

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

***JACOB WORKS FOR LABAN /
JACOB RUNS AWAY***

by

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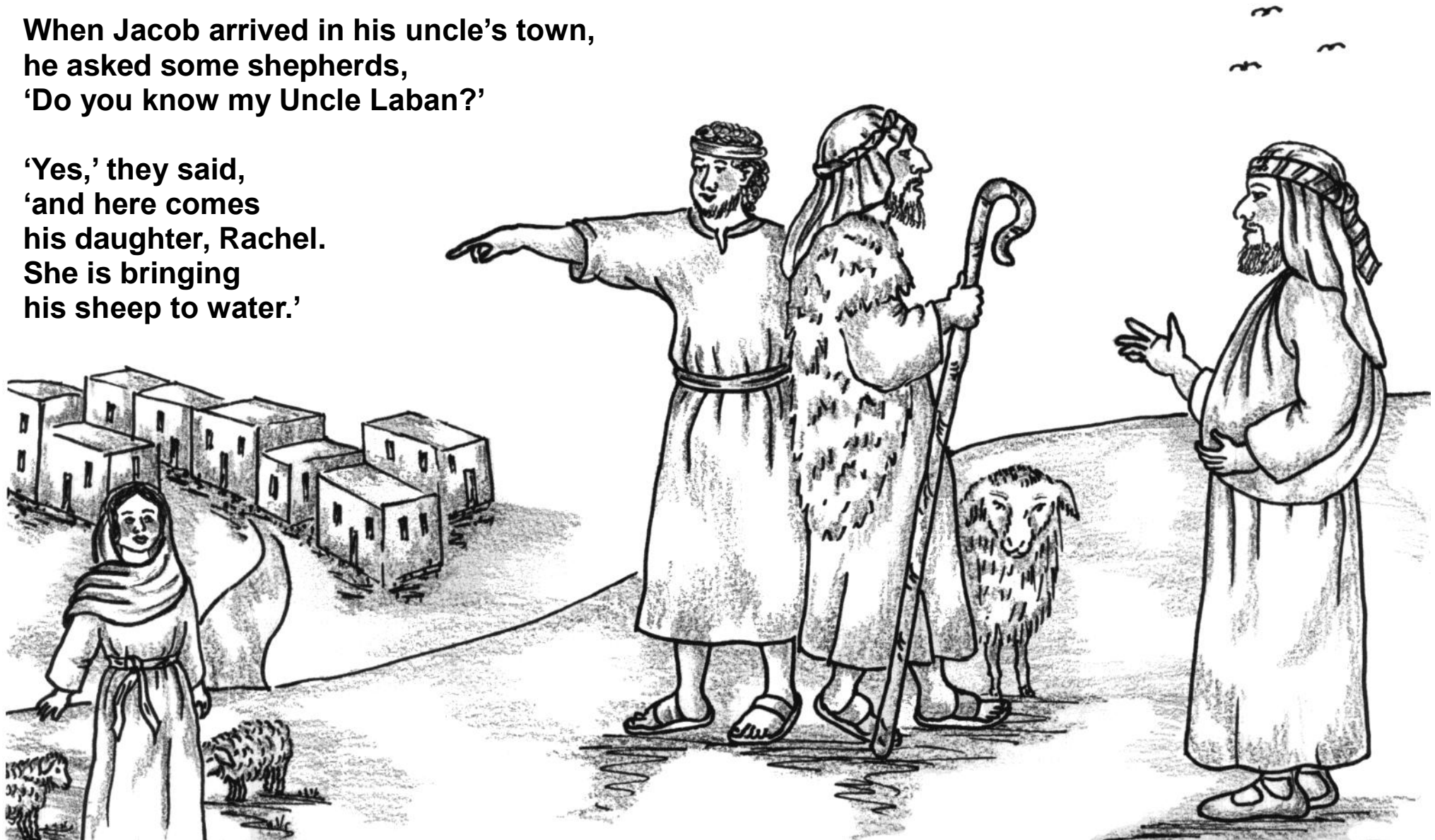
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GENESIS 29:1 – 31:55
JACOB WORKS FOR LABAN /
JACOB RUNS AWAY
File no. 18

**When Jacob arrived in his uncle's town,
he asked some shepherds,
'Do you know my Uncle Laban?'**

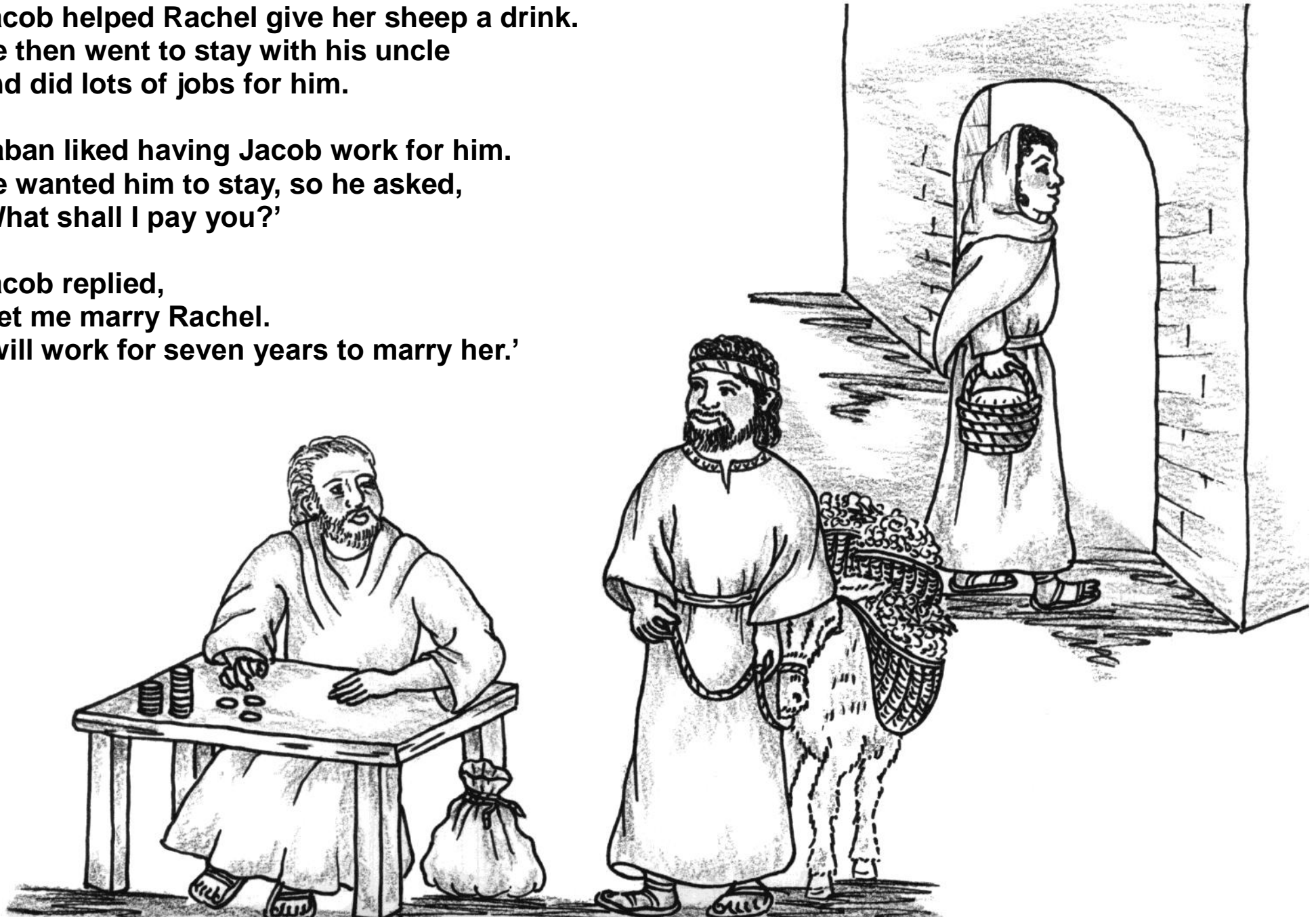
**'Yes,' they said,
'and here comes
his daughter, Rachel.
She is bringing
his sheep to water.'**



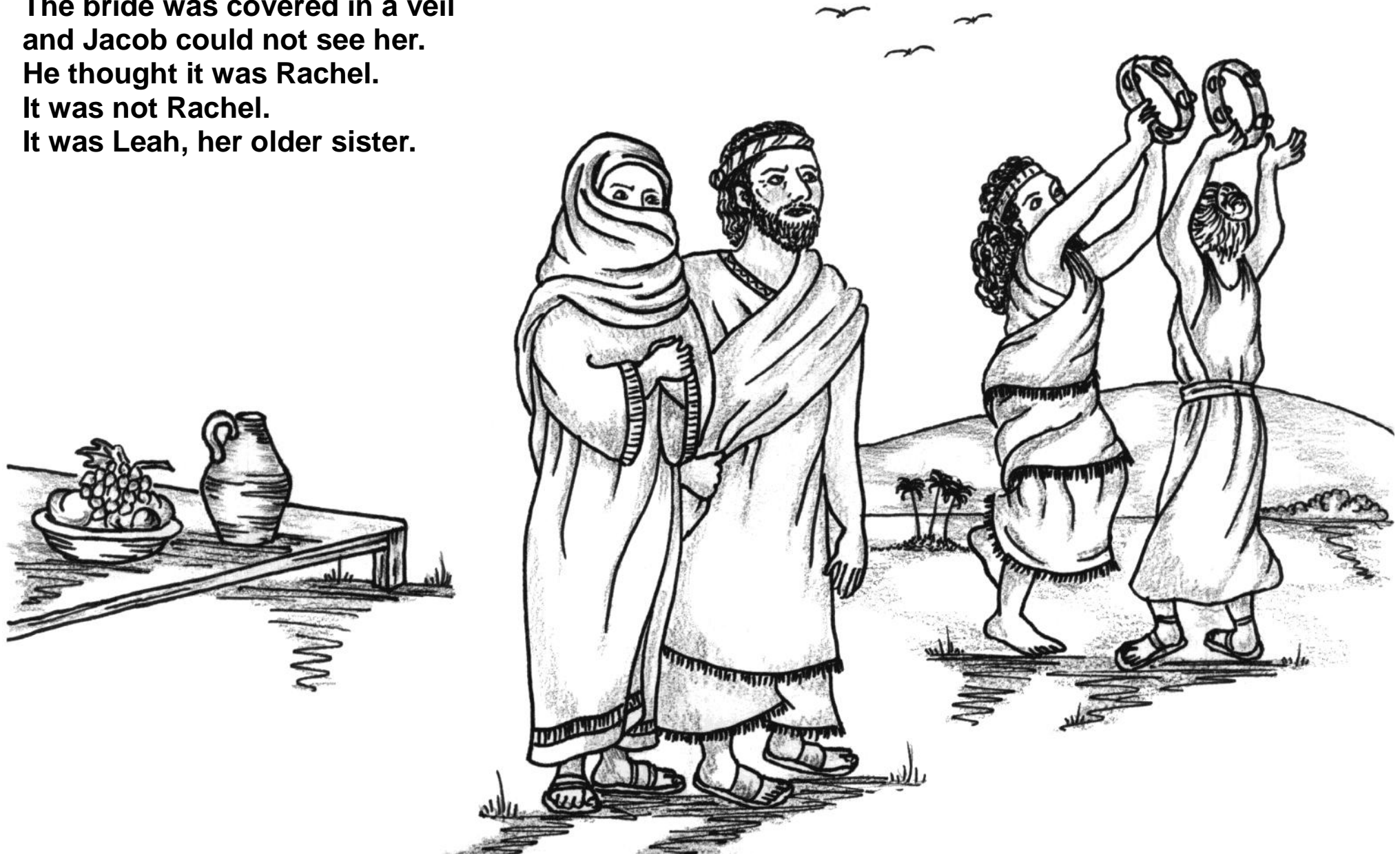
**Jacob helped Rachel give her sheep a drink.
He then went to stay with his uncle
and did lots of jobs for him.**

**Laban liked having Jacob work for him.
He wanted him to stay, so he asked,
'What shall I pay you?'**

**Jacob replied,
'Let me marry Rachel.
I will work for seven years to marry her.'**



Seven years later there was a wedding.
The bride was covered in a veil
and Jacob could not see her.
He thought it was Rachel.
It was not Rachel.
It was Leah, her older sister.



The next morning Jacob saw
that he had been tricked.

He was angry with Laban
and asked him,
'Why did you do this to me?
I worked for you
so I could marry Rachel.'

Later, his uncle
let him marry Rachel too.
He had to work another
seven years for her.



**When Jacob had paid what he owed,
he wanted to go back to his country.**

**Laban didn't want him to go.
He had become rich
while Jacob was with him.
God had blessed Jacob.**

**Laban said to Jacob,
'Please stay with me.
I will pay you.'**

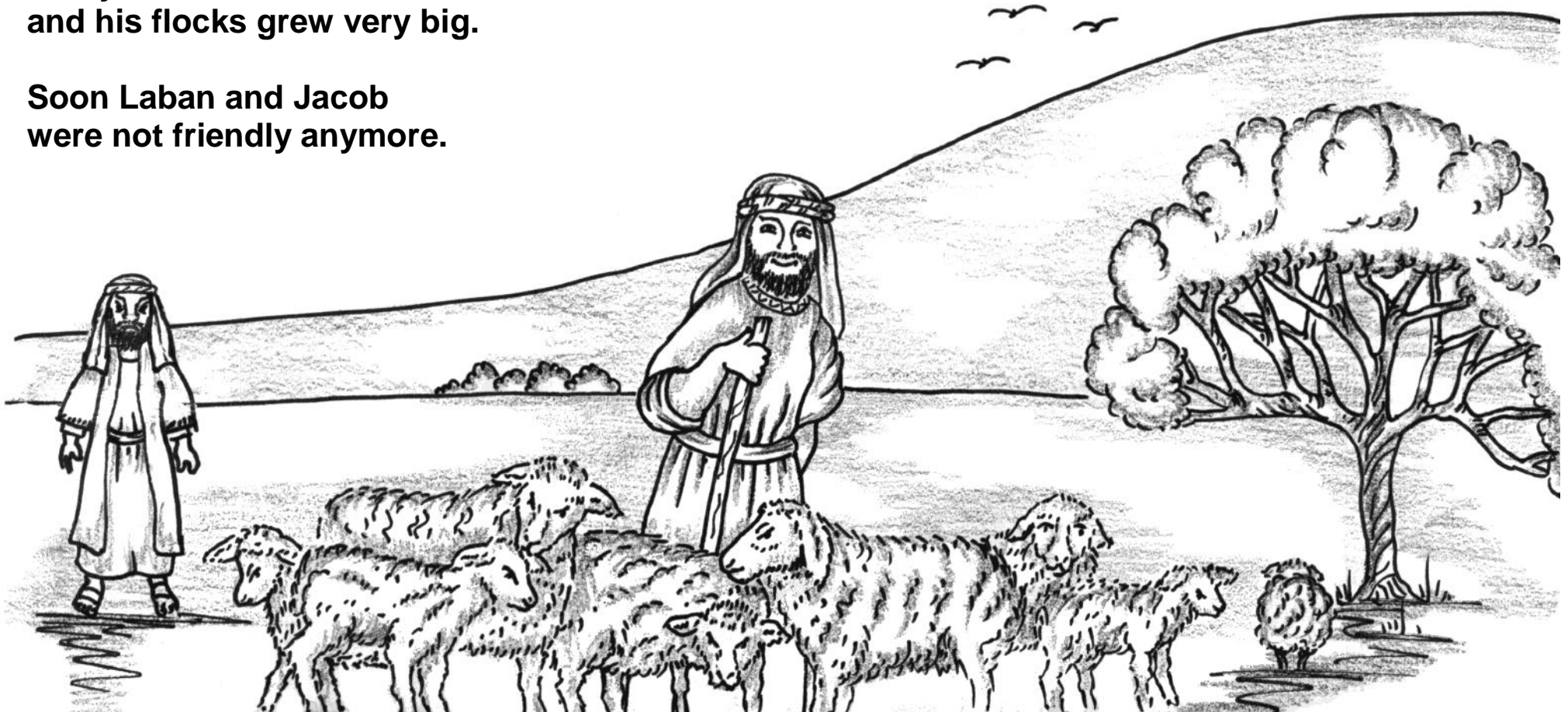


**‘All right,’ said Jacob.
‘Let me have the striped and speckled sheep.’**

**Laban did not really want to pay Jacob.
He kept on changing his mind
about what sheep Jacob could have.**

**But Jacob’s sheep
always had the most lambs
and his flocks grew very big.**

**Soon Laban and Jacob
were not friendly anymore.**



Then God said to Jacob,
'Go back to your own land
and your own people.
I will be with you just as I promised.'

So Jacob left quickly,
without telling Laban.



**Laban heard that Jacob had gone.
He chased him and thought,
'I will bring him back.'**

**But that night God spoke to Laban
and said,
'Be careful; don't hurt Jacob.'**

**Laban obeyed God
and said goodbye to
Jacob and his family.**

**God was looking after Jacob
to bring him back to the land
He had promised him.**

