



A WIFE FOR JACOB

GENESIS 29

Jacob was the son of Isaac and Rebekah. He received a special blessing from his father, Isaac. Jacob's brother, Esau, was very angry because Esau thought his father's blessing should have gone to him, instead. Because of Esau's anger toward his brother Jacob, their mother, Rebekah, sent Jacob away to the land where her brother lived. Rebekah's brother was named Laban.

Jacob had traveled several days. He finally arrived in the land of his mother's family. He was walking through a field and saw a well of water where some cattle were gathered. Jacob spoke to the men who were there taking care of the cattle. He asked them if they knew of a man named Laban.

The men answered, "Yes. We know Laban. And, look! Here comes his daughter, Rachel, bringing her sheep." Rachel cared for her father's cattle.

Jacob came near and helped give water to the cattle. He greeted Rachel with a kiss then lifted up his voice and wept. He was so happy to find his mother's family. He told Rachel that he was the son of her father's sister, Rebekah.

Rebekah's brother, Laban, was so happy to meet Jacob. "We are family," Laban said.

Laban had two daughters, Leah and Rachel. Rachel was very beautiful and Jacob wanted to marry her. He told Laban he would work for him seven years to be able to have Rachel as his wife. Laban agreed.

Seven years went by. Jacob reminded Laban of his promise to allow him to marry his daughter, Rachel. The wedding took place. There was a great feast. Laban gathered his friends to the ceremony. During this time, the bride had her face covered. Jacob was not able to see his wife's face until the morning after the wedding. And what a surprise Jacob had! He had not married Rachel! Instead, he had married her older sister, Leah!

"Why have you done this to me?" Jacob asked Laban. "I worked for you for seven years to marry Rachel. Why did you trick me into marrying Leah?"

Laban replied, "Leah is my older daughter. It is not the custom here to allow the younger daughter to get married before the older. But after being married one week to Leah, I will also allow you to marry Rachel. But you must serve me another seven years."

Jacob agreed. After a week had passed, he married Rachel also. And he loved Rachel more than Leah.

He remained in the land to serve Laban seven more years.

A WIFE FOR JACOB - TEACHER'S GUIDE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Jacob's brother, Esau, was very angry with Jacob. Jacob had received his father, Isaac's, blessing instead of Esau. Because of Esau's anger, Jacob's mother, Rebekah, sent him away to the land of her brother, Laban.
- 2) When Jacob arrived in the land of his mother's family, he met Rachel. Rachel was the daughter of Laban, Rebekah's brother. Rachel was very beautiful, and Jacob wanted to marry her.
- 3) Jacob asked if he could marry Rebekah. Her father, Laban, said yes. But first, Jacob must work for him seven years. Jacob agreed.
- 4) After seven years, Laban allowed the wedding to take place, but he tricked Jacob into marrying his older daughter, Leah, instead of Rachel.
- 5) Jacob was angry with Laban. Laban allowed Jacob to marry Rachel after one week, as long as Jacob would serve him seven more years. That's what took place. After this, Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why did Jacob's mother send him away to where her brother lived?
- 2) Who did Jacob meet when he arrived?
- 3) Who was Rachel's father?
- 4) How long did Jacob work for Laban in order to marry Rachel?
- 5) What trick did Laban play on Jacob?
- 6) What did Jacob have to do after he married Rachel?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Jacob's mother sent him away because his brother, Esau, was very angry with him.
- 2) When he arrived in the land where his mother sent him, he met Rachel.
- 3) Rachel's father was Rebekah's brother, Laban.
- 4) Jacob worked seven years for Laban in order to marry Rachel.
- 5) Laban tricked Jacob into marrying his older daughter, Leah, instead of Rachel.
- 6) Jacob had to work another seven years for Laban after he married Rachel.

