

# Walk Through the Bible

## GENESIS 28-29

### OVERVIEW

In Genesis chapter 28, Isaac sends Jacob to his uncle Laban to find a non-Canaanite wife. Hearing this, Esau marries one of the daughters of Ishmael. On the road to Mesopotamia, the Lord appears to Jacob in a dream about a ladder to heaven. God reminds Jacob of the covenant promises of Abraham. In awe and fear, Jacob renames the place Bethel and vows to worship the Lord as his God.

Genesis 29 sees Jacob arrive in Haran where he falls in love with his uncle's daughter, Rachel. After working seven years to marry her, Jacob is tricked by his uncle into marrying the older daughter, Leah, instead. Laban allows Jacob to marry Rachel, as well, in exchange for another seven years' work. Though she is unloved by Jacob, the Lord notices Leah's heartbreak and allows her to bear four sons.

### DISCUSSION

- In the story of Jacob, Esau, Rebekah, and Isaac, which character do you most identify with? Why?
- How does the Tower of Babel compare with Jacob's Ladder? (**Genesis 28:10-15**)
- In your opinion, what or who does Jacob's ladder represent?
- Why do you think Jacob cried when he kissed Rachel? (**Genesis 29:11**)
- What is a Hebrew idiom, and do you think this is why Leah had "weak eyes"? (**Genesis 29:17**)
- How do you think Laban was able to trick Jacob? (**Genesis 29:18-30**)
- What other Bible stories show conflict between the older and younger siblings?
- What principles are found in the law of sowing and reaping?
- What do the names of Leah and Jacob's children tell you about their relationship? (**Genesis 29:31-35**)

