On the Run (Again)

As a child, did you ever consider running away from home? Explain.

Read Genesis 31:1-55.

1. Why did Jacob decide to leave Laban and return to Esau’s land?

1. God told him to return.
2. He really didn’t like Laban any longer.
3. Laban really didn’t like Jacob any longer.
4. There was a famine in the land.
5. God had a promise to fulfill to the descendants of Abraham.
6. Jacob had obtained about all the wealth he needed.
7. Jacob felt homesick for Esau.
8. Esau really wanted to see Jacob.
9. Other.

2. What feedback did Jacob receive from Rachel and Leah?

1. There were split—one wanted to stay and the other wanted to leave.
2. Both wanted to stay with the extended family of their childhood.
3. Both wanted to leave.
4. They loved Jacob so much and were willing to go wherever he went.
5. They felt fearful about going to a place they had never been.
6. They worried about their children and who they might marry.
7. They wanted to consult the gods they had growing up.
8. Yahweh’s promise to be with them gave them utmost confidence.
9. Other.

3. Why did Rachel steal her father’s household gods?

1. This family lies, steals, and cheats all the time.
2. Rachel wanted a memento from home.
3. She wasn’t “stealing;” she was “borrowing.”
4. To build her father’s faith in Yahweh instead of idols.
5. Rachel felt more at home with her father’s gods than with Yahweh.
6. Jacob hadn’t cultivated faith in Yahweh with his two wives.
7. So she could sell them and get some money if needed.
8. To pass on her father’s gods to the next generation.
9. Other.

(over)

4. Why did Laban and Jacob need a “watchtower” (vs. 49)?

1. They couldn’t trust each other.
2. It provided a strategic spot for military advantages.
3. They needed a legal stamp to ratify their agreement.
4. This provided a good place to say “Goodbye.”
5. They were “Jehovah’s Witnesses” and this was their PR publication.
6. To have a physical marker to stay on their own side and not cross.
7. Other.

5. “May the LORD watch between me and thee; while we are absent one from another.” This is:

1. Called the “Mizpah” which means “watchtower.”
2. What you’re supposed to say when it’s time for a religious “Goodbye.”
3. I don’t know; I memorized it when I was young.
4. A promise to stay away from each other.
5. A promise to return.
6. A prayer to ask for God’s protection.
7. A request for God to take care of those outside our immediate care.
8. Other.

6. What oaths have you taken?

1. Be loyal to my family.
2. Always trust God.
3. Take care of myself.
4. I don’t take oaths.
5. Treat others the way they treat me.
6. I don’t swear.
7. To God and country.
8. Other.

7. Who do you feel more sorry for in this story: Jacob or Laban? Why?

8. If you were Jacob, would you rather face Laban or Esau? Explain.