LESSON 3

JACOB AND LABAN



Aim: **To teach the children that God allowed Jacob to be deceived in his turn by Laban. Jacob had to learn it is wrong to cheat and deceive.**

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 29:1-30; 30:19-42; 31:1-3**

Memory Verse: **Proverbs 21:3**
To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the class if any of them have ever looked after sheep or goats. How do you care for them? You must find them grass to eat and water to drink. If you don't, they will die.

MAIN POINTS OF TODAY'S TEACHING

1. Jacob, who had to leave his home because of quarrels with his family, went on a long journey of several days to the place where his uncle lived. When he arrived, he found he could help the shepherds give water to Laban's sheep (29:1-3, 10). He asked the shepherds, "Do you know my uncle?"
   Recount verses 4-14 in your own words. In this passage Jacob meets Rachel and is also welcomed by his uncle.
2. Jacob began to work for his uncle. After a while, Laban offered to pay him for his help. Jacob said he would work for Laban to pay off the bridal price for marrying Rachel. **Tell the story in verses 15-28 to the class.**
   Important point: Laban cheated Jacob just as Jacob had cheated his brother and father. Jacob found out that being cheated is very unpleasant.
3. Jacob now had a family of his own. It was not a happy one (30:19-24).
4. God was still with Jacob. Jacob looked after Laban's sheep and goats, and they increased (30:29-30). As payment for his excellent work for Laban they agreed that Jacob would take for himself all the spotted, speckled and dark-coloured animals from the flock; the rest would belong to his uncle (30:32-33).
5. But Laban cheated Jacob again. He removed all those animals from the flock before Jacob could take them, and he hid them from Jacob!
6. Then Jacob cheated Laban in his turn. He was a clever shepherd, and found a way to make the strongest animals have only speckled or dark-coloured lambs and kids. So Laban got only some weak animals, while Jacob got the very best ones.
7. Laban became very angry. **Show picture 3. Point out Laban and Jacob and the speckled animals.** Jacob had become very rich, but once again he had to leave quickly.

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Laban tricked Jacob, just as Jacob had tricked his own father and brother. But then Jacob tricked him back. Jacob really had to learn that it was wrong to cheat and deceive! Even though Jacob was like that, God still loved him and showed him mercy.

Our Response to the Story

Ask the class to name some situations in which they are tempted to cheat and deceive. At school and during examinations we often meet with this kind of temptation. Remember: if you are a follower of the Lord this is no way to honour and serve him.

Instil the Memory Verse



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