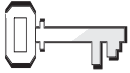


## Who Cheated?



### 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).

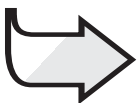


### Objectives

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

Love helps us serve  
others patiently.

### 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. *Ask A Married Couple*  
B. *Trick Gift*

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  
*Sing for Joy*  
*Children's Mission*  
offering container  
none

**2**

Bible Lesson

up to 20

Experiencing the Story  
  
Memory Verse  
  
Bible Study

bed sheets or large tissue paper or roll of toilet paper  
chalkboard or whiteboard, chalk or marker, books  
oil-burning lamp or special wedding candle, Bibles

**3**

Applying the Lesson

up to 15

*Scenarios*

none

**4**

Sharing the Lesson

up to 15

*Savings Banks*

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.

1

## 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, NIV). And our message tells us that . . .**



**LOVE HELPS US SERVE OTHERS 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, NIV). And our message tells us that . . .



**LOVE HELPS US SERVE OTHERS PATIENTLY.**

**Say that with me.**

## 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.

# 2

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- bed sheets 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.] Rachel’s older sister, Leah, wasn’t married yet. “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 at the end of Leah's wedding?**

**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? Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:**



**LOVE HELPS US SERVE OTHERS 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.

<b>Love</b>	Cross arms over chest.
<b>is patient,</b>	With fingers facing left, touch right fist to the lips, then move down to the chin.
<b>love</b>	Cross arms over chest.
<b>is kind.</b>	With palms facing inward, rotate hands in a circle.
<b>1 Corinthians 13:4</b>	Palms together, then open.

### Bible Study

Bring an oil-burning lamp or a special candle that was used at a wedding to show the children. Talk about how candles and lights are used at weddings. Then look up Matthew 25:1-13 and read aloud, or ask some children to each take a verse to read.

#### You Need:

- oil-burning lamp or special wedding candle
- Bibles

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**What was the goal of all ten virgins? What did the five wise virgins do to meet their goal?**

**Why didn't the others go to the wedding feast?**

**What did all the young women need as they waited for the bridegroom? (They all needed patience and perseverance.)**

**How is this parable and today's story about Jacob alike?**

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



**LOVE HELPS US SERVE OTHERS PATIENTLY.**

# 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?**

**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?**

**When you do an act of service for someone else, are you doing it only for them? Or are you also doing it for God? Let's say our message together again:**



**LOVE HELPS US SERVE OTHERS PATIENTLY.**



## 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:**



**LOVE HELPS US SERVE OTHERS PATIENTLY.**

### Closing

Ask Jesus to help the children do the best job they can in every situation and to serve others because of the love Jesus 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

Love helps us serve  
others patiently.

*Have you ever worked hard and long for someone you love? Maybe it was helping your dad stack wood or rake a ton of leaves. Or maybe you helped your mom can or freeze fruit 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 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 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. Yes, Jacob was a good servant. 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 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 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.”\* Rachel’s older sister, Leah, wasn’t married yet. “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. But his love for her made the hard work seem pleasant! Patiently, he served Laban all that time. He truly believed that having Rachel for his wife was worth it! His love for her made the work seem easy. When we really love someone, we will serve with patience and kindness 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 when 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.