AIM: To show that true repentance and forgiveness can change hate to love.

MEMORY VERSE: Forgive one another as Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

ACTIVITY: BALLOON RELAY
Write each word of the memory verse on a piece of paper and put each piece into a balloon (8 balloons all same colour). Repeat with 8 balloons of another colour. Divide the group into two teams in relay style. Put all the balloons in the middle of the room. At the command, leaders from Teams 1 and 2 must run and collect a balloon, then run back to their original position and pass the balloon overhead to the person at the end of the line, with each team player having handled the balloon. The last person must burst the balloon, take the piece of paper to the blackboard and write the word. He must then run and pick up the second balloon, return to the front his team, and pass the balloon back in the same way as the first player. Repeat the process until all balloons are burst and the words are written on the board. The group that can then unscramble the verse wins.

STORY: Genesis 33
It was a different man who walked out to see his brother, Esau. No longer was Jacob afraid to face his enemy of 20 years. The confrontation with God had changed all that. Jacob knew in his heart that God was with him and that knowledge gave him strength, peace and courage.

Jacob fully expected Esau and his army of 400 men to be prepared for battle. So he carefully put his wives and children to the back of the group of servants and flocks of animals, so that his loved ones would be protected. Jacob himself stood in the front of everyone, ready and willing to face the brother
FRIENDS AT LAST (continued)

As Esau approached, Jacob began to bow down as a sign of respect for his elder brother. Jacob bowed then took a few steps while the group of servants and family behind him did the same. He bowed seven times until he was standing right in front of Esau.

Then an amazing thing happened! Esau jumped down from his horst, threw his weapons on the ground and hugged and kissed his brother, Jacob (note Proverbs 16:7).

Together they cried as the hatred melted away and brotherly love returned. Jacob urged Esau to accept the gift that he had prepared for him. The gift was a way of saying, “I’m sorry, please forgive me.” Esau accepted the gift and this was his way of saying, “I accept your apology and I forgive you.”

DISCUSSION STARTERS:
- Why didn’t Jacob prepare an army to fight his brother?
- Why did Jacob stand in the front of the whole group?
- Why did Jacob bow to his brother?
- What made Esau change his mind about killing Jacob?
- The gift that Jacob gave showed a change in his character. What was it?
- Why did Jacob change and become a different man?
- What should we do when others hurt us? (Scriptural response is found in Mt 5:44).
- Who should be seek forgiveness from when we do wrong?
- How long should we wait before we ask for or give forgiveness?

TEACHER’S NOTE:
The end of this story gives an excellent opportunity for children to receive Jesus. Remind the children that Jacob could not have reconciled with his brother if he had not set himself right with God first. God wants to meet with us and forgive us so that we can live happily with our family and friends. Forgiveness is a gift from God that we need to receive so that we can also give it to others who do us wrong.
JACOB AND ESAU
FRIENDS AT LAST
Genesis 33

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 4:32, “Forgive one another as Christ forgave you.”

Jacob was a different man when he walked out to see his brother, Esau. No longer was Jacob afraid to face his enemy of 20 years. The wrestling with God had changed all that. Jacob knew in his heart that God was with him and knowing that gave him strength, peace and courage.

Jacob fully expected Esau and his army of 400 men to be prepared for battle. So he carefully put his wives and children to the back of the group behind the servants and the livestock, to try and protect his loved ones. Jacob himself stood in the front of everyone, ready and willing to face the brother who hated him.

As Esau came forward, Jacob began to bow down as a sign of respect for his older brother. Jacob bowed then took a few steps forward while the servants and family members behind him did the same. Jacob bowed 7 times until he was standing right in front of Esau.

Then an amazing thing happened. Esau jumped down from his horse, threw his weapons on the ground and hugged and kissed his brother, Jacob. (Proverbs 16:7 “When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies live at peace with him.”)

Together Esau and Jacob cried as the hatred melted away and brotherly love returned. Jacob urged Esau to accept the gift he had prepared. The gift was a way of saying, ‘I’m sorry, please forgive me’. Esau accepted the gift and this was his way of saying, ‘I accept your apology and I forgive you’. Jacob was once again friends with his brother because he got right with God first.

God wants to meet with us and forgive us our sins so we may live happily with our family and friends. Forgiveness is a gift from God.
After Jacob met with the angel, he was no longer a _ _ _ _ _ to face his enemy. Jacob knew in his heart that G _ _ was with him; that gave him strength, peace and c _ _ _ _ _ _.

Now after 20 years apart, Esau finally approached Jacob. Jacob expected Esau and his men to be prepared for b _ _ _ _ _. As a sign of respect, Jacob began to bow down before his elder brother. He bowed s _ _ _ _ _ times until he was standing right in front of Esau.

Then an amazing thing happened! Esau jumped down from his horse, threw his w _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to the ground and gave his brother a h _ _. Together they cried as the hatred melted away and the brotherly l _ _ _ returned.

Jacob encouraged Esau to accept his gift. This was Jacob’s way of saying, “I’m sorry, please f _ _ _ _ _ _ _ me.” Esau accepted the gift to show that he accepted Jacob’s a _ _ _ _ _ and that he was forgiven.