



Grades 4–5 • Lesson 43

Jacob's Family Grows

Genesis 28:13–15, 29:22–30, 29:32–35, 30 (selected verses), 35:18

Unscramble the names of Jacob's sons then draw a line to match each son to his mother in the middle. Check your answers with your Class Notes or in Genesis 29:31–30:22.



MIOESN



PANTAILH



BELUZNU



HUJDA



SEARH



JEHPOS



LEAH



RACHEL



ZILPAH



BILHAH

Name



LIEV



ADN



SARCHISA



BEUREN



MNIENJAB



AGD

Memory Verse

Unscramble the words to complete the memory verse!

_____ in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own _____ .
SUTRT UNDGSDNEINRTA

In all your ways _____ him, and he will make straight your _____. **Proverbs 3: 5-6**
DKAGECNWOEL HPTAS

What You Heard *In the Word*

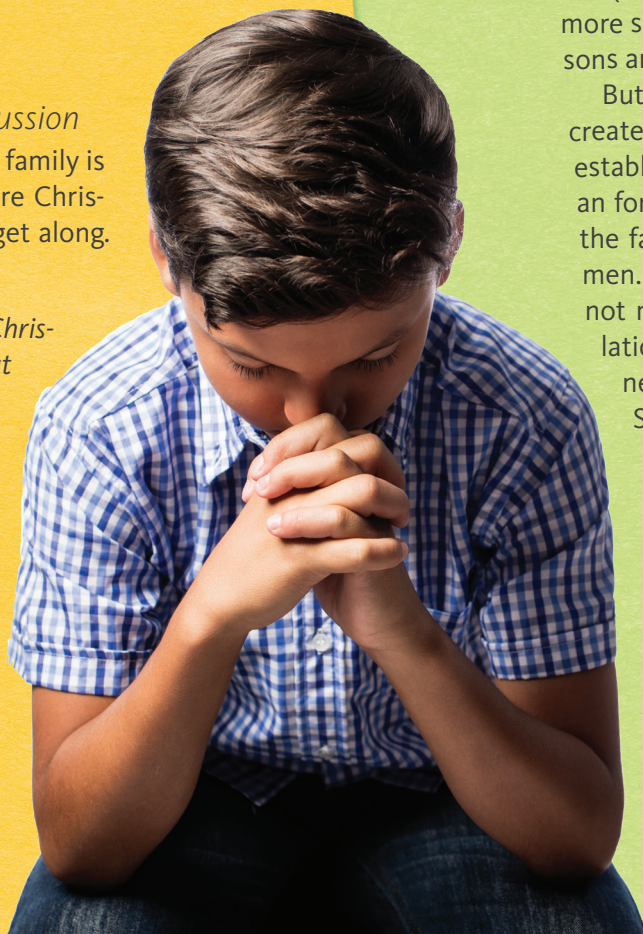
- God spoke to Jacob in a dream and confirmed his promises for the land of Canaan, many descendants, and a Savior.
- Laban tricked Jacob by giving him Leah to marry and then making him work another seven years to marry Rachel. God gave Jacob many children.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

Suppose your friend tells you her family is always fighting even though they are Christians. She wonders why they can't get along.

What could you say?

Every family has conflict, even Christian families, because we all sin. But if we pray and ask God for help, we can love, forgive, obey, and control what we say and do at home. It takes work for families to get along, but God wants our families to show his love to each other and to those who don't know him.



HomeWord *For Parents*

Rebekah wanted Jacob to flee to her brother Laban for safety from Esau and to find a wife. On Jacob's journey, God appeared to him in a dream and confirmed his covenant (Genesis 28:13–15). Jacob arrived in Haran and met his cousin Rachel at the well. Jacob loved Rachel, the younger and more beautiful daughter of Laban, so he offered to work seven years to marry her. Laban agreed, but seven years later he gave his older daughter Leah, instead of Rachel, to Jacob. Jacob married Rachel one week after marrying Leah and began another seven years of service to Laban (Genesis 29:26–30). Rachel had Jacob's love, but Leah had more sons. With his wives and their two servants, Jacob had 12 sons and one daughter.

But, what does the Bible teach about polygamy? First, God created Adam and Eve to be one flesh (Genesis 2:24), which established his plan for marriage to be one man and one woman for life. Second, the Bible, as a true history book, includes the failings as well as the victories of both sinful and godly men. Just because polygamous marriages are recorded does not mean that they are condoned. Instead, polygamous relationships in the Bible are almost always associated with negative consequences (e.g., Abraham, King David, King Solomon).

While God's ideal is monogamy, no direct command against polygamy was given by Jacob's time. Later, God did command the Israelites not to marry sisters while both were alive (Leviticus 18:18), and several New Testament passages specify that men should have one wife (1 Timothy 3:2, 3:12; Titus 1:6; Ephesians 5:23). By examining the whole of Scripture, it is clear that God blessed Jacob in spite of his less than ideal marriages.