

# CHARACTER LESSONS FROM BIBLE HEROES

July 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022  
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## Jacob: Perseverance

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6

<sup>41</sup> From that time on, Esau hated Jacob because their father had given Jacob the blessing. And Esau began to scheme: "I will soon be mourning my father's death. Then I will kill my brother, Jacob."

<sup>42</sup> But Rebekah heard about Esau's plans. So she sent for Jacob and told him, "Listen, Esau is consoling himself by plotting to kill you. <sup>43</sup> So listen carefully, my son. Get ready and flee to my brother, Laban, in Haran. <sup>44</sup> Stay there with him until your brother cools off. <sup>45</sup> When he calms down and forgets what you have done to him, I will send for you to come back. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"

Genesis 27:41-45

<sup>13</sup> As soon as Laban heard that his nephew Jacob had arrived, he ran out to meet him. He embraced and kissed him and brought him home. When Jacob had told him his story, <sup>14</sup> Laban exclaimed, "You really are my own flesh and blood!" After Jacob had stayed with Laban for about a month, <sup>15</sup> Laban said to him, "You shouldn't work for me without pay just because we are relatives. Tell me how much your wages should be." <sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters. The older daughter was named Leah, and the younger one was Rachel. <sup>17</sup> There was no sparkle in Leah's eyes, but Rachel had a beautiful figure and a lovely face. <sup>18</sup> Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he told her father, "I'll work for you for seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife." Genesis 29:13-18

My character grows \_\_\_\_\_ every time I refuse to give up.

### Perseverance Strengthens My Character When I:

I) \_\_\_\_\_ challenges in my life.

A) "Agreed!" Laban replied. "I'd rather give her to you than to anyone else. Stay and work with me." So Jacob worked seven years to pay for Rachel. But his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days. Finally, the time came for him to marry her. "I have fulfilled my agreement," Jacob said to Laban. "Now give me my wife so I can marry her." So Laban invited everyone in the neighborhood and prepared a wedding feast. But that night, when it was dark, Laban took Leah to Jacob, and he slept with her. (Laban had given Leah a servant, Zilpah, to be her maid.) But when Jacob woke up in the morning—it was Leah! "What have you done to me?" Jacob raged at Laban. "I worked seven years for Rachel! Why

have you tricked me?" Genesis 29:19-25

B) I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33

II) Look for \_\_\_\_\_ while I'm waiting.

A) So Jacob agreed to work seven more years. A week after Jacob had married Leah, Laban gave him Rachel, too. Genesis 29:28

B) God makes me wait because:

1) God wants to draw me \_\_\_\_\_.

2) God has something \_\_\_\_\_ for me.

3) God wants to \_\_\_\_\_.

C) Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. James 1:2-4

III) Lean on God when I am \_\_\_\_\_.

A) What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you." Genesis 28:15

B) For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

IV) Remain \_\_\_\_\_ and don't give up.

As a result, Jacob became very wealthy, with large flocks of sheep and goats, male and female servants, and many camels and donkeys. Genesis 30:43

<sup>24</sup> This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. <sup>26</sup> Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!" But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won."

Genesis 32:24-28

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

Galatians 6:9