

Book Introduction

Even though Jacob was a sinner, God watched over him and took care of him. After Jacob tricked his brother Esau, he went far away to his uncle's house to find a wife. At his uncle's house, Jacob came to have four wives and eventually had twelve sons by them. God cause him to grow very rich with lots of sheep.

Finally, God told Jacob to go back home. Jacob took all he had back to his home to live in the land God promised to give Abraham. Jacob was afraid that his brother Esau would still be mad at him for stealing his birthright and want to kill him. On the way back to the land, God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

When he got to the land, Jacob met his brother Esau who was glad to see him. Esau wasn't mad at him anymore. Jacob gave Esau flocks of sheep and other animals.

Discussion Questions

Day 1: Why did Jacob have to leave his home? Where did he go to stay?

Day 2: Who did Jacob want to marry? What did he have to do to marry her?

Day 3: How did Jacob's uncle trick him? What did Jacob have to do to get Rachel for his second wife? What is strife? Why would having more than one wife cause strife in a family?

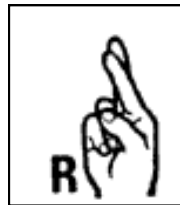
Day 4: How many wives did Jacob end up having? How many sons did Jacob have? What would come from Jacob's sons?

Day 5: What had happened to Jacob when the time came for him to go back home? What did Jacob wonder about? Why would Esau be mad at Jacob?

Day 6: What did Jacob pray? How did God answer his prayer? What can we learn from Jacob's life?

Lesson Rhyme

R—R	Make sign of "R"
Return	Move R index finger in a horizontal circle
A large family	Wiggle all ten fingers
Jacob had	
R—R—Return	Same as above
Would Esau	
still be mad?	Make mad face & move hands in twisting motion



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How did Jacob return home?



R—R—Return
A large family Jacob had
R—R—Return
Would Esau still be mad?

Day 1

Draw a picture of Jacob saying good-bye.

Jacob had to leave his home
because he had done wrong.
The birthright he had stolen,
which to Esau did belong.
Still God was always with him
as he traveled far away.
And it was to his uncle's house
that he did go to stay.

Day 6

Draw a picture of Jacob greeting Esau.

He prayed God'd give him favor
when his brother he did meet.
And Esau with forgiveness
his brother soon did greet.
From Jacob's life we can learn
God is faithful to his promise.
Though Jacob was a sinner
who was tricky and dishonest.

Genesis 28:5: ⁵ Then Isaac sent Jacob on his way, and he went to Paddan Aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, who was the mother of Jacob and Esau.

Genesis 32:11-13: ¹¹ Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. ¹² But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'" ¹³ He spent the night there, and from what he had with him he selected a gift for his brother Esau.

Day 5

Draw a picture of Jacob and animals.

The time then came for Jacob
to take his family home.
With four wives and many children
he was not alone.
God had blessed his labor,
lots of animals he now had.
Still he wondered in returning home
if Esau would be mad.

Day 2

Draw a picture of Jacob and Rachel.

His uncle had two daughters,
Leah ugly, Rachel fair.
Jacob asked to marry Rachel,
his love he did declare.
He had to labor seven years
to get Rachel for his wife.
He worked real hard so with her
he could spend his life.

Genesis 30:25-26:²⁵ After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland."²⁶ Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will be on my way. You know how much work I've done for you."

Genesis 29:16-18:¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.¹⁷ Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful.¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

Day 3 Draw a picture of Jacob and two wives.

His uncle was a trickster
and gave him Leah first.
Jacob was quite angry;
he thought his heart would burst.
Another seven years he worked
to get Rachel for his wife.
He'd find that having two wives
would cause his family strife

Day 4 Draw a picture of Jacob and twelve sons.

Then his wives made Jacob's life
more complicated still.
They gave their servants to him,
the role of wife to fill.
From Jacob's wives and twelve sons,
Israel would come to be.
They were children of the promise
God to Abraham did decree.

Genesis 29:25-27: ²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" ²⁶ Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. ²⁷ Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

Genesis 30:1-3: ¹ When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!" ² Jacob became angry with her and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?" ³ Then she said, "Here is Bilhah, my maidservant. Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and that through her I too can build a family."