



Jacob and Rachel

Bible Story: Jacob and Rachel • Genesis 29-31

Bottom Line: Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah and Rachel.

Memory Verse: ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. *Galatians 3:29, NIV*

Christ Connection: Nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even though Jacob did not love Leah, God loved her and used her in His plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would show His love for the world by sending His Son to be the Savior He promised.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

SAY THIS: "Let's remember our big picture question to help us remain focused on what we are learning about God through the stories about Jacob's life. Can you all say it with me? [*Encourage participation.*] **Does God keep His promises? God always keeps his promises because He is faithful.** Great job!

Last week we learned **Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into blessing Jacob**. Their sin did not stop God from working out His promise that Esau would serve Jacob one day. This week, we will learn about what happened to Jacob when he fled the land of Caanan to escape Esau, who wanted to kill him. Jacob ended up living with his uncle, a man named Laban. Our story today is called "Jacob and Rachel."

WATCH VIDEO

SAY THIS: Wow! Last week Jacob and his mother tricked his father, and this week Jacob's uncle did something similar to him. **Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah and Rachel**. Jacob only wanted to marry Rachel. He even worked as a shepherd for seven years so that Laban would allow Jacob to marry her. But Laban did not want Jacob to marry Rachel unless Leah was already married. So he lied to Jacob. Jacob did marry Rachel too, but he had to work another seven years.

In some ways, Jacob's family was very different from what we see today. But just like modern times, they struggled to trust that God would keep His promises. Many in Jacob's family felt they needed to trick one another to control their circumstances. As a result, there was a lot of painful feelings and frustration.

For example, Jacob did not love his wife Leah. God gave her sons, and she hoped Jacob would grow to love her; but even after she had many sons for Jacob, he still loved Rachel instead of her. Thankfully, God loves even those whom the world does not value. God chose to use Leah's son Judah to pass on the covenant promise of blessings that would bless the whole world.

Christ connection

Nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even though Jacob did not



love Leah, God loved her and used her in His plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would show His love for the world by sending His Son to be the Savior He promised. Leah tried to earn Jacob's love by giving him many sons, but it was not enough and Jacob loved Rachel more. Thankfully, we don't have to earn God's love. He sent Jesus because He knew we could not save ourselves. He loves us even though we do not deserve it. Jesus died for us to save us from our sin and rose again on the third day to conquer sin and death.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review/Skills

What You Need: Big Picture Question Poster, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute Bibles and guide kids to find Genesis 29–31.
- Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 29:18.
- Ask kids to identify all of the people in today's Bible story. Review their relationships to one another:
 - Who was Jacob's uncle? (*Laban*)
 - Which daughter was older? (*Leah*)
 - Which daughter did Jacob love? (*Rachel*)
 - Who worked for Laban? (*Jacob*)

What You Say "We heard in our Bible story today how **Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah and Rachel**. Jacob did not want to marry Leah; he only wanted to marry Rachel.

God had a better plan for Jacob and Leah. Leah and Jacob had a son named Judah, and God chose to continue His promise through Judah's family. Through Judah's family, God would show His love for the world by sending His Son to be the Savior He promised.

[Lead boys and girls to say the big picture question and answer.] ***Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.*** "

2. Discussion Questions:

- God's plan always happens. How does knowing this help you face difficult or unexpected events in your life? *Emphasize that God is good, and He loves us. Even when life doesn't go according to our plan, it always goes according to God's plan. We can trust Him even though we don't always understand His ways.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 46:9-10.)
- How much does God love you? How do you know? *Remind kids that God is our Creator and King. Lead them to recognize God's greatest display of love in sending Jesus to die the death we deserve for our sin so that we can live with Him forever.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 5:1-2.)
- How can we show love to people who are lonely or misunderstood? *Guide kids to consider how they want to be treated. Point out that God loves us unconditionally, so we can share*



His love with everyone.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 4:7.)

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, index cards, pencils

What You Do:

- Write each word or phrase of the memory verse on a separate index card.
- Hide the cards around the room.
- Then instruct the kids to find the cards and gather them in the center of the room.
- There, they will place the cards in order.
- Then read the memory verse aloud two or three times.

What You Say "God promised to be with Jacob wherever he went and bring him back to the good land promised to Abraham. That was an incredible promise, and God kept it. God keeps all His promises. Jesus, after dying on the cross and rising again on the third day, promised to be with His disciples to the end of the age! That's an amazing promise for us!"

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
 - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
 - What does the story teach me about myself?
 - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
 - Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
 - How does this story help me to live on mission better?
- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

What You Say: Pray, thanking Jesus that He loves us all and has no favorites among His children.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.