

LESSON 20

Jacob Flees from Laban

GENESIS 30:25 – 31:55



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD CARES FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLED TO BE A PART OF HIS PLAN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Eight large index cards with one of the following words written on each: God, evil, faith, anger, love, stealing, prayer, lying

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 20)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 20

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Flee or Follow

SUPPLIES: fold a piece of paper into quarters. In two of the quadrants draw large spots with a marker. In the other two quadrants draw stripes. Make ten copies, cut them into quarters and sort the pieces into a striped pile and a spotted pile.

God’s Word Protects Us

SUPPLIES: puppet; one raw egg; a small box

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God led Jacob away from Laban.

For this opening activity you will need eight large index cards with the following written on them: God, evil, faith, anger, love, stealing, prayer, lying. Be sure to write the words large enough for the class to see.

Explain to the children that God often teaches us to flee from things that are not good for us. When we flee, it means that we run in the other direction to get away from something. God also teaches us to follow after good things. When we follow, it means that we go after those things that are good.

Tell the children you are going to hold up a card and read it out loud. When you do, they should call out either “flee” or “follow.” Go through the cards, and then ask the following questions.

- **Why would God ask us to flee from things?**
(God wants to protect us from things that are harmful to us and things that do not honor him.)

- **What other things should we flee from?**
(Accept other sins such as selfishness or disrespect.)

- **What other things should we follow God in?**
(They may be able to name other fruits of the Spirit like kindness or self-control.)

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 20, “Jacob Flees from Laban,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What kind of attitude did Laban’s sons have toward Jacob?
(Laban’s sons were angry with Jacob because they thought he stole their father’s wealth.)

- Did Jacob steal from Laban?
(No, he made a bargain with Laban that he would take only the spotted or streaked animals. It was God who caused most of the baby animals to be spotted or streaked so Jacob’s flocks grew large and strong [see Genesis 30:29–34].)

- Who told Jacob to leave Laban?
(God told Jacob to flee Laban.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- Can God still speak to us and direct us today?
(Yes, God can still speak to us. He speaks through his Word [see James 1:22].)

- Has God ever spoken to you or your parents?
(Answers may vary.)

- What kind of things should we look to God’s Word to tell us?
(how to love God; how we should live; how we should worship)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 20—one copy for each child

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Matthew 2:13–16

In a dream, God told Jacob to leave Laban so that Jacob could return to the land of promise. Only in this way could the generations promised to Abraham be born. Jesus was protected in a similar way when, in a dream, God told Joseph to take Jesus away from Herod. Neither Laban's opposition to Jacob nor Herod's opposition to Jesus could stop God's plan.

God prospered Jacob, and many years later the Savior was one of Jacob's descendants just as God promised. All of history moves in the direction of fulfilling God's redemptive plan.

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- How did Jacob's sheep look different from Laban's sheep?
(Jacob's sheep were spotted and streaked.)

Have the children draw spots and streaks on Jacob's sheep.

- What did Rachel steal from her father?
(Rachel stole her father's household gods.)

Have the children draw little statues that represent the household idols.

- What do you think about what Rachel did?
(She did not yet fully trust the God of Jacob. She felt she needed her father's gods for protection or good luck.)

Flee or Follow

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ striped and spotted paper

Instructions prior to class: Fold a piece of paper into quarters. In two of the quarters draw large spots with a marker. In the other two corners draw streaks and stripes. (These will represent the spotted and striped goats.) Photocopy about ten sheets, cut them into quarters and separate the twenty spotted pieces from the twenty striped ones. Take two of the spotted pieces and put them on the pile of the striped ones. Take two of the striped ones and put them on the pile with the spotted ones.

Explain that each time Laban changed the wages to tell Jacob he could have the spotted or striped goats, God made sure that most of the goats were born that way. If Laban changed it, God would make sure the goats that were born next were Jacob's. This was to provide Jacob with a lot of goats.

Take the pile with the most spotted pieces and explain to the children they are going to play the role of Jacob and his flocks and you will be Laban (and the narrator). Act out the following short skit:

Laban: Jacob, from now on you can have all the goats born with spots, and I will have the goats born with stripes.

Narrator: Then all the goats had babies and they entered the flock. (*Throw the mostly spotted papers out to the children.*) God blessed Jacob while he was with Laban by the way the baby goats were born.

Laban: Wait a minute; you are getting too many goats, why they all look like they have spots. (*Laban finds the two striped "goats" and complains.*) From now on I get all the spotted goats.

Narrator throws out the papers that are mostly striped.

Laban: Hey, this is not fair, now most of the goats are striped. I think I am getting tricked.

Narrator: So God told Jacob to leave Laban for the Promised Land. (*Jacob leaves and all the children crawl away to one corner of the room.*)

Laban: Hey, where did everybody go! Jacob tricked me and now he is gone. I'm going after him.

Ask the children about what God did to help Jacob.

God's Word Protects Us

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet
- ✓ one raw egg
- ✓ small box with cover

Two adults are needed for this skit. On the table, place the small (covered) box containing the raw egg.

Teacher (*not the one with the puppet*): Okay Puppet, I need to go out of the room for a bit, don't touch anything on the table.

Puppet: Okay teacher, I won't touch anything.

Teacher: I will be right back. Don't touch anything, especially that box.

Puppet: (*to himself*) No problem, I'm not going to touch ... I wonder what is in the box. No, I can't touch it. Well, I could touch it without picking it up. (*Puppet cautiously touches the box and quickly backs away.*) I wonder what is in that box. I guess it can't hurt to pick it up. (*Puppet picks up the box and then puts it right down again.*) There is something inside this box rolling around or something. Maybe if I shake it gently ... (*Puppet shakes box enough to move egg but not break egg.*) I still can't tell what it is. (*to audience*) Should I shake it a bit harder? (*He shakes it harder then whacks the box on the table to crack the egg.*) Uh-oh. (*He puts the box down quickly then turns away just as the teacher comes back into the room.*)

Teacher: Puppet, did you move this box?

Puppet: Well, I just ...

Teacher: (*Opens the lid to reveal a cracked egg, letting some spill out to make a bit of a mess for the kids to see.*) Puppet, look what you did! My egg is broken!

Puppet: I'm sorry. I guess I didn't follow your instructions.

Teacher: I didn't tell you not to touch the box to hurt you, but to help keep you from breaking the egg. Next time you should follow my instructions. I know you didn't mean to break the egg. I forgive you.

Questions to ask the class:

- What happened?

(*The puppet disobeyed and didn't follow the teacher's directions.*)

- How are the teacher's directions to not touch the box like God's directions for us not to sin?

(They are both for our good so that we do not get into trouble.)

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

