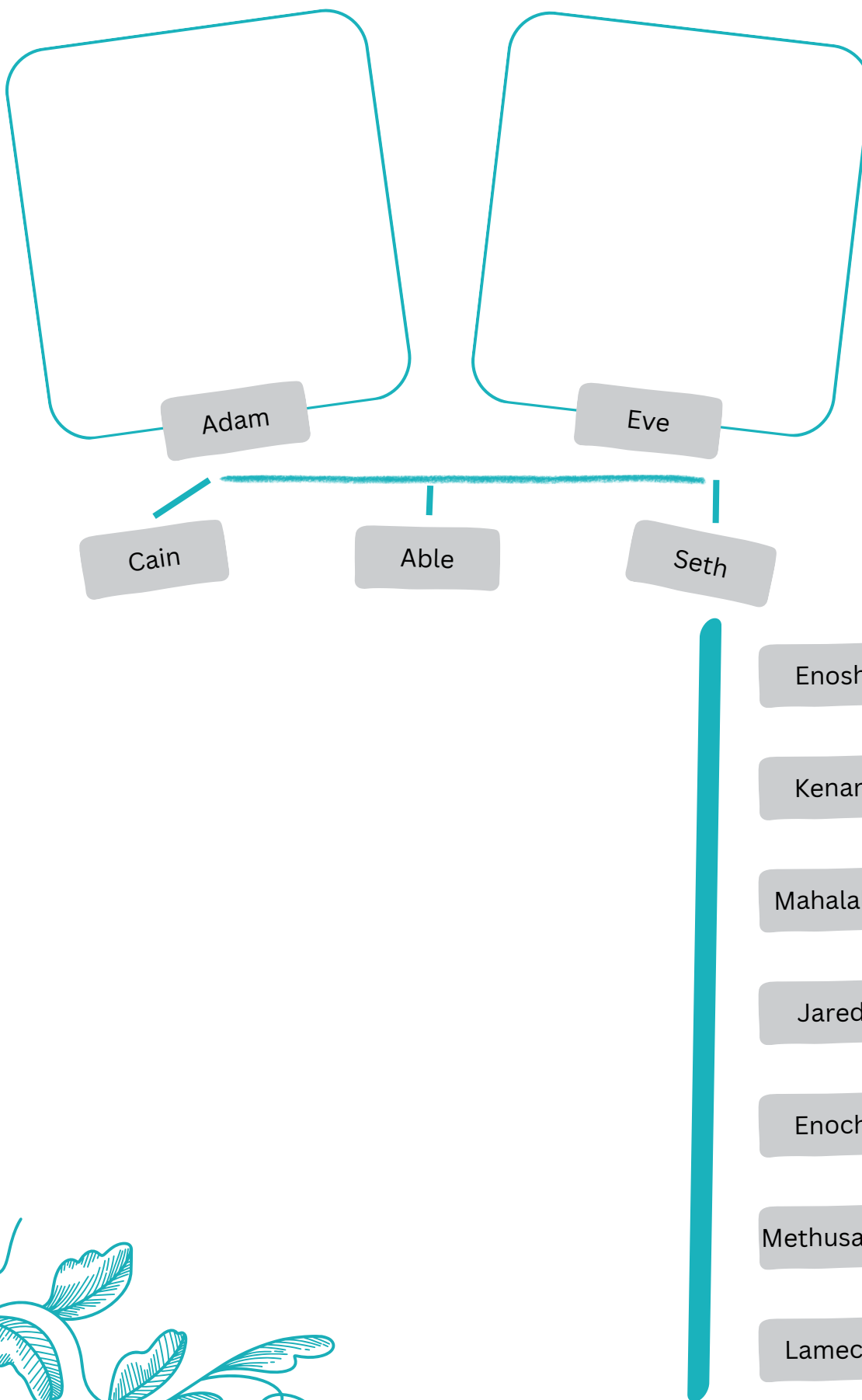
Have the kids recreate the story of Jacob wrestling God. Save it to add to their Comic Book Bibles.

**Memorize:** Genesis 32:30

**Close in Prayer**



# ADAM TO ISRAEL FAMILY TREE





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Noah

Arphaxad

Shelah

Eber

Peleg

Reu

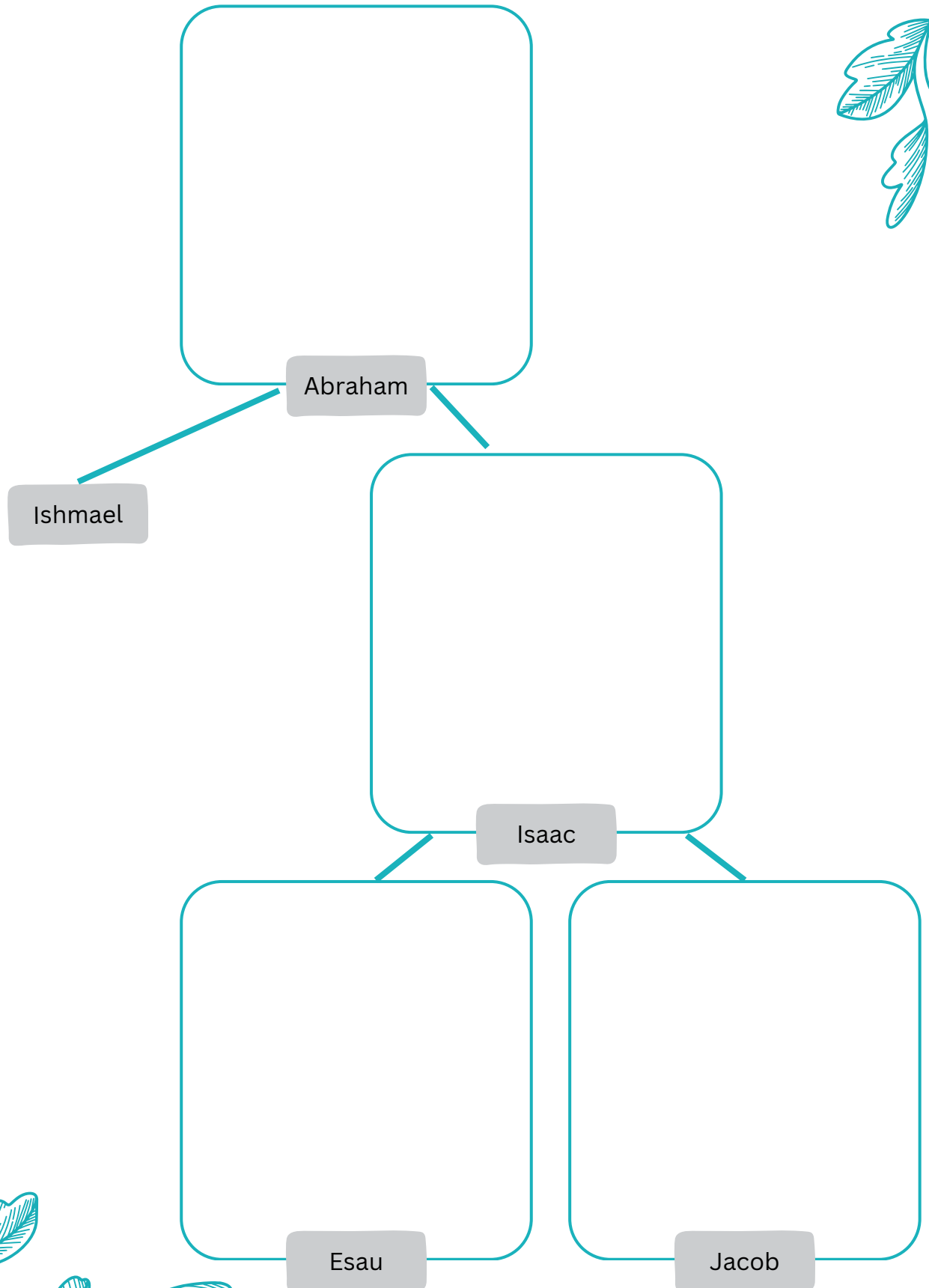
Serug

Nahor

Terah



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