



## Jacob and Rachel

**Bible Story:** Jacob and Rachel • Genesis 29-31

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

**Memory Verse:** <sup>29</sup> 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 skills**

**What You Need:** Bibles, Story Point Poster

**What You Do:**

- Distribute a Bible to each kid.
- Help them find Genesis 29–31.
- Remind them what they have been learning about the divisions of the Bible and how to find books and chapters using the table of contents and the large numbers.
- Then, read the Bible passages or review the story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

**What you Say:** “**Laban tricked Joseph into marrying Leah and Rachel.** Though Jacob did not love Leah, God did, and He used her to bring about His plan to bless the world through Jesus. Her son Judah would eventually have a family of his own, and Jesus came from Judah's family.”

#### **2. Discussion Questions:**

- Which woman did Jacob want to marry? (*Rachel, Laban's younger daughter; Gen. 29:18*)
- Why did Laban trick Jacob? (*He wanted Leah to marry before Rachel because Rachel was younger than Leah, Gen. 29:26*)
- How many sons did Jacob have? (*twelve: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin; Gen. 35:23-26*)
- God had compassion on Leah when Jacob did not love her. What does this show us about God? *Guide kids to discuss the fact that God shows mercy and love even to those the world does not value. Remind kids that all people are made in God's image. Point out that Leah's son Judah would be the one through whom God sent Jesus many years later.*
- How do we know that God loves us? *Guide kids to see that God demonstrated His great love for us by sending Jesus. God knew that we could not earn salvation, so He sent Jesus to save us and give salvation to all those who believe in the gospel.*
- What are ways we can show love to people when they feel lonely, misunderstood, or unloved? *Guide kids to discuss the importance of being kind to others. Help them think of ways to serve others and remind them that sharing the gospel is a great way to show you care about someone else.*

#### **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!" [SEP]

**Pray and Dismiss**

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

**What You Do:**

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
  - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
  - What does this story teach me about myself?
  - Whom can I tell about this story?
- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

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