#### Lesson 2:

#### 12 Sons of Jacob/Agreement of Jacob and Laban

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Genesis 29:1-31; 48-50

MEMORY WORK:

Insert.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When I do something wrong and make a wrong choice, there will always be consequences.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we studied about Jacob getting married. He wanted to marry Rachel but her father, Laban, tricked him. What did her father do to trick Jacob? (gave him Leah instead) So, Jacob had to work seven more years to marry Rachel. Today, we are going to talk about Jacob’s family and God’s special plan for families. What are some things you love about your family?

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review the marriages of Jacob and the children in his family.

The 12 sons and one daughter of Jacob grew up in a large, confusing household. Each one had several half-brothers, and there were four women “in the house” (more than likely in four separate tents or houses in a compound) which can be a very volatile situation. We know that the two sisters, Rachel and Leah, had some problems getting along (mainly jealousy). In that kind of environment, it is inevitable that bad feelings would develop among the brothers. Leah’s sons were especially jealous of Rachel’s son Joseph. From their descendants would grow the 12 tribes of Israel—the great nation that God promised to their great-grandfather Abraham years.

1. Since the very beginning—since the first home with Adam and Eve and their children—God has had a special design (plan) for happy homes. He knows what we need and what will make us happy. But because people make bad choices, we don’t always have the happy homes God knows we need. Jacob made some bad choices, and he also suffered because of the bad choices of other people (Laban’s trickery). He could not be the kind of husband and father that God wanted him to be, and his home was not as happy as God wanted it to be.
2. Just as God expected certain things from Jacob, Jacob expected every member of the family to follow his rules so that they could be happy. Every member of the family should take care of his or her own responsibilities. Every member of the family has his/her own part to play to make a happy home.
3. Everyone must do his/her part to make a happy home: (expand these as much as you feel appropriate for each age group. Write the Scriptures on the board and/or show illustrations as you talk about each point.)

**Genesis 2:** God planned for one woman to be married to one man for life.

**Ephesians 5:** Husbands and wives are to love and respect one another; to care for one another; to help one another.

**Ephesians 6:** Fathers are to treat their children fairly, to teach them, and discipline them with love.

**Ephesians 6:** Children are to respect, honor, and obey their parents.

**I Timothy 5:** Fathers are to provide for the family.

**Titus 2:** Mothers are to teach their children; to discipline them with love; to help their husbands to make strong Christian homes for their children.

1. Just as God expected Jacob to obey His laws and build a strong family, He expects us to do the same.
2. Jacob worked for Laban for 14 years as payment for his two wives (Rachel and Leah). Jacob did such a good job of raising Laban’s sheep and goats that Laban became very wealthy. But Laban did not treat Jacob fairly, and finally Jacob decided to leave and go back to Canaan where he had come from.
3. Laban did not want Jacob to go back to Canaan, so Jacob made him a deal. (Note Laban’s comment in Genesis 30:27, “I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake.”) Jacob asked Laban to let him have all the spotted, speckled, and striped sheep and goats, which were considered the least valuable and weakest animals. Laban agreed and before long, Jacob had more animals and stronger animals than Laban. Laban and his sons became very jealous of Jacob because he became even wealthier than they.
4. Jacob worked for Laban six more years (20 years total). God spoke to Jacob and told him it was time to return to Canaan, and Jacob started making plans. He told Rachel and Leah that God had spoken to him, and they agreed to go with him. Jacob loaded up his wives and all his children and gathered together all his flocks for the long journey. (Note Rachel and Leah’s remarks about their father in Genesis 31:15-16!)

**NOTE:** Rachel stole and hid the “household gods” from her father (and then lied about it), indicating that Laban and possibly others in the family worshipped idols. Traditionally, sons—not daughters—would inherit the idols.

1. After three days, Laban found out that Jacob was trying to get away and, full of anger, went after him. God spoke to Laban in a dream and told him not to do or say anything harmful to Jacob. Laban traveled for seven days before catching up with Jacob at Mizpah (or Gilead). Even though he was very angry with Jacob, he did not say or do anything bad to Jacob because of the dream he had.
2. Laban said that he was angry that Jacob had taken Rachel and Leah and all the grandchildren without even giving him a chance to say good-bye. But Jacob reminded him that he had worked for 20 years, protecting and building up his flocks and herds, while Laban cheated him over and over. (Remind the children how Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah.)
3. Laban suggested that Jacob and he put up a pile of rocks and also a stone pillar (large block) as reminders to themselves and everyone else in their families that they would be at peace with each other from that time on.
4. Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain nearby, and his family and Laban and his men all ate together. The next morning Laban kissed his daughters and grandchildren good-bye and returned to his home.
5. There will be times when we get mad about different things. But it is important to remember that we have to control our anger so that we, like Laban and Jacob, do not say or do things to hurt other people or disappoint God.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “02” in the Visuals folder.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“THESE ARE THE** **SONS OF JACOB”**

Author: Traditional

(Tune: “1 Little, 2 Little, 3 Little Indians”)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher,

Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin,

These are the sons of Jacob.

**“Three Wandering Jews**

Once there were three wandering Jews. Once there were three wandering Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Once there were three wandering Jews.

The first one’s name was Abraham. The first one’s name was Abraham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

The first one’s name was Abraham.

The second one’s name was Isaac. The second one’s name was Isaac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

The second one’s name was Isaac.

The third one’s name was Jacob. The third one’s name was Jacob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

The third one’s name was Jacob.

They all went down to Canaan’s land. They all went down to Canaan’s land.

Canaan-Canaan, Land-land-land. Canaan-Canaan Land-land-land.

They all went down to Canaan’s land.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

##### Using small figurines or hand or stick puppets to represent members of the family, let each child describe the roles of every person in the family.

##### Ask the children to draw and color a picture of each person in their families on a piece of paper which you have labeled “Thank you, God, for My Family.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

INTRODUCTION:

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

##### Sort the sheep – Have pictures of different types of sheep, such as Laban and Jacob would have had. Let the students sort the sheep.

##### Jacob and Laban’s Sheep craft:



### Review Questions

### Were all the children of Jacob full-blooded sisters and brothers?

### No, they all had the same father but not the same mother

### Leah’s sons were jealous of which son of Rachel?

### Joseph

### What nation would come into being from these brothers and sisters?

### Israel

### How did Laban trick Jacob?

### He agreed with Jacob that if he worked seven years without pay, then he could have Rachel as his wife. Because of a veil and cultural customs, Laban gave Leah to Jacob instead

### Did God design the family to be based on the model of this family has?

### No. He intended one man for one women for life

### Was it right for Rachel and Leah to be jealous of one another?

### No

### What was Jacob’s payment for working for Laban?

### Two wives

### What did Rachel steal from her dad?

### His idols

### What did Laban suggest that Jacob do so that their families would know that they were at peace?

### Put up a pile of rocks and also a stone pillar

### Where did God tell Jacob to go?

### Land of Canaan

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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