

Genesis 29-30

Do you sometimes go to visit an aunt or an uncle or cousins? In our story today we are going to learn about Jacob, who went to visit his Uncle Laban...and stayed with him for twenty years!!! That was a long visit, wasn't it?

Jacob's uncle Laban had two daughters, one was named Leah and one was named Rachel. Soon Jacob learned to love Rachel very much. She was Laban's youngest daughter and was very pretty and very nice.

One day Jacob and Laban were talking and Laban said "why don't you go to work for me, Jacob? How much money do you want for helping me take care of my sheep and cattle?" Jacob thought for a few minutes, then he said, "I don't want any money, but I do want to marry your daughter Rachel."



This pleased Laban as he really didn't want to give Jacob any money, anyway, but he did want Jacob to work for him, so Laban said if you work for me for seven years, you may marry Rachel."

Bible Lesson # 16

Jacob worked for seven long years. He kept watch over the sheep and goats and took care of them when they were hurt. He stayed awake long nights shivering with cold and sometimes he had to fight off wild animals that wanted to eat the sheep and goats. In the summer Jacob spent long days working under the hot, burning sun. But Jacob didn't care how hard his job was. He loved Rachel, and he knew after seven years were over, she would be his bride.

Finally the day came for the wedding. Laban planned a great feast with all kinds of good food and drink and music and dancing.

At the wedding Jacob wore his finest clothes, and the bride wore a beautiful dress, lots of gold jewelry and a heavy veil over her head so no one could see her face. This seems strange doesn't it? But This was the kind of clothes brides wore in those days.



Poor Jacob was in for a big surprise when he took his new bride home. When she took off the veil Jacob found Leah standing there. He had married Leah instead of Rachel!!! Jacob was very angry and he ran to Laban's home and pounded on the door. "Where is Rachel, why have you tricked me," he yelled. Laban tried to calm Jacob down and told him that it was a custom for the oldest daughter to be married first.

Since Leah was the oldest daughter, Laban had tricked Jacob and married him to Leah, knowing Jacob would still want Rachel for his bride.

Laban told Jacob if he would work for another seven years, then Rachel could also be his wife. Jacob was very angry, but he loved Rachel so much that he agreed to work for another seven years for Laban.



Even though Jacob didn't love Leah he treated her well and in time Leah had a little baby boy, and she named him Reuben. As the years went by Jacob also married Rachel and they loved each other very much.

In time Leah had six little boys and one girl and even Rachel's and Leah's maids each had two children, but Rachel didn't have any little children and this made her very unhappy. One day God heard Rachel's prayers and she too had a little baby boy and she named him Joseph. Rachel and Jacob were very happy and little baby Joseph was very special to Jacob because he was Rachel's only son.

Now Jacob was ready to travel back to his own home. He wanted Rachel and Leah and their children to meet his father Isaac and his mother Rebecca. However, when Jacob told Laban he wanted to move home, Laban persuaded Jacob to stay a little longer. He told Jacob that he would let him have some of the flocks and herds that Jacob was taking care of. This way Jacob would have some livestock to help him get started farming when he went home.

So Jacob agreed to work for another six years in order to build up a herd of sheep and goats and cattle for himself and his large family. Jacob now had eleven sons and a daughter. But little Joseph was Jacob's special joy!



At first Laban told Joseph he could have all the spotted sheep and goats in Laban's herd. Laban would keep all the other kinds and colors of sheep and goats. Jacob worked hard taking care of Laban's sheep and his own little flock of spotted sheep. God was watching over Jacob and soon he got more and more spotted sheep and goats. This made Laban decide HE wanted spotted ones, so Laban changed Jacob's wages. He said now he could have all the sheep and goats that were brown. Guess what?! Now Jacob got more and more sheep and goats that were brown, for God was still taking care of Jacob and helping him get more animals. Laban got mad because Jacob was doing so well, so Laban decided he would give Jacob what few striped sheep Laban had in his flock. Once again God was with Jacob and he prospered and soon Jacob had so many sheep and goats that it made Laban and his sons jealous and they begin to hate Jacob.



That wasn't very nice, was it? We aren't supposed to hate other people or be mad at others because they have more things or better things than than we do. Laban didn't prosper because he didn't follow God's ways.

Question Page

1. Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob want to marry? Leah or Rachel?
2. What kind of work did Jacob do for Laban? Build barns, Raise sheep and goats, dig holes
3. Did Jacob want a lot of money for his work or did he work so he could marry Rachel?
4. What did Jacob's bride have over her face at the wedding?
5. Did Jacob get to marry the right wife at this wedding?
6. Did Jacob get to marry the wife he really loved when he worked seven more years?
7. Did Leah have any children? How many? 1, 2, or 6
8. Did Rachel have any children? How many? 1, 2, or 6
9. Which son did Jacob love the most because he was Rachel's son? Reuben or Joseph?
10. Why did Laban keep changing the color of sheep and goats that he gave Jacob?
11. Why did Jacob get more and more sheep and goats (who was taking care of Jacob)?
12. Will God be near us and help us if we try to do right and follow God's rules?

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The bride is standing by the table at her wedding feast but she needs a veil over her head, some arms and some feet and her dress needs to be colored. Can you help her?



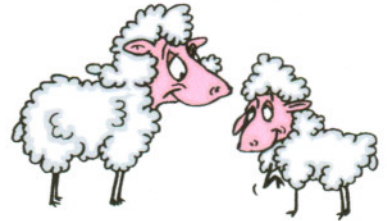
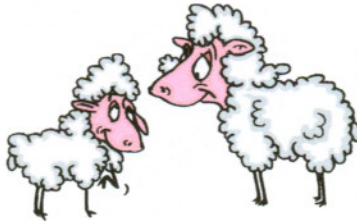
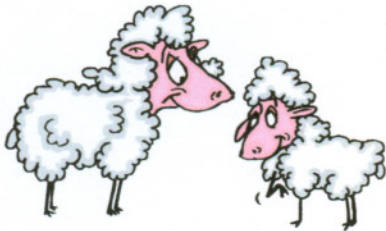
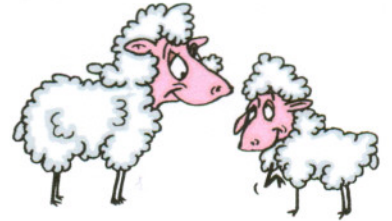
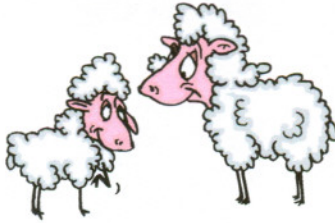
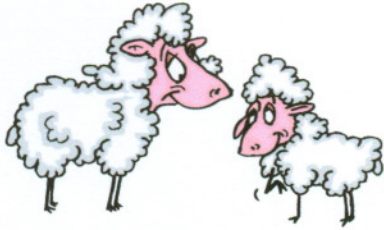
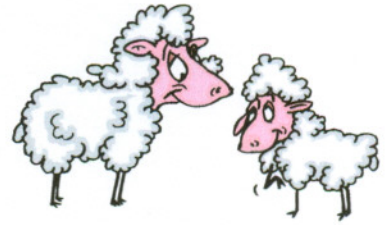
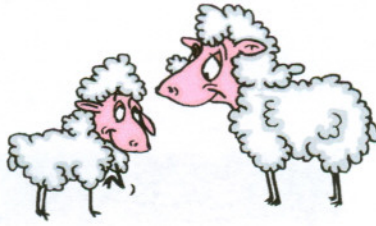
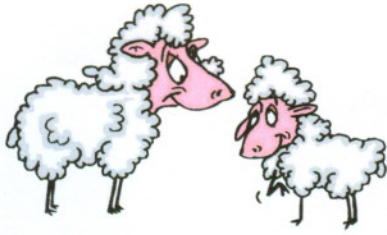
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Music was played at Bible weddings. Can you match the musical instruments on each side of the music notes? Do you know what each instrument is called?



16

Color one row of sheep brown, color one row of sheep spotted and color one row striped



16

Draw some toys for baby Josphe and draw his mother Rachel and his father Jacob beside him



Connect the dots to see what is standing in the grass. Can you draw a friend for him and color the grass green?

