

JACOB FLEES LABAN

Genesis 31: 17-55

After talking to Rachel and Leah about the need to leave Laban, Jacob prepared his family to leave on their camels. He took all his animals that he had gotten in Haran, and left to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and after he left, Rachel stole Laban's little household idols. No one in Jacob's family knew what she had done.

Jacob left Laban without Laban's knowledge. He fled from Laban, passing over the river, and traveling quickly toward the mount Gilead.

The third day after Jacob and his family had left, someone told Laban of their going. Laban gathered the men of his family and pursued after Jacob. At the mount Gilead, Laban caught up to Jacob. That night in a dream, the Lord spoke to Laban, saying, "Be careful that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad."

Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mountain, and Laban made his camp on mount Gilead. Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You have sneaked away from me, and carried away my daughters as though they were captives. Why did you run away secretly from me, and not tell me that you were going? Then we could have had music and sent you away with gladness. You have not allowed me to kiss my grandchildren good-bye. You have done a very foolish thing. You know that it is in my power to hurt you, but God your father warned me in a dream last night not to speak either good or bad to you. And even though you want to go home because you miss your father, why have you stolen my gods?"

Jacob answered Laban, saying, "I ran away in secret because I was afraid, for I said, 'Maybe he will take his daughters away from me by force.' Whoever has your gods, put that person to death. If I have taken anything that is yours, look for it."

Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen Laban's idols.

Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the two maid servant's tents, looking for his idols, but he did not find them.

Rachel had hidden the idols in her camel's furniture, and she was sitting on it. When her father came into her tent she said, "Please don't be upset that I can not get up, for I am not well today." Laban never guessed that she was hiding the idols.

Laban searched everywhere, except in Rachel's camel furniture, so he did not find the idols.

After all this, Jacob became very angry. He scolded Laban, saying, "What is my sin against you, that you have chased after me like this? You have searched all my things as though I am a thief. What have you found that is yours? Set it out for everyone to see. I have been with you for twenty years, your ewes and she goats have not lost their young, and the rams of your flocks have not been eaten by me. Any animal that was killed by wild beasts, I have paid for myself. I suffered the cold of night and the heat of the day, and lost sleep caring for your flocks. Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac had been with me, you surely would have sent me away with nothing. God has seen my suffering, and all the hard work I have done for you, and he has rebuked you last night."

Then Laban answered Jacob, "These are my daughters, and these are my grandchildren, these are my cattle. Everything that you see here is mine. But what can I do about it? So come now, let us make a covenant. Let us make a witness between us."

Then Jacob took a stone and set it up for a pillar. He said, "Gather stones." So they gathered stones and made a heap. Then they ate a meal together. Laban said, "This heap is a witness between us today. The Lord watch between you and me. If you do anything to harm my daughters, or marry other wives, no one else may know, but God will see it. This heap is a witness that I will not pass over to you, and that you will not pass over to me. The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor their father, judge between the two of us."

Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac.

Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount and called everyone to eat together.

Early in the morning Laban got up. He kissed his daughters and grandchildren, and returned to his home.

If Laban had had his way, Jacob would have either worked for him for ever, or he would have gone home with nothing. For Laban was a selfish wicked man, and he never intended to giving Jacob anything for his hard work. But Jacob trusted the Lord, and the Lord provided for his servant Jacob. When Jacob left to return to the land of Canaan, he left with great wealth, and there was nothing that Laban could do about it. God had warned Laban to leave Jacob alone.

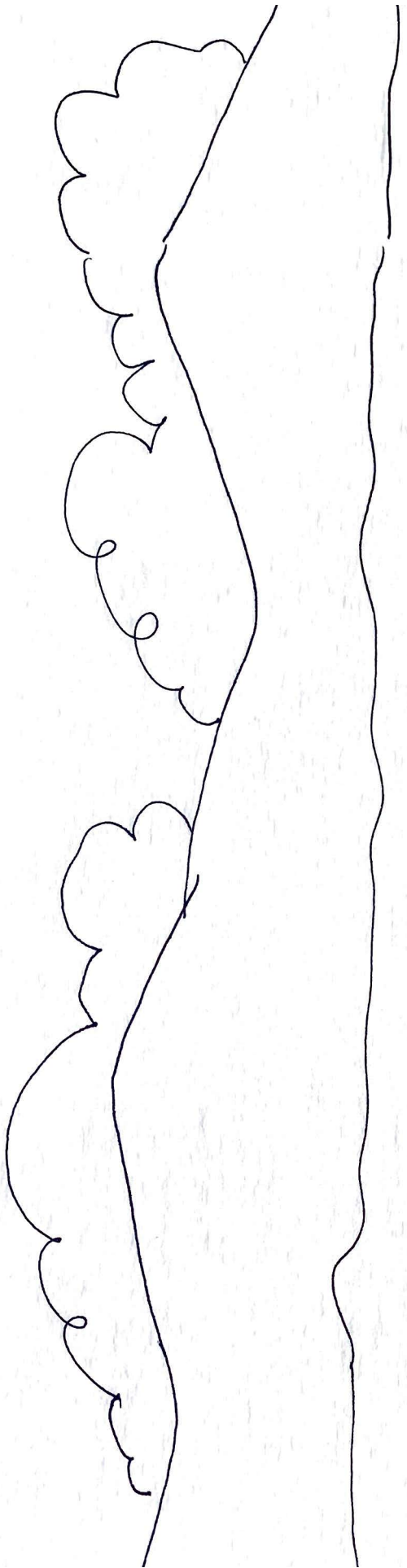
God is just as willing and able to take care of his children today as he did then.

PRINCIPLE: God will take care of his children. There is no evil that can overcome God.

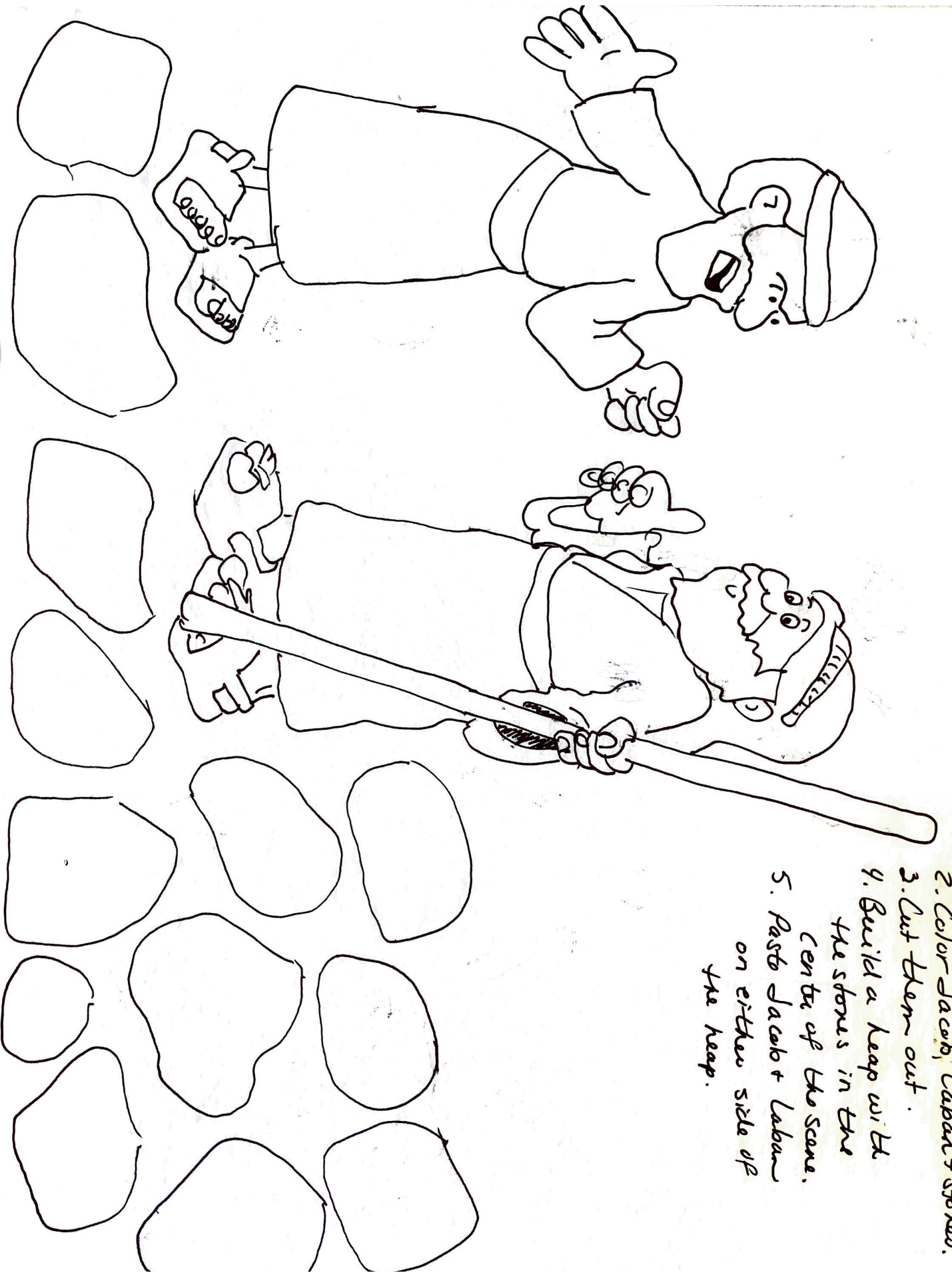
LEARN: What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:31,32



2. Color Jacob, Laban + stones.
3. Cut them out.
4. Build a heap with the stones in the center of the scene.
5. Paste Jacob + Laban on either side of the heap.



What shall we say then to these things?
If God be for us, who can be against us?
He that spared not his own Son, but delivered
him up for us all, how shall he not also freely
give us all things? Romans 8:31, 32

