

## JACOB AND LABAN TRICK EACH OTHER

## Genesis 27, 29-31

**Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 37:3** - "Trust in the Lord and do good; so shall you dwell in the land, and verily you shall be fed."

**Lesson Aim:** To teach the students that God loves in a special way those that are honest.

**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

**KEY (for Attention):** Dennis and Mark were playing catch in the neighbor's yard. The neighbors were away and the boys were having a great time until Dennis did not catch the ball. The ball hit and broke the neighbor's window. The boys knew that if they left, the neighbors would never catch them. Dennis decided he was going to leave and not tell them, but Mark did not know what he should do. What do you think Mark should do? (He should be honest and tell the neighbors that he broke the window.) Mark told the neighbors that very day what he had done, and he had to pay for the window. Dennis laughed at Mark when he saw him because Mark had been honest. However, in his heart Dennis wished he had been honest like Mark. Do you think God was pleased with Mark? With Dennis?

**HE (for Authority):** God wants Christians to be honest. God has promised special blessings to those who are honest. Our memory verse tells us to "trust in the Lord and do good." What does "trust" mean? (To count on, rely on, depend on) When we trust God, we also should do good. How does one do good? (He obeys God.) When someone is trying to trick another person so he can steal from him, is he doing good? (Certainly not) Is he trusting the Lord? (No) Why not? (Because he is trusting himself when he steals; also, stealing is a sin against the Lord. When a person is trusting the Lord, he does not steal to get what he wants.)

God promised that those who trust in Him and do good will dwell in the land and be fed. What does "dwell in the land" mean? (To live in the land that God had promised them. They would not be captured by some enemy and taken out of their land.) What does "verily" mean? (It means that something is sure to happen.) We can apply this promise in this way: God will take care of His people. He will give them a place to live and enough food to eat if they trust in Him and do good. This is a great promise (cf. Mt 6:25-34).

**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 we will study about two men who tricked others so they could get what they wanted by stealing. These two men even tricked each other. The two men are Jacob and his uncle Laban. Jacob and Laban reaped what they sowed. Let's see what happened to these two men who did not trust in God and do good.

**I. Jacob Tricked Others (Gen 27:1-45)** (This is mostly review from previous lessons.)

**A. Jacob tricked his father, Isaac (27:1-29).**

1. He took advantage of his helpless father who could not see (27:1).
2. He (and his mother) wanted Isaac to bless him instead of his brother, Esau (27:5-13).
3. He made careful plans to trick his father into thinking he was Esau (27:14-17).
4. He lied to his father so he would not catch on to his trick (27:19, 24).

**WE:** We may not be any different than Jacob. We may trick our parents by saying we need money for one thing and then spend it on something else. When we do this we lie to them. We also may lie to them so we do not get caught for doing something wrong. If so, we are no better than Jacob.

**B. Jacob tricked his brother, Esau (27:30-45).**

1. He got Esau's blessing while he was out hunting (27:30-33, 35).
2. Esau was deeply hurt (27:34-36).
3. Esau had to take a lesser blessing (27:37-40).
4. Esau hated Jacob for tricking him (27:41).

5. Esau planned to kill Jacob (27:41-42).

**WE:** We may know of children who try to get things that do not belong to them. We may even try to trick our brothers and sisters and friends by stealing from them when they are not looking. Sometimes children try to trick their teachers or leaders to give them things (stickers, points, prizes) that they do not deserve.

## II. Jacob was Tricked (Gen 27:43-45; 29:15-28; 31:7)

### A. Jacob had to leave his home and his mother, whom he loved (27:43-45).

### B. Jacob probably never saw his mother again.

It seems she died while he was away, for she is never mentioned as being alive when he returned home twenty years later.

### C. Jacob was tricked into taking the wrong wife (29:15-28).

1. Jacob worked for Laban for seven years in order to marry his daughter, Rachel.
2. On Jacob's wedding day, Laban brought Leah to him in the evening when Jacob could not see her face and be able to tell that he was marrying the wrong person. The next morning Jacob discovered Laban's trick, but it was too late. He had already married Leah, thinking she was Rachel.
3. Laban made Jacob work another seven years for Rachel.

**WE:** Many times we are like Jacob and get tricked: we work hard for something we like and get something that we do not like. The tricks we played on other people soon are being played on us.

## III. Laban Tricked Others (Gen 29:20-25; 30:25-36; 31:7)

### A. Laban tricked Jacob by giving him the wrong daughter to be his wife (29:20-25).

### B. Laban tricked Jacob about the sheep he could have for his own (30:25-36).

### C. Laban tricked Jacob by changing his wages again and again (31:7).

**WE:** We must be careful not to think like Laban. He thought he could trick people and get ahead, but he was wrong. We will be wrong, too, if we think like Laban.

## IV. Laban was Tricked (Gen 30:37 – 31:35)

### A. Jacob tried to trick Laban so he could get the strong sheep and leave Laban the weak sheep (30:37-42).

### B. Jacob left Haran with his flocks and family when Laban was away (31:17-22).

He was away from home shearing his sheep.

### C. Laban was tricked by his daughter.

Rachel took his household gods and then sat on them when he searched for them (31:19, 34-35).

**WE:** If we are like Laban, we too, will be tricked for tricking other people. We must learn from Laban that it never pays to trick people. God will make sure we get the same treatment that we gave to others.

**BE (for Action):** Jacob often tried to do the things he wanted to do without talking to God about it. He failed to trust God to take care of him. Instead, he tried to trick people so he could get what he wanted. Can you tell me some people that he tricked? (His brother, Esau; his father, Isaac; and his uncle, Laban) Have you ever tried to trick anyone so that you could get what you wanted? Have you ever cheated in a game? Have you ever cheated in a test? That is what we mean when we ask, "Have you ever tried to trick anyone so you could get what you wanted?" What does God think of those who cheat and trick people? (He hates it because it is sin.)

Jacob had a lot of trouble in his life because He did not trust the Lord. We must not trust our tricks but trust the Lord for His blessings. (Give an invitation for the unsaved to trust Jesus Christ for salvation, and for the sinning Christians to hate their tricks and trust the Lord to give them what is best.)