LESSON 6:  LIFE WITH UNCLE LABAN

AIM:  To show the principle of sowing and reaping, and God’s absolute faithfulness.

MEMORY VERSE:
For whatever a man sows, that is what he will also reap.
Galatians 6:7(b)

WORD PUZZLE:  Write the following letters on a poster. Select children to write the alphabetical letter that follows each of these letters and reveal the memory verse:

ENQ  VGZSDUDQ  Z  LZM  RNVR

SGZS  HR  VGZS  GD  VHKK  ZKRN  QDZO.

ACTIVITY:
Collect enough small yoghurt or butter containers for your group. Each child can put a little soil and a seed into their container. Have each child cut out a cardboard triangle and write the memory verse on it. Sit it in the soil. Let the children take their container home and care for it until the seed grows.

Make the spiritual comparison: the things we say and do in our lives, especially as children, are like seeds. They go under the soil and for a while, they cannot be seen, but eventually the evidence of that seed appears.
LIFE WITH UNCLE LABAN (continued)

as a plant. So it is with the good or bad things that we do ... sometimes they are not
always seen at the time, but just like the seed, they grow and develop either as
something beautiful (a flowering plant) or something ugly (a horrible weed).

Encourage the children to see that they have the choice of growing into a lovely
Christ-like person by putting good things into their lives, and by choosing every day
to obey and follow Jesus. What they do as children will have a great effect on them
as adults.

**STORY**   Genesis 30, 31:1-13
Jacob traveled 640 km before he reached Haran. Before he even arrived at his un-
cle Laban's place, he met one of his uncle's daughters. Her name was Rachel and she
was beautiful. Uncle Laban welcomed Jacob into his family and invited him to live
with them. After one month, Jacob knew that he was in love with Rachel, so he
made an agreement to work for his uncle for seven years so that he could marry her.

The seven years passed quickly for Jacob, but on the night of the wedding, his uncle
tricked him and gave his eldest daughter, Leah, to Jacob instead of Rachel. Jacob
was very angry, but Laban said that it was against their custom to allow a younger
daughter to be married first. So, once again, Jacob entered into an agreement with
Laban to work another seven years for Rachel.

After Jacob finally married Rachel, he agreed to continue working for his uncle so
that he could establish his own flocks (in those days, wealth was assessed by the
amount of flocks a person owned). Jacob asked for all the inferior animals, the
speckled and black ones, so that he could mate them and breed animals for himself.
Laban agreed, but then before Jacob could get the animals together, Laban took all
the speckled and black animals out of his flocks and sent them away with his own
sons. So Jacob the deceiver, had been deceived again.

But God had given Jacob a promise and a blessing and God is always faithful and true
to His word. It wasn't long before Laban's good flocks mated and all the animals
born were speckled or black and so under the agreement, these belonged to Jacob.
The animals grew strong and mated while the unspotted and white animals belonging
to Laban grew weak and did not mate. Jacob did not complain about the way his un-
cle had tricked him, but trusted God and God proved faithful.

After six more years, Jacob's flocks and herds had increased so much that he was a
very wealthy man. God spoke to him and told him it was time to return to his home-
land again.
DISCUSSION STARTERS:
- Why did God allow Jacob to be tricked by his uncle?
- How many times did Laban deceive Jacob and why is this significant?
- Why did God bless Jacob with lots of flocks?
- What lessons did Jacob learn whilst with his uncle?
- How can we make sure that we become the adults that God intends us to be?

The Journey of Jacob

Jacob’s journey from Beersheba to his mother’s family in Haran is a long one. On the way to meet Laban, Jacob saw his vision of the angels travelling up and down a stairway to heaven. He renamed the place at which he saw this vision Bethel, which means ‘house of God’. When he returns after 20 years away, he meets his brother Esau by the river Jabbok, at a place called Penuel.
JACOB AND ESAU
LIFE WITH UNCLE LABAN
Genesis 29, 31:1-13

MEMORY VERSE: Galatians 6:7a,
“For whatever a man sows, that is what he will also reap.’

Jacob travelled hundreds of kilometres to reach Haran where his Uncle Laban lived. Just before he arrived at his uncle’s tent, Jacob met Rachel, the beautiful younger daughter of Laban, at a well where she watered her sheep. She ran to tell her father about Jacob, and Laban ran out to meet him. Laban welcomed Jacob into his family and invited him to live with them. After one month, Jacob knew that he was in love with Rachel, so he agreed to work for his uncle for 7 years to earn the privilege of marrying her.

The 7 years passed quickly for Jacob, but on the night of the wedding, Uncle Laban tricked Jacob and gave his eldest daughter, Leah, to Jacob instead of Rachel. Jacob was very angry but Laban said that it was against their custom to allow a younger daughter to be married first. So, once again, Jacob agreed to work for Laban another 7 years so he could marry Rachel.

Jacob finally married Rachel. He loved Rachel more than Leah. God saw that Leah was unloved, but He blessed her with children. Rachel had no children and was jealous of her sister. God eventually blessed Rachel with children too, but the family problems continued. Jacob made an agreement to keep working for his uncle so he could have his own flocks of sheep and goats. (In Bible times, wealth was measured by the number of sheep, goats and camels a man owned.) Jacob asked for all Laban’s inferior sheep and goats (the speckled and dark ones), so he could breed his own livestock. Laban agreed, but before Jacob could gather the animals, Laban took all the speckled and dark ones out of his flocks and sent them away with his own sons.

So Jacob, who had once deceived his father and brother, had now himself been deceived. But God had given Jacob a promise and a blessing, and God is always faithful and true to His word. It wasn’t long before the animals in Laban’s good flocks mated and they were all born speckled or dark, so under the agreement, these belonged to Jacob. They grew strong and the numbers increased, while the unspotted and white animals belonging to Laban grew weak and did not produce any lambs or baby goats or camels.

Jacob did not complain about the way his uncle had tricked him, but trusted God. Jacob found that God was faithful. After 6 more years, Jacob’s flocks and herds had increased so much that he was a very wealthy man. God spoke to him and told him it was time to return to his homeland.

What we do as children affects what we become as adults - we reap what we sow.
Jacob, who had tricked his brother, Esau, was in turn, tricked by his uncle, L_______.

Jacob loved Rachel, but Laban tricked him into marrying her s__________, Leah.

Jacob worked hard for s__________ years to earn the right to marry Rachel.

When Jacob realized he had been tricked, he was very a__________, but He decided to work another seven years so that he could marry R__________.

SO WHAT?!

We r__________ what we s__________.

What we put into life is what we get out of life.

What we do as __________ affects what we become as adults.

Jacob made choices as a child that affected him as an a__________.

But God had given Jacob a promise and God is faithful to His Word.

Choose to f__________ Jesus.
Jacob worked for his uncle Laban looking after the sheep and goats (Genesis 31:1-13). These pictures look the same, but there are ten differences. Can you find them?

Jacob worked for his uncle Laban looking after the sheep and goats (Genesis 31:1-13). These pictures look the same, but there are ten differences. Can you find them?

ANSWERS: Birds missing, part of house on hill missing, bush missing, stick different, black goat, sheep missing, belt different, flower missing, patch of grass missing, slit in shepherd's robe.
# NAME:

## JACOB and ESAU

### WORDSEARCH

- a e c w e t s h i q f w r c
- n c r h t j y a g b i r l u
- g i w e z j n i i i i i r e an
- e y s v b v v r x f s s b c
- l q m a q e t y f a t t a l
- s l t v a h k d w m b l n e
- u a s r c r a s i o e f t
- j b y i t e d y h l r u a g
- x x g q a k x i p y n w n v
- o h q m d e c p e t i o n d
- t x t w i n s w t g n i y l
- s t o l e n c r e d d a l b
- m x j m k q b o c a j s z k
- l p u c h e a t i n g s g o

1. Jacob  7. deception  13. uncle  19. dream  
2. twins  8. cheating  14. wrestle  20. ladder  
3. family  9. Rebekah  15. angel  
4. hairy  10. Esau  16. lying  
5. birthright  11. stolen  17. stew  
6. Isaac  12. Laban  18. firstborn

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WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

1. Jacob  2. twins  3. family  4. hairy  5. birthright  6. Isaac
19. dream  20. ladder

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