

## Jacob asks to be forgiven

Then Jacob prepared a special gift for Esau. He sent ahead herds of goats and sheep and camels and cows and donkeys. Each herd was led by servants who went on ahead of Jacob. He told the servant in front, "When Esau meets you and asks where you are going and who the animals belong to, tell him that they are a gift from Jacob for his brother, Esau."

And then it happened! Suddenly Jacob saw Esau coming towards him with 400 men. So Jacob put the children with their mothers and walked on ahead of them. As he came near to Esau, he bowed down low.

But Esau ran to meet Jacob and hugged him, and they cried together. Then Esau looked up and saw all the others coming; Jacob's servants, his wives and the children. And they too bowed down.

Esau asked, "And what are all these herds for?"

Jacob replied, "They are a gift for you so that you would be friendly towards me."

"My brother, I have plenty," Esau replied. "Keep what you have for yourself."

But Jacob insisted, and finally Esau accepted the gift. Then Esau said, "Well, let's get going. I'll lead the way."

However, Jacob said that he would prefer not to go home with Esau, and he went on to a place called Succoth where he built a home for himself.

