



(9) Jacob serves Laban and Marries Rachel & Leah

Genesis 29-31
Kindergarten & 1st Grade

WARM-UP: (10 minutes)

Hang a picture of a lamb on the wall. As kids are arriving, some just before class starts and some right after, pass out two dice to each person. Let them roll. If they roll a “7” they get to add a spot to the class lamb. For this age group, I drew out what the dice would look like to get “7” - How many spots can they get? (Templates included.)

PRAYER: (5 minutes)

Help kids learn the value in talking to God. Ask for prayer requests. Write on the white board “Thank You” and “Please Help” – then, let the kids share their “thank you” and “please help” requests. Write them on the white board.

ASK KIDS:

- How God talks to us? (Through the bible and answering our prayers)
- How do we talk to God? (Prayer)

Remind them that *we can't have a relationship with anyone, our friends or even parents, if we don't talk to them. It's important that we talk to God. He made us and no one can do the things he can, not even our moms and dads.*

Lead kids in prayer.

BIBLE LESSON & ACTIVITY: (25 minutes)

We've been learning about Abraham, his son Isaac and his son Jacob. Last week Jacob took his brother's blessing and had to go to his uncle's house to hid for awhile. Who remembers why? Because his brother Esau wanted to kill him for stealing his blessing.

Jacob's parents sent him to Uncle Laban and told him to find a wife there. On his way there he takes a nap and what does he use for a pillow? A stone/rock. While he's sleeping he has a vision. Who remembers this? There was a stairway and angels were going up and down it. Now, he is continuing his journey to his uncle's house.

PASS OUT HANDS ON PLAY ITEM (Silly Putty, Play-Doh, Play Floam)

1. **Make a shepherd's staff.** Jacob saw shepherds with their sheep around a well. He asked them if they knew Laban. Guess what. They did! In fact, they said, “Here comes his daughter Rachel now.”
2. **Make a stone.** Rachel took care of the flock. Jacob went to the well and rolled the stone away so they could get water.
3. **Make a smile.** Jacob was so happy! He told Rachel who he was and she ran home and told her father. As soon as Uncle Laban heard this, he ran to meet

Jacob. He was so excited to see him. Jacob told him everything that happened and Laban took him to stay at his house. Jacob had been staying there for a whole month and working for Uncle Laban for free. Laban told Jacob he wanted to pay him so, "How much should your pay be?"

4. **Make the number 7.** Laban had two daughters, Leah and Rachel. Leah was older. Leah was plain, but Rachel was so beautiful! Jacob was in love with Rachel. Jacob said, "I will work for you for seven years so I can marry Rachel."
5. **Make wedding flowers.** They agreed! Jacob worked for Laban for seven years so he was ready to marry Rachel. Laban brought all the people of the place together for a feast. Then he gave his daughter to Jacob. There was a twist though. It was the wrong daughter!
6. **Make a sad face.** Jacob went to Laban and said, "This wasn't our deal. I love Rachel." But Laban said the older sister had to get married first. Laban told him that if he'd complete the wedding week he'd give him Rachel too but he'd have to work for another seven years.
7. **Make a heart.** Jacob loved Rachel so he completed the wedding week with Leah. Then, he got to marry Rachel too! Of course, he had to work for his Uncle Laban another seven years.
8. **Crush the heart.** God saw that Jacob didn't love Leah as much as Rachel so he let Leah have children and not Rachel. This was very important. Leah had son that she named Reuben and said, "Surely Jacob will love me now."
9. **Make a baby toy.** Then, she had another son! She named him Simeon. Then she had another son and named him Levi. She thought for sure Jacob would love her now because she had given him three sons! And then, guess what. She had another son! This time she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.
10. **Make a "J" for Jealousy.** Rachel saw that she wasn't having any babies and became jealous of her sister. Remember what happened when Cain was jealous of Abel? Or how about when Jacob was jealous of Esau? Things didn't turn out well.
11. **Make a "B" for Bilhah.** Rachel told Jacob, "Give me children or I'll just die!" This made Jacob mad. He told her that it wasn't his fault. This was up to God. Rachel wanted a family too so she let her servant Bilhah have a baby for her. Rachel named him Dan.
12. **Make the number "12".** Then, Bilhah had another baby. Rachel named him Naphtali. Leah saw that she wasn't having babies and so she had *her* servant have babies for her. Her servant, Zilpah, had a son and Leah named him Gad. Then she had another baby and named him Asher. This is a lot of babies! Remember, God did promise Jacob a big family! But this family was still growing. Leah got pregnant again! She had another son and named him Issachar. Then she had a sixth son and named him Zebulun. And later, she had a daughter that she named Dinah. Finally, God let Rachel have a baby of her own! She was so very happy. She named him Joseph. Later she will have one more baby, Benjamin! Jacob will have 12 sons! How many sons will Jacob have? 12. Remember, during this time, Jacob was working for Laban because he had to work seven more years to marry Rachel. He did this so he asked his uncle to let him return home with his family.

13. **Make a sheep pen.** Laban didn't want to let Jacob go because he saw that God blessed him. He offered Jacob more pay to stay. Laban split his sheep with Jacob giving him all the spotted and striped sheep. Over time, Jacob's had more and more sheep because God blessed him. Laban's son's were saying that Jacob had taken everything their father owned. Laban wasn't very happy with Jacob anymore.
14. **Make a statue.** God told Jacob to go back to his relatives. Jacob took Leah and Rachel, their children and all of their livestock and started their journey back to Canaan. They didn't tell Laban they were leaving. And Rachel stole the statues of the family gods that belonged to her father.
15. **Hide the statue under your hands.** When Laban found out, he chased after Jacob. He was angry! When he caught up to Jacob he asked why they ran away and didn't let him say good-bye. Jacob told him he was afraid. Laban also asked why he took the statues, but Jacob didn't know anything about this. So Jacob said he could search everyone and whoever had it would die. Rachel sat on it so her dad didn't find it. Jacob finally got to go home!

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE & SONGS: (5 minutes)

Sing the Old Testament books song and then the New Testament books songs. Have kids stand. As you say a book of the bible, they "Jump Up & Down" if it's in the Old Testament and "Wiggle in Place" if it's in the New Testament.



(9) Jacob serves Laban and Marries Rachel & Leah

Genesis 29-31
2nd & 3rd Grade

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Hang a picture of a lamb on the wall. As kids are arriving, some just before class starts and some right after, pass out two dice to each person. Let them roll. If they roll a “7” they get to add a spot to the class lamb. For this age group, I drew out what the dice would look like to get “7” - How many spots can they get? (Templates included.)

PRAYER: (5 minutes)

Help kids learn the value in talking to God. Ask for prayer requests. Write on the white board “Thank You” and “Please Help” – then, let the kids share their “thank you” and “please help” requests. Write them on the white board.

ASK KIDS:

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Remind them that *we can't have a relationship with anyone, our friends or even parents, if we don't talk to them. It's important that we talk to God. He made us and no one can do the things he can, not even our moms and dads.*

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Jacob's parents sent him to Uncle Laban and told him to find a wife there. On his way there he takes a nap and what does he use for a pillow? A stone/rock. While he's sleeping he has a vision. Who remembers this? There was a stairway and angels were going up and down it. Now, he is continuing his journey to his uncle's house.

PASS OUT HANDS ON PLAY ITEM (Silly Putty, Play-Doh, Play Floam)

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2. **Make a stone.** Rachel took care of the flock. Jacob went to the well and rolled the stone away so they could get water.
3. **Make a smile.** Jacob was so happy! He told Rachel who he was and she ran home and told her father. As soon as Uncle Laban heard this, he ran to meet Jacob. He was so excited to see him. Jacob told him everything that happened and Laban took him to stay at his house. Jacob had been staying there for a

whole month and working for Uncle Laban for free. Laban told Jacob he wanted to pay him so, “How much should your pay be?”

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12. **Make the number “12”.** Then, Bilhah had another baby. Rachel named him Naphtali. Leah saw that she wasn’t having babies and so she had *her* servant have babies for her. Her servant, Zilpah, had a son and Leah named him Gad. Then she had another baby and named him Asher. This is a lot of babies! Remember, God did promise Jacob a big family! But this family was still growing. Leah got pregnant again! She had another son and named him Issachar. Then she had a sixth son and named him Zebulun. And later, she had a daughter that she named Dinah. Finally, God let Rachel have a baby of her own! She was so very happy. She named him Joseph. Later she will have one more baby, Benjamin! Jacob will have 12 sons! How many sons will Jacob have? 12. Remember, during this time, Jacob was working for Laban because he had to work seven more years to marry Rachel. He did this so he asked his uncle to let him return home with his family.
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more sheep because God blessed him. Laban's son's were saying that Jacob had taken everything their father owned. Laban wasn't very happy with Jacob anymore.

14. **Make a statue.** God told Jacob to go back to his relatives. Jacob took Leah and Rachel, their children and all of their livestock and started their journey back to Canaan. They didn't tell Laban they were leaving. And Rachel stole the statues of the family gods that belonged to her father.
15. **Hide the statue under your hands.** When Laban found out, he chased after Jacob. He was angry! When he caught up to Jacob he asked why they ran away and didn't let him say good-bye. Jacob told him he was afraid. Laban also asked why he took the statues, but Jacob didn't know anything about this. So Jacob said he could search everyone and whoever had it would die. Rachel sat on it so her dad didn't find it. Jacob finally got to go home!

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(9) Jacob serves Laban and Marries Rachel & Leah

Genesis 29-31
4th & 5th Grade

WARM-UP: (10 minutes)

Hang a picture of a lamb on the wall. As kids are arriving, some just before class starts and some right after, pass out two dice to each person. Let them roll. If they roll a “7” they get to add a spot to the class lamb. For this age group, I drew out what the dice would look like to get “7” - How many spots can they get? (Templates included.)

PRAYER: (5 minutes)

Help kids learn the value in talking to God. Ask for prayer requests. Write on the white board “Praise” – “Petition” – “Thanksgiving” – “Confession.”

- Have kids give suggestions for **Praise** (ex: God is holy, amazing, awesome, our rock).
- Have kids give **Petitions** (needs/please help)
- Have kids give **Thanksgiving** (what are they thankful for)
- Remind them that in a public prayer, we typically pray that God forgives us, but we don’t get specific in our **confessions**.
- Lead kids in prayer.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: (5 minutes) Review the books of the bible together one time through then, have kids look up four books for practice: Luke, Psalms, Judges, Galatians.

BIBLE LESSON: (25 minutes)

We’ve been learning about Abraham, his son Isaac and his son Jacob. Last week Jacob took his brother’s blessing and had to go to his uncle’s house to hid for awhile. Who remembers why? Because his brother Esau wanted to kill him for stealing his blessing.

Jacob’s parents sent him to Uncle Laban and told him to find a wife there. On his way there he takes a nap and what does he use for a pillow? A stone/rock. While he’s sleeping he has a vision. Who remembers this? There was a stairway and angels were going up and down it. Now, he is continuing his journey to his uncle’s house. He comes to flocks of sheep and shepherds.

PASS OUT HANDS ON PLAY ITEM (Silly Putty, Play-Doh, Play Floam) Today, the teacher will read the scripture aloud and have them make the noted item to reinforce.

Make a shepherd’s staff. Jacob asked the shepherds, “Do you know Nahor’s grandson Laban?”

“Yes, we know him,” they answered.

Then Jacob asked them, “How is he?”

“He’s fine,” they said. “Here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep.”

⁹He was still talking with them when Rachel came with her father’s sheep. It was her job to take care of the flock. ¹⁰Rachel was the daughter of Laban, Jacob’s uncle. When Jacob saw Rachel with Laban’s sheep, he went over to the well. He rolled the stone away from the opening. He gave water to his uncle’s sheep. ¹¹Jacob kissed Rachel. Then he began to cry because he was so happy. ¹²He had told Rachel he was a relative of her father. He had also said he was Rebekah’s son. Rachel ran and told her father what Jacob had said.

Make a smile because he was so happy.

¹³As soon as Laban heard the news about his sister’s son Jacob, he hurried to meet him. Laban hugged Jacob and kissed him. Then Laban brought him to his home. There Jacob told him everything. ¹⁴Then Laban said to him, “You are my own flesh and blood.”

Jacob stayed with Laban for a whole month. ¹⁵Then Laban said to him, “You are one of my relatives. But is that any reason for you to work for me for nothing? Tell me what your pay should be.” **Make a question mark.**

¹⁶Laban had two daughters. The name of the older one was Leah. And the name of the younger one was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah was plain, but Rachel was beautiful. She had a nice figure. ¹⁸Jacob was in love with Rachel. He said to Laban, “I’ll work for you for seven years so I can marry your younger daughter Rachel.” **Make the number “7”**

²⁰So Jacob worked for seven years so he could marry Rachel. Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. I’ve completed my time.”

²²So Laban brought all the people of the place together and had a feast prepared. **Make wedding flowers.** ²³But when evening came, he gave his daughter Leah to Jacob. ²⁵When Jacob woke up the next morning, there was Leah next to him! So he said to Laban, “What have you done to me? I worked for you so I could marry Rachel, didn’t I? Why did you trick me?”

²⁶Laban replied, “It isn’t our practice here to give the younger daughter to be married before the older one. ²⁷Complete this daughter’s wedding week. Then we’ll give you the younger one also. But you will have to work for another seven years.” **Ah man! Make the number “7” again.**

²⁸So Jacob completed the week with Leah. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah. And he worked for Laban for another seven years.

Now we will see the sisters battle with children! It gets crazy but remember, God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob a big family!

³¹The LORD saw that Jacob didn’t love Leah as much as he loved Rachel. So he let Leah have children. But Rachel wasn’t able to have children. ³²Leah became pregnant. She had

a son. She named him Reuben. She said, “The LORD has seen me suffer. *Surely* my husband will love me now.” **Make a heart.**

³³ She became pregnant again. She had a son. Then she said, “The LORD heard that Jacob doesn’t love me very much. That’s why the LORD gave me this one too.” So she named him Simeon.

³⁴ She became pregnant again. She had a son. Then she said, “Now *at last* my husband will value me. I have had three sons by him.” So the boy was named Levi.

³⁵ She became pregnant again. She had a son. Then she said, “This time I’ll praise the LORD.” So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

Rachel saw that she wasn’t having any children by Jacob. So she became jealous of her sister. She said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I’ll die!” **Make a “J” for jealousy.**

³ Jacob became angry with her. He said, “Do you think I’m God? He’s the one who has kept you from having children.”

⁴ So Rachel gave Jacob her servant Bilhah as a wife. And Bilhah became pregnant. She had a son by him. ⁶ Then Rachel said, “God has stood up for my rights. He has listened to my prayer and given me a son.” So she named him Dan.

⁷ Rachel’s servant Bilhah became pregnant again. She had a second son by Jacob. ⁸ Then Rachel said, “I’ve had a great struggle with my sister. Now I’ve won.” So she named him Naphtali. **Make a trophy because Rachel felt she’d won the battle of the babies.**

⁹ Leah saw that she had stopped having children. So she gave her servant Zilpah to Jacob as a wife. ¹⁰ Leah’s servant Zilpah had a son by Jacob. ¹¹ Then Leah said, “What good fortune!” So she named him Gad.

¹² Leah’s servant Zilpah had a second son by Jacob. ¹³ Then Leah said, “I’m so happy! The women will call me happy.” So she named him Asher.

¹⁷ God listened to Leah. She became pregnant and had a fifth son by Jacob. ¹⁸ Then Leah said, “God has rewarded me because I gave my female servant to my husband.” So she named the boy Issachar.

¹⁹ Leah became pregnant again. She had a sixth son by Jacob. ²⁰ Then Leah said, “God has given me a priceless gift. This time my husband will treat me with honor. I’ve had six sons by him.” So she named the boy Zebulun. ²¹ Some time later she had a daughter. She named her Dinah. **Make a baby toy for all of these babies.**

²² Then God listened to Rachel. He showed concern for her. He made it possible for her to have children. ²³ She became pregnant and had a son. Then she said, “God has taken away my shame.” ²⁴ She said, “May the LORD give me another son.” So she named him Joseph.

Later, she will have another son, Benjamin. That means Jacob will have 12 sons! **So make the number “12”**

²⁵After Rachel had Joseph, Jacob spoke to Laban. He said, “I want to go back to my own home and country. So I’ll be on my way. You know how much work I’ve done for you.”

²⁷But Laban said to him, “If you are pleased with me, stay here. I’ve discovered that the LORD has blessed me *because of you*.” ²⁸He continued, “Name your pay. I’ll give it to you.”

Jacob couldn’t argue with this, but told Laban he really wanted to do something for his own family now. Laban really wanted him to stay though. ³¹“What should I give you?” Laban asked.

Make a sheep or a sheep’s pen. “Don’t give me anything,” Jacob replied. “Just do one thing for me. Then I’ll go on taking care of your flocks and watching over them. ³²Let me go through all your flocks today. Let me remove every speckled or spotted sheep. Let me remove every dark-colored lamb. Let me remove every speckled or spotted goat. They will be my pay. ³³My honesty will be a witness about me in days to come. It will be a witness every time you check on what you have paid me. Suppose I have a goat that doesn’t have speckles or spots. Or suppose I have a lamb that isn’t dark colored. Then it will be considered stolen.”

³⁴“I agree,” said Laban. “Let’s do what you have said.” Jacob became very rich. He became the owner of large flocks. He also had many male and female servants. And he had many camels and donkeys. **Make a dollar sign for a rich Jacob!**

Jacob heard what Laban’s sons were saying. “Jacob has taken everything our father owned,” they said. “He has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.” ³Jacob noticed that Laban’s feelings toward him had changed.

³Then the LORD spoke to Jacob. He said, “Go back to your father’s land and to your relatives. I will be with you.” **Make an arrow to Canaan.**

⁴So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah. He told them to come out to the fields where his flocks were. ⁵He said to them, “I see that your father’s feelings toward me have changed. But the God of my father has been with me. ⁶You know that I’ve worked for your father with all my strength. ⁷But your father has cheated me. He has changed my pay ten times. In spite of everything that’s happened, God hasn’t let him harm me. ⁸Sometimes Laban would say, ‘The speckled ones will be your pay.’ Then all the flocks had little ones with speckles. At other times he would say, ‘The striped ones will be your pay.’ Then all the flocks had little ones with stripes. ⁹So God has taken away your father’s livestock and given them to me.

¹⁷Then Jacob put his children and wives on camels. ¹⁸He drove all his livestock ahead of him. He left to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan. ¹⁹Laban had gone to clip the wool from his sheep. While he was gone, Rachel stole the statues of the family gods that belonged to her father. ²⁰And that’s not all. Jacob tricked Laban, the Aramean. He didn’t tell him he was running away. ²¹So Jacob ran off with everything he had. **Make a statue.**

²²On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had run away. ²³He took his relatives with him and went after Jacob. Seven days later he caught up with him. ²⁵Jacob had set up his

tent in the hill country of Gilead. That's where Laban caught up with him. Laban and his relatives camped there too. **Make something for camping**

²⁶Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You have tricked me. You have taken my daughters away like prisoners of war. ²⁷Why did you run away in secret and trick me? Why didn't you tell me? Then I could have sent you away happily. (Jacob had tried that. Did it work? No.)

Now you have run away to go back to your father's home. Why didn't you tell me you were leaving? And why did you have to steal the statues of my gods?" Jacob answered Laban, "I was afraid. I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force. ³²But if you find anyone who has the statues of your gods, that person will not remain alive. While our relatives are watching, look for yourself. See if there's anything of yours here with me. If you find anything belonging to you, take it." But Jacob didn't know that Rachel had stolen the statues.

Make a tent. ³³So Laban went into Jacob's tent and Leah's tent. He went into the tent of their two female servants. But he didn't find anything. After he came out of Leah's tent, he entered Rachel's tent. ³⁴Rachel was the one who had taken the statues of Laban's family gods. She had put them inside her camel's saddle. She was sitting on them. Laban searched the whole tent. But he didn't find anything. He searched everywhere but couldn't find the statues of his gods.

Jacob offered a sacrifice there in the hill country. And he invited his relatives to a meal. After they had eaten, they spent the night there. ⁵⁵Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters. He gave them his blessing. Then he left and returned home.

Briefly review



Roll a "7"

