

# Jacob: Trials with Wives and Laban

## Genesis 30-31

### Read Genesis 30:1-13.

*Rachel's inability to bear children caused tension within Jacob's family.*

- What feelings and expectations tempted Rachel to sin?
- Give an example of God taking something bad and using it for good.

*Principle: God fulfills His will despite people's sins.*

### Read Genesis 30:14-24.

*The rivalry between Rachel and Leah continued, and Rachel eventually gave birth to Joseph.*

- In what superstitious practice did Rachel and Leah trust?
- What do you learn about God in this passage?

*Principle: What God permits, He uses for good.*

### Read Genesis 30:25-31:55.

*After agreeing to stay with Laban, Jacob and his family later left for Canaan.*

- How did Jacob know it was time to go back home to Canaan?
- How is God changing your character to conform more to His unchanging character?

*Principle: God always accomplishes His purposes.*

### Review Genesis 30-31.

- In what event are you learning to trust God's greater purpose?

*Main truth: We can trust God's good purposes even when we do not understand what He is doing.*

### Scripture Memory Verse

"I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land." – Genesis 31:13

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# Exploring the Christian Faith

## An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

### Immutable

God does not change. We can count on Him always to be holy, always to be good, always to be faithful, always to love us, always to hate sin. God's Word is like Him; it does not change. We can count on His promises. Because God never changes, we can trust Him always.

To learn more Attributes of God, visit [mybsf.org](https://mybsf.org).

## A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

### How can people know how to please God if they are born sinful?

**God's Word shows us what pleases Him.**<sup>1</sup> His Word also reveals our sinfulness and need of a Savior because we cannot keep God's laws perfectly.<sup>2</sup> We see God's instructions in the Ten Commandments<sup>3</sup> and all other commands in the Bible. Jesus summarized the heart of His teachings this way: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.<sup>4</sup>

Deuteronomy 30:15-18<sup>1</sup>; Romans 3:20<sup>2</sup>; Exodus 20:1-17<sup>3</sup>; Mark 12:28-31<sup>4</sup>

### Think About It

*Why should we even care about pleasing God?*

God is the only one truly worth pleasing. His Word reveals His character to us. If we live to please ourselves or others, we please only sinful people. But when we please God, who is perfect, we are satisfied and experience lasting happiness. Pleasing people draws us to sinfulness. Pleasing God calls us to godliness. Our highest purpose is found in loving and obeying God.

*How can an old book like the Bible help us know how to live today?*

Other books become old, but the Bible is always relevant in every age and to all people. The Bible is the living Word of God. Through the Bible, God speaks to us today. Unless we know the Bible, we can never love and please God as He calls us to do. The Ten Commandments reveal God's character and standards for all people in all times.

*Can anyone ever really keep God's commands and please Him?*

On our own, we can only break God's Word and cannot please God. When we place our trust in Jesus Christ, who perfectly obeyed God's law, God gives us His Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, we are able to hear and understand God and desire to please Him. With the Holy Spirit's help, we are able to love and obey God. It always pleases God to see Jesus' character reflected in His children.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit [mybsf.org](https://mybsf.org).