

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**  
A Large Rock  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ large trash bag stuffed full of crumpled newspaper
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
Godly Romance
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 15 MIN**  
Jacob at the Well  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ paper  
✓ colored pencils
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**  
God Is in Control  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ two rubber balls

**TOTAL 80 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.

## A LITTLE BIT MORE

### *Sovereignty*

God's sovereignty has to do with his absolute control and rule over all things. He controls everything, including our free self-determined choices. It was God who was in control of which son, Jacob or Esau, would get the birthright. It was God who sovereignly determined who Jacob would marry first. God also determined who would conceive first and whether the children would be boys or girls. In short, it was God's plan that Jacob would flee to Haran, receive Leah as his first wife, have a fourth son, name him Judah and that out of Judah would come Jesus, the Messiah. God was never wondering how he was going to get to Jesus; he knew all along! He rules all!

## 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**

**A Large Rock**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ large trash bag stuffed full of crumpled newspaper

Place the trash bag full of newspaper in the middle of the floor of your classroom. The bag represents the rock that covered the well in our Bible story. Genesis 29:8 tells us that several shepherds were already gathered but could not start watering the flocks until enough shepherds arrived to help remove the stone from the mouth of the well. Presumably, the stone was so large (Genesis 29:2–3) that the combined strength of all the shepherds was required to move it. Jacob, however, upon seeing Rachel, moved it himself in a feat of strength.

Act out the scene with the children playing the shepherds to try to move the stone but pretending that it is too heavy. Then have the child playing Jacob after he sees Rachel, heroically move the stone, lifting it easily by himself.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **What might have made Jacob think that he should pursue Rachel?**  
*(The situation was very similar to what had happened when Abraham’s servant met Rebekah. Certainly Jacob would have known the story of how his mother had come to the well as a confirmation that she was the bride for Isaac. Here Rachel comes to the well, perhaps the same well. What is more, she is from the same family as his mother for the other shepherds had said that Rachel was Laban’s daughter. On top of all of that, Rachel was beautiful.)*

- How might the covenant that God repeated to Jacob encourage him in his pursuit of a wife?

*(As with Abraham and Isaac before him, God promised to give Jacob descendants as numerous as the dust of the earth. The promise had been good for his grandfather who had a miracle baby in his old age, good for his father who had twin boys, and would presumably be good for Jacob. God's promise and Jacob's dream would have filled Jacob with faith.)*

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

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

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

**Godly Romance**

Ask the children whether they think it was appropriate for Jacob to kiss Rachel, and why or why not.

Kissing was a common greeting among the people. Though Jacob's kiss may have been motivated by his instant attraction to Rachel, a simple kiss would not have aroused suspicion. What is important is what Jacob did after that moment. He asked for Rachel's hand in marriage and pledged seven years of labor. Jacob's relationship with Rachel honored her, honored her father, and honored God. Jacob all along was looking for a wife and was willing to pledge his lifelong commitment to care for her.

In a society where dating for pleasure apart from lifelong commitment is the norm, it is good to remember that romance is reserved for marriage and the pursuit of marriage. Nowhere in Scripture do you see that God approves of romantic encounters outside of the context of marriage.

**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 . . . . . 15 MIN**

Jacob at the Well

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper
- ✓ colored pencils

Have the children draw a picture of Jacob moving the stone away from the well.

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

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

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

God Is in Control

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ two rubber balls

Prior to class, use a sharp knife to cut divots in one of the balls. (This will cause that ball to bounce irregularly. Test the ball to make sure your divots are large enough to affect the bounce.)

Use "A Little Bit More" to explain God's sovereignty to the class. Then show them the round ball and ask them what will happen if you throw it down to the ground. They should answer that it will bounce back up.

Bounce the ball and congratulate them for their accurate guess.

Then show them the irregular ball. Ask them to tell you specifically what will happen when you bounce that ball. Require a specific answer to tell you which way it will bounce.

Bounce the ball and it should go in a different direction than they thought. Explain to them that we can predict the outcome of some things (as with the round ball), but God knows the outcome of everything. We can control some things (like bouncing a round ball), but God controls all things and works everything according to his plan. We call that God's sovereignty. A "sovereign" is another word for a king. A king rules over his kingdom and controls what happens there. God is a sovereign over all creation, and he is so powerful he can control it all, all the time. He even knows exactly how our irregular ball will bounce every time it bounces!