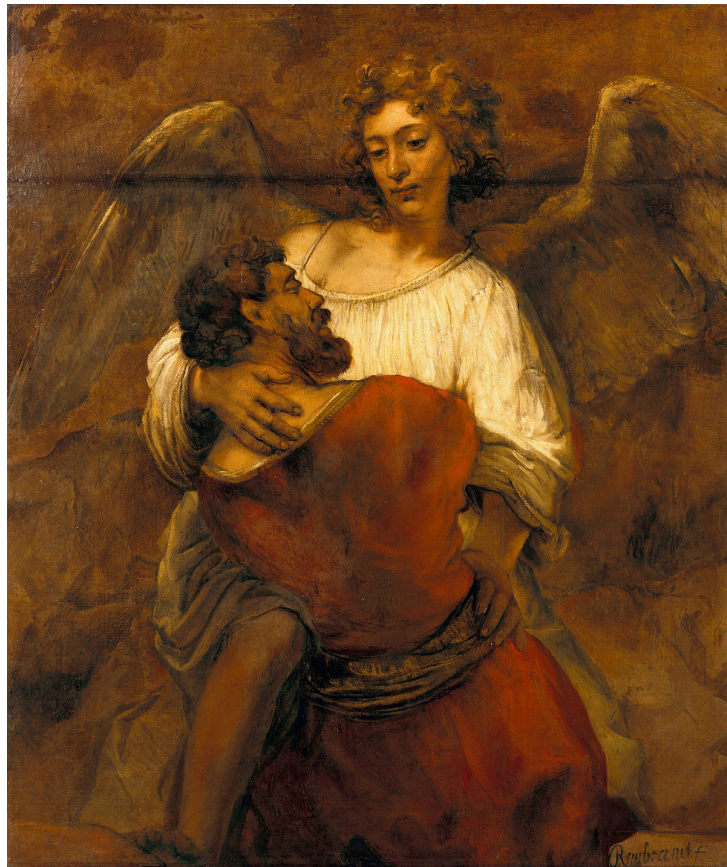


Lesson 15

The Sons of Jacob and Jacob's Name Change

Genesis 29:1-30:24; 32:22-32; 35:16-26



Teacher, please remember that the commentary below is intended to help you in your study, not to be read to your students. Make your own list of applications, using the help from the commentary, but don't necessarily try to cover everything! Think of the students in your class, then be prayerfully selective.

Contents:

1. Preparation
2. Memory verses
3. Theme
4. Lesson introduction
5. Verse by verse commentary (suggested location of activities included)
6. Suggested prayer to close
7. Attention grabbers
8. Activities
9. Bible Text (in full, without commentary)

1. Preparation

- 1) Choose memory verse
- 2) Select attention grabber to start off lesson / break the ice - optional, recommended for younger classes. (see point 7)
- 3) Suggested activities- optional, recommended for younger children (see point 8)

2. Possible memory verses

PROVERBS 11:18: "The wicked man does deceptive work, but to him who sows righteousness will be a sure reward ."

PSALM 145:18 : "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

To the teacher:

This is a combined lesson about Jacob's search for a wife, his deception by his father-in-law Laban, his marriage to Leah and Rachel, the birth of his many children, and his experience with the angel at the brook of Jabbok. Take the lesson about tJacob's wrestling with the Angel of the Lord as the main focus. The commentary on the background is included, but use it only to give the background to show how Jacob is in the situation he's in. Hopefully the parents will already have read the material to their children ahead of time!

3. Theme

- God wants us to depend on Him, not on our own wits.

4. Lesson Introduction

Jacob's name means deceiver, and it describes him well. He had tricked his brother in order to gain his birthright, and he deceived his father to gain his blessing. His mother sent him off to find a wife and to protect him from Esau, his brother, who was angry with Jacob.

But as Jacob went to the region where his mother came from to find a wife, he himself was deceived by his father-in-law. The Bible tells us that we will reap what we sow. Jacob sowed deceit and now

will reap deceit. Before Jacob returned to the land of Israel with his family, many sons would be born to him and his wives Leah and Rachel.

Jacob had been traveling back to the home he had left many years before and back to a brother who had threatened to kill him. On his journey, he encountered a host of angels! He named that place "Mahanaim," meaning "two companies or groups," possibly one going before him and one behind him. What a comfort to Jacob that God was with him and would keep and protect him wherever he went.

However, the scheming Jacob still resorts to his own efforts to accomplish God's promises in his life. How can a man who is so strong in himself ever come to a place of leaning totally upon God? Truly, Jacob's greatest need is to become a broken man before God. He needs to trade his self-sufficiency for an attitude of dependency on God. God finds a way to work in Joseph's life—he is about to have a life-changing encounter! God wants us to depend on Him, not on our own wits!

5. Verse-by-verse commentary (this covers all the material parents will read for the lesson...please emphasize the section 32:22-33:20)

Background to the main lesson . . .

GENESIS 29 : 1 - 10

Jacob traveled a long distance to Haran, the place where his ancestors dwelt. He reached a well where sheep were given water and inquired of some shepherds about his uncle. They said he was well and that his daughter Rachel was approaching. Jacob removed the stone on the well's mouth and served Rachel by giving water to her sheep.

GENESIS 29 : 11 - 14

Jacob was glad to see Rachel and his relatives. Jacob visited with his uncle, Laban, and remained with him for one month.

GENESIS 29 : 15 - 20

As a result of Jacob deceiving Esau (taking his birthright and blessing), Jacob became a servant to Laban. Jacob decided to work for Laban for seven years in exchange for Rachel, Laban's younger daughter. But the time went by fast because he loved Rachel very much.

Has there ever been something that you wanted so much that the work you had to do to get it did not seem like very much. Maybe you were promised a big bowl of ice cream if you weeded a flowerbed at home. Once the work was done and you got your ice cream, the work did not seem so bad. That is how Jacob felt about working seven years in order to marry Rachel.

GENESIS 29 : 21 - 26

Jacob worked his seven years waiting patiently for Rachel. The wedding was prepared but Laban switched his daughters and brought Leah, his older daughter, to Jacob. When Jacob found out it was Leah, it was too late. The marriage was official. He had been deceived and was stuck. Does this story seem familiar? Remember, Jacob received the blessing and it was too late for Esau. Jacob, now, tasted the consequences of deceit. He experienced what Esau must have felt to be the victim of deceit.

After seven more year of hard work, Jacob received Rachel as wife. He was forced to wait for his heart's desire. In all, Jacob would spend a total of 20 years away from his home, something, he probably never planned on when he deceived his father and Esau.

GENESIS 29 : 27 - 30

So Jacob fulfilled his service, and Laban permitted Rachel to be Jacob's wife. Jacob learned a valuable lesson. We see later in Jacob's life, that a man filled with deceit became a man who was ruled by God. Remember, Jacob means "heel catcher or deceiver"; and later God changed Jacob's name to mean Israel or "ruled by God."

GENESIS 29 : 31 - 35

Here we have the beginning of a struggle within Jacob's family. If you remember, Jacob wanted to marry Rachel, but Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah. Just think of how Leah felt when Jacob was finally wed to Rachel and ignored her. The Lord saw how Jacob was treating Leah, and had compassion on her and opened her womb, allowing her to have children. Rachel was unable to bear children at this time.

In that day, having children was a sign God's blessing; so, it was very important to both Leah and Rachel to have children. Leah hoped that having children would cause Jacob to love her more.

God sees when people suffer and are not treated fairly. In His perfect time and way, He will help. God knew about Leah's suffering; and at the right time, He helped her. Remember, God is watching us like a father watches over His children. He sees our needs; He hears our calls for help.

Just look at the children that God gave to Leah. Through Levi would come the line of priests that eventually would minister to the Lord in the tabernacle and the temple. We also see Judah-- through whose line, Jesus would come.

Leah named her first son Reuben, which means, "The Lord has surely looked on my affliction." With the birth of Reuben, Leah said, "Now therefore, my husband will love me." Leah had prayed to the Lord about her suffering.

The next son born to Leah was named Simeon, which means "God heard." She then gave birth to another son, and his name was Levi, again naming him because she hoped her husband would become attached to her. Her fourth son was named Judah, which means "Let Him be praised." Leah was very thankful for her children. During this entire time, Rachel remained barren.

GENESIS 30 : 1 - 24

Rachel is very jealous of her sister. First she went to Jacob and said, "Give me children or else I die." Jacob got angry and asked whether she thought he was God who could open her womb. Desperate to have children, Rachel gave her maid to Jacob to have children for her. Remember Sarah tried this same approach to have a son for Abraham. What trouble it caused! And, when Rachel took matters into her own hands, it only caused more jealousy and more problems for the whole family.

How important it is for us to remember to trust God even in impossible situations! Even in those situations where it looks as if you know what to do and you feel like you do not need to acknowledge God, pray and seek His direction (Proverbs 3:5-6). Seeking God's wisdom can keep us out of trouble.

So, Rachel's maid gave birth to two sons and Rachel names the first Dan, which means "God has vindicated me." She believed that God had now corrected her wrong, her barrenness. The name of the second, was Naphtali, which means, "to wrestle" and reflects the struggle with her sister. Leah then responded by giving her maid to Jacob. Leah's maid gave birth to two sons named, Gad, "troop," and Asher, "happy."

The continuing saga moves on. Reuben, Leah's son, found some mandrakes, a type of flowering plant which people thought helped them to have children. Rachel, desperate to have her own child made a deal with Leah to get the mandrakes.

Leah then has another son named, Issachar, "My hire" because of the deal made with the mandrakes. The name of Leah's sixth son was Zebulun which meant "dwelling." The Bible records one more child born to Leah—a daughter, who she named Dinah.

"And God remembered Rachel." God bestowed His grace upon Rachel. She finally had a child, a son whom she named Joseph. Perhaps, her long wait built in her important character qualities—such as humility, patience, dependency. Rachel was thankful to God for taking away her barrenness. The name, "Joseph," meant, "To add another son." Then Rachel prayed that God would "add another son."

Rachel was happy, finally, looking in faith for a second child. Jacob now had many children and several of them had different mothers. These children were very different from one another, and we will learn in upcoming lessons that they did not always get along.

GENESIS 35:16-26

Once in the land, the family was complete with the birth of Benjamin. Rachel received the desire of her heart, a second son born to Joseph; however, she died while giving birth. She named her son, Ben-oni, which means "son of my pain," but Jacob renamed him Benjamin, "son of my right hand."

Then, Jacob buried Rachel and erected a pillar over her grave. We read of the sin Reuben committed that would cause problems for him and for his family

Next, we read about the names of all of Jacob's sons. These men would become the heads of the twelve original tribes of Israel. God would make a great nation from the descendents of these twelve men.

Just as twelve different men became a family that would be used to birth a nation and fulfill God's promises; so we who believe in Jesus, though very different, are a family. God has given us all different gifts and talents and, individually, we contribute to His purposes being accomplished on earth. He has a perfect plan all mapped out for each one of us!

Romans 12:4,5 states, "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." Do you think it's important that we get along well with each other. Jacob's sons had trouble with this! May we be encouraged and may we encourage others to develop and use their gifts and talents and to fulfill the plan God has for them. Though different from each other, we are all part of God's family.

Jacob had been traveling back to the home he had left many years before and back to a brother who had threatened to kill him. On his journey, he encountered a host of angels! He named that place "Mahanaim," meaning "two companies or groups," possibly one going before him and one, behind him.

What a comfort to Jacob that God was with him and would keep and protect him wherever he went. However, the scheming Jacob still resorts to his own efforts to accomplish God's promises in his life. How can a man who is so strong in himself ever come to a place of leaning totally upon God? Truly, Jacob's greatest need is to become a broken man before God. He needs to trade his self-sufficiency for an attitude of dependency on God. God finds a way to work in Joseph's life—he is about to have a life-changing encounter! God wants us to depend on Him.

GENESIS 32:22-23 (Emphasize this part of the lesson)

Jacob was a man in great distress. He had sent messengers to his brother to announce his coming; but instead of the messengers coming back with good news, they informed Jacob that Esau is already on his way to meet him with four hundred men. Did this large company of men coming with Esau mean that Esau was prepared to avenge himself for Jacob's deceitful actions years earlier? Remember, Jacob had stolen the firstborn birthright from Esau. When Esau threatened to kill him, he fled to live with his uncle, Laban. Now, years later, he will face his brother once more.

Jacob was worried. He sent his family and all his belongings over the brook "Jabbok." Jacob faced the possibility of losing everything, especially his life. Interestingly enough, Jabbok means, "to empty." Jacob was emptied of everything. His desperate situation would cause him to seek the Lord.

GENESIS 32:24a

Here we see that "Jacob was left alone." Jacob was alone with God. It was the only true way for Jacob to see himself as he really was. There was no place for scheming or conniving here; God knows the heart. It was just Jacob and God.

Such an encounter is vital for each one of us! Sometimes, we need to be "left alone" with God in order that we may see ourselves as we really are. God's presence and light reveals the weaknesses and dark places of our hearts. Our excuses and schemes fade away in the presence of His holiness.

GENESIS 32:24b-27

Now we see that a man appeared to Jacob while he was alone, and the man wrestled with Jacob. It is significant that the man wrestled with Jacob, not Jacob with the man. Who was this man, and why did he wrestle with Jacob?

In Hosea 12:4, this man is called "the Angel." It may have been a time when Jesus made an appearance before being born as a baby in the manger. There appear to be several times in the Old Testament that Jesus appeared as "the Angel" or "Messenger of the Lord." In verse 30, Jacob states, "For I have seen God face to face."

Jacob was chosen by God to establish the nation of Israel, God's chosen nation. Jacob had to fully know his own weakness, but even more importantly, he must know the power and all-sufficiency of God. We see they wrestled all night. One would think that if God was wrestling with Jacob, it would not have taken all night. Was Jacob stronger than God? Of course not! What can we see in this "long" struggle?

Jacob had a lot of "self" left in him. As we saw earlier, Jacob was a strong, self-reliant man. He would not give up easily. Yet, we also see a beautiful picture of God's long-suffering and forbearance with us. God is patient and full of compassion for His children. He bears with us, though we are flawed, stubborn, and often rebellious. He accomplishes His purposes in our lives

through His unrelenting love and unending grace. Philippians 1:6 states, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ..."

In verse 25, we see that the Lord "touched the socket of his (Jacob's) hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as he wrestled with him." God could have ended the struggle in two seconds if He had chosen to do so. With just one touch, Jacob became powerless. When the thighbone is thrown out of joint, a man is utterly disabled. Jacob, by one touch from his wrestling opponent, could no longer stand alone; instead, he clung to the One who conquered him, relying on the One who was mightier than he.

God desires that each of us understand our own powerlessness apart from Him. He desires to be our strength in weakness. He desires that we not be "self" confident or "self" reliant, but rather that our confidence be in Him. God wants us to depend on Him.

In verse 26, we read that the "visitor" wants Jacob to let him go. Jacob refuses until the Lord blesses him. It is at this point, when his thigh has been disabled, that Jacob cries out "I will not let you go" and Jacob adds "unless you bless me."

Then the Lord asked Jacob his name. Did the Lord not know his name? God knows everything, but as Jacob told God who he was, he must have been reminded what his name meant: "heel catcher" or "deceiver." Jacob was well named, for he had a history of deception and manipulation. However, now, he was disabled, dependent upon another, and seeking a blessing. God was about to make big changes in the life and character of Jacob.

GENESIS 32:28-29

Here a wonderful thing happened to Jacob. God now calls him, "Israel." He is no longer to be the "deceiver"; instead, he would be called "ruled by God." The name Israel means "governed by God." Jacob would go from being a person who tried to manipulate things through deceit, to a man who was in submission to God's will and purposes. God would now be "in control," not Jacob. Sometimes we need to be brought to the end of ourselves—our own abilities and sufficiency—before we realize we need God to be in control of our lives

Jacob then asked the "Man" his name, and the "Man" asked him a question, "Why is it that you ask about my name?" Then the "Man" "blessed him there." As we acknowledge our need and dependency on God and submit ourselves to His control, He will bless us. God wants us to depend on Him.

GENESIS 32:30-32

Jacob named the place of this occurrence "Peniel"; the face of God. Jacob had been allowed to see and touch God and was still alive to share the experience. For this to be possible, God veiled Himself in human form (Exodus 33:20; 1 Timothy 6:16). The name of the place was not forgotten, though changed to Penuel. It was known as Penuel at least until the days of the divided kingdom (1 Kings 12:25).

Jacob was left with a permanent reminder of his encounter with God--his limp, reminding him that God had prevailed in Jacob's life. When we see Jesus, the scars in His hands and feet will remind us, throughout all eternity, that He has overcome sin and death for each of us.

May we not be stubborn as Jacob was for so many years. A life ruled by self is a miserable life. Romans 12:1 states, "...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." May we realize our helplessness and hopelessness apart from our Creator. God wants us to depend on Him.

6. Prayer time to close

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's perfect and consistent love. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be honest, asking God to help us be strong in the face of temptation to deceive. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to depend on God, not on their own way of thinking. Lead them to thank God for His perfect and consistent love, despite our many ways of disobeying Him.

7. Possible Attention grabbers

Stubborn Paper

Turn a clean two-liter soda bottle on its side and tape it to the edge of a table so the open end is just past the edge of the table. Wad a small piece of paper and stuff it into the mouth of the soda bottle. Be sure that it is a very snug fit.

Ask for a volunteer to come and see if he can blow the paper into the bottle. If the paper is snug enough, no matter how hard he blows the paper will not go into the bottle. It may move a little as he blows toward the inside of the bottle; but as soon as the air flow stops, the paper will be pushed back (maybe even out) because of the air pressure inside the bottle.

Explain to your class that God has a plan and design for each of our lives. God has made promises to His children that He intends to keep in His time and in His way. When we try to take matters into our own hands and force those promises to come true, we will meet with resistance, just like the bottle resisted our attempt to blow the paper into it.

We need to trust the Lord. Jacob tried to make something happen in his life by using deceit; it came back on him, just like that paper came back on us. Deceit will come back on those who practice it.

Pie Pan Ping-Pong Relay

- You need 4 pie pans, half as many Ping-Pong balls as you have children, markers of color, and a body of Christ basket (use your imagination).

Draw various colors of smiley faces on the Ping-Pong balls. Divide the class into two teams for a relay. Make two lines at one end of the classroom. Put the "body of Christ basket" at the other end. Two team members at a time must volley the little ping pong men back and forth between them until they get to the body of Christ. If they drop the man, they may pick him up, but only with the pie pans (work together!), no hands allowed.

Explain that all kinds of different people can be in the body of Christ. Though different from each other, we are all part of God's family.

Crutch Friends

“Broken” can mean many things. Bring a broken radio or tape recorder, some broken glass in a jar, a broken pencil, a broken ruler, or other common item that is broken. Have the children examine the broken items.

Explain that it is usually more difficult to tell when people are broken. Talk about being broken before the Lord. Explain that brokenness before God, no matter what the actual infirmity, will cause us to be dependent on Him.

Have your children form pairs. Have each take turns pretending to have a broken leg. Have the other partner help the one with the “broken leg” around. Have them switch. Explain how this illustrates the connection between brokenness and dependency.

8. Possible activities

Seven Minutes of Silence

Instruct your class to try to imagine what seven years is like. Tell them that you are all going to look at the clock for seven minutes and they must be completely silent. As the second hand rounds twelve, have them put up a finger to count how many minutes have gone by.

At the end of seven minutes, ask them if it seemed like a long time. Then tell them that you forgot, but to complete the lesson they must wait another seven minutes in silence. When they respond, tell them you are only kidding.

Explain to your class what it must have seemed like for Jacob to wait seven years for Rachel, only to discover he must work another seven years to keep her. Ask the class how that would make them feel.

Jacob’s sin came back upon him; he who had once deceived his brother Esau, experiences the consequences of deceit himself many years later. When God wants to do a work in our lives and teach us something, we cannot avoid it. Deceit will come back on those who practice it.

Roll-a-Rang

You must have a cone shaped object: something that is more slender at the top than the bottom (like a vase or a bottle). Tape two 3’ wide circles about 6’ apart. Divide your class into pairs and have them separate and form lines behind each circle. Have one of each pair enter the circle and instruct them to carefully roll the bottle to their partner. They may not leave the circles or reach outside of them. Allow many groups to try.

Because the object is cone shaped, it will not go the distance to their partner; it will just roll in a circle. Explain to your class that when we take matters into our own hands, no amount of effort will create the desired results. Like the bottles, our efforts will just come back on us.

Shadows

Bring a lamp or a strong flashlight to class. Turn the lamp on and the lights off. Seat the class in a circle on the floor and ask them one at a time to try to disconnect themselves from their shadows.

Talk about how God is always with us, nearer than our shadows. He will stay with us even if our shadows will not! We can always trust in the Lord! God wants us to depend on Him.

Glass Symphony

You need a glass bottle or glass for each child (not to keep), food coloring, an eye dropper or spoon or ladle, four bowls, water, a metal spoon or fork for each child, a large table, and a plastic or paper table cloth.

Start each glass or bottle off with random amounts of water. Divide the glasses or bottles into four groups. Color the water in each group a different color. Call the groups by the colors that are in their containers: “red group,” “blue group,” etc.

Instruct each group to tap gently on their glasses and by adding or subtracting water from them, make all the groups “sound good together.” This may end up as harmony or all on the same pitch, but tell them to work together in deciding. Seeming chaos will erupt, but they are learning to work together. When they think they are done, conduct a few symphonies by pointing to the different groups.

Explain that the different groups represent different people groups and that we all are needed to make harmony.

Equipped Quiver

You will need plastic drinking straws, heavy paper (index card thickness), paper clips, brown paper bags, and string.

Help the kids make arrows by cutting two 1 1/2” slits in the ends of each straw. Cut a paper triangle, which is 2” on each side for each arrow. This slides into the slits you cut.

Put a paper clip in the point end of the arrow. The paper bag is the quiver. Fold the top edge of the open bag down once. Punch two holes in the double part of the bag for the string.

Let kids do as much as they can themselves. Five arrows constitute a full quiver.

Explain that you will look closely at the benefits of a well-equipped quiver. What can arrows be used for? Protection, getting food, fun and many other things. Compare the quiver full of arrows with a godly family (Psalm 127:3-5).

9. Bible text in full, without commentary

29:1 Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples. ² There he saw a well in the open country, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large. ³ When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well’s mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well.

⁴ Jacob asked the shepherds, “My brothers, where are you from?”

“We’re from Haran,” they replied.

⁵ He said to them, “Do you know Laban, Nahor’s grandson?”

“Yes, we know him,” they answered.

⁶ Then Jacob asked them, “Is he well?”

“Yes, he is,” they said, “and here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep.”

⁷ “Look,” he said, “the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture.”

⁸ “We can’t,” they replied, “until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep.”

⁹ While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she was a shepherd.

¹⁰ When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of his uncle Laban, and Laban’s sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle’s sheep. ¹¹ Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. ¹² He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father.

¹³ As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things. ¹⁴ Then Laban said to him, "You are my own flesh and blood."

Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, ¹⁵ Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be."

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had weak^[a] eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

¹⁹ Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her."

²² So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. ²³ But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. ²⁴ And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.

²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"

²⁶ Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one.

²⁷ Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

²⁸ And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. ²⁹ Laban gave his servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant. ³⁰ Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

Jacob's Children

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless.

³² Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben,^[b] for she said, "It is because the LORD has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now."

³³ She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Because the LORD heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon.^[c]

³⁴ Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi.^[d]

³⁵ She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the LORD." So she named him Judah.^[e] Then she stopped having children.

30:1 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!"

² Jacob became angry with her and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?"

³ Then she said, "Here is Bilhah, my servant. Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and I too can build a family through her."

⁴ So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife. Jacob slept with her, ⁵ and she became pregnant and bore him a son. ⁶ Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me; he has listened to my plea and given me a son." Because of this she named him Dan.^[f]

⁷ Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. ⁸ Then Rachel said, "I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won." So she named him Naphtali.^[g]

⁹ When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. ¹⁰ Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. ¹¹ Then Leah said, "What good fortune!"^[li] So she named him Gad.^[lj]

¹² Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. ¹³ Then Leah said, "How happy I am! The women will call me happy." So she named him Asher.^[lj]

¹⁴ During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

¹⁵ But she said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?"

"Very well," Rachel said, "he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes."

¹⁶ So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. "You must sleep with me," she said. "I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he slept with her that night.

¹⁷ God listened to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son. ¹⁸ Then Leah said, "God has rewarded me for giving my servant to my husband." So she named him Issachar.^[lk]

¹⁹ Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰ Then Leah said, "God has presented me with a precious gift. This time my husband will treat me with honor, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun.^[lj]

²¹ Some time later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.

²² Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and enabled her to conceive. ²³ She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." ²⁴ She named him Joseph,^[lm] and said, "May the LORD add to me another son."

The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac

35:16 Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. ¹⁷ And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't despair, for you have another son." ¹⁸ As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni.^[an] But his father named him Benjamin.^[ao]

¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). ²⁰ Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel's tomb.

²¹ Israel moved on again and pitched his tent beyond Migdal Eder. ²² While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went in and slept with his father's concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard of it.

Jacob had twelve sons:

²³ The sons of Leah: Reuben the firstborn of Jacob, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.

²⁴ The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁵ The sons of Rachel's servant Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali.

²⁶ The sons of Leah's servant Zilpah: Gad and Asher.

These were the sons of Jacob, who were born to him in Paddan Aram.

Jacob Wrestles With God

32:22 That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,^[lw] because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, ^[x] saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, ^[y] and he was limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

Jacob Meets Esau

33:1 Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two female servants. ² He put the female servants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. ³ He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. ⁵ Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these with you?" he asked. Jacob answered, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant."

⁶ Then the female servants and their children approached and bowed down. ⁷ Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel, and they too bowed down.

⁸ Esau asked, "What's the meaning of all these flocks and herds I met?"

"To find favor in your eyes, my lord," he said.

⁹ But Esau said, "I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself."

¹⁰ "No, please!" said Jacob. "If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. ¹¹ Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need." And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it.

¹² Then Esau said, "Let us be on our way; I'll accompany you."

¹³ But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are tender and that I must care for the ewes and cows that are nursing their young. If they are driven hard just one day, all the animals will die. ¹⁴ So let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I move along slowly at the pace of the flocks and herds before me and the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir."

¹⁵ Esau said, "Then let me leave some of my men with you."

"But why do that?" Jacob asked. "Just let me find favor in the eyes of my lord."

¹⁶ So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir. ¹⁷ Jacob, however, went to Sukkoth, where he built a place for himself and made shelters for his livestock. That is why the place is called Sukkoth. ^[z]

¹⁸ After Jacob came from Paddan Aram, ^[aa] he arrived safely at the city of Shechem in Canaan and camped within sight of the city. ¹⁹ For a hundred pieces of silver, ^[ab] he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent. ²⁰ There he set up an altar and called it El Elohe Israel.