

References

Genesis 29:15-28;
Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 188-190



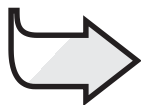
Memory Verse

“Love is patient,
love is kind” (1 Corin-
thians 13:4, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that
love motivates us
to continue to
serve others.
Feel willing to keep
on serving others.
Respond by trying to stay
committed to serving others.



The Message

God helps us serve
others faithfully
and patiently.

Who Cheated?

Monthly Theme

Our families help us learn how to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jacob and Laban enter into an agreement about Rachel: Jacob will work for Laban for seven years, and Laban will then give Rachel to Jacob to be his wife. The seven years go by quickly because of Jacob’s love for Rachel. But after the seven years pass, Laban gives Jacob Leah instead of Rachel. Jacob is angry about this deception, but agrees to work seven more years for Rachel. Laban agrees, and finally Jacob and Rachel are married.

This is a lesson about service.

We learn two principles of service from this passage. The first is the principle of perseverance. Many things worth working for take time, even many years, as in Jacob’s case. We learn to be patient and keep working toward our goal. The second principle is that when we are motivated by love, the persevering service is pleasant to us (Genesis 29:20).

Teacher Enrichment

“In early times custom required the bridegroom . . . to pay a sum of money or its equivalent in other property, according to his circumstances, to the father of his wife. . . . But provision was made to test those who had nothing to pay for a wife. They were permitted to labor for the father . . . , the length of time being regulated by the value of the dowry required” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 188, 189).

“Jacob’s proposal was based partly on the fact that he was not in a position to pay the usual dowry and partly on his knowledge that the situation at home would make necessary a rather prolonged stay with Laban. Laban’s assent is to be explained solely on the ground of greed, which became more apparent as time went on” (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 386).

“Wedding feasts customarily lasted one week (see Judges 14:12), and Jacob was to have Rachel also at the close of Leah’s marital festivities (Gen. 28:28-30). Laban was no doubt anxious to preserve his good name by keeping his fraud from the public eye, in view of the fact that all the men of the city were his guests at the celebration (see v. 22). . . .

“It is plain that Jacob did not serve another seven years before Rachel became his wife. This occurred at the close of Leah’s festal week” (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 388).

"Leah's consent was necessary to the success of this base proposal. . . .

"Laban's duplicity resulted in lifelong rivalry between the two sisters (see [Genesis] 30:14-16)" (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 388).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

| Lesson Section | Minutes | Activities | Materials Needed |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | A. <i>Ask a Married Couple</i> B. <i>Trick Gift</i> | guest speakers, corsage and boutonniere (optional) small rocks, small boxes (optional), gift wrap, stickers or other small gifts |
| Any Time Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer | none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container none |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study | bedsheets or large tissue paper or roll of toilet paper chalkboard or whiteboard, chalk or marker, books box from a large appliance, such as a refrigerator; scissors or box cutter; marker (optional); Bibles |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Scenarios</i> | none |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Savings Banks</i> | small margarine tubs or other disposable containers, scissors, colored tissue paper, glue sticks, coins of equal value, poster paper (optional), markers (optional) |

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- guest speakers
- corsage and boutonniere (optional)

A. Ask a Married Couple

Invite a couple in the church who have been married for a long time to come in and share the story of how they met and fell in love. If possible, have them bring in wedding pictures. Invite the children to ask questions. Potential questions for the couple: **How did you know that this was the person for you to marry? How long did you wait before you got married? Was that good or bad? Did it seem like a long or short time? What was the hardest and easiest thing about joining another family? What advice would you give to kids this age today?** If possible, give a corsage and boutonniere (flowers) to the couple to thank them for sharing.

Debriefing

Say: **This week our Bible story is about Jacob’s wedding. He served his uncle Laban for a long time so he could marry Laban’s daughter. He did it because he loved Rachel, and the Bible says the time went very quickly for him because he was in love. The Bible tells about the kind of love Jacob had. “Love is patient, love is kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4). God helped Jacob to serve faithfully and patiently for all those years. And our message tells us that . . .**



GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- small rocks
- small boxes (optional)
- gift wrap
- stickers or other small gifts

B. Trick Gift

Place a rock in a small box (optional) for each child and wrap it to make a gift. Say: **Today our Bible story is about Jacob’s wedding. Since gifts are given at weddings, I have a gift for each of you. Please wait until everyone has a gift before you open yours.** After you have debriefed, give each child a sticker or other small gift as a replacement for their rock.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What did you think when you saw the rock? (I was disappointed, confused, thought I had been tricked.) How do you feel when someone tricks you? It’s not a very good feeling, is it? Today we’ll learn how Jacob was deceived by Laban after Jacob had served Laban a long time. But the time he served Laban did seem to pass quickly, because Jacob loved Rachel. Our memory verse tells about the kind of love Jacob had. “Love is patient, love is**

kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4). And our message tells us that . . .



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Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "I Want to Be" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 124)
- "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 126)
- "I Have the Joy" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 109)
- "Seek Ye First" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 67)
- "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129)



Mission

Talk about how missionaries must keep working to tell others about Jesus even when they don't see immediate results. Share a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Challenge the children to save money for a mission project. (See *Children's Mission* for ideas.) Your Sabbath School may want to take on a project of their own. Talk about how it takes a long time to save money to build new churches.

You Need:

- offering container



Prayer

Ask for volunteers. Remind them to pray for Jesus' help to keep on serving others even when we feel like giving up.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- bedsheets or large pieces of tissue paper or roll of toilet paper

Experiencing the Story

Ask for one volunteer groom and two brides. Have the girls dress the “brides” and have the boys dress the “groom.” Supply pieces of fabric such as bed sheets, or large pieces of tissue paper, or a roll of toilet paper. Give them a few minutes to complete their task and then have the “brides” and “groom” sit on chairs at the front of the room.

Read or tell the story.

Jacob had been at Laban’s house for a month when Laban said, “Jacob, you’re my relative, but it’s not right for you to keep working for me without any pay. Tell me, what wages would you like?”

Jacob was glad to be at his uncle’s house. He had been enjoying the work. And he had also been admiring Uncle Laban’s youngest daughter, Rachel!

“Uncle Laban, what I’d really like is to marry Rachel! I’ll be happy to work for you for seven years if you will give Rachel to me as my wife!”

Laban responded, “I would rather have her marry you than someone else! That sounds like a fine arrangement to me. Yes, stay here and work for me.”

In those days it was customary for a man to give the father of the woman he wanted to marry some money before the father would agree to the marriage. At the time of the wedding, the father was to give the money to his daughter to have for her own. But if a man didn’t have money to pay the bride price or dowry (as it was called), he could work for the woman’s father for an agreed-upon amount of time.

So Jacob began seven years of hard work to make Rachel his wife. Day after day he faithfully did all that Laban asked.

And the time seemed to pass quickly because of his love for Rachel. Finally the seven years were up! It was time to make Rachel his bride! It would be a wonderful wedding!

But Laban was not honest or fair with Jacob. He liked having Jacob work without pay. He knew that Jacob worked hard and did everything Laban asked of him without complaining. Yes, Jacob was a good servant—and he didn’t cost Laban anything! So Laban decided on a plan. He would trick Jacob to get more free labor from him.

In those days the bride wore a heavy veil during the wedding festivities so her face couldn’t be seen. That night Jacob took his veiled bride to his tent in the darkness. He couldn’t see that it was Leah, not Rachel. In the morning Jacob made a terrible discovery. He had married the wrong sister! He was shocked and angry. How could his uncle have done such a thing?

“Uncle Laban, why have you done this?” Jacob pleaded. “I worked hard for you so I could marry Rachel. Why did you trick me?”

“It is our custom,” Laban lied, “for the older sister to marry before the younger.” [The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 388, states that Laban probably made up this custom; it was not the usual practice.] “But I’ll tell you what,” Laban spoke slowly. “You may also marry Rachel if you will work for me for another seven years.”

In those days in that country, many men had more than one wife. So at the end of the week of Leah’s wedding celebration, Jacob and Rachel were also married. Then Jacob began to work seven more years for Laban.

Jacob patiently worked without pay for 14 years—a long time—to make Rachel his wife. But his love for her made the hard work seem pleasant!

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you think Jacob felt when he found that Leah had been given to him and not Rachel?**

Do you remember how Jacob earlier had tricked his own father, Isaac, into thinking he was his brother, Esau? Do you think Jacob thought about this? How do you think he felt about what he'd done, now that it had been done to him? Do you think he was more forgiving to Laban, knowing that he had committed the same sin?

How do you think Jacob felt about working another seven years for the one he loved? (It was probably hard, but God gave him the strength.) Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.

Memory Verse

Write the memory verse where all may see. Ask: **What does it mean to be patient? Let's see how patient you are.**

You Need:

- chalkboard or whiteboard
- chalk or marker
- books

Have the class make a single-file line. Balance a book on the head of the first person in line. They are to walk (without touching the book) to a point across the room and return to you while saying the memory verse aloud. If the book falls off, they must stop and put it back on their head, then complete the walk. The children take turns until all have participated.

Or use the following motions to teach the verse. Repeat until the children know it.

Love is patient, Cross arms over chest.
With fingers facing left, touch right fist to the lips, then move down to the chin.

love Cross arms over chest.

is kind. With palms facing inward, rotate hands in a circle.

**1 Corin-
thians 13:4** Palms together,
then open.

Bible Study

Say: **For our Bible study today, we are going to read about someone who was in a very difficult situation but who served faithfully. Then you are going to tell me how this person's story is like Jacob's story.** Then read or have the children take turns reading Genesis 40:1-15, 23; 41:1, 8, 9-14.

Debriefing

Why was Joseph in prison? (see Genesis 40:14, 15—He had been put there unfairly; he had done nothing wrong.) **How did Joseph feel about being in prison?** (see verse 14—He wanted to get out.) **Even though Joseph didn't deserve to be in prison and wanted to get out, what was he doing while there?** (see Genesis 40:4—He was serving, helping others) **After the cupbearer was released, how much longer did Joseph stay in prison?** (see Genesis 41:1—two years) **During the time that Joseph was in prison, he served faithfully and patiently while waiting for his freedom.**

How is this story about Joseph and today's story about Jacob alike? (Both Jacob and Joseph had to wait a long time for something they wanted; they were both in a difficult situation; they served in the meantime.)

When we have to serve a long time or wait a long time for something, let's remember our message for today ...



GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

Scenarios

Read the following scenarios (or others appropriate in your situation) to the students and ask them to answer the question at the end of each:

1. Your mom has been sick for two weeks. You have to entertain your younger brother while she rests, and help your dad make supper every night. You're getting tired of doing this every day. What should you do?

2. Your family has just moved into a house, and your dad is excited about planting a vegetable garden. There is a plot of ground with lots of weeds in it. He asks you to help him pull weeds one afternoon. It looks as if it's going to take hours and hours to finish. What should you do?

3. You have a good friend at school whose family doesn't have much money. You would like to buy her a birthday gift. But you've been saving your money to buy a new hat you saw

at the store, and you've almost got enough saved. If you buy the hat, you won't have enough money to buy your friend a gift. What should you do?

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Why do you serve others? (That was what Jesus did; that pleases God.)

In what ways do you serve people in your family?

Does it take patience to serve people who are unpleasant or unkind? Give an example.

What makes it easier to serve people you like? Does your love for some people help you serve them more cheerfully and/or more patiently? Why?

How can you patiently serve others even though it's not fun or pleasant? (Ask God to help us.)

When you do an act of service for someone else, whose love are you showing to them? Let's say our message together again:



GOD HELPS US SERVE OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND PATIENTLY.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Savings Banks

Have each child make a bank by using a small margarine tub or other type of container with a pre-cut slit in the lid. They can decorate the container by gluing and overlapping small squares of colored tissue paper onto it. Supply one coin for each child to put into their bank.

Discuss and select a mission project your class can participate in by saving money in their banks, or suggest they save some money this quarter and turn it in on Thirteenth Sabbath.

If you have a class project, decorate a colorful poster describing with words and drawings what the project is and display it in the room.

Set a goal of how much money is needed by a certain time. Set a good example; be the first to donate to the fund. When the goal is reached, celebrate! Include the children in implementing the project, if possible.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **It's**

good to have a savings goal for things you want. What do you think about saving for our mission project? It takes a lot of money that people have saved for a long time to _____ .

(Describe the project your class has chosen.)

It takes patience to save for something. What will you do to help reach our goal? Talk it over with your family.

Because we love Jesus and want others to learn to know and love Him too, it will be easier to save.

What can you do to earn some money? What are you willing to give up so you can save to help with our mission project? Remember our message? Say it with me:



**GOD HELPS US SERVE
OTHERS FAITHFULLY AND
PATIENTLY.**

Closing

Ask God to help the children do the best job they can in every situation and to serve others because of the love God gives to us.

You Need:

- scissors
- colored tissue paper
- glue sticks
- coins of equal value
- poster paper (optional)
- markers (optional)
- small margarine tubs or other small sealable plastic containers

Who Cheated?

References

Genesis 29:15-28; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 188-190

Memory Verse

“Love is patient, love is kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4, NIV).

The Message

God helps us serve others faithfully and patiently.

Have you ever worked hard and long for someone you love? Maybe it was helping your dad stack wood or repair the house. Or maybe you helped your mom in the garden all day. You were glad when it was over, but because you love that person, it was worth it!

Jacob had been at Laban’s house for a month. One day Laban said, “Jacob, you’re my relative. It doesn’t seem right for you to keep working for me without pay. Tell me, what wages would you like?”

Jacob was glad to be at his uncle’s house. He didn’t mind the work. And he had also been admiring Uncle Laban’s youngest daughter, Rachel!

“Uncle Laban, what I’d really like is to marry Rachel! I’ll work seven years for you if you will let Rachel become my wife.”

Laban agreed. “That sounds like a fine arrangement to me. Yes, stay here and work for me.”

In those days a man gave money to the father of the woman he wanted to marry. After the wedding, the father was to give the money to his daughter. It became her own to keep. But some men didn’t have money for the bride price or dowry, as it was called. So if the father agreed, the man could work for him for a certain amount of time. That’s what Jacob had to do.

So Jacob began seven years of work to make Rachel his wife. Day after day he

faithfully and patiently did all that Laban asked. And the time seemed to pass quickly because of his love for Rachel. Finally the seven years were up! It was time to make Rachel his bride!

But Laban was not honest or fair with Jacob. He liked having Jacob work without pay. He knew that Jacob worked hard without complaining. It was clear that God was helping Jacob to be a faithful worker. And he didn’t cost Laban anything! So Laban decided to do something wrong. He would trick Jacob to get more free labor from him.

In those days the bride wore a heavy veil during the wedding celebration. No one was to see her face. That night Jacob took his veiled bride to his tent. He couldn’t see that it was Leah, not Rachel. In the morning Jacob made a terrible discovery. He had married the wrong sister! He was shocked and angry.

How could his uncle have done such a thing?

“Uncle Laban, why have you done this?” Jacob asked. “I worked hard for you so I could marry Rachel. Why did you trick me?”

“It is our custom,” Laban lied, “for the older sister to marry before the younger.”* “But I’ll make a bargain with you. You may also marry Rachel if you will

work for me for another seven years.”

In those days in that country, many men had more than one wife. So at the end of the week of Leah’s wedding celebration, Jacob and Rachel were also married. Then Jacob began to work seven more years for Laban.

Jacob worked without pay for 14



years—a long time—to marry Rachel. Patiently, he served Laban all that time. He truly believed that having Rachel for his wife was worth it! And God helped him to serve faithfully even when the work was hard. When we really love someone, we will serve faithfully and with patience too.

*The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 388, states that Laban probably made up this custom. It was not the usual practice.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Ask your parents or another married couple to tell you about their wedding. Compare their wedding to Jacob's wedding. How are they alike? How are they different?
- Use the motions learned in Sabbath School to teach your family the memory verse. Talk about what it means to be patient.

Sunday

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 29:15. Why should people be paid for work they do for others? In your family, who gets paid for working? Who doesn't get paid? Why? Should you be paid for work you do to help at home? Why?
- Show your family the savings bank you made in Sabbath School. (Or make a bank from a plastic disposable container.) Talk about saving money for your Sabbath School mission project.

Monday

- Read and discuss Genesis 29:16, 17 for worship today. Describe Leah and Rachel. Who was more beautiful? Are beautiful people always kind and loving? Which is best: to be beautiful on the outside or on the inside? Why?
- Look through old magazines for pictures of people doing kind deeds. Cut them out and glue them to a piece of paper. Are they all beautiful?
- Thank Jesus for people who are patient and kind. Ask Him to help you to be patient and kind too.

Tuesday

- During worship today, read and discuss Genesis 29:18-20. What agreement did Jacob and Laban make? What kind of work would Jacob do? What do you think about their agreement?
- Ask an older couple about how they met and married. How long have they been married? Did

they wait a long or short time to get married? If they waited, how long did it seem? Ask how their love helps them to be kind and patient.

Wednesday

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 29:21-23. When Jacob reminded Laban of their agreement, what did Laban do? Who came to the wedding? Do you think Leah knew what Laban planned? Why did she do it?
- Draw a picture of the mission project you want to save money for. Share it with your family. Then hang it in your room to help you remember.
- Thank Jesus that you can give money to help others know Him.

Thursday

- Read and discuss Genesis 29:25-28 with your family. Why did Laban trick Jacob? Did Laban tell the truth when he said the older daughter had to marry first? How long did Jacob wait before Rachel became his wife? How long did he work for Laban after that? Did Jacob's love for Rachel help him to be patient with Laban?
- Think of a time someone in your family was patient with you. Did they encourage you with kindness? Thank Jesus for that person. Then go thank that person too.

Friday

- For family worship, read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 188-190,* to learn more about Jacob. Then act out the lesson story. Who will be Jacob? Rachel? Leah? Laban?
- If possible, look at your parents' wedding pictures. How are they different or the same as in Jacob's time?
- Say the memory verse together. Tell who has been patient and kind to you this week. Thank Jesus for those people.

*Chapter 17, paragraphs 9-16.