

THE LORD BLESSES JACOB'S FAMILY

Genesis 29:1–30:24

Key Verse: 29:31

1. When Jacob arrives, what does he see (29:1–3), what does he ask the shepherds (4–6), and what does his interaction with them tell us (7–8)? How is his meeting with Rachel described (9–12), and what more does this tell us about Jacob?
2. Describe Jacob and Laban's meeting (13–14). What does Laban suggest (15), and what further information is given (16–17)? What does Jacob offer, why, and how is this period in his life depicted (18–20)? What does Laban do, how does Jacob respond, and what does it show about their relationship and about Jacob (21–30)?
3. What does God do (31)? What does Leah's naming her first four sons show about her (32–35)? How do Rachel and Jacob respond to this (30:1–2)? How do they use Rachel's servant Bilhah, and what do the names of her sons mean (3–8)?
4. What does Leah do (9–13), and what do the names of these sons mean? What does the mandrakes incident show about this family, and what is the outcome (14–18)? How is the end of Leah's childbearing described (19–21)? What does God do for Rachel, and what does her response show about her (22–24)?
5. In these years of human struggle, what was God doing in and through Jacob and his family (28:14; cf. 17:4–6)? What truths about God can we find here?