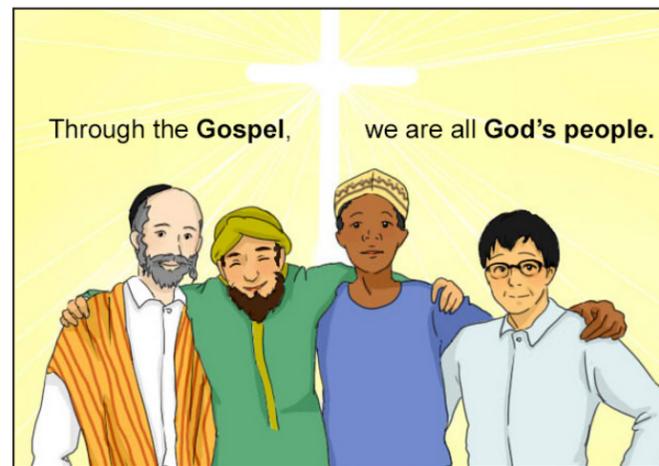
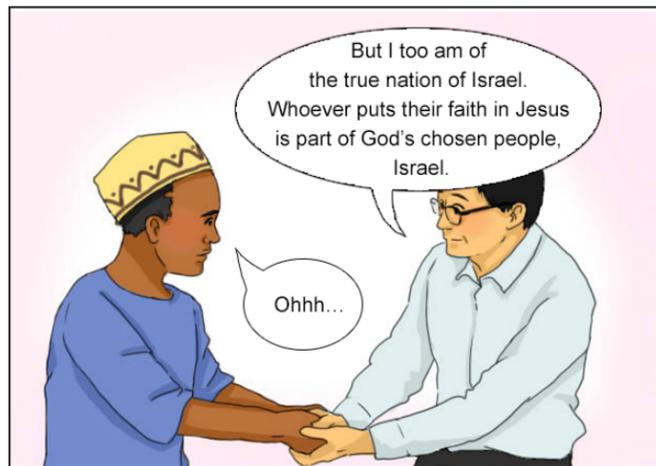
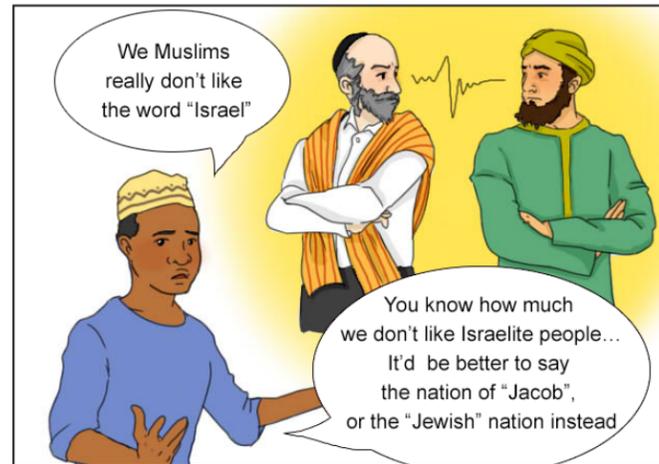
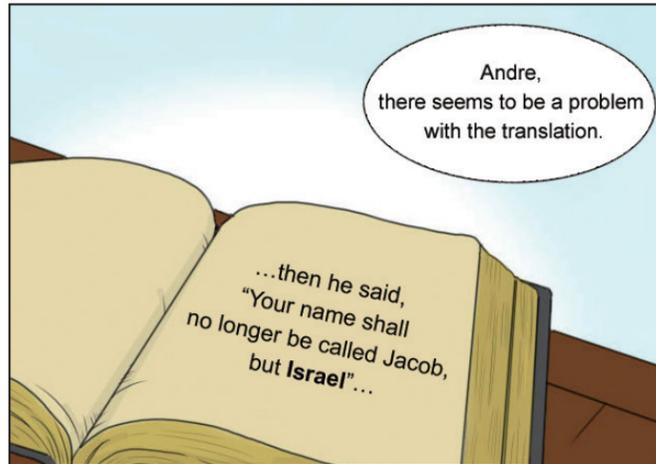


# The New Name, 'Israel'



Have you ever heard of the Bible story about the twin brothers Jacob and Esau? The elder brother Esau and the younger brother Jacob fought each other in their mother's womb to get out first. Jacob, the greedier brother, grabbed hold of Esau's ankle when they were born, and because Esau was the firstborn, Jacob tried to steal Esau's firstborn blessings by lying to their own father.

Jacob learned that being greedy, lying, fighting,

and stealing was not the right way to be blessed, but only right when God Himself gave him the blessings. When Jacob learned all of this, God changed Jacob's name to Israel. God had chosen Jacob to be blessed as a child of God. The name 'Israel' is a very, very magnificent name.

What is more surprising is that these kinds of things happen even now! Anyone who truly believes in Jesus becomes a son and daughter of God. Like Jacob, who changed from being

a greedy man into Israel, blessed and loved by God, anyone can receive love and blessings from God. We call those who are blessed and loved by God, 'spiritual Israel.'

But since long ago, there were people who fought with Israel and did not get along with them. They were the Muslims. Muslims did not believe in God's Son Jesus, and instead believed in the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. Also, Muslims often fought with the people of Israel and hated them; even now, they do not get along with each other, and some Muslims cannot stand the mention of the word 'Israel.'

Yet there were missionaries with great hearts who wished to let the Muslims know about the love of God, and wanted the Muslims to be blessed by God as well. These missionaries decided to start translating the word of God, the Bible, into the language of the Muslims. This is because when the Muslims start to read the Bible, they would want to believe in Jesus.

One day while translating the Bible, there was a scene where God was changing Jacob's name

to Israel. "You will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." One person who was helping the translation said that because some Muslims do not like the word 'Israel' that they should use another word instead. If the Bible has the word 'Israel,' he thought, Muslims would not want to read the Bible.

"I have also become Israel, and as long as you believe in Jesus then you also become Israel, a chosen one of God."

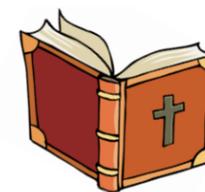
The missionary explained it so that the man would understand this more easily.

"Oh, Israel also means a person chosen by God to be blessed."

It was then that the man agreed to use the word 'Israel' as it was written in the Bible.

Even today, God wants to call everyone who believes in Him by their new name, 'Israel.' Instead of being countries that lie, fight, hate, and go to war, let us all be one big family in Christ, and be one nation by being friends with the Muslims. Pray for the Muslims each and every day.

## Let's read the Bible



Genesis 6:9-22  
12:2-7  
22:6-14  
(Genesis 32:22-32)

## We consider together

What good meaning does your name have in relation to God?



Wycliffe Canada wants to see the revival of the Canadian Church through Bible engagement, not only by their reading but also praying and living it out in their life, while they bless those people groups who do not have the Bible by prayers and offerings, a cent per verse or 10 cents per chapter. Please contact us if you want to join.

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