

JACOB LEAVES LABAN'S LAND

Old Testament Lesson #24

Jacob's success and prosperity began to cause friction between Laban's sons, Laban and himself. The LORD told Jacob to return to Canaan, the land of his fathers.

Jacob sent for his wives, Rachel and Leah, and explained how their father, Laban, had changed his attitude toward him. He reminded them that God had been with him all these years and blessed everything he had done. Jacob planned to leave Laban, and Rachel and Leah both agreed to go with him.

Before they fled, Rachel stole her father's household idols, but no one knew she took them.

After three days, Laban found that his idols and Jacob's family were gone. He pursued them for seven days and finally found Jacob's group. God appeared to Laban in a dream and warned him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

Laban asked why Jacob had deceived him and stolen his daughters. He also accused Jacob of having stolen Laban's gods.

Jacob said that if Laban's gods were found in anyone's possession, that person was worthy of death. Laban searched everything, but he did not find them because Rachel had hidden them under her camel's saddle, upon which she sat.

When Laban could not find them, Jacob became angry because he thought he had been wrongfully accused. He reminded Laban of all the times he had deceived Jacob during the past 20 years, even though Jacob had done nothing ill toward Laban.

The two men finally made peace with each other and set up a pillar of stones as a reminder of the agreement they made to be at peace with one another. They offered a sacrifice and ate together. The next morning, Laban kissed his daughters and grandchildren goodbye and returned home.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Jacob's faith in God had grown during the years Jacob spent with Laban. Despite the hardships and deceptions of Laban, Jacob did not waver in his trust. He did not attempt to resist Laban. Instead, he abided by the circumstances in which he found himself and waited until God told him it was time to leave.
- Though Jacob's faith was revealed through these events, it appears by the actions of his wives and daughter, not all of his family fully embraced the same faith. An example of this can be seen in Rachel's desire to steal the gods of her father in order to take them with her to the land of Canaan. Another example occurs when Dinah, his daughter, went to visit the women of the land (see Genesis 34).

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- I. The LORD told Jacob he should return to his homeland.
 - A. Jacob called for his wives.
 - B. He explained about the friction between himself and Laban.
 - C. Rachel and Leah agreed to go with Jacob.
 - D. Rachel stole Laban's idols but didn't tell anyone.
- II. Laban pursued them.
 - A. When Laban found Jacob and his daughters, he was angry.
 - B. He accused Jacob of stealing the idols.
- III. Jacob and Laban talked about their lives together.
 - A. Laban had deceived Jacob many times.
 - B. Jacob did not repay Laban with evil.
 - C. The two men made a pillar of stones and agreed to be peaceful.

ANSWER KEY:

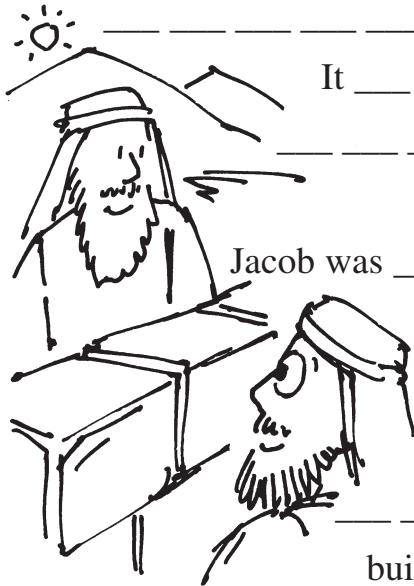
told, return, land, fathers, talked, about, agreed, go, packed, family, belongings, left, no, one, knew, stolen, father's, household, gods, heard, gone, found, gods, were, missing, left, find, took, seven, days, accused, stealing, daughters, gods, angry, reminded, how, many, times, deceived, past, twenty, years, nothing, ill

Laban and his sons treated Jacob differently because of his success. There was friction between them. Read about what happened ...

On the lines below, write in all #1 letters found in the code, starting at the top and reading from left to right. Then write the # 2's, etc. ...

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God _____ Jacob to _____ to Canaan,
the _____ of his _____. Jacob _____
to Leah and Rachel _____ Laban. They _____ to _____.
Jacob _____ his _____ and _____
_____ and _____.
_____ that Rachel had _____ her _____,
_____. When Laban _____
they had _____ and _____ his _____
_____ he _____ to _____ them.
It _____ him _____. Laban _____
_____ Jacob of _____.
_____ his _____ and _____.
Jacob was _____. Laban was _____
of _____ he had _____
_____ Jacob in the _____
_____. Jacob had done _____
_____ to Laban. Jacob and Laban
built a pillar of stones as a boundary between them. They made peace.



Name _____

One day, God told Jacob to return to the Promised Land. Jacob quickly took his wives, his children and his things and left for the Promised Land.

Color the picture.



Name _____