

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 7
Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29:1-30)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord's Divine Providence governs all things.
- B. Conjugal love is from the Lord.
- C. We should strive to perform our uses without thought of ourselves and what we will gain; then the Lord can instill in us a love of being useful to others and to Him.
- D. The Lord cannot lead us to heaven unless we try to do what is right.
- E. All power to do what is right is from the Lord alone; it is the Lord who delivers us from evil.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. What have we learned about the story of Jacob?
 - a. Jacob and Esau were twins born to Isaac and Rebekah.
 - b. Jacob gave Esau some stew in return for his birthright.
 - c. Jacob stole the special blessing Isaac meant to give to Esau.
 - d. Jacob had to leave home and travel to Haran.
 - e. On the trip Jacob had a wonderful dream at Bethel.
- 2. What was Jacob's dream about? (He dreamt about a ladder with the Lord at the top and angels going up and down the ladder.)
- 3. The Lord spoke to Jacob in his dream. What did He promise Jacob? (That He would be with him, protecting and helping him; that He would bring Jacob back to the Holy Land; and that Jacob's many descendants would live there.)
- 4. What promise did Jacob make to the Lord? (That he would worship the Lord and serve Him.)
- 5. Today we'll hear the next story about Jacob in which he marries Leah and Rachel.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read Genesis 29:1-30

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 7

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Where did Jacob meet Rachel? (At a well in the field near Haran)
2. What was on the mouth of the well? (A large stone)
3. There were shepherds with their flocks waiting at the well. What were they waiting for? (When all the flocks were gathered together, they would remove the stone and water all of the flocks.)
4. What was Rachel doing when Jacob met her? (She was bringing her father's sheep to the well.)
5. What did Jacob do when he saw Rachel and the sheep? (He rolled the stone from the well and watered the sheep. Then he kissed Rachel, wept, and told her that he was Rebekah's son.)
6. How did Laban receive Jacob? (He ran to meet him, embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house.)
7. Laban had two daughters. What were their names? (Leah and Rachel)
8. Which daughter did Jacob love? (Rachel)
9. Jacob stayed with Laban and worked for him. What kind of work did he do? (He cared for Laban's flocks of sheep and herds of cattle.)
10. What did Laban agree to pay Jacob for his work? (Laban agreed to give Jacob his daughter, Rachel, for a wife.)
11. How many years did Jacob work for Rachel? (Seven)
12. Laban tricked Jacob. Whom did he give to Jacob instead of Rachel? (Leah)
13. What excuse did Laban give Jacob? (That Rachel could not be given in marriage until Leah was married because Leah was the firstborn.)
14. Laban gave Rachel to Jacob one week after he married Leah. How many more years did Jacob work for Rachel? (Seven more)

D. Further Ideas

1. Long ago people didn't understand how holy marriage is. They didn't think it was wrong to have more than one wife. Jacob had two wives, but he loved Rachel more than Leah.
2. Jacob worked hard for seven years so he could have Rachel for his wife; but he didn't mind the work, and the seven years seemed only a few days because he loved her so much.
3. What are some things that you work on that take a long time? Perhaps you are learning to play the piano or some other musical instrument. It may seem as if you will never be able to play well! Maybe you are learning to play baseball or soccer or some other game. At first it's hard to remember the rules and play well. Many things in our lives take a long time to accomplish. If we love what we are doing, then the time seems to pass quickly; and if we love the end we have in mind— being a good piano player or a basketball star— then the long, hard work and practice we have to do first don't seem so bad.

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 7

4. But what is the most important thing we should be trying to do in our life? (Be good and useful people so we can go to heaven) That takes our whole life! But being able to live in heaven forever is a wonderful goal, and it's worth all the effort it takes to get there!

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Father in heaven," Hymnal #152 (The Lord is always leading us)
2. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," Hymnal #169
3. "May we learn, O Lord of life," Hymnal #219 (serving the Lord)

B. Activities

1. Discuss what are some things the children have done that seemed to take "forever" because they didn't enjoy doing them, and some things that seemed to be done "in no time" because they loved what they were doing.

C. Project

1. A Textured Picture of Jacob and Rachel at the Well
 - a. Have children draw a picture of Jacob and Rachel at the well, or provide a simple line drawing. Felt or fabric scraps or wallpaper samples can be used for clothes and cotton balls for the sheep. Blue or silver foil would make an attractive well.
2. Mosaic of Jacob and Rachel at the Well
 - a. Give children a simple line drawing. Fill in each figure (and background, if there's time and energy) with cut-up pieces of paper glued in place. Foils are especially nice.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations showing Jacob and Rachel at the well.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Volume I, pp. 345-361.
- B. The Sower, Volume I, pp. 124-128. (A good explanation of the customs of the shepherds and the significance of the well.)

