

LESSON 19

# Jacob & Rachel

GENESIS 29:1 – 30



BIBLE TRUTH

WE REAP WHAT WE SOW

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** . . . . . **5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Read Genesis 29:1–30 from the Scriptures or read story 19, “Jacob and Rachel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Seeds  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ several varieties of seeds (Some seeds that are easy to obtain are: corn, apple, dried beans, green pepper seeds, sunflower seeds, and peanuts.)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** . . . . . **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
By the Lord’s Choice  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ a double-sided coin, or glue two like coins together to make them heads on both sides
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** . . . . . **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Coloring Activity  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ coloring page 19—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Deceived  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ small chocolate candies (One for each child. *Note:* be aware of food allergies and health issues and come prepared with an alternate if necessary.)  
✓ fresh (raw) green beans (one for each child)

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

**Jacob searches for a wife**—As he travels east to find a wife, Jacob comes upon a well. The well is covered by a large stone. Shepherds are gathered around it, waiting for other flocks and shepherds to arrive. It looks as though it will take several men to move the stone.

Jacob asks the men where they are from and if they know Laban. The shepherds reply that they are from Haran and that Laban's daughter Rachel is approaching. From this, Jacob knows he is in the right place. When he sees Rachel, he is so excited that he rolls the stone away all by himself! Then he kisses her and tells her he is one of her kinsmen. Rachel shows her approval and excitement by running all the way home to tell the news. Once again we see God working all things according to his plan for the good of his people.

**Jacob makes an agreement with Laban for Rachel**—Jacob wants to marry Rachel but he cannot. He has no money to give Laban for his daughter—the custom at the time. If you remember Abraham's servant brought multiple camels loaded with expensive gifts for Rebekah. If Jacob had come under better circumstances instead of being on the run, he would have been able to bring the gifts he needed.

When Laban asks Jacob what he wants to be given in exchange for his work, Jacob asks if he can work seven years for Rachel's hand in marriage. Laban agrees.

**Jacob is deceived**—After seven years, Jacob's wedding night arrives. But Laban deceives Jacob by giving him Leah as a wife instead of Rachel. In the morning, Jacob discovers the trick and complains. But Laban says the firstborn daughter, Leah, must be given in marriage before her younger sister Rachel.

Does this sound familiar? In his father's family, Jacob had dishonored the place of the firstborn son. He had taken the birthright and blessing that belonged to his older brother. To steal the blessing he had disguised himself and pretended to be Esau. Now, Leah pretends to be Rachel and Jacob is the one who is deceived. In Galatians 6:7, God warns us by saying, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap." But, in spite of the sinful trickery, God is advancing his plan.

**WHERE IS JESUS?** \_\_\_\_\_

How does today’s Bible story fit into God’s greater plan of redemption?

Read Genesis 29:21–35.

Remember how Jacob dressed up like Esau, lied to his dad, and stole his brother’s blessing? In our story today, Jacob finds out what it feels like to be tricked.

Instead of keeping his promise to give his younger daughter, Rachel, to Jacob, Laban dresses his older daughter, Leah, as the bride. Jacob doesn’t discover the switch until after he is already married to Leah.

When Jacob discovers the truth, he complains to Laban, who quickly offers to give Rachel to Jacob if he works for him for another seven years. Jacob agrees and begins to work to take Rachel as a second wife. When God sees that Leah is not loved, he blesses her with six sons.

That is where we find our connection to Jesus in today’s story. One of Leah’s boys, named Judah, grew up to become the far-off grandfather of Jesus. His people would be called the tribe of Judah.

**THE LESSON**

**OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read Genesis 29:1–30 from the Scriptures or read story 19, “Jacob and Rachel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

Seeds

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ several varieties of seeds (Some seeds that are easy to obtain are: corn, apple, dried beans, green pepper seeds, sunflower seeds, and peanuts.)

Set the seeds out in small piles. Ask the children to identify the seeds.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- If you planted a sunflower seed (or other plant) could you expect to get a different type of plant?  
*(No, only the same variety of plant can grow from the seed planted.)*
- Why is the picture of sowing and reaping used to describe our lives?  
*(It is a good illustration because if you sow bad behavior, sin, then you reap bad consequences. If you sow good behavior, righteousness, you reap good consequences.)*
- What bad behavior did Jacob sow that came back to him in bad consequences?  
*(Jacob deceived his father and stole his brother's blessing. As a result of his brother's anger, Jacob had to flee. In the end, God arranged for Laban to deceive him in much the same way as he had deceived his father.)*
- Do we always reap what we have sown?  
*(No, we do not always reap what we have sown. That is the wonderful message of the gospel. By dying on the cross, Jesus Christ took on himself the wrath of God that we deserved for our sin. We sowed the sin; he reaped the punishment so that we could be forgiven. The warning of Scripture in Romans 6:1–2 is that we should not take advantage of grace.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**By the Lord's Choice**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a double-sided coin, or glue two like coins together to make them heads on both sides

Ask the children to explain the practice of coin tossing to start a football game. Ask for volunteers who would like to, "Give it a shot." Pick two and have them come to the front of

the class. Ask one of the two to “call it in the air.” Let the coin hit the floor. (Be sure the coins are well glued so they don’t break apart.)

Have the loser sit down and then ask for a new challenger. See how long you can keep this up until the children discover that only heads is coming up. Explain to the children that you were able to control the outcome of the toss because you altered the coin.

God is able to affect the outcome of events by his sovereign control of all things. Ephesians 1:11 tells us that he “works all things according to the counsel of his will.”

Pose the following questions:

- **Who should have received the birthright from Isaac?**  
*(Esau should have received the birthright.)*
  
- **Who received the blessing and birthright instead?**  
*(Jacob received both the birthright and blessing.)*
  
- **Who should have been Jacob’s wife?**  
*(Rachel should have been Jacob’s wife, but Laban deceived Jacob and gave him Leah instead.)*
  
- **How do both of these twists in events point to the sovereign control of God?**  
*(First, God said about Jacob and Esau that the older would serve the younger. As for Leah, she became the far-off great-grandmother of Christ through the line of her son Judah. If it were up to Jacob, he would not have married Leah, but in God’s plan he did.)*

It is important that we humbly pray before the Lord, recognizing his complete control over all things.

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

Coloring Activity

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page 19—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What do you think Jacob thought when he first saw Rachel?  
*(He thought she was beautiful.)*
- Who do you think was in control, bringing Rachel to the well at just the same time Jacob was there?  
*(God was the one who worked this out for Jacob's good.)*
- How do we know that Rachel was a faithful daughter?  
*(She was serving her father by watering his sheep.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

Deceived

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ small chocolate candies (One for each child. *Note:* be aware of food allergies and health issues and come prepared with an alternate if necessary.)
- ✓ fresh (raw) green beans (one for each child)

Show the candy to the class and ask them what they think about it. See if you can provoke them to ask for a piece. Once they ask tell them that to earn a piece of candy they are going to have to do seven things. Once they agree to do them, have them do the following:

1. Run in place for thirty seconds.
2. Do five jumping jacks.
3. Recite a Bible verse from memory. (Only one child in the class need do this.)
4. Remain quiet without talking for ten seconds.

5. Sing a worship chorus. (You lead the class.)
6. Say “good morning” to their neighbor.
7. Run in place again for thirty seconds.

Congratulate them on completing the seven tasks. Then have them close their eyes. Quickly pass each of them a raw green bean and then have them open their eyes. They should be surprised. When they ask for the candy have them repeat the seven tasks as payment.

Use this exercise to illustrate the trick that Laban played on Jacob, and draw out the children as to how they felt to be tricked.



LESSON 19 - JACOB AND RACHEL

