

In-Law Wars **Genesis 30:25-31:16**

Jacob wants to leave Laban but agrees to work for him. 30:25-34

- Laban is desperate to keep Jacob so he can keep getting richer.
- *Name me your wages* recalls 29:15. Recall how that worked out!
- Jacob offers Laban a super deal. But why even trust Laban at all?

Jacob outwits Laban and becomes very wealthy. 30:35-43

- Laban immediately cheats Jacob, who then turns to folk-magic and selective breeding to increase his flock at Laban's expense.
- Compare Jacob's branch-peeling plan to v.14.
- See later in 31:9-12 to help explain Jacob's decision & success.

Jacob is told by God to leave Laban and return home. 31:1-3

- Jacob's success at Laban's expense creates animosity.
- God commands Jacob to now go home after these six years of service (31:41) and 20 total years in Haran.

Jacob explains to his wives the reasons for leaving Laban. 31:4-16

- Notice Jacob carefully reasons with his wives about leaving. Why?

- Both Rachel and Leah agree and mention their own frustrations.



We see God fulfilling His big promises to Jacob in spite of so many family failures,

Consider how helpful or damaging that in-laws can be. We want to avoid being like Laban!