

JACOB

A Prince with God



Manitoulin Youth Camp
2008

“Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.”

Genesis 32:28

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Dear Teen Young Person,

I am glad that you are interested in coming to the Manitoulin Youth Camp this summer, God Willing. We are very pleased to have Uncle Jim Cowie from Australia as our main Teen teacher.

Uncle Jim's subject is "Jacob – a Prince with God".

This workbook is your pre-camp assignment. There are two components:

The first is a **special project** which you can work on individually or in pairs. This is work which you can hopefully share with the other class members during the camp week.

The second part is a **series of questions** based on the account of Jacob's life recorded in Genesis, and 'echoed' elsewhere in Scripture. By completing the questions ahead of time you will have a good background for our studies during the week.

I would make the following suggestions to help you prepare for our week of studies around the Life of Jacob:

1. Plan to **READ** the appropriate chapters & verses regularly to get familiar with them. See the chart on page 7 for all the verses we will be covering at camp. A good idea would be to read Monday's readings every Monday, Tuesday's readings every Tuesday, etc, each week until camp starts.
2. Work through the **question** section of the workbook, setting goals to finish on time. For example, 10-15 questions per week.

Note that the questions marked with a ☺ are 'happy questions' because there is not necessarily a right or wrong answer. So don't get frustrated, just give it your best shot. These are 'thinking' questions so don't be afraid to ask someone else for his or her ideas!

3. Work on your **special project**, again setting goals to ensure it is completed before camp starts.

Remember, the more you personally put into this study the more you will get out of it!

May God bless you as you labour in His Word, that together at Youth Camp we might all be able to share what we have learned and be prepared for the return of Christ.

See you in July, God Willing,
Uncle Chris

P.S. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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Section 1 - SPECIAL PROJECTS

Type 1: Oral Presentation, Essay or Seminar.

The following suggested topics would be suitable for a 5 to 10 minute presentation or seminar to the rest of the class, or an essay of about 3 typed pages.

If you choose a presentation please try to make use of maps, diagrams or overhead transparencies to enhance it. You can also make use of a computer and LCD projector if you like! Also make a one page summary of your presentation and make 40 copies of this for the other class members.

If you do an essay, please make 1 copy of it for me to keep, and 40 copies of a one page summary to give to the other class members.

Some suggested topics (in no particular order):

1. A character study of one of the following:

- Jacob
- Leah
- Rachel
- Esau
- Bilhah and Zilpah
- Laban

2. God's Providence – The Work of the Angels in the Life of Jacob.

3. Faith demonstrated in the life of Jacob.

4. "Great and Precious Promises" made to the Fathers of Old.

5. Is it OK to use 'deception' to accomplish the Will of God? Base your conclusions on other scriptural passages and Biblical examples besides Jacob, and the consequences for those involved.

6. The significance of 'name changes' in Scripture. Use at least two other examples besides Jacob.

7. Jacob vs. Laban – a battle of wills!

8. Your choice. Contact me if you have another idea you would like to pursue.



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Type 2: Creative Projects

Some of you may not want to do a talk or an essay and would rather let your creative energy be channelled in another direction.

There are many very dramatic scenes in this story.

Be sure you know the Biblical account very well and bring out the details and lessons. You will need to do just as much research and study for a creative project as for a talk or essay.

Here are some ideas:

1. Dramatization. Write a skit or short play based on one section or event from the life of Jacob. The skit may be historical or a modern day setting based on the principles from these chapters. If possible, find a couple of friends to help you enact your play for all of us to enjoy.

2. Draw a picture or make a model from one of the incidents in Jacob's life. Some examples:

- "Buying" the birthright from Esau.
- "Deceiving" Isaac to receive the blessings.
- Meeting Rachel at the well.
- Wrestling the Angel.
- Jacob's grand funeral procession.



3. Write a short story in a modern setting, based on an incident from the life of Jacob.

4. Make a crossword puzzle based on the Life of Jacob.

5. Create a board game or maze based on Jacob's wanderings and/or questions about his life.

6. Your idea. Contact me if you have a project in mind and we will discuss its suitability.

Here is a chart of the chapters & verses we will be covering for our study:

Day	Verses to Cover
Monday	Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-29, 41-46; 28:1-22
Tuesday	Genesis 29:1-35; 30:1-3, 25-43; 35:23-26
Wednesday	Genesis 31:1-55
Thursday	Genesis 32:1-32; 33:1-20; Hosea 12:3-6
Friday	Genesis 35:1-20; 48:8-22; 49:1-2, 28-33; 50:1-13; Hebrews 11:21

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Section 2 – Monday’s Readings Questions:

(Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-29, 41-46; 28:1-22)

GENESIS 25


1. “Isaac was forty years old...” (25:20). Fill in the following chart for the timing of key events in the life of Jacob and his fathers.

Note: Some of the ages can only be filled in later – working backwards from known ages at death etc.

Event	Reference	Abraham’s Age	Isaac’s Age	Jacob’s Age
Isaac is born	21:1-4	100	0	N/A
	25:20			
	25:26			
	25:7-9			
	25:33			
	26:34			
	27:30			
	28:12			
	29: 28			
	30:22-24			
	31:20			
	35:28-29			
	37:2			
	47:28			

2. What do we know about the character of Rebekah? (See Genesis 24:15-28, 58, 67)

3. What do we know about the character of Laban? (See Genesis 24:29-31, 50, 55, 60)

 “Syria”: Hebrew אַרָם ‘Aram’. The name in the Old Testament given to the whole country which lay to the north-east of Phoenicia, extending to beyond the Euphrates and the Tigris. Mesopotamia is called (Gen. 24:10; Deut. 23:4) Aram-naharain (= Syria of the two rivers), also Padan-aram (Gen. 25:20). Other portions of Syria were also known by separate names, as Aram-maahah (1Chr. 19:6), Aram-beth-rehob (2 Sam. 10:6), Aram-zobah (2 Sam. 10:6, 8). All these separate little kingdoms afterwards became subject to Damascus. In the time of the Romans, Syria included also a part of Palestine and Asia Minor. (Excerpted from Easton’s Bible Dictionary.)

4. ☺ Why do you think it is emphasized that Rebekah’s father Bethuel and her brother Laban are “**Syrians**”? (25:20). Is this a good comment or a bad one?

5. Rebekah is said to be ‘barren’ (25:21). There are many faithful women in the Bible who were barren. Make a list of as many as you can think of, along with their first child. (Provide a reference if you can)

“Barren” Mother	Reference	“Miraculous” First Child
Rebekah	Genesis 25:21	Esau & Jacob (Genesis 25:24-26)

6. Genesis 25:21 says that Isaac intreated the LORD for Rebekah, because she was barren.
 a. Why was having a child so important to this couple?

- b. What does this tell us about the power of prayer?



7. “the children struggled within her...” (Genesis 25:22).
 a. ☺ Why do you think Rebekah thought this was unusual?

- b. What lesson do we learn from Rebekah taking her concerns to God in prayer?

- c. What other scriptural examples are there of ‘sibling rivalry’? Cp. Gen. 37:4, 8

Siblings demonstrating ‘sibling rivalry’	Reference

8. Fill in the chart below to explain how each part of the ‘prophecy’ was fulfilled.

Genesis 25:23	Fulfilment
“Two nations are in thy womb...”	Esau = Nation of Edom (part of Modern Arabs) Jacob = Nation of Israel
“two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels...”	
“one people shall be stronger than the other people...”	
“the elder shall serve the younger.”	

9. Genesis 25:25-26 is all about names! Identify the meaning and significance of the boy’s names.

Note: You will need to access a concordance for this, and other questions. If you do not have a ‘hardcopy’ of a concordance use a computer Bible Program like e-sword (free download at <http://www.e-sword.net/>) or use an online concordance like the one found at <http://www.elijah.com/lexicon.html>

Name	Hebrew #	Meaning	Significance
Esau	6215		
Jacob	3290		

10. How long were Isaac and Rebekah married before they had children? (Genesis 25:20,26)

11. ☺ Give a brief description of the boys, in your own words. Describe their characters, interests, attitudes, etc. (Genesis 25:27-28)

a. Esau:



b. Jacob:

12. 📖 Jacob was a “plain man” (25:27): The Hebrew **תָּמִם** or ‘tam’ means complete; usually (morally) pious; specifically, gentle, dear. It is also translated, coupled together, perfect, plain, undefiled, and upright.

Comment on the significance of this word as it is used in following passages.

Passage	Comment
Genesis 6:9	
Job 1:1	
Ps 37:37	

13. In Genesis 25:27 Jacob is described as one who “dwells in tents”.

a. What do you think this means?

b. Who was also in the tent with him? See also your timeline from question 1 of this section to see who was still alive when Jacob was young. (Cp. Hebrews 11:9)

c. ☺ What do you think Jacob was doing in the tent as a young boy?



14. ☺ Why do you think Isaac loved Esau, and Rebekah loved Jacob? (25:28). What kind of strife do you think this would cause in the family?

15. In Genesis 25:29-34 is the story of Esau selling his birthright to Jacob.

a. What is the significance of the pottage being “red”? (See 25:25)

b. ☺ Do you think Esau is making a reasonable request of Jacob, or being demanding in verse 30? Explain your reasoning.

c. ☺ Do you think Jacob had this all planned out, or was it a ‘spur of the moment’ decision to ask for the birthright? (25:31)

d. ☺ Do you think Esau was really at the point of death at this time? (25:32) Explain.

16. Who was in the right and who was in the wrong during this ‘transaction’? (25:33-34) Compare Hebrews 12:16.

📖 Also note the word ‘despised’ from verse 34 is Hebrew #959. בָּזָה ‘bazah’ meaning: to disesteem:--despise, disdain, contemn(-ptible), + think to scorn, vile person.



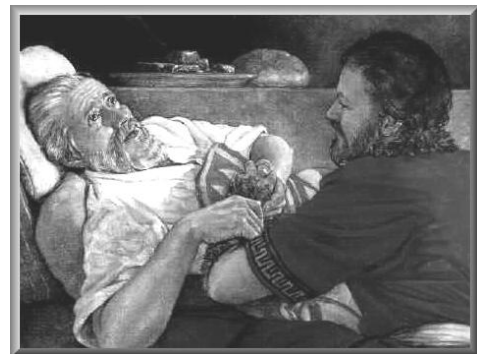
GENESIS 27

17. Genesis 27 is a key chapter in the life of Jacob. Having bought the ‘birthright’, he now wanted to be sure to get the ‘blessings’. At this time (Genesis 27:1) who do you think was the rightful ‘owner’ of:

a. The Birthright? Explain.

b. The Blessings of the Fathers? (i.e. The Promises) Explain.

18. Look at the ‘blessing’ Isaac gives to the person he *thinks* is Esau in 25:26-29. Summarize the key points of this blessing below.



19. Look at the ‘blessing’ Isaac gives to the person he *knows* is Jacob in 26:2-4. Summarize the key points of this blessing below.

20. What are the main differences in the two ‘blessings’? (Compare 27:4 and 27:7)

21. Isaac claims to be near death. How long did he live after this? (See Genesis 35:27-29)

22. 😊 Do you think Rebekah and Jacob were right to act as they did in Genesis 27? Explain.

23. Receiving a blessing from one's father is indeed significant. (27:4, 10)

a. ☺ Why do you think Jacob wanted the blessing of his father so badly?

b. ☺ Why do you think Esau wanted the blessing of his father so badly?

24. In Genesis 27:8, 13, 43 Rebekah tells Jacob to 'obey her voice'.

a. Is there any indication that Rebekah had sought for God's direction before initiating this plan?

b. Is she (or Jacob) ever rebuked for their 'deception'?

c. What were the consequences of their actions?

25. What is the significance of Jacob wearing the raiment of the eldest (firstborn) and being covered in skins? (See 27:15-16)



26. What part(s) of Genesis 27:19 were 'untruths'?
Was Jacob justified in saying what he did?

27. Why do you think Isaac was suspicious of the son that was in front of him? (27:18, 21, 24)

28. What is it about what his son said in verse 20 that made Isaac know that it was “Jacob’s voice”? (27:22)

29. Isaac appears convinced his eldest son is before him, and proceeds with the blessing.
a. What part of the ‘blessing’ given here (27:27-29) to “Esau” went against God’s prophecy concerning the boys in Genesis 25:23?

b. ☺ At what point do you think Isaac knew he had blessed Jacob, and not Esau?

c. What was his reaction to this revelation?

d. What is the lesson for us? (See Hebrews 11:20)

30. Was Esau’s hatred of Jacob justified? (27:41) Explain. See also Amos 1:11; Obadiah 10

31. Rebekah now had to come up with another scheme to ‘save’ Jacob. (27:42-46)

a. How long did the “few days” (27:44) turn out to be? (See 31:38)

b. Did Rebekah ever get the chance to send for Jacob so they could be together again?

c. ☺What are the lessons for us?



GENESIS 28

32. Why was it so important that Jacob not marry one of the daughters of Canaan? (28:1)

33. What is it about the ‘blessing’ Isaac now gives Jacob (28:2-4) that shows:

a. that Isaac has come to terms with the fact that Jacob is the ‘promised seed’?

b. that this blessing is connected to the Promises to Abraham?

34. Esau was already married (26:34-35). In Genesis 28:6-9 he takes another wife.

a. What does this tell us about Esau’s character?

b. Was he being rebellious or trying to please his father?

35. The “place” where Jacob eventually rests is called ‘Bethel’. What other significant events happened here?

“Bethel in Scripture”

Passage	Significant Event
Genesis 12:8	
Genesis 31:13	
1Samuel 7:16	
1Kings 12:29-33	

36. What is the significance of the phrase “angels ascending and descending”? (28:12)

See also John 1:51. Hint: Would ‘descending and ascending’ give the same sense?

37. God now gives Jacob the TRUE blessings/promises. (Genesis 28:13-15)

a. What aspects of the promise given here relate to the Promises given to Abraham?
(See Genesis 12:1-3; 13:15-16, etc)

b. What aspects of the promise given here relate specifically to Jacob?

38. ☺ What do you think is the significance of Jacob sleeping on a stone and then using the same stone to make a pillar? (Genesis 28:11, 18) Cp. Joshua 4:1-9; 24:26-27; 1 Sam. 7:12
📖 Note: 'pillar' in Hebrew is #4676 מצבה 'matstsebah' meaning something stationed, i.e. a column or (memorial stone). See Exodus 24:4

📖 The practice of setting up stones as a memorial by travellers still exists in Persia, and other parts of the East.

39. ☺ Why do you think Jacob poured oil on the top of the pillar? (28:18) See also Num. 7:1

40. ☺ Do you think the “vow” Jacob makes at this time is appropriate? (Genesis 28:20-22) Explain.

41. Why do you think Jacob offered to give God a tenth of all his possessions? (v. 22) See Genesis 14:20. What is the lesson for us?



Section 3: Tuesday's Readings Questions:

(Genesis 29:1-35; 30:1-3, 25-43; 35:23-26)

GENESIS 29

1. Using a Bible Atlas, or the maps in your Bible, label the key places on the map of Jacob's Journey. About how far was his trip?

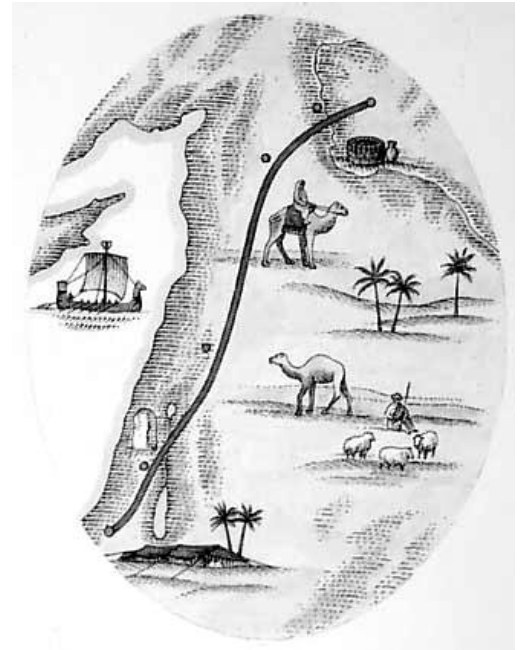
2. ☺ Why do you think they had a 'great stone' over the mouth of the well? (Genesis 29:2)

3. ☺ Do you think it was 'by chance' that Jacob met these people from Haran? (29:4) Explain. See also Genesis 24:27; 48:16

4. Jacob asks the men about Laban in Genesis 29:5-6. Based on their responses to Jacob, how do you think Laban was thought of in the community?

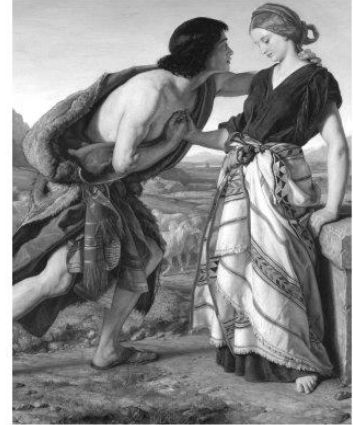
5. What problem in their shepherding techniques does Jacob identify in verse 7? What does this tell us about Jacob?

6. What is significant about Rachel being a shepherd? (29:9) See 1 Sam. 17:28; Psa. 23:1; John 10:11, 14.



7. Jacob acts very dramatically in Genesis 29 verses 10 and 11.
 a. Describe the scene as the other men watched Jacob's behaviour.

- b. Do you think Jacob's behaviour can be attributed to 'love at first sight'? Explain.



- c. ☺ How do you think Rachel felt at this moment?

8. ☺ Why do you think Rachel ran home and left Jacob at the well? (Genesis 29:12-13)

9. Compare this incident with Moses at the well in Midian (Exodus 2:15-25). What are some of the similarities?

10. Laban said Jacob was his 'bone and flesh'? (29:14)

- a. What is the significance of this phrase? What did Laban mean by using it?

- b. Comment on the use of this phrase in the following passages:

"Bone and Flesh"	Comment
Genesis 2:23	
Genesis 37:27	
Judges 9:2	
2 Samuel 5:1	

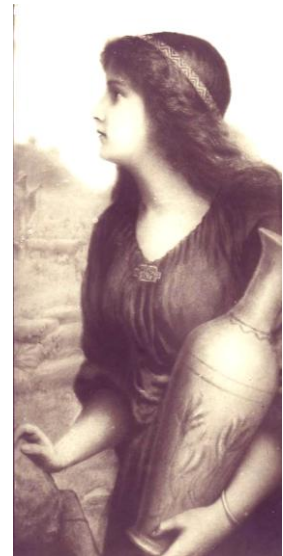
11. ☺ Why do you think we are given descriptions of Laban’s daughters in the context of him asking Jacob to name his wages? (29:15-17)

12. 📖 Leah is described as “tender eyed”. Here is the meaning of the Hebrew word ‘tender’: Strong’s #7390. רך ‘rak’ from 7401; tender (literally or figuratively); by implication, weak:--faint((-hearted), soft, tender ((-hearted), one), weak.

- a. Look at the usage of the same word in: Gen. 33:13; Deut. 20:8; 1 Chron. 22:5; Pro. 15:1 and explain what you think it means to say Leah was “tender eyed”.

13. 📖 Rachel was “beautiful” and “well favoured”. Here is another definition: ‘beautiful’ and ‘well’ - Strong’s #3303. יפה ‘yapheh’ from 3302; beautiful (literally or figuratively):--+ beautiful, beauty, comely, fair(-est, one), + goodly, pleasant, well. The other words used indicate she was goodly in appearance or figure, and pleasing to the eyes.

- a. Describe Rachel in your own words.



- b. Who else in scripture is described using these words?

Passage	Person	Context
Genesis 12:11		
Genesis 39:6		
1 Samuel 16:12; 17:42		
2 Samuel 13:1		
2 Samuel 14:25		
Esther 2:7		
Job 42:15		

14. Jacob ended up marrying both these young women.

a. ☺ Which girl do you think ended up being a better ‘helper’ for Jacob? Explain

b. What is the lesson for us?

15. ☺ Do you think Jacob was rash in his decision to work seven years for the hand of Rachel in marriage? Explain. (Genesis 29:18)



16. ☺ Why do you think Laban appears to be so pleased with the deal? (29:19)

17. Genesis 29:20 indicates that Jacob and Rachel had a seven year courtship – that seemed to pass very quickly – at least for Jacob.

a. ☺ Do you think this indicates long courtships are Biblically encouraged?

b. Can you think of any other ‘couples’ in scripture for which details of their courtship/dating are given? List any you can.

c. Genesis 29:21 clearly shows that Jacob and Rachel refrained from sexual activity before marriage. Why do you think that the consistent message from the Bible is to “save sex for marriage”? See Heb 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:36-38;

18. ☺ At what point during the seven years do you think Laban hatched the plan to give Jacob Leah instead of Rachel? (Genesis 29:23) See also verses 26-27.

19. Jacob didn't know it was Leah until the morning. (29:25)

a. ☺ How is it possible that Leah was disguised as Rachel?

b. What does this tell us about the similarities and differences between the 2 sisters?

c. How does this incident demonstrate the Biblical Principle that we “reap what we sow”? Galatians 6:7-8 (Hint: When did Jacob disguise himself as firstborn?)

📖 Note: “As the bride was always veiled, and the bride chamber generally dark, or nearly so, and as Leah was brought to Jacob in the evening, the imposition here practised might easily pass undetected by Jacob, till the ensuing day discovered the fraud.” (Adam Clarke’s commentary)



20. ☺ Comment on the role Leah played in this deception. Do you think she is in any way responsible? Why do you think she went along with the plan of her father?

21. Jacob now ends up with two wives. (Genesis 29:27-30)

a. What advantages were there for Laban to deceive Jacob in this way?

- b. ☺ Describe how you think each person involved would feel after the second wedding, which took place one week after the first! (29:28)

Laban: _____

Jacob: _____

Leah: _____

Rachel: _____

- c. ☺ Why do you think scripture later forbids such marriages? See Lev. 18:18.

22. ☺ Why do you think God allowed Leah to have children, and Rachel to stay barren? (29:31)

23. Comment on the naming of the first four boys in Genesis 29:32-35.

Boy's name	Meaning of Name	Why so named by Leah?
"Reuben"		
"Simeon"		
"Levi"		
"Judah"		

24. It seems Leah's perspective changed with the birth of Judah. Her focus shifts from trying to 'win' Jacob, to one of praise to God. With this in mind, comment on Romans 2:28-29.

GENESIS 30

25. Describe Rachel's frustration as she sees her sister bear four sons to Jacob while she is barren. (Genesis 30:1)

26. Rachel decides to give her maid Bilhah to Jacob so that she can bare a child for Rachel.
- What happened the last time a barren woman gave ‘her handmaid’ to her husband? See Genesis 16:1-5.

- Why do you think Jacob went along with this scheme?

- What should Rachel and Jacob have done if they wanted children together? (See Genesis 25:21) What is the lesson for us?

27. The rest of the sons are now born in quick succession, in a time of conflict and rivalry between Rachel and Leah. The whole genealogy is given in Genesis 35:23-26.

- Fill in the chart for the rest of the sons:

Boy's name	Mother	Meaning of Name	Why so named by his mother?
“Dan” 30:6			
“Naphtali” 30:8			
“Gad” 30:11			
“Asher” 30:13			
“Issachar” 30:18			
“Zebulon” 30:20			
“Joseph” 30:24			
“Benjamin” 35:18			

28. Which is the only son named by Jacob? Why is this significant?

29. After the birth of Joseph, Jacob decides it's time to head home. (Genesis 30:25)

a. Why does he have to ask "permission" of Laban? (30:26)

b. Why does Laban want him to stay? (30:27)

30. ☺ Do you think Jacob is boasting in Genesis 30:29-30? Explain.

31. Describe Jacob's last scheme for receiving wages from Laban. (Genesis 30:31-33)



32. ☺ Why do you think Jacob offered to take the 'speckled and spotted' and 'brown'?

33. Read Genesis 30:34-36 carefully.

a. Who did the separating of the sheep and cattle, and put three days journey between the herds?

b. ☺ Why did he do this?

c. What does this tell us about the relationship between Jacob and Laban?

34. Read Genesis 30:37-43.

a. Describe the process of breeding that Jacob instigates in these verses.

b. What was the result of Jacob's efforts?

c. Who really was responsible for Jacob's success? See Genesis 31:9.

📖 Much has been said about the selective breeding that seems to be taking place in these verses. Be assured the Jacob is NOT practising some weird magical wizardry! One of the best suggestions is that he used the 'rods' as moveable gates and fences to ensure that the strongest studs would mate with healthy speckled females, and that strong and healthy speckled studs would breed with the best females. This would allow the speckled and spotted portion of the flock to dominate! Remember also that God had sent a dream to give Jacob this idea in the first place. (See Genesis 31:10-12)

This then is an example of 'working with God'. God blesses endeavour. It's not "do it all on our own" or conversely "sit back and let God do it all", but a wonderful harmony of walking and working with God 'according to His will'.



Section 4: Wednesday's Readings Questions:

(Gen 31:1-55)

GENESIS 31

1. In Genesis 31:1-2 we hear of more strife in the family.

a. What were Laban's sons saying about Jacob?

b. Was what they were saying true?

c. ☺ What do you think it means Laban's 'countenance' was not toward Jacob as it had been before? (See also verse 5)

d. ☺ Who do you feel was to blame for the poor state of relationship in this family?

2. Why was it important for Jacob to return to 'the land of his fathers'? (Genesis 31:3, 13)

3. At a time of crucial decision making, Jacob calls for a 'family meeting'. (31:4)

a. ☺ Why do you think they met in the field?

b. What more do we learn about the relationship between Laban and Jacob from the account Jacob gives to his wives in Genesis 31:5-12?



c. What lessons are there from the life of Jacob for us as 'employees'?
See also Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25

4. God tells Jacob that he had ‘seen all that Laban’ did to him, and yet he allowed it to continue for many years. (31:12)
- a. Why does God allow His servants to suffer at the hands of the wicked? Try to find a passage to support your thoughts.

- b. What is the lesson for us today? (See also 1Th 5:15; 1Pe 2:18)

5. Rachel and Leah respond to Jacob in verses 14-16.

- a. What do we learn about their relationship with their father Laban?

- b. What seemed to be their motivation for leaving?

- c. ☺ Why do you think they felt as if they had been ‘sold’? (31:15)

6. ☺ Why did Jacob feel he had to leave in stealth, when Laban was away? (31:17- 20)

7. ☺ Why do you think Rachel stole her father’s images? (31:19)

8. What river did Jacob pass over as he fled with his family? (31:21) Hint: Not the Jordan!

9. Laban finds out Jacob is gone after 3 days, and then takes 7 days to catch him. What does this tell you about the relative speeds of the two parties? (Genesis 31:22-23)

10. In Genesis 31:24 God warned Laban about Jacob.

a. What does it mean “speak not to Jacob either good or bad”?

b. ☺ Why do you think God had to warn Laban not to harm Jacob? (See also v.29)

11. ☺ What tone of voice do you imagine Laban had in verses 26 - 30? Why does he seem to ramble on?

12. Why would it seem wrong for Jacob to take his wives? Laban says Jacob has taken them ‘like captives’. (31:26). Was Laban justified in his rebuke of Jacob? (cp. 30:25-26)

13. ☺ Do you really think Laban would have given Jacob a ‘send off’ like he says he would in verse 27? Explain.



14. Why does Laban throw in the bit about the ‘stolen gods’ at the end of his rebuke? (31:30)

15. ☺ Do you think Jacob’s fears, expressed in verse 31, were justified? Explain.

16. Jacob is so certain that no one has stolen Laban's gods that he makes a foolish vow in Genesis 31:32.

- a. Even though the 'thief' was not discovered at that time, what is sadly ironic about Jacob's vow? (See Genesis 35:16-19)

- b. What are some lessons for us from this incident?

17. Not only had Rachel stolen the idols, she now deceives her father to conceal her crime. How often one misdeed leads to another to 'back it up'! (31:33-35)

- a. Why do you think Laban searched the tents in the order that he did? (31:33-34)

- b. Compare this incident with Joseph's brothers in Genesis 44:4-13. What similarities can you find?

- c. What is the lesson for us?

18. Now it's Jacob's turn to 'blow his top'! Genesis 31:36-42.

- a. ☺ Was this response from Jacob justified? Explain.

- b. What more do we learn about Jacob's time with Laban from this outburst?

- c. How many years in total was Jacob with Laban?

- d. ☺ Do you think Laban would have 'sent Jacob away empty'? (v. 42) Explain.

19. ☺ What point do you think Laban is trying to make in verse 43? Has he ‘cooled down’, or is he still ‘steaming’?

20. Why does Laban want to make a covenant with Jacob? What was the need for a ‘witness’ between the two men? (Genesis 31:44)

21. Jacob sets a stone for a pillar, and then makes another ‘heap’ of stones. (31:45-48)

a. Why did they share a meal at this time? (Cp. Acts 2:42)

b. Laban called it “Jegarsahadutha”. What does this mean in Chaldean?

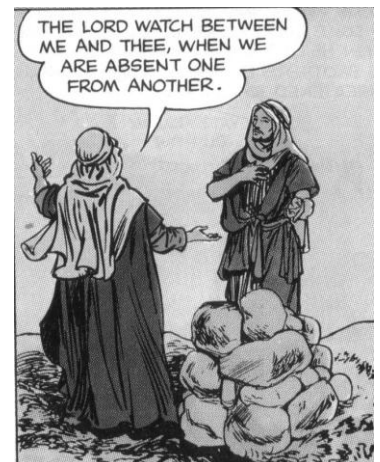
c. Jacob called it “Galeed”. What does this mean in Hebrew?

22. ☺ Who do you think is taking a leading role in this ‘ceremony’ – Laban or Jacob? Explain your reasoning.

23. What is the meaning of the word ‘Mizpeh’? Why is it significant? (31:49)

24. ☺ Why is Laban worried that Jacob might ‘afflict his daughters’? (31:50)

25. ☺ What do you think Laban means by the words of the covenant he declares in verses 52 and 53?



26. Laban calls upon three ‘gods’ to witness the covenant. (31:53)

- a. Who was the ‘God of Abraham’? _____
- b. Who was the ‘God of Nahor’? _____
- c. Who was the ‘God of their father’? _____ (Cp. Josh. 24:14-16)
- d. Why mention these three men?

- e. Why did Jacob choose to swear by “the fear of his father Isaac”? (See Gen. 27:33)

27. Describe the ‘happy ending’ to this potentially difficult meeting. (31:54–55)



Section 5: Thursday's Readings Questions:

(Gen 32:1-32; 33:1-20; Hos 12:3-6)

GENESIS 32

1. As Jacob left Laban, he was met by “the angels of God”. Genesis 32:1-2
 - a. Who else in scripture saw an angel of God’s host? See Josh. 5:14

 - b. ☺ Do you think Jacob would have been encouraged by this visitation, or worried?

2. 📖 Jacob calls the place “Mahanaim” – meaning ‘Two Camps’.
 - a. ☺ To what ‘two camps’ was he referring?

 - b. When does this name become ironically true for Jacob? (See verse 10)

3. 📖 The word ‘messengers’ in verse 3, describing those men Jacob sent to Esau, is the same Hebrew word (“malak”) as God’s ‘angels’ in verse 1.
 - a. Why do you think Jacob sent these men to Esau?

 - b. Why is it significant that the same Hebrew word can describe both divine beings and human beings?

4. Quickly glance over Genesis 32:4-5, 16-20 noting the words Jacob uses to describe himself and the words he uses to describe Esau, as he instructs his men what to say.
 - a. ☺ Why does he call Esau “lord”?

 - b. ☺ Why does Jacob call himself “servant”?

5. Esau had obviously heard of Jacob’s return, and Jacob’s messengers now report that Esau is coming to meet Jacob with four hundred men. (Genesis 32:6).
 - a. ☺ Why do you think Esau had 400 men with him?

b. Describe Jacob's reaction to this news. (verse 7-8)

6. Jacob then does the only thing he can do in this situation – the only thing that will be of any help – he prays!! (32:9-12)

a. What is significant about how he addresses God in opening his prayer? (v. 9)

b. Why does he remind God that it was God who told him to return home? (v. 9)

c. How does Jacob show his humility in verse 10?

d. What does Jacob specifically ask God for in verse 11?

e. Why does he repeat God's promise in verse 12?

f. What can you learn from Jacob's 'model' prayer that can help you in your own prayer life?



7. Make a list of the animals Jacob gave to Esau as a 'present'. (32:13-15).



8. The word ‘present’ is the Hebrew word 04503. מנחה ‘minchah’ – used of the ‘meal’ offering under the Law. The idea is of a gift or tribute offered to a superior.

a. ☺ Why do you think Jacob felt the necessity of giving such a gift to Esau?

b. Why did Jacob send the ‘present’ with ‘space between drove and drove’? (32:16)

9. The last time Jacob had heard of Esau’s attitude towards him it was murderous! (27:42)

a. Why did Jacob think he could ‘appease’ his brother with this gift? (32:20)

b. 📖 The word ‘appease’ in the Hebrew is 03722. כפר ‘kaphar’ – often translated ‘atonement’. What do you think Jacob was trying to ‘atone’ for?

10. Use a Bible Map to locate Bethel (where Jacob was heading) and Edom (where Esau was coming from) on the map below. Why is the location of Jabbok relevant to these two places?



11. Jacob organized his family into specific groups (32:22; 33:1-2), sent them over the Jabbok, and then remained behind ‘alone’ (32:24). He then wrestles with ‘a man’.

a. Why do you think Jacob remained behind?

b. Why do you think he wrestled ‘the man’?

c. ☺ At what point do you think Jacob knew he was wrestling an angel of God? (See Hosea 12:3-4)

12. Read Genesis 32:25 carefully. Fill in the blanks below with the proper pronouns (the Angel or Jacob).

Genesis 32:25 And when _____ saw that he prevailed not against _____, _____ touched the hollow of _____ thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as _____ wrestled with _____.

a. ☺ How is it that a human being could 'successfully' wrestle against a divine angel?

b. ☺ Why does the angel 'cripple' Jacob at this point?

c. ☺ Why wouldn't Jacob let go? (32:26)



13. This is a critical point in Jacob's life. The changing of his name! (32:27-28)

a. Recall what "Jacob" means: _____ (See 27:36)

b. What does "Israel" mean? _____

c. ☺ Why does God choose this event to give Jacob a new name?

d. What pivotal event in our lives can result in a 'name change'? (See Acts 19:5)

e. What is the 'new name' that we should want to have named on us? (Cp Rev. 3:12)


14. ☺ Why do you think Jacob asked for the angel's name? (32:29) Cp. Jud. 13:17

15. Jacob was worried about facing Esau the next day. He knew he was no match for his brother! He prayed for God’s help, and now he leaves the place limping!!!

a. ☺ Why do you think God crippled Jacob?

b. ☺ Do you think Jacob was now more worried, or less worried about meeting Esau than he had been the day before? Explain.

16. ☺ Why do you think future generations of Israelites commemorated this event by no longer eating certain parts of an animal? (32:32)

 Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary: “the sinew which shrank”--the nerve that fastens the thigh bone in its socket. The practice of the Jews in abstaining from eating this in the flesh of animals, is not founded on the Law of Moses, but is merely a traditional usage. The sinew is carefully extracted; and where there are no persons skilled enough for that operation, they do not make use of the hind legs at all.

GENESIS 33

17. In Genesis 33 Jacob and Esau finally meet again after many years apart.

a. ☺ What do you think was going through Jacob’s mind as he saw Esau approach with 400 men? (33:1)

b. Why did he divide the women and children into separate groups? (See 32:8)

c. Why did he put the groups in the order he did? (Handmaids→Leah→Rachel 33:2)

d. ☺ How do you think Jacob’s wives and sons felt about this arrangement?

18. ☺ Why do you think Jacob humbled himself before Esau by bowing seven times? (33:3)

19. ☺ Describe what you think were the emotions of each man as they met face to face, embraced and wept. (33:4)

Esau: _____

Jacob: _____



20. Esau now meets the rest of the family (33:5-7). Jacob’s initial strategy seemed to be to save Rachel and Joseph from Esau’s vengeance by keeping them at the rear.

a. ☺ What other advantage may Jacob have had in mind by keeping Rachel and Joseph to be the last introductions? Hint: Genesis 29:17; 39:6

b. Describe in your own words the ‘negotiating’ that takes place between Jacob and Esau in Genesis 33:8-17. List the key items they discuss, and the outcome of each issue raised. Note: You may not need all rows in the chart.

Issue	Resolution

c. ☺ Who seems to be ‘in control’ of these circumstances? (i.e. Who’s ‘in charge’?)

21. ☺ What do you think surprised Esau the most about meeting Jacob again?

22. ☺ What do you think surprised Jacob the most about meeting Esau again?

23. In 33:9 Esau says he ‘has enough’.

a. ☺ What do you think he means?

b. ☺ How did the abundance of material goods remove the animosity Esau felt towards Jacob?



24. In Genesis 33:11 Jacob says he ‘has enough’.

a. ☺ What do you think he means?

b. How does Jacob’s statement and attitude show a spiritual perspective that is lacking from Esau’s comments? (Cp. Phil. 4:18; 1 Tim. 6:6)

25. Why do you think Jacob did not want to travel with Esau? (33:12-14)

26. Why do you think Jacob did not want to travel with any of Esau’s men? (33:15)

27. Jacob says he would catch up with Esau later. (33:14, 17)

a. ☺ Do you think Jacob ever had any intention of visiting Esau in Mt. Seir?

b. ☺ Was Jacob being dishonest to Esau at this time? Explain.

28. In Genesis 33:17-20 Jacob is finally ‘back home’ in the Promised Land.

a. Comment on the significance of the place Jacob settled in, especially the parcel of land he purchased. (See John 4:5-6)

b. Jacob now builds another altar/pillar and assigns another name. (v. 20)
Fill in the charts about these types of events.

Building Altars

Reference	Place	Significance
<i>Gen 28:18</i>		
<i>Gen 33:20</i>		
<i>Gen 35:1,3,7</i>		

New Names

Reference	Place	Significance
<i>Ge 28:19</i>		
<i>Ge 31:48</i>		
<i>Ge 32:2</i>		
<i>Ge 32:30</i>		
<i>Ge 33:17</i>		
<i>Ge 33:20</i>		
<i>Ge 35:7</i>		

c. Comment on the significance of both these things.

Building Altars:

New Names:

Section 6: Friday's Readings Questions:

(Gen 35:1-20; 48:8-22; 49:1-2, 28-33; 50:1-13; Heb 11:21)

GENESIS 35

1. Where had Jacob been dwelling before God told him to leave and make his way back to Bethel? (35:1) Hint: See Genesis 33:18

2. It seems Jacob had intended to go to Bethel when he left Laban (31:13). Why do you think God had to remind him again to go to Bethel?

3. What is significant about going to “Bethel” = “The house of God”? Is there a lesson for us? (See Psalm 73:2-3,16-17; 84:10)



4. Before going up to Bethel (God's House) what **three things** did Jacob have to command his household to do to make themselves ready? (35:2)

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

5. Where do you think the 'foreign gods' came from? (See 31:19; 34:26-29)


6. What 'foreign gods' are in your household today?

7. How can we 'purify ourselves and change our garments' today? (See Gal 3:27)

8. In Genesis 35:3 Jacob acknowledges the work of God in his life.
a. List some examples from Jacob's life that demonstrate God's involvement.

- b. List some examples of God working in your life.

9. What did Jacob do with the 'foreign gods' he was given? (35:4)

 Note: "Earrings" were often associated with idolatry. See Jud. 8:22-28; Hos. 2:13

10. 😊 Why do you think he did not destroy them completely? cp. 2 Chron. 34:4

11. Why was it necessary for the 'terror of God' to be upon the cities around as they journeyed? (35:5) Hint: See 34:30

12. Although Genesis 34 is not part of our assigned verses, quickly glance over it now, and answer the questions below:

- a. Why did Dinah leave home at this time? (34:1)

- b. 😊 Why was this an unwise decision?

- c. What happened to her because of this decision? (34:3-4, 13)

- d. 😊 Was this bad? Explain.

e. ☺ Do you think she intended this to happen?

f. What is the lesson for us?

g. What did her brothers do after this? (34:25)

h. ☺ Do you think this was justified?

i. What is the lesson for us?

13. The recent events in Jacob's life included fleeing from Laban, wrestling an Angel, having to face Esau again, the defilement of his daughter and the revenge of his sons upon the people of the land.

☺ Describe how you think Jacob would have felt after arriving in Bethel, building an altar etc as described in Genesis 35:6-7.

14. ☺ Why do you think it mentions the death of Deborah (Rebekah's nurse) at this point of the story? (35:8)

15. The covenant is reaffirmed at this point (35:9-15).

a. Why is the context of Jacob obeying God and returning to the House of God (Bethel) significant to the reaffirmation of these promises?

b. Why does God also restate that He has changed Jacob's name to Israel?

c. What key promise is made to Jacob in verse 11 that connects the Abrahamic promises to the promises made to David? (Cp. 2 Sam. 7:12, 13, 16)

d. ☺ Why do you think Jacob also made a pillar of stone and poured a drink offering on it? (See Exodus 29:41)

16. Jacob now leaves Bethel and is getting close to Ephrath. Sadly, Rachel dies in childbirth. (35:16-20)

a. What does it mean 'her soul was departing'? (v. 18)

b. What are the meanings of the names given to the child:

i. "Ben-Oni" _____

ii. "Benjamin" _____

c. Where was Rachel buried?

The Abrahamic Burial place was the cave of Machpelah. Make a note of who was buried there:

Reference	Who was buried there
Gen 23:19	
Gen 25:9	
Gen 49:29-32	
Gen 49:29-32	
Gen 49:29-32	
Gen 50:13	

d. ☺ Why do you think Rachel was not buried in the cave at Machpelah?

17. Benjamin was born *just before* the family reached Bethlehem. This event typifies the birth of Jesus Christ many centuries later. What is the same, and what is different about Benjamin’s birth and the birth of Jesus Christ?



Similarities	Differences

The story in Genesis now focuses on the life of Joseph. You may want to skim through Genesis chapters 37-47 and note Jacob’s role in these events. We will not be covering this in any detail.

GENESIS 48

We now turn our attention to the death of Jacob and the blessings he bestows upon his sons and grandsons, as a prophecy of future events.

18. In Genesis 48 Jacob blesses Joseph’s sons. Why is this event so significant?
(See Hebrews 11:21)

19. Joseph had two sons in Egypt – Ephraim and Manasseh. (See Genesis 41:50-52)

- a. Who was the eldest? _____
- b. What does “Ephraim” mean? _____
- c. What does “Manasseh” mean? _____

20. What is significant about these words being spoken in Egypt, about boys that had an Egyptian mother? (cp. Acts 15:14)

21. How are these promises to Ephraim and Manasseh fulfilled in the history of the nation of Israel? (See Num. 1: 33, 35; 32:33; 34:14-15; Deut. 33:17)

22. What does Genesis 48:5-6 tell us about the status / sonship of Ephraim and Manasseh?

23. The actual blessing of the boys is in Genesis 48:8-16

a. How old were the boys at this time?

(Hint: Gen. 41:50; 45:5; 47:28)

b. Why mention that Jacob was blind?



Fathers blessing sons is a very important part of the lives of the Patriarchs. Note who is blessing who in the following chart:

Reference	Father	Son(s)
Gen 28:1-4		
Gen 48:16		
Gen 49:28		

It is interesting that there is no note of Abraham blessing Isaac. But we know that Isaac did receive the blessings from God. See Genesis 25:11; 26:3-4

24. Genesis 48:11 is a very emotional verse. Relate an incident from your life where God not only answered your prayer, but did abundantly more! (See Eph 3:20)

25. Describe in your own words the scene as Joseph brings the boys towards Jacob. Note carefully who is on which side, who's hands are where, and why. (Gen. 48:12-20)

26. ☺ Why do you think this incident was chosen above all others in the life of Jacob to be an example of his faith? (See Hebrews 11:21)

27. ☺ Why do you think Joseph was upset when he saw his father had ‘crossed his hands’?
(48:17-20)

28. To what incident in the earlier life of Jacob is this one similar? (See Gen. 27)

29. How does Jacob demonstrate his faith in God to Joseph? (50:21)

30. How does Joseph later show he has the same faith? (See 50:24-25)

31. Jacob promises Joseph an ‘extra portion’ in the inheritance. (48:22)

a. In Genesis 33:19 Jacob buys some land. Is this the portion he now gives to Joseph? (Cp. Jos. 24:32) Explain.

b. What significant event later takes place at this spot? (See John 4:5-6)

GENESIS 49

32. After blessing the sons of Joseph, Jacob now gathers all his sons to him. (49:1-2)

a. What is it about the phrase ‘in the last days’ that indicates these words of Jacob are prophetic? (See Num. 24:14; Dan. 2:28)

b. What significant event/person is being prophesied about in the Gen. 49:10? Explain.



33. Genesis 49:28 says that these words of Jacob were a ‘blessing’ upon his sons. Verse 33 says he was ‘commanding’ them.

Scan through the words of chapter 49 and fill in the chart below.

☺ Pick a **key phrase** addressed to each son that you think is a blessing, a commandment, and something other than either of these. Note: You may not be able to fill every cell.

Son(s)	Blessing	Commandment	Other
Reuben			
Simeon & Levi			
Judah			
Zebulun			
Issachar			
Dan			
Gad			
Asher			
Naphtali			
Joseph			
Benjamin			

34. Which two sons seem to be particularly prominent in the blessings? Explain why.


35. It seems Jacob mustered his last strength to give this blessing upon his sons (compare 48:2; 49:33). Once he was finished, he simply ‘breathed his last’.

☺ Describe what you think was the feeling in the room as the sons of Jacob stood around the bed of their deceased father.

GENESIS 50

36. ☺ Why do you think Joseph had his father embalmed after the manner of the Egyptians? (50:2)

37. The record says that 40 days were required for those who are embalmed, and that there was 70 days of mourning. (50:3)

 We learn from the Greek historians, that the time of mourning was while the body remained with the embalmers, which Herodotus says was seventy days. During this time the body lay in nitre, the use of which was to dry up all its superfluous and noxious moisture: and when, in the space of 30 days, this was sufficiently effected, the remaining forty, the time mentioned by Diodorus, were employed in anointing it with gums and spices to preserve it, which was properly the embalming. This sufficiently explains the phraseology of the text. (Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge)

Make a note of the length of mourning, and the people involved in the following passages:

Reference:	Deceased person	Length of mourning	Those mourning
Gen. 50:3	Jacob	70 days	Egyptians (and Jacob's family?)
Gen. 50:10			
Num. 20:29			
Deut. 34:8			
1 Sam. 31:13			

38. ☺ Why do you think Joseph asked permission from Pharaoh to go to Canaan to bury his father? (50:4-5)

39. Describe in your own words (in detail) the funeral procession of Jacob from Egypt to Canaan. (50:7-9)

40. What is the reaction of the people of the land of Canaan to this remarkable funeral?
(50:10-11)

41. In Genesis 50 the body of Jacob (Israel) leaves Egypt and travels to the land of Canaan. How does this event typify the Exodus of the people of Israel under the hand of Moses many years later?

42. ☺ Describe the feelings of Joseph and his brothers as they leave Canaan and return to Egypt.

CONGRATULATIONS – YOU ARE DONE THE QUESTIONS!
Be sure to finish off your other special project too, and be ready to share the results of your study with the rest of us at Kid’s Camp, God Willing.

