#### Lesson 1:

#### Leah and Rachel

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Genesis 29 and 30

MEMORY WORK:

Deuteronomy 6:5

Books of the Bible

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When I do something wrong and make a wrong choice, there will always be consequences.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

We have been studying about Isaac and Rebekah and their twin boys. Do you remember their names? Which was older? (Esau) Why did Jacob trick his father? Remember how Esau got very upset and Jacob had to move away so he wouldn’t get hurt? Jacob went to look for a wife. Today, we will learn about whom Jacob marries. (Bring a picture of a bride and groom and talk a little about marriage. Ask if they have been to a wedding.)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. For the younger children, focus on the main points: End story when Jacob married Rachel and say Jacob had 12 sons and 1 daughter. (Don’t go into detail about which children belonged to whom.)
2. Remind the class that Jacob and Rebekah tricked Isaac and that Esau was angry with Jacob. Therefore, Rebekah encouraged Jacob to go away to her relatives to get away from Esau and to find a wife.
3. After a long journey of several weeks, or maybe even months, Jacob came near Haran, where his uncle Laban lived. Genesis 29:1 says he “came to the land of the people of the east.” These would not have been Canaanites. Jacob stopped at a well and talked to some shepherds, asking them if they knew Laban. They said they did and that the girl approaching with a flock of sheep was Laban’s daughter, Rachel.
4. Jacob was so delighted to finally see someone from his own family! He rolled away the large stone covering the well so that Rachel could water her sheep, and then he told her who he was. She invited him home to talk to her father, Laban.
5. Jacob worked for Laban for a month without pay. Laban then offered Jacob wages for his work if he would stay there and live. Jacob said that he would work for Laban for seven years without pay, if Laban would let Rachel marry him. Laban agreed.
6. After the seven years had passed, Laban made a great feast as part of the wedding celebration for Jacob and his daughter. In the evening, after the feast, Laban brought his daughter to Jacob; she had her face covered with a veil. It was not until the next morning that Jacob learned that Laban had tricked him. His new bride was not Rachel, but her older sister, Leah.

**NOTE**: Veils were thicker than now, and probably very heavy and decorated with coins as part of the dowry. This fact, as well as the poor lighting in that time period, could have made it easy for Jacob to not notice that he had married Leah, rather than Rachel.

1. Jacob was very angry with Laban! Laban said that it was not their custom to let the younger daughter marry before the older. Laban said that in another week, Jacob could marry Rachel also, but he also wanted Jacob to work for him another seven years.

**NOTE**: If the students ask if it was “okay” for Jacob to have two wives, emphasize that it was not. It was **not** God’s will for anyone to have more than one wife or husband. This was not God’s plan from the beginning (Genesis 1:27; 2:24; 1 Corinthians 7:2).

1. Because Jacob loved Rachel so much, he agreed and worked for seven more years after their wedding. Jacob eventually worked 20 years total for Laban because Laban was not honest with him. (Read Genesis 29:20, 30 together.) Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, and this caused problems for them and their descendants for many years to come.
2. God blessed Leah with children because she was not loved as much as Rachel (Genesis 29:31). Since great value was placed on a woman who could bear children, especially sons, Leah no doubt received great admiration and respect from others, even if her husband loved Rachel more. Rachel’s envy (Genesis 30:1) indicates, in the Hebrew, a strong feeling of internal rage (see Genesis 37:11).
3. Jacob tricked his brother and his father, but later his Uncle Laban tricked him. Jacob the deceiver was deceived by Laban! Because of Laban’s lies, Jacob ended up with two wives who were jealous of one another and made his life hard. If you tell a friend a lie, later he may either lie to you or trick you in some way. If you are dishonest with your parents or teachers or friends, you will eventually suffer the consequences (i.e., you’ll be paid back, or they won’t believe you when you are telling the truth).

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “01” in the Visuals Folder

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“THESE ARE THE** **SONS OF JACOB”**

Author: Traditional

(Tune: “1 Little, 2 Little, 3 Little Indians”)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher,

Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin, These are the sons of Jacob.

**“Three Wandering Jews**

Once there were three wandering Jews. Once there were three wandering Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Once there were three wandering Jews.

The first one’s name was Abraham. The first one’s name was Abraham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

The first one’s name was Abraham.

The second one’s name was Isaac. The second one’s name was Isaac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

The second one’s name was Isaac.

The third one’s name was Jacob. The third one’s name was Jacob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

The third one’s name was Jacob.

They all went down to Canaan’s land. They all went down to Canaan’s land.

Canaan-Canaan, Land-land-land. Canaan-Canaan Land-land-land.

They all went down to Canaan’s land.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

##### Hidden object cup game – Hide some small objects or little people (to represent Leah and Rachel) under some plastic cups (make sure they aren’t see through). Switch the cups around several times and see if the students can remember which one Rachel is under. Are they tricked like Jacob? Talk about how this is a fun game, but tricking Jacob about who he was marrying was not funny at all.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Discuss how sometimes we can be influenced to do wrong by those we think are our friends. They appear to be something or someone they are not. (They appear to like you, but they talk about you to others. They say they’re a Christian, but try to get you to do or see something you should not.) We must always be very careful whom we choose as friends, and not to let them influence us to do things God would not like.
3. Also, discuss the importance of Jacob marrying someone who would help him stay close to God. Esau had not chosen wisely for a wife, and Rebekah wanted Jacob to marry someone who knew God. Just like then, it is very important for us to marry someone who is a Christian and knows and loves God. The person we marry can make it easier for us to get to heaven, or harder, depending on their relationship with God.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

##### Gift boxes object lesson – from the blog mymundaneandmiraculouslife.com

In the Jesus Storybook Bible, the author covers the lives of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah. Jacob is the son of Isaac and will continue the [family line that God promised](http://www.mymundaneandmiraculouslife.com/2015/02/activity-for-the-jesus-storybook-bible-gods-incredible-promise-to-abraham.html%22%20%5Co%20%22Activity%20for%20the%20Jesus%20Storybook%20Bible%3A%20God%E2%80%99s%20Incredible%20Promise%20to%20Abraham) would change the world. Jacob loved Rachel for her beauty and rejected Leah for her lack of ascetics. The author focuses on Leah and her realization that she is “lovely because God loves her.”

The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:3-5a

“3Don’t be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. 4You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. 5This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful.”

…pretty straight forward right?

Instructions:

I started by going to the craft store and buying two identical boxes but you can use whatever you have around the house.

I found some wrapping paper we had on hand and wrapped up the first box super neatly and nicely. This will represent Rachel in the lesson. (You can add specific things to the box that your child would like i.e. stickers of things they love etc.)



Inside  I put… NOTHING. I didn’t feel like it was necessary to represent Rachel as having bad things in her.

Then I took a plain white box (Leah) and banged it up by rolled it around in the mud.



Inside I put a baby to represent Jesus (the first thing i could find was a 11-12 week in utero baby to size haha, but I would have preferred a nativity baby Jesus) and a beautiful cross to represent Jesus and hidden beauty. Get creative with what you put in your box for the story.

Then I put the boxes right next to each other and asked baby brother what they were. He’s almost 3, so I wasn’t sure how this would go.



After we established they were both gifts, I asked him which one he wanted and he went right for the pretty one! (Yes ! It worked!) He opened it and was disappointed and right away said, “Let’s open the other one!”



“A baby!”, he shouted. He shoved the pretty one aside and has been toting the plain one around all morning showing everyone what’s in his box.

If I were talking to older children, I would drag the anticipation out a bit and talk about what we expected to be in each box. Then after all is opened, I would talk about how just because something seems pretty or exciting to us when we look at it, doesn’t mean what we find inside will be the same. Looks can be deceiving.

The message we’re trying to get across to children (and to us too!) is; what other *people* think of us means nothing compared to what *God* thinks of us. If we believe in His Son and what He did for us, we KNOW God loves us and has a purpose for us not based on how beautiful or appealing to others we are on the outside.. but simply because of our hearts, attitudes, and ultimately because of His sovereignty.

### Review Questions

### Who was Jacob’s first wife?

### Leah

### Who was Jacob’s second wife?

### Rachel

### What deal did Laban make with Jacob concerning a wife?

### Jacob would work for him for seven years so he would be able to marry Rachel

### Why did Laban say that Jacob had to marry Leah first?

###  Because in that culture they gave their older daughter in marriage first

### How was Leah’s identity hidden until after they were married? (

### She was wearing a veil

### Who was Jacob’s favorite wife?

### Rachel

### How long did Jacob have to work for Laban for his wife Rachel? (

### Fourteen years

### Was it God’s wish for Jacob to have two wives?

###  No, God intended for one man to be married to one woman

### How many sons and daughters did Jacob have?

### 12 sons and 1 daughter

### What was one consequence for Jacob having two wives?

### They were jealous of one another, which caused a lot of strife for Jacob

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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