

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CHURCH (IBC) LINZ

Flötzerweg 156 (Neue Heimat) 4030 Linz

...then you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free. Jn.8:32

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

25:10:15

Theme: JACOB IN THE HOUSE OF LABAN

Memory Verse: *Genesis 28:15 “ And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”*

Texts: Genesis 29:1-35

Jacob, inspired by new hopes, after his life transforming experience at Bethel, proceeded on his journey to Haran, about 450 miles from Beersheba. Bethel, meaning the house of God, should be the take-off point of every pilgrim who hopes for divine guidance and strong relationship with the Almighty God. Jacob had some relation at Haran, notably Laban, Rebecca’s brother, and Jacob’s uncle. Jacob’s arrival and subsequent sojourn with Laban for the next 20 years was full of intrigues and remarkable events.

As Jacob journeyed, he came across a well, around which were three flocks of sheep. Wells were very important in the dry eastern country as a source of water for men, animals and crops. Jacob accosted the shepherds he met in a polite and friendly manner, and thereafter, made inquiries concerning Laban. It is both expected of and expedient for Christians to show courtesy. Not only does this grant favour, it also opens doors of opportunities for witnessing. From the way Jacob keenly observed the well, the sets of flocks and the tender approach to his new acquaintances, we easily notice in him the quality of a good shepherd.

Back home, we are told he kept a flock. (Genesis 27:9). To a weary, thirsty pilgrim and a shepherd, water has a great value. What Jacob did here by taking care and time to water the flock of Laban is somewhat similar to what the Lord was to do thousands of years later on the spot where the well of Jacob was located.(John 4:6,7). Just as the flock of Laban caught the attention of Jacob who patiently assisted Rachel to water the flock so did the Samaritan woman and fellow Samaritans caught the attention of the caring Lord. At home or field, away from home, every believer is commanded to “be diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds” (Proverbs 27:23)