# THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

## CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON

# DATE: January 22, 2017

**SUBJECT:** **GOD’S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Jacob (3 of 5)**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 29:1-30

**AIM:** To show the children that God brings His called ones through many situations, including difficult ones, in order to train them to be proper vessels.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** James 1:12 (Blessed is the man who endures trial, because when he has become approved by testing, he will receive the crown of life, which He promised to those who love Him.); 1 Peter 4:19 (So then let those also who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls in well-doing to a faithful Creator.); Romans 8:28 (And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.); Proverbs 3:12 (For whom Jehovah loves He disciplines, Even as a father, the son in whom he delights.); Luke 6:31 (And just as you want men to do to you, do to them likewise.)

**SONG SUGGESTIONS:** 172 (Why Worry When You Can Pray); 3704 (Jacob’s Jump for Joy / God Is With You); 9521 *BSS* Vessels Unto Honor Song #1 (V-v-v-vessel! I Am a Vessel!); 9522 *BSS* Vessels Unto Honor Song #2 (Everything We Do and Say); 9528 *BSS* Vessels Unto Honor Song #8 (There’s a Reason for the Rule); 52 (God Is Always Near Me); 32 (Trust In The Lord); 6722 (We have a Father); 175 (God’s Helpers); 8303 (Do All Things Without Murmuring); 2 (Surely Goodness)

**CRAFT IDEA:** Design a crossword puzzle or word search for the children using words and names mentioned in this lesson.

**BACKGROUND:** This week we continue with Jacob on his journey to Haran. His intention (besides escaping Esau) was to find Laban, Rebekah’s brother, in hopes of finding a wife.

**CONTENT:** After a long journey, finally Jacob reached the land of the east. He inquired of some people there and discovered that they were from Haran and knew Laban his uncle. It was here that Jacob met Rachel, Laban’s daughter. After helping her water her flock of sheep, he told her that he was Rebekah’s son. Then Rachel ran to tell her father, Laban, the good news.

Laban welcomed Jacob warmly and greeted him as family. Jacob stayed with his uncle, during which time Jacob worked for Laban. When Jacob had stayed a month, one day Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Laban had two daughters. Leah, the older, had “dull” (weak) eyes. Rachel, the younger, was beautiful and well favored. Jacob loved Rachel, so he replied, “I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter.” Laban agreed to the arrangement so Jacob stayed and worked for him for seven years. The years only felt like a few days to Jacob because of the love he had for Rachel.

When the seven years had passed and the agreement was fulfilled, Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife.” Laban gathered the people together to celebrate and have a feast. However, that night instead of bringing Rachel to Jacob, Laban brought Leah. In those times, the bride’s face was veiled and it was very dark at night, so Jacob did not realize that he had been given the wrong person for his wife. The next morning Jacob discovered it was Leah! He must have been quite surprised and upset. He went to Laban and said, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban told him, “It is not done so in this way in our place, to give the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you will serve with me for another seven years.” (Gen. 29: 25-27) So, Jacob was fooled by his uncle. He had to work for his uncle seven more years to have Rachel. Jacob agreed to do that because he loved Rachel.

In total, Jacob worked for Laban for 20 years. The cheating heel-holder had met his match! Jacob was a crafty supplanter, but Laban was craftier than Jacob. He tricked and cheated Jacob over and over again during these 20 years. He tricked Jacob by giving him Leah after Jacob had worked seven years for Rachel. In upcoming lessons will we learn how Laban changed Jacob’s wages ten times (Gen. 31:7). He made an agreement with Jacob that would allow him to own his own flock of sheep, but he sneakily prevented it from happening (Gen. 30:35). Jacob learned many hard lessons during these 20 years. God was showing Jacob what kind of person he really was, by giving him specific experiences with another very tricky person, his uncle Laban.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not feel obligated to cover all the suggested applications.*

* **God is righteous.** Jacob may have thought that he “got away” with his cheating, tricking behavior. He would go to Haran, find a wife, and come back in a little while to enjoy his mother’s presence again and claim his birthright. But he did not get away with anything. God specifically disciplined him to show him how unrighteous his cheating, tricking behavior was. As God’s called ones, we should never think that we would get away with our unrighteous doings.
* **God disciplines us because He loves us.** Proverbs 3:12 tells us, “For whom Jehovah loves He disciplines, Even as a father, the son in whom he delights.” Whenever we are disciplined by our parents or directly by the Lord (through our surroundings), we should not complain that everybody else seems to get away with things and we do not. God has given us parents to guide us. Even though sometimes we may not agree with their decisions, guidance, or discipline over us, we should trust and respect their judgment. We should realize this is God’s great love and mercy towards us. Just as our parents discipline us so that we can grow up to be proper persons, God also disciplines us in order to train us to be proper vessels that can be useful for Him.
* **We should be helpful both at home and elsewhere.** Jacob worked while he was with his uncle Laban for a month with no wages (Genesis 29:14-15). It was Laban who brought up the matter of paying Jacob for his work. This showed that Jacob willingly worked and helped out in his uncle’s home. When we are at home or at someone else’s house, what are some ways we as children can help out? For example, after we eat a meal, we can help clear the dishes and put them carefully in the sink. We should not just run off to play.
* **Man breaks promises, but God always keeps His promises.** Laban did not keep his promise to give Jacob Rachel after 7 years. Did you ever give a promise you did not keep? But God always keeps His promises. We can fully trust in God’s Word in the Bible. We should also be careful before making any promises to people, and if we do, we should ask God to help us keep our word.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God’s Economy:* Vol. 4, *God’s Calling in the Old Testament*, Lessons 10-11 and the Church in New York City’s Children’s Meeting lessons: 2/06/94; 1/30/00; 1/22/06; 1/29/12