

Leah and Rachel



February 2019

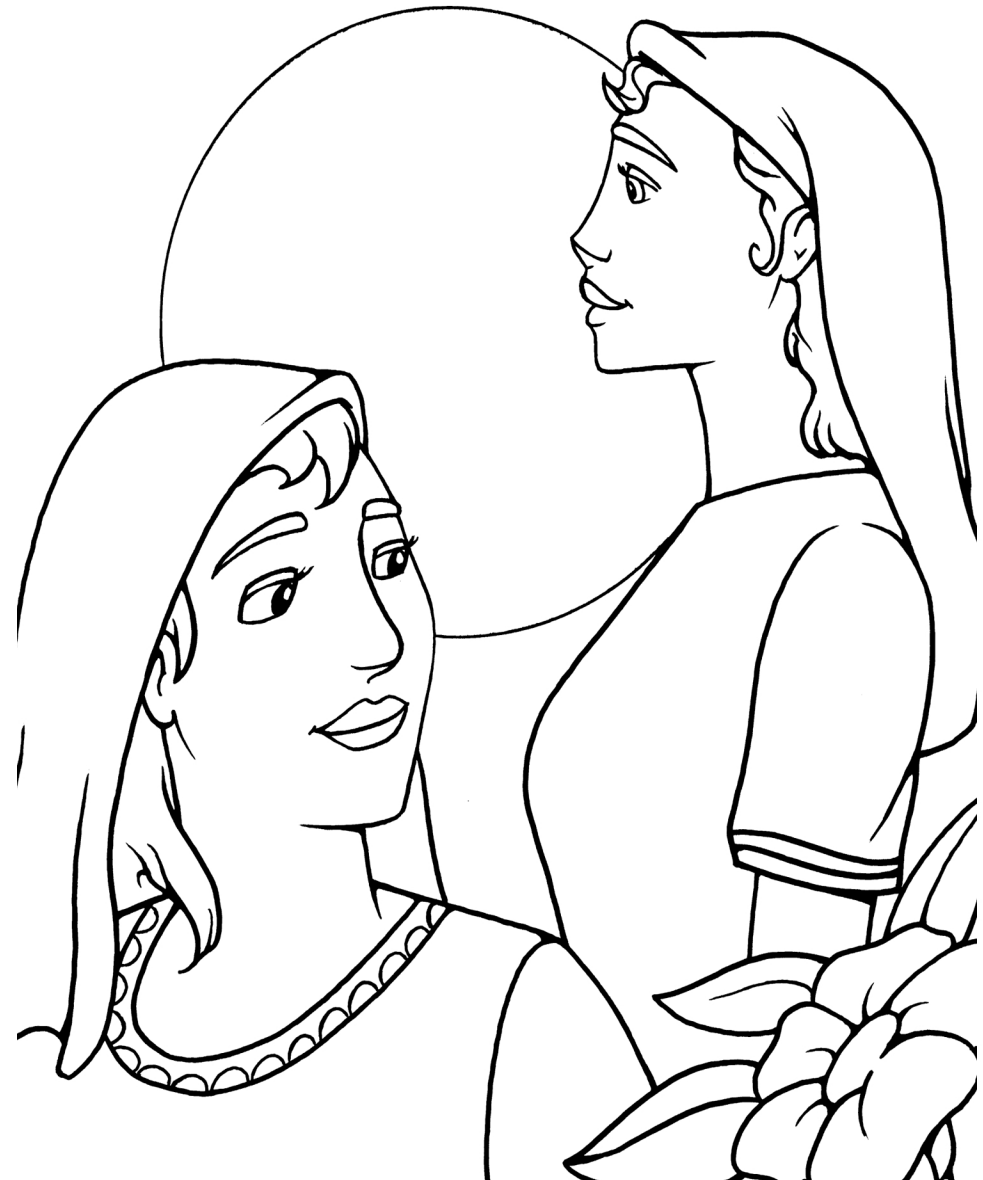
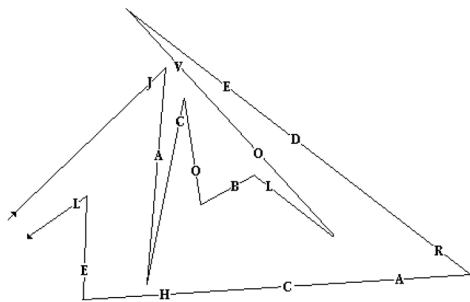
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BARREN
 DECEIVED
 FIRSTBORN
 FLOCKS
 JACOB
 LABAN

LEAH
 LORD
 LOVED
 RACHEL
 SERVE

SEVEN YEARS
 SHEPHERDESS
 SONS
 STONE
 WIFE

Write down the letters as you come to them on the lines below.





By Paul Dallgas-Frey

Jacob was on the run.

He was running from his brother Esau.

Jacob had tricked his brother out of their father's blessing, and now Esau was so angry, he wanted to kill him.

So Jacob was traveling east, to the land where his grandfather Abraham was born.

He was also hoping to choose a wife from his grandfather's family.

Early on a warm afternoon, he came to a well in the fields outside the town of Haran.

The well was just like the one that his grandfather's servant had come to many years before, when he was looking for a wife for Isaac. It may have been the very same one.

Three flocks of sheep were lying in the fields beside the well, waiting for their shepherds to water them.

There was a large stone covering the well, and the shepherds had to wait until all the shepherds were there before they could move it.

So Jacob came up to the shepherds and said, "My friends, where are you from?"

"From Haran," they answered.

"Then you must know my uncle Laban! He is from Haran," Jacob said.

"Yes, we do," the shepherds answered.

"Is he well?" Jacob asked.

"He is well, indeed," the shepherds said, "And look, here comes his daughter Rachel now, with his flock of sheep!"

Jacob said, "Let's roll back the stone so that we can water the sheep."

"We can't, the stone is too heavy," the shepherds answered. "We have to wait until all the shepherds are here."

At that moment Rachel arrived with her father's sheep.

When Jacob's eyes met Rachel's, it was as if the world came to a stop. The crying of the sheep, the laughing and talking of the shepherds, all seemed to disappear. It was as if there was no one else in all the world but the two of them.

Jacob fell so deeply, crazy in love with Rachel, that he walked over to that huge stone and rolled it away himself.

"Here, now you may water your sheep!" he said to Rachel.

And then he kissed her.

"I am your relative. Your aunt Rebekah is my mother," he told her at last.

Rachel ran home to tell her father all that had happened. When her father heard the news, he ran to meet Jacob. He hugged and kissed this nephew he hadn't known until now, and brought him to his home.

When Jacob had told his story, Laban said, "You are indeed my own flesh and blood!"

And so Jacob stayed with his uncle's family for a whole month. Then Laban said to Jacob, "You shouldn't have to work for me for nothing just because you are my relative! How can I pay you?"

... Continued next time