



**Family
Conversation
Guide**

09.25.2022

September Theme:
We can shine with God inside!

Monthly Memory Verse:

"...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

- **Matthew 5:16** (ESV)

Monthly Challenge Verse:

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go..."

- **Genesis 28:15** (ESV)

Week of September 25

Life Application:
God still shines in tough times.



Parents: After listening to the sermon (or reading the story), take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids. This week, we see how “Jacob the Trickster” is tricked. Read through **Genesis 29** as you lead your kids. Have them turn to **pages 83-86 in The Action Bible (Broken Trust)** and read together before you discuss.

1. This week we will learn that Jacob had to leave home. **Can you remember why Jacob was traveling to Haran to see his relatives, including his mother’s brother, Laban?** (See **Genesis 27:41-48**, Esau was very angry with Jacob and planned to kill him because Jacob stole Esau’s birthright.) God did something special for Jacob along the way. **What did He show Jacob?** (He showed Jacob the ladder to heaven, and made a covenant with Jacob. Even though Jacob was a trickster, God knew he was faithful and He loved Jacob.)
2. Together, read **The Action Bible, pages 83-88**. **What happened when Jacob arrived in Haran?** (**Genesis 29:9-10**, Jacob asked about his kinsman, Laban, and some men pointed out Laban’s daughter, Rachel. Jacob saw her and helped her roll the stone from the well, probably to show off for her! He then helped her water the flock of sheep.)
3. Then, Jacob kissed Rachel and wept out loud. **Why do you think he did this?** (Jacob fell in love with Rachel and knew he wanted her to be his wife.) Jacob told Rachel that he was her kinsman and she ran to tell her father. Read **verses 13-14**. **How did Laban feel about Jacob’s arrival?** (He was glad to see him- he ran to meet him with great affection.)
4. In **verses 15-20**, Laban asked Jacob to stay, and they struck a deal. **What was it?** (Instead of wages, Jacob promised to work seven years in return for having Rachel as his wife.)
5. **Did Jacob keep his part of the deal?** (Yes!)
6. Read **verses 21-26**. **Did Laban keep his part of the bargain?** (No, he tricked Jacob into marrying Leah, his older daughter.) **Why did Laban do this?** (Because Leah was the firstborn daughter and he felt she should be married first.)
7. **Does this sound familiar? Did Jacob do something similar?** (Jacob tricked his brother Esau and his father Isaac so that he could steal Esau’s birthright. The trickster was tricked!)
8. **How was Jacob finally able to marry Rachel?** (Laban let Jacob marry Rachel in return for seven more years of service to him.)
9. Even though Jacob was a trickster, he matured in his faith as he worked and waited. **God had a great plan for Jacob’s life!** He has a plan for our lives, too. We just need to have faith and trust Him no matter what.

Digging Deeper:

1. Read **Galatians 6:7**. **What do we learn from this verse?** (*Jacob was a trickster, and then he was tricked. We reap what we sow.*)
2. Now read **Romans 5:3-5** out loud. **Ask: Jacob had to work hard and suffer, but**
 - **What does suffering produce?** (*Character*)
 - **What does character produce?** (*Hope*)
 - And finally: “and **hope does not put us to shame**, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

God is continually using discipline to grow our character so that we can be true followers. We need to persevere, even through pain and suffering- and He will be with us, helping us to grow to be more like Him!

Family Challenge:

Go for a walk together. Talk about the growing things you see all around you. God wants us to grow too. **Sometimes, when we struggle or have a hard time, God can help us grow.** Learn to trust Him and rely on Him even more when times are hard. You will look back and see how He was at work!

Prayer:

Dear God, Thank You for showing us that You are at work in us, and when we suffer, You are there, helping us develop character and hope as we persevere. We love You and we have faith that You are for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.