



Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children

Lesson 20

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Hard Work and a Family of His Own

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Hard Work and a Family of His Own

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

Hard Work and a Family of His Own

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

Hard Work and a Family of His Own

Level E— Bible Bits: Dig 'n' Discover (6-10)/

Topic Treasures—Psalm 15 and Psalm 142

Hard Work and a Family of His Own

Jacob found the place where his uncle Laban was living, and stayed with him there for many years.

Jacob worked hard each day caring for Laban's sheep and goats and cattle. He married both the daughters of Laban—Rachel and Leah, and was the father of 12 sons, and one daughter.

Laban wasn't always nice to Jacob, and didn't keep his promises. This helped Jacob to learn what it felt like to be around someone who only thinks about themselves, and isn't trustworthy.

Jacob tried to keep being faithful to work hard and care for his family. God told him it was finally time to move back to his country.

When Jacob and his family moved he was a rich man, with lots of animals and goods. God had taken good care of him.



Hard Work and a Family of His Own

Finally after his long trip, Jacob found where his uncle Laban was living. He met Rachel who was bringing the sheep to the well to give them water. Jacob helped to lift the heavy stone away so water could be drawn out.

Laban was glad to have him come and stay with them. Jacob helped him and his daughters Rachel and Leah with the hard work of caring for the flocks of animals.

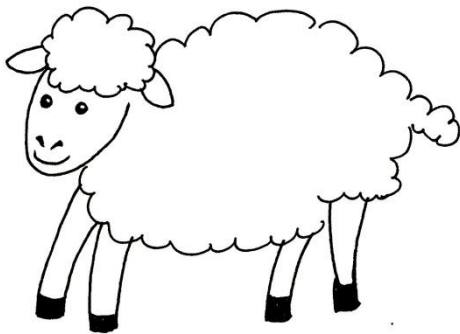
Jacob was a willing and diligent worker, and Laban was glad to let him marry both of his grown-up daughters. Together they had 13 children in their family—12 sons and one daughter.

In return for his work with the animals, Jacob was given some of the animals for his own. God helped Jacob's sheep and cattle to be strong and plentiful.



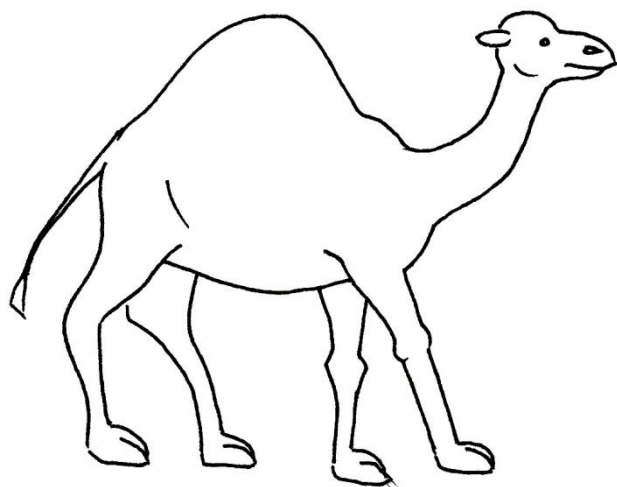
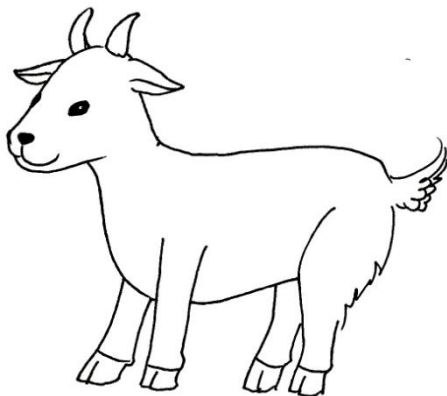
Even though things weren't easy, and Laban wasn't an honest and trustworthy man, still God took care of Jacob, and gave him so much.

After many years God told him it was time for him and his big family and all their animals to move back to the place where he lived before. God had blessed and cared for Jacob all the time he had been away in a new place.



Activity

*Learn to draw a simple sheep or goat or camel!





Hard Work and a Family of His Own

It had been a tiring journey for Jacob as he travelled to try to find where his uncle Laban was living. Without a map or telephones or internet, or anything that most people could use today to find out information and find out where a relative lives, it was difficult, and he really didn't know what to expect.

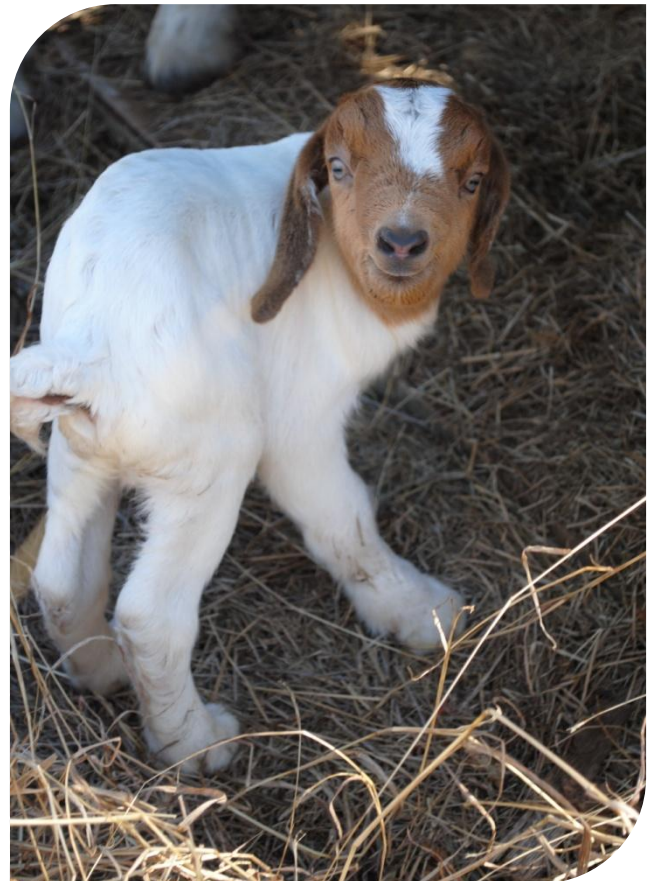
Jacob came near a well at last and saw some shepherds going there to give water to their sheep. Seeing that one approaching was a lady, he offered to help her lift the heavy rock from off the well.

Jacob was so glad to find out that at last he had reached his destination, for it was Rachel, Laban's daughter who was the one with the sheep. He loved her right from the start, and was invited by Laban to live with them.

He didn't sit around doing nothing, but saw what needed to be done and got to work right away helping in all the ways he could.

When Laban asked Jacob what he'd like to receive in return for his hard work, caring for and guarding the many animals, there was only one thing he asked for.

He loved Rachel so much, that he worked for seven years, day after day, in order to be able to marry Rachel. Time seemed to go by quickly, and before he knew it, a big wedding feast was held.



Though God was caring for and helping Jacob to have all that he needed, and he was happy he was going to get married to a woman he really loved, being there with Laban also proved to be a time of learning lessons for Jacob.

Laban didn't always keep his word. He said he'd do one thing, and then wouldn't stick with it and would change things later on. He was dishonest and not trustworthy.

Perhaps Jacob could understand a bit how his brother Esau had felt, when he himself had been dishonest and upset Esau so much. Now it was Jacob's turn to feel bad at times, and learn how not to be deceitful.

Finally, after seven years it was time for Jacob's promised wedding to Rachel whom he loved. But instead Laban made Jacob marry Leah instead, the oldest daughter.

This upset Jacob, but he was able also to marry Rachel, if he promised to work yet another seven years. Leah was a gentle and kind woman, and God chose to give her children first and also the most children.



God had blessed and helped Jacob to acquire lots of flocks and animals. He got many of those animals in an interesting way. When Laban said that only the speckled patterned ones could be Jacob's, then the new lambs and baby goats that were born were speckled.

When Laban quickly changed and said that only those with ring patterns and stripes could be Jacob's, those were the kinds that were born next. God made it be so. So all those grown sheep would be part of Jacob's flocks. And bit by bit he had more and more.

After Jacob had been living there with Laban and his family for about 20 years, God told him it was now time to move, and take his large family and all their cattle and flocks with them. It was a big job, but they packed up and were off on their journey back to the place where Jacob grew up.

Because Laban wasn't very dependable, Jacob chose to leave with his big family at a time when Laban wasn't home. He had gone away for several days at the time of year when the sheep were sheared. When Laban found out that Jacob and his family had left, he travelled for a few days to catch up to them to find out why they had left.

He hadn't been very nice to Jacob, especially towards the end of Jacob's stay there, when he noticed how large and strong Jacob's flocks were. But God gave Laban a clear message in a dream, about what not to do or say to Jacob when he did see him again.



So Laban obeyed the warning dream, and told Jacob about it. He camped with them for a day, and then said good bye to everyone and left to return to his home.

Jacob's team continued on travelling, till they made it to their destination. Jacob had new challenges to face, including what to do about Esau, his brother, whom he'd offended and made very sad and upset. He'd need to make things right between them again.

Let's Talk About It

*If you were going to travel to another part of the country to see a relative, but didn't have a phone, or map, or internet, how could you get to where you were going, and find your way? What things might help you?

*Is it good to "work hard"? What does that mean? Is there a time when it's not good, or when trying to do too much is not good? What do you need to do to be thought of as a "good worker" and "dependable"? How can you keep your body in good shape?

Activity

*In what order did the events of the story take place? Mark what happened first, second, third, etc., either while reading the story, or afterwards.

___ Time to leave Laban

___ Jacob gets married

___ Jacob travels to find his uncle

___ Jacob takes care of the flocks of Laban

___ Laban has a dream

___ Jacob's flocks increase

___ Jacob meets Rachel at a well

Hard Work and a Family of His Own



Connect and Communicate

*Read Psalm 149:1. Play a beat or tune on a musical instrument or box/pot/table, making up a sentence of praise to sing to a made up tune, or existing one. "Sing unto the Lord a new song!"

Study Fun

Find: The words that talk about the way things looked, or things that are seen. (For example: beautiful, speckled.)

Learn: About the word "week" in this story. In some instances in the Bible, what can it mean?

Demonstrate: With facial expressions and actions the feelings that Jacob might have had when the various events happened throughout the story.

Genesis

29:1 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.

29:2 And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth.

29:3 And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place.

29:9 And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she kept them.

29:10 And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

29:16 And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

29:17 Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.

29:18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

29:19 And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.

29:20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

29:21 And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled.

29:22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.

29:23 And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him.



29:25 And he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?

29:26 And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

29:27 Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

29:28 And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

30:43 And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.

31:11 And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I.

31:12 And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee.



31:13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

31:17 Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camels.

31:18 And he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten in Padanaram, for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan.

31:19 And Laban went to shear his sheep.

31:22 And it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob was fled.

31:23 And he took his brethren with him, and pursued after him seven days' journey; and they overtook him in the mount Gilead.

31:24 And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.



[Jacob said to Laban:]

31:38 This twenty years have I been with thee,

31:40 Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes.

31:41 Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle; and thou hast changed my wages ten times.

31:42 Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight.

31:45 And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar.

31:46 And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap.

31:48 And Laban said, This heap is a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called *Galeed*;

31:49 And *Mizpah*; for he said, The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.

31:55 And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place.

Activity

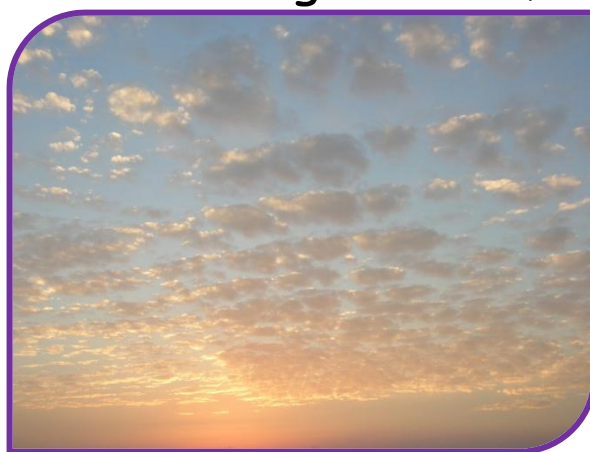
*Act out and talk about the manners of a "gentleman" and a "lady", and how each one can show courtesy to the other.



Fountain of Faith

Psalms 33:21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Romans 4:20-21 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.



Dig 'n' Discover (6-10)

Prayer

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

*Write in a notebook, or post somewhere, a "prayer list." Leave some space for marking when the answers come!

6.) Were cars ever talked about or predicted in the Bible? (Nahum 2:4)

7.) How many times did Jesus recommend that someone forgive their brother/sister? (Matthew 18:21-22)

8.) What creature sneaks into a king's palace? (Proverbs 30:28)

9.) Has anyone ever counted how many hairs are on someone's head? (Matthew 10:30-31)

10.) What do "ballroom dancing" and a man called "Jubal" have in common? (Genesis 4:21)



Activity

*Look up the verses in your Bible to find the answers!



Topic Treasures

— Admitting Mistakes and God's Forgiveness

Study Fun

Find: The words "overwhelmed", "refuge", and "tongue."

Learn: What the verses in Psalm 15:3-5 mean. Talk about how to apply these things in your present-day life.

Demonstrate: With actions some of the phrases and words used in Psalm 142.

Psalm 15

15:1 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

15:2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

15:3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

15:4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

15:5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Psalm 142

142:1 I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplication.

142:2 I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble.

142:3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

142:4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

142:5 I cried unto thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

142:6 Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.

142:7 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.



Daily Diary

*Think about the benefits of being a trustworthy hard worker, in spite of difficult situations and with hard-to-work-with personalities. List the benefits. Let your list of benefits remind yourself that it's a good goal to reach for in your life.

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