

## **Going Home** **Genesis 30:25-33:20**

### **I. Prompted by Stress – 30:25-31:2**

1. God uses Jacob's situation to prompt his return  
Going home means facing his brother Esau
2. Stress at his occupation – 30:25-31:2  
Jacob expresses his desire to go home – 25, 26  
Laban offers new contract for him to stay– 27-34  
Jacob can keep all of the miss-marked animals  
God blessed Jacob with a large herd – 35-43  
Laban's sons are envious and angry – 31:1  
Jacob has taken over their flocks and herds  
Jacob recognizes a change in Laban – 31:2  
Things have gone from bad to worse

### **II. Prompted by God – 31:3-55**

1. God directs Jacob with a promise – 31:3  
Return home to family and I will be with you
2. Jacob shares his desire with his wives – 4-13  
Tells them of the situation with their father – 4-10  
He tells them of God's direction – 1-13
3. Rachel and Leah agree to go – 14-16
4. Jacob's family leaves without notice – 17-21  
Unknown to Jacob, Rachel steals father's gods
5. Laban learns of their going & pursues - 22-23  
After 7 days he catches up with them
6. God warns Laban not to hurt Jacob – 24
7. Laban scolds Jacob but can do no more–25-29  
God's warning kept him from retaliating
8. Laban does want his gods returned – 30-35  
Rachel's theft goes undetected
9. Jacob expresses his anger to Laban – 36-42  
God protected him with Laban's mistreatment
10. Laban proposes a truce – 43-55  
They agree to stay away from each other  
They then depart in peace.

### **III. Preparing for Esau – 32:1-32**

1. Going home means facing his brother Esau
2. Angels assure him of God's presence – 1, 2  
God will protect and provide for him
3. Jacob sends messengers to Esau – 3-6  
They announce his return and ask for grace
4. Their report to Jacob causes great fear – 6-8  
400 men are coming with Esau to meet you  
Is this an army or a welcoming party?  
Jacob plans so some of his family may escape
5. Jacob prays for God's protection – 9-12  
He pleads for mercy based upon God's promises
6. He continues to plan for meeting Esau – 13-23  
He prepares a gift to appease his brother - 13-21  
He sends his family on ahead of him – 22, 23

7. All alone he wrestles with the Lord – 24-32  
The Lord initiates this struggle that lasts all night  
The Lord disables Jacob with just a touch  
Jacob seeks a blessing from the Lord  
Jacob's name is changed to Israel  
(prince with God)  
Jacob has a lasting reminder of who God is  
He walks with a limp from God's powerful touch  
God is sovereign, He's in control, no need to fear

### **IV. Peaceful Meeting – 33:1-20**

1. In one sense nothing has changed – 1-3  
Esau is still coming toward him with 400 men - 1  
Jacob follows the plan he had made – 2, 3  
But all has changed because God is in control
2. Esau runs to meet & warmly greet him – 4-7  
He meets all of Jacob's family
3. Jacob insists on giving Esau his gift – 8-11
4. Jacob declines Esau's offer – 12-15
5. They go their separate ways – 16-17
6. Jacob worships God as His God – 18-20