

JACOB LEAVES HOME**Genesis 28:1 – 29:12****Lesson Memory Verse:** Psalm 119:97 - "O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day."**Lesson Aim:** To teach the Christians to love God's Word and to show their love by studying and obeying the Bible.**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): How many of you have a lot of reading that you have to do for school? When you have finished your reading for school, how many of you like to read just for the fun of it? What do you like to read? How many of you children like to read the comics in the newspaper? (Show a comic page.) How many like to read books from the library? (Show a children's book of the age level of your class.) You may enjoy reading these comics and these books, but there is another Book that is the most important Book you could ever read. Does anyone know which Book that is? (The Bible.) Why is the Bible more important to read than any other book? (A number of answers could be given.) Whose words are written in the Bible? (God's Words.) Does any person know more than God knows about anything? (No.) So what God says is the most important. Since this is true, you must listen carefully when the Bible is preached or taught so you can learn what God has said. To learn even more, you must read the Bible and study it for yourself and then obey what you have learned.

HE (for Authority): Something wonderful happens when you love the Lord and begin to read and study the Bible for yourself. You begin to love the Bible more and more, and soon you are reading and studying it every day. Then today's memory verse will be the words of your heart, "O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Print the verse on a large card and post it on the wall so all the children can see it. Leave it there while you teach the lesson.) Whose law is this verse talking about? (God's law.) The law refers to the commandments that God has given in the Bible, but it can stand for the whole Bible. This verse speaks about meditating on God's law. When you meditate on God's law, you think about it and learn to trust it and do what it says. This takes time, but it is very important.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today's lesson is a true story from the Bible about a man who found out what it meant to love God's Word and do what it says.

I. Jacob's Charge (28:1-4)

- A. His father, Isaac, told him not to take a wife from the Canaanites (28:1).**
- B. Isaac told him to go to Padan-aram and take a wife from his uncle's family (28:2).**
- C. Isaac passed on to Jacob the blessing which God first had given to Abraham (28:3-4).**

WE: When Isaac told Jacob what he wanted him to do, he fully expected Jacob to obey him. We need to obey our parents like Jacob did. Can your parents depend on you to obey them?

II. Jacob's Compliance (28:5-9)

- A. Jacob obeyed his father and mother and left for Padan-aram (28:7).**

Jacob listened to his father because he was in trouble with his brother, Esau. Esau hated Jacob for stealing his blessing, so he planned to kill Jacob after his father died (27:41).

- B. Jacob respected the words of his father and mother.**

When his father and mother told him to leave home and find a wife in a distant country, he respected their words. He saw that it was a good way to escape from his brother.

WE: Jacob respected and obeyed his father's words. We also need to respect the words of our parents and obey them. When we do this, we will not find it so hard to respect the words of the Lord and obey Him.

III. Jacob's Conversion (28:10-17)

- A. Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching to God with angels going up and down on it (28:12).
- B. God gave Jacob the same blessing He gave to Abraham (28:13-14).
- C. God gave Jacob a special personal promise of His safety (28:15).
- D. Jacob seemed to be fully aware that God was near him for the first time (28:16-17).

WE: Unless we know that God is real and is near us, we will never give much respect to His Word. We need to know Jesus Christ as our personal Savior before we can truly love and obey the Bible.

IV. Jacob's Consecration (28:18-22)

- A. Jacob used the stone that had been his pillow to be a pillar for an altar (28:18-19).

He anointed the stone with oil as a sign of his consecration. This is what he wanted to do in response to the wonderful promises that the Lord had given to him in a dream.

- B. Jacob repeated the Lord's promises (28:20-22).

Since (not "if") the Lord would feed and clothe him and bring him back to his father in safety, then Jacob would live for the Lord. Jacob was not bargaining with God, but he was expressing his love and appreciation for the promises of God.

WE: If we love and trust God's Word, we will want to tell God about it and give our lives to Him.

V. Jacob's Continuance (29:1-12)

- A. Jacob continued his trip until he reached the place where his father had sent him (29:1-4).
- B. Jacob learned that his uncle was well; he saw his cousin, Rachel, at a distance (29:5-6).
- C. Jacob gave water to his uncle's sheep and was introduced to Rachel (29:7-12).

WE: Jacob finished the journey that his father had told him to make. We need to finish the duties that our parents tell us to do. If we obey them, God will bless us (Eph 6:1-3).

BE (for Action): Jacob's love for God's Word came after he obeyed the words of his parents. Your love for God's Word is likely to begin in the same way. After you obey the words of your parents, it should be your goal to obey the words of God. If you have received Jesus, then take time to read your Bible every day. Try to do it in the morning and think about it. Ask God what He wants you to do. When you obey God's Word, your life will be filled with joy. This special time each day is called devotions by some people. (Give an invitation for the children to make a decision to start having daily devotions. Have them pray and ask God to help them be faithful in having their devotions each day.)