

Who Cheated?

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

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 loved 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



The Message

Love helps us serve others patiently.

Memory Verse

"Love is patient,
love is kind"

(1 Corinthians 13:4,
NIV).

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.



S A B B A T H

ASK 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?

DO Use the motions learned in Sabbath School to teach your family the memory verse. Talk about what it means to be patient.

S U N D A Y

READ 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?

DO 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.

M O N D A Y

READ 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?

DO 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?

PRAY Thank Jesus for people who are patient and kind. Ask Him to help you to be patient and kind too.

T U E S D A Y

SHARE 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 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.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ 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?

DO 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.

PRAY Thank Jesus that you can give money to help others know Him.



THURSDAY

READ

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?

DO 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.

Shepherds in Jacob's time had to guard their flocks against attacks by lions, leopards, wolves, and hyenas.



FRIDAY

READ

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?

DO If possible, look at your parents' wedding pictures. How are they different or the same as in Jacob's time?

DO 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.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Check the squares around the puzzle to find the letters to learn two lessons about love.

♥ _A	▲	●	○	◆	♠	■	♥ _N	▲	♠	◆	♥ _P
♠	<p>Love is _____</p> <p>and _____</p>										■
◆											♥ _E
♥ _I											◆
▲											♠
○											♥ _D
♥ _D	■	♠	◆	♠	▲	♥ _K	▲	♠	○	♥ _T	●