

# If God Had Not Been With Me

Genesis 30:25-31:55 | August 16, 2020

## Considering the narrative:

Genesis 30:25-30 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 31:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 31:38-42 \_\_\_\_\_

Jacob, "The Deceiver," now fully recognizes that God has been with him and is the source of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Learning from the experience of another:

1. TRUTH—God will fulfill his \_\_\_\_\_, no matter where you may be or how the outlook may appear.
  - a. Take \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God's faithfulness.
  
2. TRUTH—God is not \_\_\_\_\_ towards oppression and exploitation.
  - a. As an oppressed person—take \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his righteousness.
  - b. In your relationships, act \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Do not be the oppressor.
  - c. When injustice and oppression occur around you, stand on \_\_\_\_\_.

## Trusting beyond my circumstances:

- Romans 8:31-39

**Protected by a loving God,**

## Discussion Questions:

1. What specific aspects of Jacob's life speak to God's faithfulness to him even in the face of Laban's selfish dealings?
2. "When injustice and oppression occur around you, stand on God's side." Can you list a few practical actions believers can take to accomplish this?
3. How does Romans 8:31-39 speak to God's faithfulness in the life of every believer?



## Questions for Parents to use with their children:

**1. Everyone take a moment and answer this humbling question: Have you ever lied, stolen, or deceived someone? Ouch!!**

**2. Read Genesis 30:25-31:55 out loud together. Next, share where you see lying, theft, and deceit in the story?**

*Answer: Laban tried to deceive Jacob in 30:35 when he has his sons secretly remove all the animals that were supposed to be Jacobs and gives them to his sons. Rachel stole (30:15) and lied (31:19) to her Father about having the Idol (31:34-35).*

**3. How does lying, deceit, and stealing cause us and others problems?**

*Answer: When Laban tried to deceive Jacob in 30:35, it ultimately led to conflict and frustration in and between Jacob, Laban, and Laban's sons.*

*Lying and stealing the idol brought fear and danger to Rachel. This led to family conflict between Laban and Jacob's families.*

**4. Share how you see God moving and orchestrating events in this story.**

*Answer: God was the one who prospered Jacob and Laban through Jacob (30:27-30). God allowed his blessing to come through Jacob.*

*The Lord also protected and led Jacob by appearing to him in a dream (31:3-16, 42). God was ultimately fulfilling His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*

**5. How does this story point us toward Jesus and the Father?**

*Answer: Jesus died for the sins we have all committed whether lying, stealing, or deceiving others. We can trust in him for the forgiveness of our sins and to restore us to fellowship with God the Father whenever we sin.*

*Just as God ultimately fulfilled his purposes in Jacob's life, God sovereignly did the same in Jesus's. God the Father watched carefully over Jesus's life and he will watch over ours.*

**6. How can you apply this story to your lives?**

*Answer: If you have ever lied, stolen, or deceived someone, we can look to God through Jesus in order to be forgiven of your sins and reconciled to God.*

*We can put our faith and trust in God to direct and help fulfill his purposes in our lives, especially when others might mistreat us. As the Psalmist has said, "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever..." (Psalm 138:8).*