



Use Week of:

Unit 3 • Session 2

Jacob and Rachel

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 29–31

STORY POINT:

Laban tricked Jacob.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

INTRODUCE THE STORY

(15–20 MINUTES)

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TEACH THE STORY

(10–15 MINUTES)

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EXPERIENCE THE STORY

(20–25 MINUTES)

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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

When Isaac and Rebekah sent Jacob away from his home in the promised land of Canaan to escape the wrath of his brother Esau, Rebekah expected him to be gone for a few days—just until Esau calmed down. (Gen. 27:44) But days and then weeks and then months passed; Jacob was with Laban for twenty years. (Gen. 31:38)

Before Jacob left home, Isaac blessed him and instructed him to find a wife among his relatives. And that's what Jacob did. On his way to Laban's house, God appeared to Jacob at Bethel in a dream and gave Jacob the same covenant He gave to Abraham. Jacob believed God had chosen him as an heir of the promise—to follow God, to lead the family, and to teach the next generation to follow God too.

This meant Jacob would have a family. He arrived in Haran and saw Rachel, the daughter of Laban. Jacob loved Rachel. He agreed to work for seven years for Laban if Laban would let him marry Rachel. After seven years, Laban deceived Jacob. Instead of giving him Rachel, Laban gave him Rachel's older sister, Leah.

Jacob was angry. Laban demanded that Jacob work another seven years if he wanted to marry Rachel. So Jacob worked seven more years. Jacob's own plans for his life were not lining up with the Lord's plans. He wanted to have children with Rachel, but she was barren. His first four sons came from Leah. Finally, Rachel had Joseph and Benjamin.

In time, Jacob fathered twelve sons—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. Even though Jacob did not love Leah, God loved her and He chose Jacob and Leah's son Judah to be the heir of the promise. Through Judah's family, God would show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior He promised.

The BIBLE Story

Jacob and Rachel

Genesis 29–31

Jacob had left his home and **traveled to the land of his uncle Laban**. He came to a well where shepherds were giving water to their sheep. “Do you know Laban?” Jacob asked.

“Yes,” they said. “Here comes his daughter Rachel.”

Rachel came to the well with more sheep, and Jacob gave them water. Jacob told Rachel that he was her relative, and Rachel ran to tell her father, Laban.

Laban welcomed Jacob into his house. Jacob stayed and helped him. Then Laban said, “What should I pay you for your work?”

Now **Laban had two daughters: the older was named Leah, and the younger was Rachel**. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will work for you seven years if you let me marry Rachel.”

Laban agreed. Jacob worked for seven years. Then Laban had a feast, **but instead of letting Jacob marry Rachel, he tricked Jacob into marrying Leah**.

Jacob was upset. “Why did you trick me?”

he asked.

Laban said, “I will let you marry Rachel too, but you must work seven more years.” So Jacob married Rachel, and he worked for



Laban seven more years.

Now **Jacob had two wives, but he loved Rachel more than Leah. When God saw Leah was not loved, He gave her children. Rachel wanted children too. God heard her prayer, and in time, God gave her children too.** In all, **Jacob had twelve sons:** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. **God told Jacob to go home to the land of Canaan. So Jacob took his family and everything he owned, and he headed home.**

Christ Connection: Nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God loved Leah 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 Jesus to be the Savior.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Portray emotions:** While telling the story, pause and draw (or enlist a volunteer to draw) different faces that represent how the Bible people feel or react during certain parts of the story.
- **Use dramatic conversation:** Vary your voice for the dialogue of different people. For example, use one voice for Laban and another voice for Jacob.

INTRODUCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

Welcome time

- “You Are God” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Many Sons” activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to count the brothers on the page. Guide them to circle the brother with his hands on his hips.

SAY • Remember God promised Abraham that he would have as many people in his family as there are stars in the sky. God gave Abraham a son, Isaac. Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. In today’s Bible story we will hear how God gave Jacob twelve sons. God planned to send Jesus to earth through Jacob’s son Judah’s family.

LOW PREP

- blocks

Option: Find a picture of a Bible times well online. Print the image or show it to preschoolers on a mobile device to inspire them as they build.

Build a well with blocks

Set out blocks and invite preschoolers to work together to build a well. Explain that people dig into the ground to find water. This is called a well. They often build a wall around the hole to identify the well.

SAY • A few weeks ago, we heard the story of how Abraham’s servant met Rebekah at a well. She would be the wife of Abraham’s son Isaac. In today’s Bible story, Isaac’s son Jacob met his future wife at a well!

Sort in twelves

Color the bottom of each cup of a egg carton (dozen-sized) with a primary color marker. Some of the cups will have to be the same color. Set out coordinating pom-poms, one for each cup. Invite a preschooler to count the pom-poms and then sort each one into the cup with the matching color.

Guide her to count the cups. Allow preschoolers to take turns sorting and counting. Consider providing tongs for preschoolers to use to place the pom-poms in the cups as added fine motor skill practice.

SAY • Great job counting to 12! Do you remember how God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that they would have as many people in their family as stars in the sky? Well, in today’s Bible story, God gave Jacob twelve sons! Let’s hear how God grew Jacob’s family.

- clean, empty dozen cardboard egg carton
- 12 pom-poms in primary colors
- markers in primary colors
- tongs (optional)

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to bleat like sheep as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 29–31 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • Did you know the Bible is the most special of every book in the whole wide world? That's because it's the only book with God's words in it, and God's words are true. Today's Bible story is found in Genesis, the very first book of the Bible.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Jacob and Esau" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Last week, we heard the story of how **Jacob tricked Isaac**, and this week we heard how **Laban tricked Jacob**. But Laban's trickery could not stop God's plan. Jacob did not love Leah, but God loved Leah and used her in His plan. God would show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior through Leah and Jacob's son Judah.

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Genesis 28:15a. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Say the key passage using different voices such as high, low, loud, soft, and so forth.

SAY • Our key passage is a promise that God made to Jacob. He promised Jacob that He would be with him and watch over him wherever he went.

Sing the key passage song, “Wherever, Wherever You Go,” and the theme song, “You Are God.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “Wherever, Wherever You Go” song
- “You Are God” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Can you answer our big picture question? *Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.*

God made a promise to the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Nothing would stop God from keeping His promise. God planned to show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior through the family of Jacob and Leah.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • God’s plan is also for all nations to hear the good news about Jesus, but many people live in countries where sharing the gospel is not allowed. People from those places are moving to countries where they can hear the good news. Nothing can stop God’s plan!

Invite children to look at the “People in Your Place” graph and read the people group names listed.

- “People in Your Place” printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

- markers or crayons
- paper

Draw family portraits

Invite preschoolers to draw a picture of their family. Ask them about each family member as they work.

SAY • Nothing could stop God’s plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **Laban tricked Jacob** into marrying Leah, but God loved Leah 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 Jesus to be the Savior.

Build a sheep pen

- blocks
- plastic sheep
- people figures

Set out blocks. Guide preschoolers to build a sheep pen. Invite children to play out Jacob caring for Laban’s sheep using plastic sheep and people figures.

SAY • **Laban tricked Jacob** into marrying Leah and working for him seven more years. Laban’s tricks could not stop God’s plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through the family of Jacob and Leah’s son Judah, God planned to show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior.

- construction paper
- scissors (adult use only)
- markers
- glue sticks

Make “I am loved” art

Before the session, cut out 2-by-4-inch rectangles from construction paper. Make at least six rectangles for each

preschooler. Cut out one heart from construction paper for each child. Write *God* on each heart. Then write *I am loved!* at the top of a sheet of construction paper for each preschooler.

Give each preschooler a sheet of construction paper and six rectangles. Ask a preschooler to tell you who loves her. Write each of her responses on a separate rectangle. Then ask her to tell you who loves her most of all. Give the preschooler a God heart. Guide the preschooler to glue the God heart in the middle of the page and the rectangles around it.

SAY • Laban tricked Jacob. Jacob did not love Leah, but God did. God loved Leah and used her in His plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would send His very own Son into the world. No one loves you as much as God does. God showed His love for you when He sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again to rescue you from sin. You matter to Him!

Run a sheep relay

Form teams lined up in straight lines. On the opposite side of the room, set a bucket on the floor for each team. Spread cotton balls around the buckets. Give the first child in each line a set of tongs. When you say go, invite her to use the tongs to pick up one cotton ball "sheep" and put it in the bucket. She will then take the tongs to the next person on her team and move to the back of the line. Continue until all the "sheep" have been put into the bucket.

- buckets, 1 per team
- cotton balls
- tongs, 1 per team

SAY • Jacob worked for Laban for 14 years as a shepherd caring for Laban's sheep. Jacob worked hard so he could marry Rachel, but **Laban tricked Jacob.** But

tricks cannot stop God's plan. God used Leah in His plan to send Jesus to the world.



Play "Talk to Me" game

- "Talk to Me Game" printable
- heavyweight paper
- brad fastener
- paper clip

Practice talking about Jesus with this game. Print the "Talk to Me Game" printable on heavyweight paper. Push a brad fastener through the center of the spinner and loop a paper clip around the brad so that it spins freely. Guide preschoolers to take turns spinning and answering the questions.

SAY • God's plan is for all people to hear about His Son, Jesus. Just like nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, nothing can stop God's plan for people from every nation to hear the good news about Jesus. God showed His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior. People can hear this good news when we tell them!

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve cookies you might find at a wedding for snack. Remind preschoolers that **Laban tricked Jacob** into marrying Leah. God loved Leah and used her in His plan to send Jesus as the Savior of the world.

Display the Bible story picture as you ask the following review questions. Retell portions of the Bible story as needed:

1. Whom did Jacob stay with and work for? (*his uncle Laban*)
2. Whom did Jacob love and want to marry? (*Rachel*)
3. Whom did Laban trick Jacob into marrying? (*Leah*)
4. Whom did Jacob trick in last week's Bible story? (*his father, Isaac*)
5. How many sons did Jacob have? (*12*)
6. What did Jacob do when God told him to go home? (*He obeyed.*)
7. ***Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- wedding cookies (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "You Are God" song
- "Wherever, Wherever You Go" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers