

WEEK 3: GOD AT WORK IN OTHER PARTS OF LIFE

DAY 1: WE REAP WHAT WE SOW

Genesis 29:1-20

1. Welcome to a new week of study in Genesis. Before we go on, remember the last lesson.

Write two promises Jacob made to God at Bethel.

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Jacob promised: (1) The Lord shall be my God. (2) I will give the tenth to God. Today we will see God at work in another way in the life of Jacob. When God works in any life, He changes that life. Bad people become good people. But at the same time, a man reaps what he sows. We will learn two things which show that Jacob reaped what he sowed.

(1) He was sent from home.

(2) He himself was deceived.

It was right for Jacob to receive the blessing. But what was the wrong way Jacob used to get the blessing God had promised him? _____

3. He used deceit. He was a deceiver. When Esau came home he found that Jacob had been given the blessing. See what Esau said.

Genesis 27:36:

Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted (or cheated) me these two times. He took away my birthright; and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.

Esau said that Jacob had been given the right name. In their language Jacob's name sounded like the word for "cheat." That was the kind of man Jacob was -- a cheater or deceiver.

From the verse, what did Jacob do two times to Esau? _____

4. Jacob cheated him. Jacob's deceit caused him to be sent from home. You remember what Jacob did in order to get the blessing from Isaac.

Genesis 27:22-24:

So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. He said, "Are you really my son, Esau?" He answered, "I am."

In these verses whom did Jacob deceive? _____

5. Yes, Isaac was deceived by his own son. Because Jacob took the blessing, Esau was very angry. Esau planned to kill Jacob. Rebekah said that Jacob must leave home. Isaac told Jacob to go to his mother's family to get a wife. But Jacob knew, as this verse says, that he was sent from home.

Genesis 28:5:

Thus Isaac sent Jacob away.

What happened to Jacob after he deceived Isaac? _____

6. He was sent from home. This was very hard for Jacob. His deceit brought him trouble. He sowed trouble and reaped trouble. Because of his deceit he did not want to see Esau's face again. His deceit caused him to sleep outside with a stone for a pillow. He was all alone. But at Bethel God talked with him.

Who reaped what he sowed when he was sent from home? _____

7. Jacob reaped what he sowed. These are the things that happened to him after he deceived Isaac.

(1) He was sent from home.

(2) He himself was deceived.

Jacob went to live with Rebekah's brother, Laban.

Stop now and read Genesis 29:15 to 25. Read verse 23 again. What did Laban do to Jacob? _____

8. Laban deceived Jacob. When Jacob arrived in Laban's country, he met Laban's daughter Rachel. Rachel was beautiful and Jacob loved her. Laban agreed for Jacob to marry Rachel. Jacob worked seven years for his wife. Then Laban deceived Jacob. The morning after the wedding, Jacob found that he had been given Rachel's sister. Now Jacob was the one who was deceived! He reaped what he had sown.

If a man sows ground nuts, what does he reap? _____

If a man sows deceit what does he reap? _____

9. If a farmer sows ground nuts he does not reap grain. He reaps ground nuts. For many years Jacob reaped the deceit which he himself had sown.

However, God was at work in his life. He allowed things to happen which taught Jacob. Jacob had deceived both his brother and his father.

Write the first thing that happened to Jacob after he deceived Isaac.

(1) _____

(2) He himself was deceived.

10. He was sent from home. And in Laban's house Jacob was deceived himself. Jacob reaped what he had sown. He was given Leah instead of Rachel. Rachel was the girl he loved. Jacob worked seven years to receive Rachel as his wife. But Laban gave him Leah.

Whom did Laban deceive? _____

11. Laban deceived Jacob. God was at work. He did not cause Laban to deceive Jacob. But he allowed Jacob to be deceived in order to learn. Jacob deceived his father and brother. Now he was the one deceived. He was now reaping the same seed that he had sown.

Write the second thing that happened to Jacob after he deceived Isaac.

(1) He was sent from home.

(2) _____

12. He himself was deceived.

Genesis 29:25:

And in the morning, behold, it was Leah; and Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?"

From this verse, what did Jacob see after Leah became his wife? _____

13. He saw that he had been deceived. He saw how it felt to be deceived. Look what is said about this in the New Testament.

Galatians 6:7:

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

In Genesis 29, who reaped what he sowed? _____

14. Jacob sowed deceit and he reaped deceit. Jacob himself was deceived. Think about these questions but do not write answers. What about your life? Have you ever deceived anyone? It may not be easy to answer this. But it is a question you should answer before God.

Do you think there is anyone who has never deceived someone else? _____

15. We will talk about this in class. You may be able to tell something about deceit that will help others.

Otieno worked in the office of a school principal. In the office was a small box where money was put from selling pencils and note books. Otieno kept borrowing money from this box. Sometimes he could not pay it back. When the principal asked where the money was going, Otieno said he did not know. He said he thought students had stolen the money.

At last Otieno lost his job. He was sent away from the office. Later he was sorry and told the principal that he had done. He thought he should have his job again, but the principal no longer trusted him. Otieno was reaping the fruit of what he sowed.

Jacob reaped what he sowed. Write two things that happened to Jacob after he deceived Isaac.

(1) _____

(2) _____

16. He was sent from home. He himself was deceived.

Everyone at some time has deceived someone. Later in this book we will see that Jacob found peace with God. This happened when he let God take his deceit.

Do you believe that God can clean your life from deceit? _____

17. Be ready to talk about this in class.

Jacob reaped what he sowed. Write two things that happened to Jacob after he deceived Isaac.

(1) _____

(2) _____

WEEK 3: GOD AT WORK IN OTHER PARTS OF LIFE

DAY 2: THE BETTER WAY IS TO HAVE ONE WIFE

Genesis 29:31-35 and 30:1-13

1. Yesterday we learned that we reap what we sow.

Jacob reaped what he sowed. Write two things that happened to Jacob after he deceived Isaac.

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Jacob was sent from home. He himself was deceived. Today we will learn about two ways of married life. There is the way of having one wife. And there is the way of having more than one wife. We will learn which is the better way for Christians.

From the life of Jacob we learn that having one wife is the better way in marriage.

In your language is there a name for the custom of taking more than one wife?

If so, what is it? _____

3. You will talk about this in class. Most languages have a special name for this. Jacob and Laban agreed that Jacob would marry Rachel. But Jacob was deceived. In the morning after the wedding, he found that he had Leah. It was Rachel whom he loved. He was not happy. So Laban said to him:

Genesis 29:27:

Complete the week of this one (Leah), and we will give you the other (Rachel) also in return for serving me another seven years.

Jacob worked seven years more to get Rachel. She was the girl he really loved. In this way Jacob took more than one wife.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 29:30 to 35 and Genesis 30:1 and 2. Keep your Bible open. Does this sound like a happy home? _____

4. This does not sound like a happy home. Read about Jacob's two wives. Genesis 29:17-18:

Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful and lovely. Jacob loved Rachel.

Genesis 29:30-31:

So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years. When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

How did Jacob feel towards Rachel? _____

5. Jacob loved Rachel. He did not love Leah in the same way. This is one problem that comes into a home with two wives. One wife is loved more than the other. One wife may even be hated. Perhaps you see this same problem in homes which you know.

Read Genesis 29:31 in your Bible. From this verse, how did Jacob feel towards Leah? _____

6. He hated Leah. Jacob could not love both wives in the same way. There are other problems which come into this kind of home. Sometimes one wife hates the other wife. At this time Leah had borne four sons, but Rachel had no child. You see how Rachel felt towards Leah.

Genesis 30:1:

When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister.

What kind of marriage makes this kind of trouble in a home? _____

7. Having more than one wife makes this kind of trouble. It makes one wife to be loved more than another. It also brings trouble between the wives.

Read again Genesis 30:1 from your Bible. How did Rachel feel towards Jacob's other wife, Leah? _____

8. Rachel envied her sister Leah. God saw that Leah was hated. He opened her womb. She had many children. Quarrelling continued between Jacob and his two wives.

Genesis 30:2:

Jacob's anger was kindled (or made to burn) against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

What came into Jacob's heart against Rachel? _____

9. Anger came into his heart. There was unhappiness in the home. There was jealousy between the wives over the number of children they bore. Rachel gave her servant, Bilhah, to Jacob so she might have children through her. Leah gave her servant, Zilpah, to Jacob. Troubles, quarrelling and sin now spread into other lives in this home.

What brought envy, quarrelling, and anger into Jacob's home? _____

10. The thing which brought Jacob these problems was having more than one wife. There was sorrow, envy, anger, quarrelling and unhappiness. It was not only with the husband and his two wives. It also spread to the servants, Zilpah and Bilhah.

Who now had four wives? _____

11. Jacob now had four wives. After Rachel's servant bore a second son Rachel spoke.

Genesis 30:8:

With mighty wrestlings (or fighting) I have wrestled with my sister, and have prevailed (or defeated her).

In Jacob's home, life was a fight between the wives. We make a very important decision when we choose to have one wife or more than one wife.

From the life of Jacob, which way of marriage brings envy, anger, quarreling, sorrow, and unhappiness to a home? _____

12. Jacob had more than one wife. In this kind of home it is easy to find trouble. Many wives did not bring Jacob help with his problems. It did not bring happiness to the lives of the husband or any of the wives.

Which way of marriage helps to bring love, peace, and happiness into a Christian home? Is it having many wives, or having one wife? _____

13. It is easier to have love, peace, and happiness in a home with one wife. Of course this does not mean that there are no problems. In the New Testament Paul taught many things about the Christian home.

1 Corinthians 7:2:

Each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

From this verse, did Paul think it is better for a man to have one wife or many wives? _____

14. Paul said that each man should have his own wife. One man and one woman can have fellowship in a way that one man and many women cannot. We see this in the life of Jacob. Many wives did not bring blessing to Jacob and his family. Jacob was not happy. Rachel was not happy. Leah was not happy.

From the life of Jacob, which is better -- having one wife, or having more than one wife? _____

15. The better way is to have one wife. Paul talked again about this to Timothy. Here Paul is talking about the leaders of the church.

1 Timothy 3:2:

Now a bishop (or leader) must be above reproach (or shame), married only once (or, the husband of one wife).

If you are not a leader in the church now, you may be a leader some day. Do you plan to have one wife, or more than one wife? _____

16. God's plan is for one man to have one wife. He plans that they live together until one dies. God wants husbands and wives to be faithful to each other. Some Christian homes have been broken because the husband became unfaithful. He forgot the wife he married when he was young. Or sometimes it is the wife who became unfaithful. The Bible warns us about this.

Malachi 2:15:

Take heed to yourselves, and let none be faithless to the wife of his youth.

Read this verse three times. What does it say to you about your marriage?

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17. Be ready to share your answer in class.

From the life of Jacob, which is better -- having one wife, or having more than one wife?

WEEK 3: GOD AT WORK IN OTHER PARTS OF LIFE
DAY 3: GOD HELPED RACHEL IN HER BARRENNESS
Genesis 30:14-24

1. We are learning that God cares about every part of our lives.

From the life of Jacob, which is better -- having one wife, or having more than one wife?

2. Having one wife is the better way in marriage. Today we will learn about barrenness. This is the problem of having no children. Barrenness is perhaps the greatest sorrow which comes to any woman. We will learn today what God did for Rachel's barrenness.

We will memorise this verse:
Genesis 30:22:
Then God remembered Rachel,
and God hearkened to her and
opened her womb.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 30:14 to 24. Keep your Bible open. Did God forget about Rachel in her sorrow?

3. God did not forget her. Read this verse again.

Genesis 30:22:

Then God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened (or listened) to her and opened her womb.

From this verse we learn that God did three wonderful things for Rachel.

- (1) Then God remembered Rachel
- (2) And God hearkened to her
- (3) And opened her womb.

What was Rachel's deepest sorrow?

4. Years passed while Rachel remained barren. This was her greatest sorrow. She was not able to bear children. Remember what she said at one time.

Genesis 30:1:

Give me children, or I shall die.

During this time Jacob became the father of 11 other children. Rachel was barren for a very long time. Others forgot about her sorrow. But God did not forget.

Read Genesis 30:22 in your Bible again. From this verse, what is the first thing God did for Rachel?

- (1) _____
- (2) And God hearkened to her.
- (3) And opened her womb

5. Then God remembered Rachel. Others forgot. One day Reuben found a certain plant. The people believed that eating this plant helped a woman become pregnant. Reuben gave the plant to his mother, Leah. Leah did not want to give any of it to Rachel. But God was different. God remembered Rachel. He also hearkened to her. This means that He listened to her prayer.

Did other people remember Rachel and try to help her? _____

6. Other people did not try to help her. They seemed to think she would always be barren. They did not remember her problem as God did. Other people thought she would have to spend her life as a barren woman. Even Jacob seemed to think she would remain barren. See what he said.

Genesis 30:2:

Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?

Jacob became angry, but God hearkened to her. Write the first two things that God did for Rachel.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) And opened her womb.

7. The Bible tells us clearly that God remembered Rachel. And God hearkened to her. Every one else left her with her problem. But God came to help her.

In your Bible read Genesis 30:22 again. Draw a line under the three wonderful things God did for Rachel.

What is the third thing God did for her?

(1) Then God remembered Rachel.

(2) And God hearkened to her.

(3) _____

8. Yes, it was God who opened her womb. Only God can do this. Read the verse once more.

Genesis 30:22:

Then God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her and opened her womb.

Take time to memorise this verse now. Read it many times. Look away from the book. Try to say it by yourself. Read it again. When you can say it without looking at it, write it here.

Genesis 30:22: _____

9. Then God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her and opened her womb. The Bible tells us that the Lord did the same thing for Leah.

Genesis 29:31:

When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb.

What does this verse say that God did for Leah's womb? _____

10. God opened her womb. We should ask God to do this.

Do you know anyone today who was barren, but God opened her womb? _____

11. Be ready to tell us about this in class. Many people know women for whom God has done this.

Genesis 29:31-32:

He opened her womb; ... Leah conceived and ... and she said, "Because the Lord has looked upon my affliction (or trouble); surely now my husband will love me."

Genesis 30:17:

And God hearkened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

Who is it that opens a woman's womb? _____

12. God opened the womb of both Leah and Rachel. God can help the barren woman. Some women are tempted to try witchcraft to help their barrenness. But God wants us to look to Him.

Psalm 113:9:

He (God) gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!

Who helped Rachel in her barrenness? _____

13. It was God who helped Rachel. Sometimes He helps the barren woman by sending her children. Sometimes He helps her by giving her comfort in her barrenness.

Think of someone you know in your village who is barren. If you can, go to her and encourage her. What two women in today's lesson can you tell her about?

(1) _____ (2) _____

14. God helped both Rachel and Leah.

What did God do for Rachel's barrenness? Without looking at your Bible, answer by writing Genesis 30:22.

15. The verse says: Then God remembered Rachel and God hearkened to her and opened her womb.

Stop studying now. Pray that God will help you to encourage women with Rachel's problem. Ask Him to help the barren women whom you know. Ask God to help her put her trust in Him.

When you have prayed, write Yes. _____

16. What did God do for Rachel's barrenness? Answer by writing Genesis 30:22.

WEEK 3: GOD AT WORK IN OTHER PARTS OF LIFE
DAY 4: WHAT SHOULD A BARREN HUSBAND AND WIFE DO?

1. What did God do for Rachel's barrenness? Answer by writing Genesis 30:22.

2. Look in your Bible to see if you wrote the verse right. Barrenness was a big problem in Jacob's home. Many people today have this same problem. Today we will learn three things that a husband and wife should do. If God does not give them children, they should:

- (1) Pray together.
- (2) Believe God together.
- (3) Be patient together.

Genesis 29:31:

When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

Who is the one who can open a wife's womb? _____

3. It is the Lord who gives us our children. It is the Lord who opens a wife's womb. It is hard for a wife not to have children. Rachel found her barrenness a bitter problem.

Genesis 30:1:

Rachel ... said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!"

In your custom, is it a big problem for a wife to be barren? _____

Give your reasons for saying Yes or No. _____

4. Be ready to talk about your answers in class. Rachel's barrenness was also a problem for Jacob. Both husband and wife have a part to do in bearing a child. Sometimes the wife's womb is not open. But sometimes the seed of the husband is not good.

Whose problem is it if children are not born to a man and his wife?

(1) _____ (2) _____

5. The husband and wife share this problem together. Many people think it is only the wife's problem. It is not always the wife who is the reason for barrenness. Sometime the husband is the reason. When there is this problem the husband and wife should not blame each other. The wife has her part to do. The husband has his part to do.

We have a good friend who is barren. The husband took his first wife and lived with her for seven years. The first wife had no children. So he divorced her. Then he married our friend. She has lived with this man for eight years. She too is barren.

As well as the wife and God, who else has a part in the birth of children? _____

6. The husband's seed must also be good so that his wife can conceive. When Rachel had no children, she talked with Jacob. It was good that they talked together about their barrenness.

Genesis 30:1-2:

Rachel ... said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!" ... And he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

Who should share the problem of barrenness together?

(1) _____ (2) _____

7. The husband and wife should share the problem together. In the Bible we read of many of God's people who were barren. Let us see what some of them did with their barrenness.

Genesis 25:21:

And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

1 Samuel 1:10:

She (Hannah) was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly.

Luke 1:13:

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

What did Isaac, Hannah, and Zechariah do about the problem of barrenness? _____

8. They prayed about their barrenness. In the verse for yesterday we learned that God listened to Rachel. Rachel knew that God is the giver of children. It is good for the wife to pray. But it is better for the husband and wife to pray together. This is what Jesus said about prayer.

Matthew 18:19:

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

What is the first thing a husband and wife should do if God does not give them children?

9. The husband and wife should pray together. Read again the three things a man and woman should do if God does not give them children.

- (1) Pray together.
- (2) Believe God together.
- (3) Be patient together.

Does it help you to believe God for something if someone else is believing with you?

10. We can help each other believe God. A husband and wife should trust God together. Abraham and Sarah were barren for many years. One day God talked with Abraham and told him he would have a son. God took Abraham outside and told him to look at the stars. God said that Abraham's descendants would be many like the stars.

Genesis 15:6:

And he (Abraham) believed the Lord; and He (God) reckoned (or counted) it to him as righteousness.

What did Abraham do in the matter of his and Sarah's barrenness?

11. Abraham believed the Lord. Even after God promised them a son, Abraham and Sara waited for many years. One day three men came with a message from God. Sarah would have a son. But now Sarah's body was too old to bear a child. Sarah laughed at what the men said. But they wanted her to believe that God would overcome her barrenness. They asked her a question.

Genesis 18:14:

Is anything too hard for the Lord?

What is the second thing a husband and wife should do if God does not give them children?

- (1) Pray together.
- (2) _____
- (3) Be patient together.

12. They should believe God together. This is better than just one person believing. We know a fine Christian man and his wife. She was barren. The doctor told them that the husband's seed was not good. He said they would never have a child. Three times a day, the wife went into her room and prayed. They also prayed together. But above all, they believed God together. They believed He would work a miracle for them. God did that and they now have four beautiful children.

What two things did this man and wife do together when they had no children?

(1) _____

(2) _____

13. They prayed together, and they believed God together. There is also the need to be patient together. When Rachel cried, "Give me children, or I shall die!" she was not patient. Jacob was not patient either. He knew that it is God who closes and opens wombs. But he got angry with Rachel.

Who should be patient together if they have the problem of barrenness?

(1) _____ (2) _____

14. The husband and wife should be patient together. Jacob's anger with Rachel did not help the problem. If a couple are barren the husband must be patient with his wife. The wife must be patient with her husband.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all had the problem of barrenness. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. Isaac's wife was barren for 20 years before she bore Esau and Jacob. Jacob and Rachel had to wait many years before Joseph was born.

What problem did Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all need to be patient with? _____

15. They had the problem of barrenness for a long time. When a man and woman are barren they must give strength to each other. Relatives often want to call a witchdoctor for help. Sometimes the family tell the man to divorce his wife. Other women sometimes hate a barren woman. So she especially needs her husband to be loving, kind, and patient.

What is the third thing a husband and wife should do if God does not give them children?

(1) Pray together.

(2) Believe God together.

(3) _____

16. They should be patient together. If a man and his wife have this problem they should talk together with their pastor. It is also good to see a doctor. Sometimes the doctor finds that the reason for barrenness is with the wife. Sometimes it is with the husband. Either way, the doctor may be able to help them.

Some day you may talk with a man and woman who are barren. From today's lesson what three things can you tell them to do together?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

17. I hope you have written: Pray together. Believe God together. Be patient together. When we follow Jesus, barrenness is never a reason for divorce. This is what Jesus said about a husband and wife.

Matthew 19:6, 9:

So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder (or divide) ... And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity (or adultery), and marries another, commits adultery.

We know a pastor who married a good Christian girl. She was barren. So he divorced her and took another girl. But his Christian life was spoiled. People did not want to hear his preaching. He is no longer a pastor.

Do you think this pastor pleased God in what he did about his barrenness? _____

18. Be ready to talk about this in class. Sometimes God does not give children to a couple. He wants them to spend their time working only for Him. Sometimes God wants to use the example of a barren couple for others. He wants them to show that by His help they can live in love, joy and peace together.

In our home we have the problem of barrenness. We have waited nine years for a child. Yet we have found the Lord able to comfort us in our problem of barrenness.

What three things should a husband and wife do if God does not give them children?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

WEEK 3: GOD AT WORK IN OTHER PARTS OF LIFE
DAY 5: HARD WORK AND FAITHFULNESS HELPED JACOB TO PROSPER
Genesis 30:25-43

1. Yesterday we thought about the problem of barrenness.

Write three things a husband and wife should do if God does not give them children.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

2. They should pray together, believe God together, and be patient together. Today we will learn more about Jacob's life. God is interested in everything we do. Today we will think about work. We will see two reasons why God helped Jacob to prosper.

After stealing Esau's blessing, Jacob was sent from home. He went with few possessions. He went to live with his uncle, Laban. There God caused him to prosper.

Genesis 30:43:

Thus the man (Jacob) grew exceedingly rich, and had large flocks, maidservants and menservants, and camels and asses.

Do you want to prosper in your life? _____

3. Most people want to prosper. They want success in their work, homes, and spiritual lives. Today we will see two reasons why God caused Jacob to prosper when he worked for Laban.

- (1) Jacob worked hard.
- (2) Jacob was faithful.

Stop now and read Genesis 30:25 to 33. Read verse 30 again. What happened to Laban's possessions while Jacob worked for him? _____

4. Laban's possessions increased. After 14 years of working for Laban, Jacob wanted to leave. He talked with Laban. He reminded his father-in-law of how hard he had worked. He knew Laban could see this.

Genesis 30:29:

Jacob said to him (Laban), "You yourself know how I have served you..."

Who worked hard as he served Laban? _____

5. Jacob worked hard. He worked for 14 years to get his wives. Then he worked six more years. After 20 years, Jacob spoke to Leah and Rachel.

Genesis 31:6-7:

You know that I have served your father with all my strength; yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not permit him to harm me.

Jacob was not a lazy worker. He could say he had done his work with all his strength.

For whom did Jacob work hard? _____

6. He worked hard for Laban. God prospered Laban because of Jacob. Laban's flocks increased much during the time Jacob cared for them. Later God caused Jacob to prosper too.

Genesis 30:29-30:

You yourself know ... how your cattle fared with me. For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly (very much); and the Lord has blessed you wherever I turned.

How did Jacob work for Laban? _____

7. Jacob worked hard. When Jacob first began to work, Laban had little. But because of Jacob's work, the little that Laban had grew much bigger. God caused him to prosper because of Jacob. In the verses for today, you saw that God caused Jacob to prosper too.

Write the first reason why God caused Jacob to prosper when he worked for Laban.

(1) _____

(2) He was faithful.

8. First, Jacob worked hard. He was also faithful. When a servant is faithful, he does what he is told. He is also honest. What he says about his work is always true. Jacob was faithful in both of these ways.

What did God cause to happen to Jacob because he worked hard and was faithful?

9. God caused him to prosper. God gave Jacob children, flocks, servants, camels and asses. But God was working in an even greater way for Jacob. Jacob had not always been faithful. He had deceived his father and brother. But from the day Jacob met God at Bethel, God was at work in his life. For twenty years in Laban's home, Jacob worked hard and was faithful.

Who helped Jacob to be faithful? _____

10. God did this. Jacob allowed God to work in his life to make him a new man. See what Jacob was able to say to Laban.

Genesis 30:33:

So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you.

Jacob was able to ask the one he worked for to look at his honesty. Do you find it easy to be honest all the time, even in little matters?

11. Some Christians find this very hard. Laban was a hard man to work for. But Jacob was faithful in the way he worked for Laban. God saw Jacob's faithfulness. God looks for this in His children.

1 Corinthians 4:2:

Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy (or faithful).

When a man is faithful to the one he works for, it is easier to be faithful to God. We see this in Jacob's life.

What is the second reason why God caused Jacob to prosper when he worked for Laban?

(1) He worked hard.

(2) _____

12. Jacob was faithful. God is pleased when we allow Him to work like this in our lives. He is pleased to do for each of us what he did for Jacob. When people see God's work in our lives they praise Him. The Christian should be the best worker in his job. He should be the most faithful man in the village. God will work in your life. He will help you to work hard and be faithful.

What do you think people see in you when they look at your work?

13. Perhaps you have a hard place to work. . Jacob did. But even in that hard place, God helped Jacob. God was at work in Jacob's life changing him.

Philippians 2:13:

For God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

God changes men who are lazy. God changes men who are not faithful.

Write two reasons why God caused Jacob to prosper when he worked for Laban.

(1) _____

(2) _____

14. Jacob worked hard. He was faithful. Then God made him prosper. But when we prosper we must not be careless. Being faithful also means being careful how we use what God gives us.

I know a Christian family. The father gets his wages at the end of each month. As soon as he gets his money, he and his wife go out to buy. One month the wife bought an expensive dress. For the last two weeks of that month there was not enough food in the house. Another month the man used most of the money to buy a radio. That month the family had only enough food for the first week. Every month, it is the same.

Do you think this family is faithful with the money God gives them? _____

15. Be ready to talk about this in class. If we let God work in us, he prospers us. Others see that God prospers the people of God. Laban saw this about Jacob.

Genesis 30:27:

Laban said to him, "If you allow me to say so, I have learned ... that the Lord has blessed me because of you."

This is a wonderful thing for a master to say! Laban said these words about Jacob, who worked for him. He said them about Jacob, the man who had been a deceiver.

Write two reasons why God caused Jacob to prosper when he worked for Laban.

(1) _____

(2) _____

16. Jacob worked hard. He was faithful. God had worked in his life. I want Him to work in my life too. What about you? You may not be a deceiver. But each of us has failures and weaknesses. God wants to change these. Let us pray this prayer together:

Dear God, work in my life today. Teach me to work hard. Help me to be faithful. Let others see what you are doing in my life.

If you prayed this prayer from your heart, write Yes. _____

17. Write two reasons why God prospered Jacob when he worked for Laban.

(1) _____

(2) _____