

## Jacob Family Drama

July 1, 2018 / Phil Bischoff

<sup>25</sup> After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland. <sup>26</sup> Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will be on my way. You know how much work I’ve done for you.”<sup>27</sup> **But Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you.”** <sup>28</sup> He added, “Name your wages, and I will pay them.”... <sup>31</sup> “What shall I give you?” he asked. “Don’t give me anything,” Jacob replied. **“But if you will do this one thing for me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them: Genesis 30:25-28,31, NIV**

So the weak animals went to Laban and the strong ones to Jacob. <sup>43</sup> In this way the man grew exceedingly prosperous and came to own large flocks, and female and male servants, and camels and donkeys. **Genesis 30:42b-43, NIV**

The fear of being left \_\_\_\_\_ caused Laban and Jacob to \_\_\_\_ each other and instigate ugly family \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>1</sup> Jacob heard that Laban’s sons were saying, “Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.” <sup>2</sup> And Jacob noticed that Laban’s attitude toward him was not what it had been... <sup>14</sup> Then Rachel and Leah replied, “Do we still have any share in the inheritance of our father’s estate? <sup>15</sup> Does he not regard us as foreigners? Not only has he sold us, but he has used up what was paid for us. <sup>16</sup> Surely all the wealth that God took away from our father belongs to us and our children. So do whatever God has told you.” **Genesis 31:1-2,14-16, NIV**

A misguided view of \_\_\_\_\_ everything we have comes from and \_\_\_\_\_ God gives it to us leads to jealousy, bitterness, entitlement, and separation.

<sup>11</sup> The angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob.’ I answered, ‘Here I am.’ <sup>12</sup> And he said, ‘Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. <sup>13</sup> **I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.’ Genesis 31:11-13, NIV**

<sup>40</sup> This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes.<sup>41</sup> It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you **fourteen years** for your two daughters and **six years** for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times. <sup>42</sup> **If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. Genesis 31:40-42a, NIV**

God abundantly delivers on his \_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>43</sup> Laban answered Jacob, “The women are my daughters, the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks. All you see is mine. Yet what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about the children they have borne? <sup>44</sup> Come now, let’s make a covenant, you and I, and let it serve as a witness between us.”... <sup>53</sup> May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.” **So Jacob took an oath in the name of the Fear of his father Isaac. <sup>54</sup> He offered a sacrifice there in the hill country and invited his relatives to a meal. Genesis 31: 43,44,53,54, NIV**

God’s generosity results in our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
God’s generosity is a family drama \_\_\_\_\_.

### MEMORY VERSE

<sup>42</sup> **If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. Genesis 31:42a, NIV**

**My next step:** God is generous to me, especially through Christ. His generosity gives me peace and makes me a generous family drama killer!

What’s your next step today?  
Mark it on your Communication Card.