

IN THE BEGINNING GOD**God Blesses Jacob Genesis 27:41—30:24**

“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Genesis 28:15

Day 1: Read Genesis 27:41—28:22.

1. Earlier in Chapter 27 we see Rebekah scheming to advance the cause of her favorite son. What is the consequence of her scheming?
2. In verses 3 and 4 of chapter 28, Isaac blesses Jacob for a second time. How are the circumstances of this blessing different from those of the first blessing (27:1–29)? In what important way do the actual blessings conferred here differ from those in 27:27–29?
3. Scan back over Jacob’s life so far (25:24–34; 27). Can you detect any spark of faith in him? How does he refer to God? (27:20)
4. Describe what Jacob sees in his dream (28:12ff).
5. The stairway Jacob sees is like the ziggurats built by the ancient Mesopotamians to represent the way to the realm of the gods, a kind of link between heaven and earth (cf. 11:4). Who, many generations later, will call up this image and apply it to himself as the true link between God and humanity? (Jn. 1:50, 51; 1 Tim. 2:5)

Day 2: Read Genesis 28:10–22.

6. In this passage, God reveals himself directly to Jacob for the first time. Much of what God promises here echoes his earlier promises to Abraham (17:1–8) and Isaac (26:2–5). What element is given new emphasis for the fugitive Jacob? (v. 15)
7. What is Jacob’s first reaction upon waking? (vv. 16, 17) What does he then do? (vv. 18, 19)
8. Write down the two parts of Jacob’s vow:
If...
Then...
9. Jacob doesn’t commit himself to the Lord on the spot; instead, he hangs back to see whether God will follow through. What does Jacob’s faith look like later in his life? (33:18, 20; 48:11, 15, 16—note that “Israel” is Jacob; cf. Heb. 11:21)
10. God promises Jacob land (v. 13) and his presence and activity in his life (v. 15). Look at the following verses and note God’s promises to believers in Christ.
“Land”: Jn. 14:2, 3; 2 Cor. 5:1; 2 Pet. 3:13

Presence and activity in our lives: Mt. 28:18–20; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 13:5

Day 3: Read Genesis 29:1–30.

11. What does Jacob, the family heir, *not* have as he arrives at his uncle’s home? (Gen. 13:2; 24:34, 35; 26:12–14) What *does* he have? (28:15)
12. How is wily Jacob, who deftly relieved his elder brother of the family birthright and blessing, outfoxed by Laban?
13. After discovering Leah, the older daughter, in his bed, Jacob confronts Laban. According to John H. Walton, Laban’s response in verse 26 is literally, “It is not done in our place to set the younger before the elder.” How are the way Jacob is deceived and the response Laban gives him a kind of ironic comeuppance?

Day 4: Read Genesis 29:31—30:24.

14. Jacob’s family is Exhibit A for why polygamy is a bad idea. Why is Leah jealous of Rachel? Why is Rachel jealous of Leah?

15. List each woman’s children.

Leah:

Zilpah:

Rachel:

Bilhah:

- Why does God bless Leah with so many children? (29:31, 33) What aspect of God’s character does this reflect? (Lk. 1:46–55)

16. What special role is given to the descendants of Leah’s son Levi? (Num. 8:15–19; Deut. 18:1, 2) Who is descended from Leah’s son Judah? (Mt. 1:1–16)
17. We read in verse 22 that “God remembered Rachel,” just as he remembered Noah (8:1) and Abraham (19:29). What does God’s remembering look like? (Ps. 25:6; Ps. 136:23)
18. In Jacob’s family we see women caught up in rivalry and striving to make things happen on their own, and we see Jacob passively going with the flow. What sinful patterns do you detect in your own relationships with family members? Pray that God would give you eyes to see such patterns and a willingness to let him change you.

Day 5: Read Genesis 29:31—30:24.

19. In this week’s passage, we have seen the Lord reveal himself to Jacob, protect him in his long journey, and bless him with many children—all before Jacob ever owns him as his God. What does this say about God?
20. God’s covenant blessing passed from Abraham to Isaac (not Ishmael) to Jacob (not Esau). Now, as promised, “All peoples on earth [have been] blessed” (24:18b) through their descendant, Jesus Christ. How has this come about? (Gal. 3:26–29; Eph. 1:3–8, 13, 14)