

### 10.03 Jacob Marries Two Wives (Genesis 29:15-30)

(Most curricula combine this story with the previous one, “Jacob Arrives in Haran.”)

✓ “Check” it out: opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows  
[ . . . ] indicates a remark to the teacher, not the student. It also indicates answers to questions.

#### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) Beka flashcards

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *wages*: money paid for work done
- *deceive*: to trick or cheat

#### Scripture: (ESV)

Genesis 29:15 Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” 16 Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. 18 Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” 19 Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” 20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

21 Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” 22 So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. 23 But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. 24 (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) 25 And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” 26 Laban said, “It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. 27 Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” 28 Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. 29 (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) 30 So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

#### Introduction/Review:

Rachel met Jacob at the well outside her city of Haran. Jacob came to live with the family of Rachel’s father. For one month he worked without pay.

#### Story:

##### *Two daughters*

Uncle Laban had two daughters: the older girl was named Leah. The Bible states she was “tender-eyed” (KJV). People who study the Bible aren’t sure what that means. It might be that she was not very pretty. It might mean her eyes were weak so that she couldn’t see well. Some even think it means her eyes were attractive! Probably this term means something negative.

The other daughter was Rachel, the one tending sheep when Jacob met her at the well. There is no question about Rachel’s appearance; the Bible states she was “beautiful in form and appearance.” Now, appearance should never be the only value one places on someone [s]he loves. Some very ugly ladies and men have

wonderful, kind, loving ways. The whole person should be considered. If a man finds a pretty girl or a girl finds a handsome man, that's nice but not necessary.

Nevertheless, Jacob chose the pretty daughter, Rachel. He loved her, but he had come to Haran with nothing. He had nothing to offer her father Laban in order to marry Rachel. Therefore, when, after a month, Jacob had helped out for free, Laban said, "Just because you are my nephew, I shouldn't take advantage of you. What wages should I pay you for your work?"

### ***Seven years***

Ah! Jacob was ready with an answer: "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Students, what does this mean? [Jacob would work seven years. Then he would marry Rachel.] That's all he asked in payment for his work.

"Seven years of basically free labor?" That must have been Uncle Laban's thought. It was a generous offer on Jacob's part. Yes, Laban would accept this offer. Seven years it would be.

Students, how many of you are seven years old? Does it seem to you as if you have lived quite a long time? Seven years can seem like a very long time, but Jacob's love for Rachel, the anticipation of marrying her, the thought of his future happiness with this wife made the days and years go by quickly.

When those seven years had passed, Jacob reminded Uncle Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban, as good as his word (maybe), gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. The wedding celebration went on into the night before Laban actually gave over his daughter to Jacob. The girl was heavily veiled; the tent was dark. When Jacob got up in the morning and looked at his bride's face, he discovered she was not Rachel but Leah, the older sister! Jacob, the heel-grabber, had been tricked!

"What have you done to me?" Jacob demanded of Uncle Laban. "Didn't I serve with you for Rachel? Why, then, have you deceived me?"

Deceived? Where have we heard this word before? [Jacob had tricked/deceived Esau into selling the birthright; he had deceived his father when he stole the blessing.] Yes, Jacob was well acquainted with the word and action called *deceit*.

What in the world could Laban have been thinking? How could he pull such a trick on Jacob? This is what he said: "In our country, the firstborn must be married before the younger girl." Oh, really? Why hadn't Laban told Jacob this before? What a mean, dirty trick! Here was Jacob already married to Leah when he had wanted to marry Rachel.

### ***Another seven years***

Uncle Laban had a solution that was pretty stingy and selfish on his part: "I'll tell you what," he said. ✓ "In a week, I'll let you marry Rachel also. Then, however, you have to work for me another seven years for the privilege of marrying Rachel." Uncle Laban wanted another seven years of free labor.

But that's what Jacob gave: he worked another seven years for Rachel. Now he had two wives—not a good arrangement. Something that made the situation even worse was that he didn't particularly like Leah, but he really loved Rachel.

What a mess! What will come of it all?

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We live in a day when people live with or marry one person and then break up and live with or marry another person, and on and on. Nothing but trouble comes from this type of activity, especially after children come into the families. God says we are to have one man for one woman. It's not always easy to stay with the same spouse, but it is God's way. He makes the hard times become blessed times. Don't be deceived about this.

- The law of sowing and reaping means that you will harvest what you have planted. For example, if I plant corn, I shouldn't expect to get carrots from the corn seed. What had Jacob, the heel-grabber planted/sown? [Deceit.] What should he expect to harvest/reap? [Being deceived.] God says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).
- Believers are "engaged" to Christ in a spiritual sense (2 Corinthians 11:2). They are called the "Bride of Christ" (Revelation 21:9).
- Jacob worked hard to get Rachel. God wants us to work hard for Him. He does not want us to be lazy or inactive. God wants us to do things to help others and work hard.

### Activities:

- Play dough: two "7's" or a "14."
- Sing all of "Isaac" found in Lesson 09.01 or on the Songs page at [teachingthebibleto kids.org](http://teachingthebibleto kids.org).
- Sing first three stanzas of "Jacob" in Lesson 10.02 or on the Songs page at [teachingthebibleto kids.org](http://teachingthebibleto kids.org).
- Hands-On Activities for "Jacob Gets Married" (copied from the internet; sorry, I don't know exact source)
  1. Ask the kids if they have ever been to a wedding. Talk about what happens in a wedding in our culture.
  2. Bring a frosted white cake (like a wedding cake) for a snack.
  3. Act out the story with veils of material or a shirt draped over a head. Be careful to have everyone be veiled so as not to hurt someone's feelings. (No one will want to be Leah because she was not pretty.)
  4. Make a tambourine with beans or jingle bells. Put two paper plates together in a shape like this: ( ). Staple around the plates but save enough space to add beans; then staple the opening closed so the beans will not fall out. Another idea is to use one plate and punch holes around the sides. Add pipe cleaners with jingle bells attached. Sing fun songs and let the kids play their tambourines.
  5. Older kids may realize that Jacob had two wives. They may ask questions about this. Be ready to explain that it is against the law to have more than one wife. Share that sometimes in the culture back then, men had more than one wife. It really caused many problems for the men (and their wives too).
- Review questions: (Game: Cut out felt numerals 1–7. For each correct answer, a student puts a numeral on the flannel board in numerical order. If playing with teams, students put their numerals on their side of the board. The team with the most numerals wins.)
  1. Who was Laban's older daughter? [Leah.]
  2. Describe Leah. [Her "eyes were weak," whatever that may mean.]
  3. Who was Laban's younger daughter? [Rachel.]
  4. Describe Rachel. ["Beautiful in form and appearance."]
  5. How did Laban deceive Jacob? [Gave him Leah instead of Rachel.]
  6. How many years did Jacob serve Laban for each of his wives? [Seven.]
  7. Which wife did Jacob love most? [Rachel.]

### Memory Verse[s]:

- Galatians 6:7: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap."

### Handwork:

- Fold a paper in fourths hamburger style; then fold the outside fourths to meet at the center fold. Print the number 7 on the outside fourths and open to the center; print 14 there. (See photo below.)

*wages*

*to deceive*



<https://st-takla.org/bible/commentary/en/ot/matthew-henry/genesis/ch29.html>







St-Takla.org





St-Takla.org



