

## JACOB AND RACHEL

*God will not be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*



THE STORY: GENESIS 29:1-14

MONDAY

### Jacob flees Esau's wrath and finds a wife

Jacob flees Esau's wrath and finds a wife – On his mother's recommendation, Jacob flees from his brother, Esau, who was intent on killing him as revenge for taking his birthright and blessing. Jacob travels through the desert aware of his status as a fugitive. Though he won the blessing of his father, he travels alone and without the riches he might need to get a wife. Upon seeing the beautiful Rachel, Jacob falls in love and his troubles were forgotten. Because Jacob has no money, he does not immediately ask Rachel to be his wife. Instead, he remains with Laban, Rachel's father for a month and works for Laban without pay.

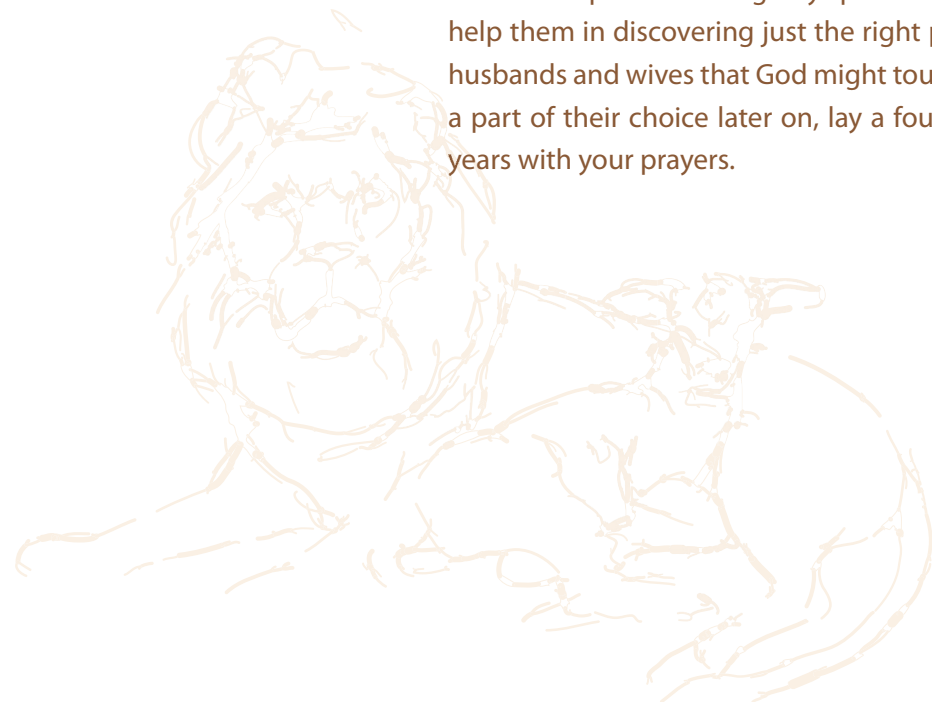
#### TALK ABOUT IT:

How is Jacob's approach to finding a wife different than that of Abraham's servant? *(Jacob doesn't take time to pray and ask for God's help in finding a wife.)*

Which seems to be the better approach to finding a wife? *(Abraham's servant had the better approach. In any significant life decision we should pray as well as seek godly counsel.)*

#### PRAY:

Ask God to provide for a godly spouse for each of your children and that He would help them in discovering just the right person. Also pray for your children's future husbands and wives that God might touch their hearts to believe. If you want to be a part of their choice later on, lay a foundation for your involvement through the years with your prayers.





## Jacob makes an agreement with Laban for Rachel

Jacob makes an agreement with Laban for Rachel – Because Jacob fled quickly from Essau without a lot of money or possessions he had to work for what he wanted. Laban asked Jacob what he wanted to be paid or given for his work. Jacob suggests the wages be Rachel's hand in marriage in exchange for seven years of labor. Perhaps Rachel was too young for marriage and/or her beauty would demand a high price in dowry. Since Jacob has no money or treasures, he reasons that seven years' wages would match the price. In any case, Laban agrees, and the next seven years are set.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Why can't Jacob just get married quickly? (*Jacob has no money to offer Laban. It was customary to pay a dowry for a bride. Because of his earlier deception and need to leave quickly to avoid his brother's anger Jacob has nothing but his labor to offer Laban.*)

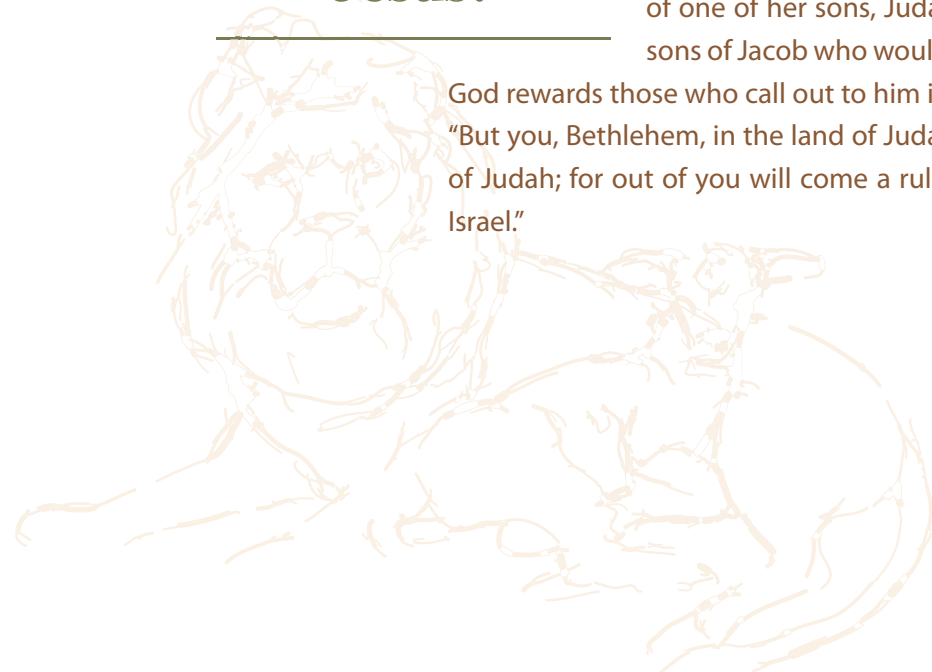
### PRAY:

Ask God to help you avoid the mistakes of Jacob in your life.



## Where is Jesus?

Rachel's father, Laban, tricked Jacob into marrying his daughter Leah. Leah believed in the promise of God and cried out to the Lord because she knew Jacob loved Rachel more. The Lord answered Leah's prayer and, because of her faith, allowed Jesus to come through the lineage of one of her sons, Judah. Leah went on to bear six of the twelve sons of Jacob who would become the twelve tribes of Israel. Again, God rewards those who call out to him in faith. Consider this verse in Matthew 2:6: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."



**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What tribe of Israel did Jesus come from? (*Judah one of Leah's children fathered this tribe.*)

How did God use Laban's trickery in the fulfillment of His plan? (*Jacob would never have likely married Leah. In the end God blessed both Leah, whose offspring would lead to Jesus, and Rachel, whose son Joseph saved the nation in a time of great famine.*)

**PRAY:**

Thank God that His great plan of salvation is not dependant on us making all the right choices in life, but He is able to work all things according to His purpose!



THE STORY: GENESIS 29:21-35

THURSDAY

## Jacob, who had deceived his father, is also deceived.

Jacob, who had deceived his father, is also deceived. – When it came time for the wedding night, Laban deceived Jacob by giving him Leah as a wife instead of Rachel. In the morning Jacob discovers the trick. The irony in this story is that Jacob deceived his father by pretending to be his brother. Here, Jacob reaped what he had sown. Leah deceives Jacob by posing as her sister. Jacob had disregarded the place of the firstborn son. Now he is chastised by God for his sin through the trickery of Laban, who honors the firstborn daughter. God's correction of Jacob would continue. Jacob used a goatskin to disguise himself and deceived his father. It would be the blood of a goat that stained the many colored robe of Jacob's son, Joseph when the other brothers deceived Jacob. In Galatians 6:7 we read, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What do we learn from the names Leah gives her children? (*We can see that she has faith in God and that she is not bitter. Instead, she trusts that God will cause Jacob to love her.*)

Why do you think Leah named her fourth son Judah saying, "This time I will praise the Lord?" (*Jacob never loved Leah like Rachel. Leah became satisfied in God alone.*)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help us to love him more than anything else we desire. May He help us to love God with all our heart, all our strength, and all our mind.



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## On the road to Emmaus.

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The prophet Micah predicts that Christ will come out of Bethlehem. This passage is cited in Matthew 2:6. This prophecy was thought to predict the Messiah (John 7:41-42).

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Read John 7:41-42. Were people looking for a Messiah? What do we learn about Micah's prophecy? *(Some people were looking for a Messiah from Judah and believed Jesus was the Christ, or Messiah. We often focus on the Pharisee's lack of belief in Jesus, but we should not forget that some were given a special grace to believe.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for sending His son Jesus and ask Him to help you be like those who believed.

