

# JACOB FLEES FROM LABAN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 31:1-21



## The STORY

Read the story of God directing Jacob to flee from Laban from the NIV Bible, Genesis 31:1-9.

**Please note:** *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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 that 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.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jacob leaving with a large flock of sheep. Engage the children by asking:**

- 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.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children 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, and through his voice, see John 10:27.)
- 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.)

### 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.*

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. God's mission would not be thwarted by Laban. Though Laban would pursue Jacob, God would warn Jacob 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.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*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.*

