

JACOB FLEES FROM LABAN

God cares for those who are called to be a part of His plan.



THE STORY: GENESIS 30:25-31:9

MONDAY

God miraculously multiplied Jacob's flocks

God miraculously multiplied Jacob's flocks – In this chapter we learn that Jacob first asked Laban if he could leave with his wives and children. But Laban did not want him to leave. Jacob agreed to work for Laban and suggested that every speckled and spotted sheep or goat and those newly born with specks or spots would be his wages. Laban agreed, but we find out in chapter 31 that Laban changed the agreement ten times (Genesis 31:7). At times Laban changed the agreement to give only spotted, or mottled, or streaked livestock to Jacob. But each time he changed the rules, God saw to it that the newly born livestock went to Jacob. This made Laban and his sons angry and jealous. God prospered Jacob and protected him from harm.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What can we learn from God's treatment of Jacob? (*God plan to bless His people can not be stopped by anyone.*)

How should God's prospering of Jacob build our faith and help us to follow His Word? (*If we know God is able to take care of us, even against great difficulty and opposition, it will encourage us to follow Him.*)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you follow Him always, in times of prosperity and in times of difficulty and want.



THE STORY: GENESIS 31:10-21

TUESDAY

God called Jacob to return to the land of his father

God called Jacob to return to the land of his father – In the midst of the strife with Laban, God tells Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you" (See verses 31:3 and 13). Jacob trusted the Lord in part but still feared Laban. So while Laban was away sheering his sheep, Jacob left without saying goodbye. Three days later Laban found out that Jacob left.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is more important - obeying God or pleasing Laban (or others)? *(Although Jacob is afraid of Laban, he obeys God and leaves right away. He makes a wise choice to leave when it will avoid a conflict. Laban's past trickery would lead anyone to think Laban would not have let Jacob go freely.)*

What is special about verse 13? *(God remembered Jacob's vow. This likely gave Jacob confidence to leave because part of that promise was that Jacob could return home in peace. See chapter 28:20-21)*

PRAY:

Thank God for hearing our prayers. Take some time to think about prayers God has answered for you. As you remember answered prayers, give God thanks. (It is helpful to keep a prayer journal where you can write down some of what you pray. That way you have a record of God's faithful answers.)



THE STORY: MATTHEW 2:13-16

WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

God separated Jacob from Laban by His Word. Jacob's call was to return to the land of promise where, through Jacob, the generations promised to Abraham would come through Jacob. Laban could not stop God's plan. Though Laban pursued Jacob, God warned him in a dream not to harm Jacob. This is not the last time God would use a dream to keep the heir of His promise safe from harm. Jesus was protected in a similar way.

In the end, the Lord prospered Jacob and brought the Savior through the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – as was promised. All of history, including the events of Jacob's life, moved in the direction of God's redemptive plan.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Does God still speak to men in dreams today? *(Although God can still speak to people through dreams, He speaks primarily and authoritatively by His Word. In Acts 2:17 God tells us that even in the last days young men will see visions and old men will dream dreams. We should look first and often to God's Word for direction for our lives. But God clearly has a purpose for visions and dreams today.)*

PRAY:

Thank God that we don't have to wait for a vision or a dream to understand His will for our lives because we have His Word. Ask God to give us a love for the Bible so that we might desire to learn all about God's story.



THE STORY: GENESIS 31:22-55 *

* Be aware that verse 35 is an explicit mention of a woman's menstrual cycle. Consider using a version that translates it discretely

THURSDAY

God protected Jacob from Laban's anger

God protected Jacob from Laban's anger – God protected Jacob from Laban's changes to his wages. God also protected Jacob from Laban's anger. God appears to Laban in a dream and warns him to be careful not to say anything bad. Rather than attack Jacob (which later Laban admits he could have done, vs. 29), Laban simply says goodbye to his daughters. He then makes an agreement with Jacob to leave each other alone.

However, Rachel stole some household gods before they left. She probably hoped they would bring her luck on her journey.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do we learn about Rachel's trust in the Lord? (*Rachel doesn't fully trust the Lord since she stole her father's false gods and was hoping and trusting in them. We also learn that Laban's faith was corrupted as well.*)

What else do we learn about Laban from verse 43? (*Even though Jacob separated his flocks from those of Laban, Laban considered them his own. Who knows what treachery might have come to Jacob if he had not been prompted by God to leave.*)

PRAY:

Just as God protected Jacob He protects us. Pray for God's protection over your lives. Pray that he would lead you, just as He did Jacob, and bring salvation to your home.





On the road to Emmaus.

In Acts 4:25-26, Peter and John quote the first two verses of this psalm revealing that the anointed one described in these verses is actually Jesus. David wrote this psalm nearly one thousand years before to Christ. Peter and John also tell us that Herod and Pontius Pilate met to conspire together against Jesus. They also said that Pilate and Herod only did what God's power "decided before-hand should happen" (Acts 4:28).

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did David know what would happen a thousand years later? *(David didn't necessarily know or understand all the details of what was going to happen but he did understand that another King would come [see Acts 2:25].)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His wonderful plan of Salvation. We have received a Gospel that unfolded over all history that we might place our trust in Christ.

