

Deceived!

Genesis 29:1-30:43

This week, you will need...

■ A ball of wool (or string)

■ A tray and a tea towel

■ A collection of small household objects

What's in the Box?

See if you can guess what we are doing today from these pictures...



Photos: Vito Lj (unsplash.com), Ana y Paco Sancho, Penny Matthews, Joachim Barr, talana240524 (freemages.com)

What's happening today?

Last time, we learnt about Jacob's dream and how God keeps his promises despite our sin. This week, we see where Jacob goes next and learn about more trickery and scheming involving weddings, children and sheep!

Let's get started

Choose one person to close their eyes. Everyone else then take turns to say, "Hello [name]!" in a disguised voice. See if they can guess who is speaking! Swap around so everyone gets a go.

Bible Time

In today's true story from the Bible, we will learn that God keeps his promises despite people's deceitfulness and scheming – and we will see that God doesn't need our help to keep his promises.

The story can be found [online at BibleGateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com). It is a long passage, so you may wish to read it yourself beforehand and retell the story in an age-appropriate way for your household.

Try splitting the story into three parts:

- Jacob's safe arrival (verses 29: 1-14);
- Jacob and his wives and mothers for his children (verses 29: 15 – 30:24), and;
- Jacob's material wealth (verses 30: 35-43).

You could draw a family tree to help explain Jacob's family. Start with Jacob in the middle, then add Leah and Zilpah on one side, and Rachel and Bilhah on the other.

Part of the story about Leah and Rachel is featured on page 70 of **The Jesus Storybook Bible** and in [this video on YouTube](#).

Explore

These questions are split by age groups – although you might like to answer them all!

Everyone Can you remember what promises God made to Jacob? (Hint: look at Genesis 28: 13-15!)

Climbers What did Laban do to trick Jacob?

Explorers Who else in this story was scheming or being deceitful?

Pathfinders How did Jacob try to 'help' God keep his promises?

Explorers & Pathfinders – there is a worksheet for you with more questions on page 3.

Reflection

You may want to think about these questions now and throughout the week.

- How can you be sure that God will keep His promises?
- Think about God's promises to Jacob – was there anything that could stop God from keeping His promises?
- Does God need any help?
- Do you think is it hard to believe that God will keep His promises? Why? Did Jacob believe He would?
- What can we do when we are scared, and find it hard to trust God?

Prayer

Grab a ball of wool or string. Hold one end and pray either out loud or in your head. Say **"Amen!"** and throw the ball of wool to someone else, continue this way until you have a tangle.

You could pray about and thank God for the things this story teaches us, about who God is and what He is like.

Can you untangle the mess easily? Remember that God always works in our messy, tangled lives just like He did with Jacob.

Games

Kim's Game

Lay a selection of household items on a tray and cover them with a tea towel. Uncover them and let people look at the items for a short time. Cover up the tray again and secretly remove one item. Uncover the tray again and see if people can spot what is missing. Play a few rounds and

Today's passage has helped me see some:

- Sin** I need to turn from
- Promises** I can trust in
- Examples** I can follow
- Commands** I need to obey
- Surprises** – things that surprised me or things I didn't understand

then, without telling anyone, be a bit sneaky and remove more than one thing! Did anyone notice?

Activity

Can you make a sheep? How about a whole flock? Make sure you make some plain and some speckled!

You could use playdough, collage materials, Lego or you could draw them!

Songs

Have a look at the **Church at Home playlist** on the St. Mary's, Wootton YouTube channel. This week you may like to listen to **God is Bigger** and **The Dinosaur Song**.



See if you can make up some actions, or learn some Makaton or British Sign Language words to worship along with your family!

Challenge

Why not use this time at home to learn the books of the Bible?

Secret challenges...
AT HOME!

1
Proverbs 16: 24 (ICB) says: "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb. They make a person happy and healthy." Say something lovely (and true!) to one person every day this week!

2
Proverbs 18:15 (ICB) says: "The mind of a smart person is ready to get knowledge. The wise person listens to learn more." Can you learn three new things from listening to someone you know this week?

Deceived

The true story can be found in Genesis 29:1 - 30:43

Someone has moved the first two letters to the end of each word in brackets. See if you can move them back to make sense of the story.

God promised to give Jacob many descendants

BUT Jacob didn't have a (fewi) _____

SO he worked for (vense) ____ years to marry (chelRa) _____

BUT Laban tricked him into marrying (ahLe) _____

SO Jacob complained and (banLa) _____ said he could also marry Rachel

BUT Rachel couldn't have (ildrench) _____ and Leah had Reuben, Simeon, (viLe) _____ and (dahJu) _____

SO Rachel gave Jacob her servant (lhahBi) _____ who had Dan and Naphtali

BUT Leah stopped having children

SO she gave her servant (lpahZi) _____ to Jacob and she had Gad and (herAs) _____

BUT then Leah also had Issachar, Zebulum and a (rlgi) _____ called Dinah

BUT God remembered Rachel and she had a son called (sephJo) _____

God also promised to bless Jacob

BUT he arrived in Padan Aram with nothing

SO he (rkedwo) _____ for Laban and did very well for him

BUT he wanted his own sheep and goats

SO he asked Laban for the (ottedsp) _____ ones and he said 'yes'

BUT Laban tricked Jacob by (vingmo) _____ the spotted animals away

SO Jacob tried some of his own tricks to get spotted animals

BUT God (essedbl) _____ Jacob and made him very (althywe) _____



DISCUSS

In what ways does God keep the promises he made to Jacob in Genesis 28:13-15 in this story? What still needs to be done?

What does Jacob need to learn about God so that he will stop trying to make his own plans all the time? Have you learned that lesson yet?