



Lesson 17: Jacob gets married

Scriptural Basis:



Genesis 28 and 29

Overview:

Jacob leaves his home primarily to flee from the wrath of Esau, but also to go find a wife from among Abraham's relatives. Along the way, he encounters God in a dream in which he sees angels ascending and descending on a ladder stretched to heaven, and names that place Bethel, which means "House of God." Jacob then works 7 years for his uncle Laban to earn the hand of his daughter, Rachel. Yet through Laban's deceitful act of giving Jacob Leah instead of Rachel on the night of the wedding, Jacob is required to work another 7 years for Rachel's hand.

Things to consider:

This story starts off with Jacob getting a big view of God and His glory, then quickly returns to the struggles that occur in a broken, sinful world. When Jacob goes to live with Laban, it's Jacob's turn to be deceived. We will see later that Laban's trick results in establishing a rift in Jacob's household because of his love for Rachel, but not for Leah. Thus in the continuing story of God's chosen family, we see an obvious and recurring theme that God is a good God who remains faithful to His promises, despite the sin and treachery of the people He involves in His story. We see that humans desperately need God, and that He is faithful and trustworthy in moving his plan of salvation forward.

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read Genesis 28 and 29. Consider how God uses this episode in Jacob's life to make him submissive and humble in the eyes of the Lord. Jacob was quite used to getting what he wanted, but in this story, Jacob learns that he has to trust God when things go wrong.

Teaching the lesson:

- A: Review – Jacob tricks Isaac (the stealing of Esau's blessing)
- B: Bible verse memory activity
- C. Story
- D. Additional activity