

Old Testament

Jacob gets married Genesis 29:14-30

Younger Verse

Christ loves me and gave Himself to save me. Galatians 2:20

Older Verse

I do not live anymore—it is Christ living in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God. He loves me and gave Himself to save me. Galatians 2:20

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Has anyone ever tricked you? Today Jacob gets tricked in a very BIG way! Listen and you will see what happens.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned about Jacob and his brother Esau. Jacob tricked his father into giving him a special blessing. When Esau realized what happened, Jacob had to run away to his Uncle Laban's home.

Because of his deception, Jacob had to leave quickly. He took nothing with him. Jacob had no sheep or any money.

Jacob found his uncle's family by a well about to water the sheep. One of Laban's daughters was a shepherdess. She took care of the sheep. Jacob helped her open the well so that the sheep could get water. Jacob was so excited to learn that the people he met were from Laban's home. He joyfully told them who he was—a relative.

Jacob stayed with Laban for a month. Then, Laban told Jacob that he would pay him for his work. Jacob had another idea.

Back in Bible times, when a man wanted to marry a woman, he gave the woman's father a gift. Jacob wanted to marry one of Laban's daughters, but had nothing to give him.

Jacob told Laban that he would work to marry Rachel, Laban's youngest daughter. Laban agreed and Jacob worked 7 years for Rachel. He loved her so much that the years seemed to fly by.

Finally the 7 years had passed. Jacob was excited and came to Laban to ask for his marriage to Rachel.

Lesson Goals

Show how being honest and truthful are important
Share how God can help us through hard or difficult times

In Bible times, the father had a big feast to celebrate the marriage. The bride would wear beautiful clothing and braided hair. She would also have a thick veil over her head. In fact, the groom could not see her because it was so thick. They would have a great wedding feast that sometimes lasted 7 days! The people would sing joyful songs and play music on tambourines and other instruments. It was such a happy time.

However, something was going on that Jacob did not know! Laban did something very, very sneaky. He had an older daughter named Leah. Instead of Rachel, He put the veil on Leah and SHE married Jacob! Jacob had no idea what was happening because he could not see behind the veil! Jacob did not realize until after the marriage that he had married Leah, not Rachel! What a shock!

Leah was not pretty like Rachel. In the Bible it says that she had “weak eyes.” This was a nice way of saying that she was not as pretty as Rachel.

So, Jacob got tricked just like he had tricked his father in last week’s lesson.

Jacob angrily went to Laban and asked why he had tricked him. Laban told Jacob that in their culture, the older daughter had to get married first. He told Jacob that he would give him Rachel if he worked another 7 years for him. Jacob agreed and Rachel also became his wife after the 7 day wedding feast was over. It was not unusual in that culture for a man to have more than one wife.

Jacob learned a hard lesson about being deceptive and sneaky. The same trickery he used was used on him! God still loved him and promised to bless him, but he had to deal with the consequences of being sneaky and telling lies.

When we tell lies, we hurt others and also hurt ourselves. People will not trust us and will not ask us for help. God made a way for us to get rid of these sins in our lives. He knew that there was no way that we could erase our wrongs by ourselves. So, God made a plan to erase our wrongs. Jesus died on a cross for all of OUR wrongs. He did this because He loves us and wants us to go to Heaven. We can go to Heaven when we believe in Jesus in our hearts and ask Him to forgive our wrongs. He will erase all our wrongs and come into our lives. He will stay with us always and help us live our life for God and do things His way. Do you have Jesus with you? Would you like to know how? Talk to us during activity time.

Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids apply the lesson to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

This is a long verse and hard to understand. Remember, we have 2 weeks to learn it. Talk about what it means to have Christ living in us. Gradually erase words until they know the first part of the verse.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us be honest and truthful this week.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Bring some snacks that you might see at a wedding!

Planning for Lesson 18
Jacob wrestles with God
Genesis 32:22-32

Preschool Lesson
For
Jacob gets married

Bring some fabric to use as a veil to help the kids remember the lesson.

Jacob was one of Isaac's sons. Remember that he was a twin. Last week we learned how he tricked his brother. Because he was sneaky, he had to leave and go stay with his uncle Laban.

Jacob loved one of Laban's daughters. Her name was Rachel. Rachel was very beautiful. Rachel also had an older sister named Leah. Jacob asked Laban if he could marry Rachel. He told Laban that he would work 7 years (count to 7) as a gift to Laban so that he could marry Rachel.

Jacob worked and worked. He probably was a shepherd for the sheep and worked in other ways to help his uncle.

Finally, Jacob finished 7 years. He was so excited to get married.

Laban had a big party to celebrate the wedding. Back in Bible times, the bride would wear a very thick veil over her head and beautiful clothes. It was so thick that a person could not see through it. At the celebration, the people would sing joyful songs and play music on tambourines and other instruments. It was such a happy time.

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Ask God to help us be honest this week.

Sing a song to the tune of "BINGO"

There was a man who had a son
And Jacob was his name O
J-A-C-O-B
J-A-C-O-B
J-A-C-O-B
And Jacob was his name O

Leave out letters and clap until you clap for all the letters of Jacob's name.

Hands-On Activities
For
Jacob gets married

Ask the kids if they have ever been to a wedding. Talk about what happens in a wedding in our culture. A fun idea may be to bring a cake to eat.

Act out the story with veils of material or a shirt draped over a head. The kids should love to do this, but be careful to have everyone be veiled so as not to hurt someone's feelings (no one will want to be Leah because she was not pretty).

Make a tambourine with beans or jingle bells. Put two paper plates together in a concave shape like this: (). Staple around the plates and add beans (staple the opening closed so the beans will not fall out). Another idea is to use one plate and punch holes around the sides. Add pipe cleaners with jingle bells attached. Sing fun songs and let the kids play their tambourines.

Make a little sheep out of a clothes pin. See the attached sheet.

Talk to the kids about the consequences of being sneaky or deceiving people. Share some example that you know or even things in the news that the kids would understand.

Jacob worked hard to have enough money to give as a gift for Rachel. God wants us to work hard for Him. He does not want us to be lazy or inactive. God wants us to do things to help others and work hard. Think of a project that your kids can do to help clean up the apartments or help someone in need.

Older kids may realize that Jacob had 2 wives. They may ask questions about this. Be ready to explain that it is against the law to have more than one wife now. Share that sometimes in the culture back then, men had more than 1 wife. It really caused many problems for the men (and their wives too.)
