

God Blesses Jacob
Lesson #16
Genesis 30:25-31:54

Fearing for his life, Jacob fled from his brother Esau and his home in Canaan. Jacob went to live with his uncle Laban in Paddan Aram. While with his uncle, the LORD blessed Jacob with a family of his own. Our story picks up with Jacob's family consisting of two wives, two concubines, eleven sons and one daughter. At this time, superstition ran high among the people. But in spite of these false ideas, God continued to build His nation while working within the culture of that day.

God Blesses Jacob with Livestock - Genesis 30:25 - 43

1. Rachel, the favorite wife of Jacob, had finally given birth to a son. What did Jacob request of his uncle Laban? (Genesis 30:25, 26)

2. What did Laban ask Jacob to do, and why? (Genesis 30:27, 28)

3. That was not what Jacob wanted, so a typical negotiation began. Jacob asked what he could do to build his own household. Laban asked what he could do to convince him to stay. What was Jacob's answer? (Genesis 30:31-33)

4. When Laban agreed to the terms, what was the first thing Laban did? (Genesis 30:35, 36)

5. What did Jacob do? (Genesis 30:37-42)

6. What did the LORD do for Jacob? (Genesis 30:43)

Jacob Flees From Laban - Genesis 31:1-21

7. Jacob overheard Laban's sons talking about him after they had seen how the LORD had blessed Jacob. What was the message Jacob got through his eavesdropping? (Genesis 31:1)

8. What had Jacob already noticed? (Genesis 31:2)

9. What was the second message Jacob heard and from whom? (Genesis 31:3)

10. Once Jacob knew what he was to do, Jacob asked his wives Rachel and Leah to meet him. Notice the order of the names indicating which was more important. Where did Jacob meet them? (Genesis 31:4)

11. What did Jacob tell his wives about each of the messages he had received? (Genesis 31:5)

12. What did Jacob say to his wives in his defense? (Genesis 31:6-9)

13. What new information did Jacob give regarding how he had decided to choose the streaked, speckled, or spotted goats? (Genesis 31:10-12)

14. How did the Angel of God identify Himself to Jacob? (Genesis 31:13a)

15. What did the Angel of God tell Jacob to do? (Genesis 31:13b)

16. After recounting this experience to his wives, what did they tell Jacob? (Genesis 31:14-16)

17. Once there was agreement, how did Jacob and his family travel? (Genesis 31:17)

18. Where was Laban at this time? (Genesis 31:19a)
19. What did Rachel do? (Genesis 31:19b)
20. Jacob, the deceiver, had been deceived by his uncle into marrying Leah. Now it was time to pay him back. What was mentioned in verses 20 and 21?

The Pursuit - Genesis 31:22-55

21. How many days before Laban discovered Jacob's family was gone? (Genesis 31:22)
22. How long did it take Laban to catch up with Jacob's family? (Genesis 31:23)
23. That night God came to Laban. Using verse 24:
 - What did God call Laban?
 - How did God appear to him?
 - What was God's message to Laban?
24. What was Laban's question to Jacob? (Genesis 31:26, 27)
25. What did Laban tell Jacob he had the power to do? (Genesis 31:29a)
26. From culture, Laban did have that power, but why didn't he use it? (Genesis 31:29b)
27. Laban understood Jacob was returning to his father Isaac but asked why he had stolen "my gods". How did Jacob answer him? (Genesis 31:30-32)

28. How was Laban deceived by his own daughter? (Genesis 31:33-35)
29. Jacob was angry at Laban and spewed out everything he had been holding in for years. How long had Jacob worked for Laban without any pay? (Genesis 31:41)
30. Who did Jacob credit for protecting him all those years? (Genesis 31:42)
31. Who did Laban say everything Jacob had really belonged to? (Genesis 31:43)
32. What was Laban's solution to the situation? (Genesis 31:44)
33. Jacob took a stone and set it up, then Laban added a heap of stones. This was referred to as "standing stones". What was the purpose of these standing stones? (Genesis 31:45-48)

Gilead means *hill of testimony* and Mizpah means *watchtower or lookout*.

34. A covenant had two partners and covenants were binding by death. What was Laban's request and promise? (Genesis 31:49-53a)
35. How did Jacob respond? (Genesis 31:53b-54)
36. How was the final departure? (Genesis 31:53)