

## A Happy Reunion

More than twenty years later, Jacob was a wealthy man. He decided to return home and share his good fortune with his brother Esau. He sent messengers ahead to tell his brother he was coming home. He told them to let Esau know that he had much money, servants and animals. He didn't need or expect his brother to welcome him with gifts.

When the messengers returned, they said Esau was coming to meet him with 400 men. Jacob was afraid, so he divided his family and servants with their animals into two groups. If anything happened, at least half of them might be able to escape.

Then Jacob chose many animals from his flocks as a gift for his brother and sent his servants ahead with them to make peace with Esau. When Esau and his men came near, Jacob went out to meet them. He bowed seven times to the ground as he came near to Esau. But Esau ran to meet him. He threw his arms around Jacob and kissed him. They both cried with happiness.

Esau asked about all the people and animals that Jacob brought as a gift for him. Esau said he didn't need them, but Jacob insisted. At last, after many years, the brothers were together again. Jacob went safely to the city of Shechem, in the land of Canaan, where he bought a piece of land and settled there.