

WEEK 4

# A LIFE OF FAITH

*Daily Worship Guide*

## HEARTS JOINED IN WORSHIP

*This guide was prayerfully designed to help you continue to grow daily in your knowledge and love of God, as well as stay connected with your brothers and sisters in Christ during this time of separation.*

*Each day contains Scripture readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs, to give you a big-picture snapshot of God's character and love for His people throughout the whole Bible.*

*You'll also find Praise and Prayer prompts where you can choose a hymn, devotional song, or contemporary song to sing to the Lord. You can use the prayer prompt to pray for the specific area of focus that day.*

*These are suggestions to help you get going, but not rigid rules. The daily worship time is designed to be about 15 minutes long, but you can feel free to add to it! Sing a couple songs or spend more time in prayer.*

*Finally, we hope that you will share your experiences with one another. We have such an amazing opportunity to share what God is doing in our lives and encourage one another. Sharing how God is working through you, builds up the body of Christ and makes us all stronger in our faith.*

*Post your thoughts, stories, or videos on the Circle Family Facebook Group or email them to Thomas to be included in our weekly emails.*

*Grace and Peace,*

*Circle Church of Christ*

# A LIFE OF FAITH

*Daily Worship Guide*

## DAILY WORSHIP GUIDE #27

### OLD TESTAMENT

#### *Genesis 31*

#### **Jacob Flees From Laban**

31 Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father."<sup>2</sup> And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been.<sup>3</sup> Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives,

and I will be with you." <sup>4</sup> So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the fields where his flocks were. <sup>5</sup> He said to them, "I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me. <sup>6</sup> You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength, <sup>7</sup> yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However, God has not allowed him to harm me.<sup>8</sup> If he said, 'The speckled ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks gave birth to speckled young; and if he said, 'The streaked ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked young. <sup>9</sup> So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me.<sup>10</sup> "In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted. <sup>11</sup> The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.' <sup>12</sup> And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. <sup>13</sup> I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.'" <sup>14</sup> Then Rachel and Leah replied, "Do we still have any share in the inheritance of our father's estate? <sup>15</sup> Does he not regard us as foreigners? Not only has he sold us, but he has used up what was paid for us. <sup>16</sup> Surely all the wealth that God took away from our father belongs to us and our children. So do whatever God has told you."<sup>17</sup> Then Jacob put his children and his wives on camels, <sup>18</sup> and he drove all his livestock ahead of him, along with all the goods he had accumulated in Paddan Aram,[a] to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.<sup>19</sup> When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household gods. <sup>20</sup> Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away. <sup>21</sup> So he fled with all he had, crossed the Euphrates River, and headed for the hill country of Gilead.

**Laban Pursues Jacob** <sup>22</sup> On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled. <sup>23</sup> Taking his relatives with him, he pursued Jacob for seven days and caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead. <sup>24</sup> Then God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."<sup>25</sup> Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country of Gilead when Laban overtook him, and Laban and his relatives camped there too. <sup>26</sup> Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You've deceived me, and you've carried off my daughters like captives in war. <sup>27</sup> Why did you run off secretly and deceive me? Why didn't you tell me, so I could send you away with joy and singing to the music of timbrels and harps? <sup>28</sup> You didn't even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters goodbye. You have done a foolish thing. <sup>29</sup> I have the power to harm you; but last night the God of your father said to me, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.' <sup>30</sup> Now you have gone off because you longed to return to your father's household. But why did you steal my gods?"

# A LIFE OF FAITH

## *Daily Worship Guide*

### DAILY WORSHIP GUIDE #27

31 Jacob answered Laban, “I was afraid, because I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force. 32 But if you find anyone who has your gods, that person shall not live. In the presence of our relatives, see for yourself whether there is anything of yours here with me; and if so, take it.” Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods. 33 So Laban went into Jacob’s tent and into Leah’s tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he found nothing. After he came out of Leah’s tent, he entered Rachel’s tent. 34 Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them inside her camel’s saddle and was sitting on them. Laban searched through everything in the tent but found nothing. 35 Rachel said to her father, “Don’t be angry, my lord, that I cannot stand up in your presence; I’m having my period.” So he searched but could not find the household gods. 36 Jacob was angry and took Laban to task. “What is my crime?” he asked Laban. “How have I wronged you that you hunt me down? 37 Now that you have searched through all my goods, what have you found that belongs to your household? Put it here in front of your relatives and mine, and let them judge between the two of us. 38 “I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten rams from your flocks. 39 I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you demanded payment from me for whatever was stolen by day or night. 40 This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes. 41 It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times. 42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you.” 43 Laban answered Jacob, “The women are my daughters, the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks. All you see is mine. Yet what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about the children they have borne? 44 Come now, let’s make a covenant, you and I, and let it serve as a witness between us.” 45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. 46 He said to his relatives, “Gather some stones.” So they took stones and piled them in a heap, and they ate there by the heap. 47 Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, and Jacob called it Galeed. [b] 48 Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” That is why it was called Galeed. 49 It was also called Mizpah, [c] because he said, “May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other. 50 If you mistreat my daughters or if you take any wives besides my daughters, even though no one is with us, remember that God is a witness between you and me.” 51 Laban also said to Jacob, “Here is this heap, and here is this pillar I have set up between you and me. 52 This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm you and that you will not go past this heap and pillar to my side to harm me. 53 May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.” So Jacob took an oath in the name of the Fear of his father Isaac. 54 He offered a sacrifice there in the hill country and invited his relatives to a meal. After they had eaten, they spent the night there. 55 Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then he left and returned home. [d]



# A LIFE OF FAITH

*Daily Worship Guide*

## DAILY WORSHIP GUIDE #27

### NEW TESTAMENT

*Matthew 25*

#### **The Parable of the Ten Virgins**

25 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ 7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ 9 “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ 10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ 12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ 13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

**The Parable of the Bags of Gold** 14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, [a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ 21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ 22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ 23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ 24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ 26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 “‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

WEEK 4

# A LIFE OF FAITH

*Daily Worship Guide*

## DAILY WORSHIP GUIDE #27

### **The Sheep and the Goats**

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ 41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ 44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ 45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ 46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

# A LIFE OF FAITH

*Daily Worship Guide*

## DAILY WORSHIP GUIDE #27

### PSALMS

*Psalms 22:19-31*

- 19 But you, Lord, do not be far from me.  
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.
- 20 Deliver me from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dogs.
- 21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;  
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.
- 22 I will declare your name to my people;  
in the assembly I will praise you.
- 23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!  
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!
- 24 For he has not despised or scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.
- 25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great  
assembly; before those who fear you[a] I will fulfill my vows.
- 26 The poor will eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek the Lord will praise him—  
may your hearts live forever!
- 27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to  
the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down  
before him,
- 28 for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the  
nations.
- 29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;  
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—  
those who cannot keep themselves alive.
- 30 Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord.
- 31 They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people  
yet unborn: He has done it!

### PROVERBS

*Proverbs 5:15-21*

- 15 Drink water from your own cistern,  
running water from your own well.
- 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets,  
your streams of water in the public squares?
- 17 Let them be yours alone,  
never to be shared with strangers.
- 18 May your fountain be blessed,  
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.
- 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—  
may her breasts satisfy you always,  
may you ever be intoxicated with her love.
- 20 Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's  
wife?
- Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?
- 21 For your ways are in full view of the Lord,  
and he examines all your paths.

## DISCUSSION

Jacob and Laban eventually came to a point where they needed to establish a heap of stones to make their relationship right. This is actually what righteousness is, making right relationship between two parties. Jesus is both the example and path of righteousness between us and God as well as us and each other. He is God not far from us, who has not hidden who He is from us, and by His righteousness are made holy.

*What does it mean to constantly seen right relationship with God?*

*What does it mean to seek that with the people around us?*

*What do these passages teach us about God?*

*What do they teach us about ourselves?*

## ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

*Staying connected is so important during this time.*

*Please share something that has touched your heart through your time in God's word this week.*

*It will encourage your brothers and sisters and create a deeper connection with one another while we are apart.*

*Post your thoughts, favorite song or a short video at the Circle Family News Facebook Page, or email Thomas and we'll include in next week's email!*

## INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

*We would love for you to invite people you know to be apart of our daily worship and encouragement!*

*The Facebook Group is private so that you can share freely, but friends are welcome to join! Requests will be approved by the group moderators as they pop up!*

## SING TO THE LORD

*Take a moment to sing a Devotional Song that is on your heart.*

## PRAY ALWAYS

*Prayer of Confession & Prayer for Missionaries and Evangelism*

