



Jacob Flees

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Genesis 27:41 - 30:24

The blessing and birthright of Isaac's family was passed on to Isaac's younger son, Jacob.



Soon God would also give him the promise of Abraham. Throughout Jacob's life we see that God is faithful to keep His promises, even when people fail.

Day #1: Sent Away

Rebekah convinced Jacob to trick his father. Together they deceived Isaac, so Isaac unknowingly gave his blessing to Jacob. Of course, Esau was very angry when he found out what Jacob did. Esau threatened to kill his brother, Jacob. Rebekah did not want Esau to harm Jacob, so she told Jacob to go to the home of her brother, Laban, until Esau was no longer angry. Her brother lived 500 miles away. Rebekah knew Jacob would be safe there.

Before Jacob left, Isaac instructed him to marry a woman from Rebekah's family (Genesis 28:2). Isaac also gave Jacob the blessing that God intended for him to have (Genesis 25:23).

† *May the Mighty God bless you. May He give you children. May He increase your numbers until you become a community of nations. May He give you and your children after you the blessing He gave to Abraham. Then you can take over the land where you now live as an outsider. It's the land God gave to Abraham. - Genesis 28:3-4*

So Jacob ended up with the blessing that was first given to Abraham, but there was a cost. Jacob, who loved staying at home (Genesis 25:27), had to leave his home. And Rebekah watched her beloved Jacob head out into the desert, unsure if she would ever see him again.

If Rebekah had not deceived Isaac, would God have made sure the blessing went to the right son? Yes! God is in control of all things (Job 37). Then Jacob would not have had to run for his life.

* **Parents:** Isaac spoke a blessing over his son. Take a moment to speak a blessing over your children. Ask God for specific things, in addition to doing more than you could ever imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Day #2: Promise in the Desert

Jacob set out on the long journey toward his uncle's home. Try to imagine how he felt. Surely he questioned what he had done. Certainly, he felt uneasy and lonely as he traveled into the barren wilderness. After all, Esau was the brother who loved to hunt and be outdoors. Jacob would much rather stay home. Do you think he was frightened? Would you be afraid to be all alone in the middle of the desert?

When the sun set, Jacob stopped to rest for the night. He laid his head on a rock and fell asleep. God pursued, or came after, Jacob (1 John 4:19). God spoke to Jacob in a dream.

† *He said, "I am the Lord. I am the God of your grandfather Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your children after you the land on which you are lying. They will be like the dust of the earth that can't be counted... All nations on earth will be blessed because of you and your children after you. I am with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. And I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. - Genesis 28:13b-15*

Jacob woke up amazed at what God had told him. He named that place Bethel, which means "house of God." It is important that God met with Jacob **personally**. It was not enough that Jacob's father and grandfather knew the Lord. Jacob had to know and trust God for himself.

* You must have your own relationship with God. You are only made right with God when you, **personally**, place your trust in Jesus to take away your sin and give you new life.

Day #3: Wife Swap


Have you ever expected one thing, but received another? Years ago, a company advertised a new pet called "Sea Monkeys[®]". Advertised in comic books, these creatures were said to be "almost human." For \$1.00, the company would send a packet of powder called "Instant Life." The powder was added to water and in minutes, the water would be full of the "world's most amazing pets." The ads said the Sea Monkeys[®] played tag with one another, turned cartwheels, and even scratched each other's backs. The ads featured drawings of sea creatures wearing crowns and holding hands. Thousands


Day #3 continued:

of children saved their money and ordered the powder, only to find out that the powder actually contained a tiny form of brine shrimp. While the shrimp did swim in the water, they were almost too small to see and they were far from what the children were expecting! Today, we see that Jacob was expecting one thing, but he received something very different.

Jacob loved Laban's daughter, Rachel. Jacob agreed to work for Laban for seven years in exchange for getting to marry her. But on the night of the wedding, Laban switched his daughters, and Jacob married Leah. Jacob asked Laban, "Why did you trick me?" (Genesis 29:25b)

Jacob knew all about tricking people. Who had he tricked before he came to Laban's home? (Isaac.) Laban probably tricked Jacob for the same reason Jacob and Rachel tricked Isaac. They all lacked trust in God. They each took matters into their own hands. They all wanted good things, but they went about it the wrong way. Rachel and Jacob wanted to be sure that Jacob received Isaac's blessing, and Laban wanted to make sure his oldest daughter found a husband to care for her. But tricking people to get what we want is not the right way to achieve a good goal.

 Read the following verse, and then discuss the right way to achieve a good goal.

 *O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! Do not let me be disgraced, or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat. No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.* - Psalm 25:1-3 NLT

Day #4: Father of Many


Laban did not trust that God would provide a husband for Leah, so he tricked Jacob. Jacob promised to work for Laban for another seven years if he could also marry Rachel. Laban agreed to this. Marrying more than one wife was the custom of the day, but it was not God's perfect plan (Mark 10:6-8).

Laban's trickery caused a great deal of heartache for both of his daughters. The Bible says that Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. Of course, Leah could tell that Jacob favored her sister, and she was broken-hearted.


In His kindness, God allowed Leah to have 4 sons. Because Rachel could not have children, she became very jealous of Leah. Rachel begged Jacob to marry her servant girl so that at least she could have children through her servant. Then Leah begged him to marry her servant girl so she could have more children. Back and forth, the two sisters went. They spent all their days comparing themselves to each other, fighting for

Day #4 continued:

the love of Jacob. By the time the seven years were over, Jacob had four wives, eleven sons, and one daughter.

 Laban continued to treat Jacob unfairly. Jacob said: *(Laban) has cheated me. He has changed my pay ten times. In spite of everything that's happened, God hasn't let him harm me.* - Genesis 31:7

Even though Laban was not fair to Jacob, God blessed Jacob and he became very wealthy (Genesis 31:1, 7).

 Look at the promises that God spoke to Jacob in Day #2 (Genesis 28:13-15). Underline each promise that you see. Which promises do you already see God fulfilling? (Jacob was on his way to having more children than could be counted, and God remained with him.) We'll see even more answers next week. Remember that God ALWAYS keeps His promises!


Day #5: Promises, Promises!

In this story, we see so many sinful choices. Jacob tricked his dad. Laban made promises to Jacob, and then broke them. But, even though people made terrible mistakes along the way, God was still in control.

Think of the promises God spoke to Jacob. Do you think Jacob memorized these promises? Do you think Jacob remembered these promises when times were tough? Do you think Jacob leaned on these promises when Laban was treating him unfairly? God ALWAYS keeps His promises!

God has given **you** many promises in His word, too! Here are just a few:

He promises to give you what you need.


 *My God will meet all your needs. He will meet them in keeping with his wonderful riches that come to you because you belong to Christ Jesus.* - Philipians 4:19

He promises to help you not to sin.

When you are tempted, God will give you a way out so that you can stand up under it. - 1 Corinthians 10:13b

He promises He will always be with you.

Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. - Matthew 28:20b NLT

 You can depend on God's promises, just as Jacob did. Are you having a difficult time in an area of your life? Are you afraid, worried, or tempted to sin? If so, find one of God's promises about it and write it in several places that you see often. (Dry erase markers are great for mirrors!) Cling to those words, because God ALWAYS keeps His promises!