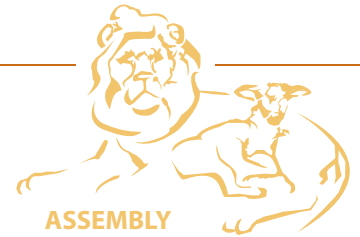


JACOB AND RACHEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 29:10-30:22



ASSEMBLY

The story is short and can be read directly from the Scriptures from start to finish. Please use the NIV version. The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS**THE CIRCLE OF BLESSING**

Jacob's father gave him instructions on who he should marry (Genesis 28:6-7). Explain to the children that God commands children to obey their parents (Deuteronomy 5:16). If children obey their parents they will receive a blessing.

- What was the blessing Jacob received for honoring his father's wishes not to marry a Canaanite woman? (Jacob was blessed with a beautiful wife called Rachel.)
- What were the bad consequences Jacob received for deceiving his father? (The Lord allowed Jacob to be fooled just as he fooled his father. Jacob dressed up like his brother as a lie. Similarly Leah dressed up as her sister Rachel to fool Jacob. So Jacob learned how it feels to be lied to. He had to work an additional seven years for Rachel.)

Review the Circle of Blessing diagram from *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp (page 157). Ask the children to name some things inside and outside the circle.

JACOB AND RACHEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 29:10-30:22

ROLLING THE STONE

Supplies:

- sheet filled with newspaper
- tape

Act out the story. Make a large stone by crumpling up newspaper to fill an old white sheet. Tape up the bottom to make a large rock. Place the "rock" in the middle of the room. Have some of the class be shepherds waiting for additional help to move the stone. (At some point early on they can pretend to try and move it without success.) Have one boy act as Jacob and one girl play Rachel. The rest of the class can pretend to be Rachel's flocks. When Jacob sees Rachel coming have him walk over and greet her (skip the kiss) and single-handedly move the stone all by himself. Then have the children sit down and ask them the following questions:

- How was Jacob able to roll such a large stone out of the way? (God helped him.)
- Can anyone remember another story where God made a man very strong? (David killed a lion, a bear, and Goliath. Samson was very strong in killing the Philistines.)

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Rachel's father Laban tricked Jacob into marrying his daughter Leah. Leah believed in the promise of God and cried out to the Lord because Jacob loves Rachel more than Leah. The Lord answered her prayer and because of her faith allowed Jesus to come through one of her sons, Judah.

Rachel went on to bear six of Jacobs twelve sons who would become the twelve tribes of Israel. Again, God rewards those who call out to him in faith.

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel. (Matthew 2:6)

