



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of July 17, 2022

Why Then Have You Deceived Me?

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Genesis 29:1-30](#)

- **Have you ever attended an extended family event or reunion? What was that like? What made you anxious? What was one unexpected blessing or surprise?**

¹ Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. ² As he looked, he saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large, ³ and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well.

⁴ Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from Haran." ⁵ He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him." ⁶ He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well; and see, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!" ⁷ He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep and go, pasture them." ⁸ But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

⁹ While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. ¹⁰ Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob came near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. ¹¹ Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud. ¹² And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father.

¹³ As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things, ¹⁴ and Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!" And he stayed with him a month.

- **Jacob arrives in Paddan Aram. Who does he meet at the well?**
- **Jacob's tears in v.11 indicate this is a significant moment for him. Why?**

- **No doubt Laban can recall the scene 40 years earlier when Abraham's servant came looking for a wife for Isaac ([Genesis 24:29](#)). Describe Laban's reception of Jacob (13-14). Why?**

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

- **Laban initiates an agreement. What is it?**
- **How are Laban's daughters described? (16-17)**
- **How do you interpret Jacob's current state of mind?**
- **How do you interpret what Laban is doing?**

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) ²⁵ And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶ Laban said, "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. ²⁹ (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) ³⁰ So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

- **We learn that Laban has a cruel and clever scheme. What does he gain from it?**
- **Verse 25 expresses Jacob's (and our) surprise: "Behold, it was Leah!" How does Jacob respond? What do you think this moment was like for him?**
- **What parallels do you see between Laban's deceit and Jacob's deceit of his father, when he pretending to be his brother, Esau, to steal the birthright ([Genesis 27:19](#)).**
- **Jacob is angry why does he accept to Laban's explanation and outrageous proposal? (27-30)**
- **When you are deceived, what do you struggle to believe? Jesus will not deceive us, and is faithful to all of God's promises. Repent and pray together in light of this week's passage.**