

## *Jacob and Rachel Discussion*

*Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.*

*Did Rachel really know what she was getting into when her marriage to Jacob was arranged? Did she actually have a choice?*

*Does it appear that Jacob took advantage of his less clever twin brother in convincing him to sell his birthright for food?*

*Why do you suppose Rebekah arranged the deception to get Isaac to bless Jacob?*

*Do parents have favorite children?*

*What qualities did Jacob later demonstrate which might have been important in the LORD's plan for his people?*

*Was it poetic justice that Laban deceived Jacob in giving him Leah first and then requiring seven more years of labor for Rachel?*

*Marrying family members now is a genetic risk because of the likelihood of identical harmful mutations. Adam and Eve's children married siblings and it was fine because they were nearly perfect. By the time of the Patriarchs it was still acceptable to marry cousins and half siblings.*

*The introduction of children by handmaidens was an accepted practice at the time. Can you see a genetic advantage for the future of the nation that would result from that way of growing the family?*

*Is it possible to see the hand of the LORD in all the wheeling and dealing that took place between Jacob and Laban?*

*Is it surprising that the phrase, "May the LORD keep watch between me and you" is not a blessing but a warning?*

*Rachel was capable of a little subterfuge of her own in stealing her father's idols. Should she have told Jacob?*

*Why do you think angels visited Jacob on the way back to his country to his father and brother?*

*Jacob made elaborate plans to protect his family and pacify his brother. It turned out to be unnecessary, but what did it do to Jacob's thinking?*

*Does his humility seem genuine?*

*Did it take a crisis to bring him to that point?*

*What are the characteristics Jacob showed when insisting that the angel bless him before leaving?*

*What had apparently happened to Esau over the intervening years?*

*Rachel's prayer for another son was answered, but delivering that baby also took her life. How did the special status of this son play out years later?*

*Was Jacob chosen by the LORD for his virtuous behavior?*

*Is there any benefit in virtue?*

*What lessons do these principles have for our lives today?*