

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 REVIEW** ..... **5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** ..... **10 MIN**  
Read Genesis 31:1–24 from the Scriptures or read story 20, “Jacob Flees from Laban,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** ..... **10 MIN**  
God Is in Control  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ pens and paper
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** ..... **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** ..... **10 MIN**  
What Idols Are You Hiding?
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** ..... **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** ..... **15 MIN**  
Goats  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ paper  
✓ colored pencils
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** ..... **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** ..... **10 MIN**  
Make an Idol  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ modeling clay

**TOTAL 80 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

## TEACHING POINTS

**God miraculously multiplied Jacob's flocks**—Jacob asks Laban if he can take his wives and children and go back home. But Laban does not want Jacob to leave. Laban inquires of Jacob what he would like to be paid for continuing to work. Jacob suggests that his wages be paid from every sheep or goat that has unusual markings or is an unusual color. Laban agrees.

God miraculously increases Jacob's flocks, so Laban changes the rules as to which animals Jacob can take, but still Jacob's flocks increase in number. No matter how Laban changes the rules, God keeps blessing Jacob.

**God called Jacob to return to the land of his father**—In the middle of the problems with Laban, God tells Jacob to return to Canaan. Jacob trusts the Lord but still fears and distrusts Laban. So while Laban is away shearing his sheep, Jacob gathers up everything he owns and leaves Laban without even saying goodbye. That makes Laban so angry he goes after Jacob.

**God protected Jacob from Laban's anger**—God protects Jacob from Laban's anger. In the end, Laban even makes a peace agreement with Jacob. We also learn that Laban worshiped idols because his daughter Rachel stole the "household gods" and took them with her, probably thinking they would bring her good luck on her journey.

## A LITTLE BIT MORE

*Idol*

An idol is a false god. Since the God of the Bible is the one and only true God, all other gods are false gods. In the Ten Commandments, there is a specific law against making idols (Exodus 20:4–5). God presents the definition of an idol as an image of something that a person worships (bows down to) or serves. God tells us that he is a jealous God, unwilling to share the place of worship with anyone or anything else. God alone shall be worshiped.

Idols can also be ideas or desires in our hearts that we worship. Ezekiel 14:6–7 tells us that we can actually set up idols in our hearts. When we live to fulfill our desires for anything other than God and his purposes, we are serving idols in our hearts. These sinful desires can be for material goods like a new bike, but most often they are selfish desires such as peace, comfort, or the approval of our friends.

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

### THE LESSON

#### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

#### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Genesis 31:1–24 from the Scriptures or read story 20, "Jacob Flees from Laban," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

#### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

##### God Is in Control

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ pens and paper

Have the children read Genesis 17:8 and answer the following questions in writing. (It is easy for the majority of students to remain silent and not participate with oral discussion, but by writing answers to questions, every student is required to participate.)

- In light of Genesis 17:8, why was it important for Jacob to return to the land of his father?

*(God had promised that he would give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. The land of Canaan was the land of promise where God's plan would unfold. That is why it was important for Jacob to return.)*

- How is this story an example of God working things according to his plan (see Ephesians 1:11)?

*(God is moving Jacob back to the Promised Land so that Joseph his son could be sold and taken to Egypt where he will be used to save many from famine. All the events of history move in agreement with God's plan of redemption. God controls all things and moves them along according to his will. Jacob's move back to Canaan is one example of God's plan unfolding.)*

Take time before or after the teaching time to talk about their answers.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**What Idols Are You Hiding?**

Read Ezekiel 14:1–8 along with “A Little Bit More,” and lead the class in a discussion of modern-day idols. Rarely in our western culture do people actually bow down to wooden or stone figurines but we have plenty of idols in our hearts. Then ask the class the following questions:

- What are some things children your age want more than anything?  
*(First think of objects, such as a skateboard, bike, etc. Then think of desires, such as being popular, not wanting to have to work hard at school, etc.)*
- What response do kids your age give when they don't get what they want?  
*(See James 4:1–4.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 15 MIN**

Goats

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper
- ✓ colored pencils, and paper

Have the children draw spotted or striped goats. They should draw as many as they can to show how God prospered Jacob in a special way.

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

Make an Idol

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ modeling clay

Explain to the children that Laban had idols in his house called "household gods." Give each child a small piece of modeling clay and ask them mold it into an idol or household god. If they are unsure how to proceed you can remind them that idols were often molded into the shape of a cow.

Once the children have their idols formed ask the following questions:

- What can your idol do?  
*(nothing)*
- Why can't your idol help you?  
*(It is not alive and has no power.)*

- How is our God different from the idols in the story?  
*(Our God is alive and powerful. He can hear our prayers and help us.)*
- Why were the household gods that Rachel stole no help to her?  
*(They were powerless. They could not speak, move, listen, or help.)*