“When, after his sin in deceiving Esau, Jacob fled from his father’s home, he was weighed down with a sense of guilt. Lonely and outcast as he was, separated from all that had made life dear, the one thought that above all others pressed upon his soul was the fear that his sin had cut him off from God, that he was forsaken of Heaven. In sadness he lay down to rest. . . . As he slept, . . . the divine voice was heard in a message of comfort and hope. Thus was made known to Jacob that which met the need and longing of his soul—a Savior” (Steps to Christ, pp. 19, 20).

Scripture Story: Genesis 25:19-34; 27.
Commentary: Patriarchs and Prophets (or Beginning of the End), chapter 16.
what do you think?

Use this code to make a generalization and classify a person from each of these occupations according to their honesty: AH (Absolutely, 100 percent honest in every way, never compromising); MH (Mostly honest, the majority of the time); OH (Occasionally honest, but not always); RH (Rarely honest).

___ A rock star
___ A pastor
___ A teacher
___ A priest
___ A veterinarian
___ A used-car salesman
___ The president of the United States

How would you classify yourself? Where would you put Jacob on the honesty scale? What about Esau? Isaac? Rebekah?

did you know?

One of the most meaningful Jewish celebrations is the Feast of Sukkoth. It commemorates the 40 years of the Jews wandering in the wilderness. Although it was only 200 miles from Egypt to Canaan, it took God’s people 40 years to make the trip!

The Feast of Sukkoth reminds us of the importance of time in spiritual life. Good things cannot be hurried. It was during the wilderness wanderings that the Israelites received the Ten Commandments, the pattern for the tabernacle, and the necessary character to enter the Promised Land. The Feast of Sukkoth reminds us that selling a long-term birthright for short-term gratification is foolish. God’s blessings come to those who understand the value of delayed gratification.

INTO THE STORY

“The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

“Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, ‘Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!’

“Jacob replied, ‘First sell me your birthright.’

“‘Look, I am about to die,’ Esau said. ‘What good is the birthright to me?’

“When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, ‘I am now an old man and don’t know the day of my death. . . . Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die.’

“Rebekah said to her son Jacob, ‘. . . ‘Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies.’’

“He went to his father and said, ‘My father.’

“‘Yes, my son,’ he answered. ‘Who is it?’

“Jacob said to his father, ‘I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me.’

“Then he said, ‘My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing.’

“After Isaac finished blessing him and Jacob had scarcely left his father’s presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting.

“Isaac trembled violently and said, ‘Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!’

“When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, ‘Bless me—me too, my father!’

“But he said, ‘Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.’

(Genesis 25:27-32; 27:1-4, 6-10, 18, 19, 25, 30, 33-35, NIV)
“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood” (Hebrews 12:2-4, NIV).

“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity” (Proverbs 11:3, NIV).

“Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path” (Proverbs 23:19, NIV).

“So God led the people around by the desert road” (Exodus 13:18, NIV).

“There is danger in amusement that is sought merely for self-gratification. . . . These are not necessarily things sinful in themselves, but something that is made first instead of the kingdom of God. Whatever attracts the mind from God, whatever draws the affections away from Christ, is an enemy to the soul.”—Ellen G. White, Christ's Object Lessons, p. 54.
Sabbath
Read Proverbs 11:3.
Complete the What Do You Think? activity at the beginning of the lesson and reflect on the experiences you have had personally or have witnessed from a distance that prompted you to generalize the way you did. Which occupation was the easiest to generalize about? Which was the most difficult to generalize?

Tuesday
Read 1 John 1:9; Psalm 103:12.
Read the quote in the Flashlight section and reflect on the weight of Jacob's sin and how it burdened him with guilt. What did Jacob need to see? What did he finally see in this season of guilt and shame? In what way are you like Jacob wrestling with guilt? Do you see your need of a Savior, or do you simply get overwhelmed with remorse? Who do you know who responds to their mistakes in life with a deep gratitude for their Savior, Jesus Christ? How have they modeled true repentance to you in the way they respond to shortcomings?

Wednesday
Read carefully and thoughtfully through the Punch Lines provided in this week's lesson and choose one verse that speaks pointedly to your life today. Why does this passage stand out to you now? Think of the people you have influence with (friends, younger siblings, or younger people at church) and consider how you could share this passage with them in a way that will deepen their commitment to God. List them by name and invite God to lead you to them this week.

Thursday
Read Hebrews 12:16, 17.
Take some time today to read chapter 16 in Patriarchs and Prophets, noting the insights the prophetic eye reveals. What does Ellen White say about integrity and delayed gratification? What Bible passages does she highlight or lead you to study? What principle emerges from this chapter that will apply to any generation, any season in the journey of life? Write that principle out in your own words below.

 Principle: