

Lesson 6: Jacob Leaves and Rachel Lies

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 31: Jacob flees from Laban
- 2) Learn that God will be with us if we follow him.
- 3) Learn that Laban was not a man of God but was an idolater – and the problems it caused.
- 4) Learn the three sins of Rachel.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Rachel's 3 Sins Sheet – one per child

Optional:

- Ball or Bean Bag to toss (For questions activity)
- Cardboard Egg carton – one for every 3 children (For Craft activity)
- Construction paper – one per child
- White Glue – to share
- Scissors – to share
- Cheerios or rock candy – enough for a handful for each child
- Markers
- Cotton balls – a bag to share
- Storybook of this chapter in Genesis with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board and characters to show the story of this chapter. (if available)

Snack:

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| - Cheerios or any similar cereal | large handful per child |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance.

What did we study last week about Jacob and his family? Jacob got married and had many sons – 12 in all. **This week we will continue to study Jacob and his family. We will see that old habits die hard – Jacob flees again but only this time it is from his uncle Laban instead of his brother Esau! And this time – it was God who said he should go. Jacob follows God!**

2) Jacob Leaves Haran

10 minutes

Ask students to turn to Genesis 31. Read **Genesis 31:1-13**.

Discuss the following Questions:

What did God promise Jacob in verse 3? I will be with you.

What did God want Jacob to do? Go back to the land of his father Isaac in Canaan.

How many times did Laban change Jacob's wages? 10 times.

Who was protecting Jacob from being harmed by Laban? God.

How does God protect you and I today? Just like He did with Jacob – when we obey God, He directs our steps and keeps us safe. And we can learn what He wants by reading the Bible. He doesn't talk to us like He did to Jacob but we can know what He wants and see His hand guiding us as we pray and read His Word. God keeps us from harm! What an awesome God we have!

Allow for other questions if students have any before moving on.

Read **Genesis 31:14-21**, have students follow along then ask:

Laban is an idolater – he had idols in his house and worshipped man-made things instead of God. Why did Rachel steal the idols? Allow students to answer. Maybe because she was angry with him for treating her family the way Laban had. Some people think that the person who had the idols was head of the household so by Rachel taking them she took away Laban's status as head of the house. Maybe she was probably an idolater too – maybe thought they would help them on their journey. But these reasons do not matter – it was wrong to steal, regardless of the reason, especially when taking idols that God says to stay away from!

What was Rachel and Leah's response to Jacob's request to leave? They said yes because their father regarded them as foreigners and sold them. (seven years of labor each) They also said do what God has told you too.

When Laban went to shear his sheep what happened? Rachel stole the household gods and Jacob fled with his entire family.

Jacob does not tell Laban he is leaving but runs away. That is not right – God said He would be with him in verse 3 – Jacob did not need to worry! And, neither should we. God told Jacob to leave but didn't say to run away.

God says He will be with us too! Listen while I read from Bible in Hebrews 13:5.

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

If we follow God – He will never leave us! We don't need to worry!

3) Rachel's 3 Sins Sheet	10-15 minutes
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Hand out one sheet to each child and ask students to listen as you read the directions aloud. Hand out pencils and read through each verse as a group then find the sin it relates to that Rachel committed – there will be two verses for each sin.

4) Laban Catches up with Jacob	10 minutes
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Optional: if you have a book with pictures or visual aids showing this story you can show the pictures as you read from the Bible.

Ask the students to turn in their Bibles back to Genesis 31. Read from **Genesis 31:22-55**. Have students follow along.

***Optional:** Use a ball or bean bag to toss to a child before asking the following questions. If they get it right, they toss it back to you and then you move on to another question, if they get it wrong or they don't know the answer, they toss it to someone else and see if they can answer the question. Once the answer is answered correctly they toss it back to you. For questions with more than one answer you can toss to a number of students to see how many answers they can come up with.

Discussion Questions:

Who told Laban to be careful what he did to Jacob? God in a dream.

Who did Laban say had a relationship with God in verse 29? Jacob's father.

*Notice Laban did not say Laban's God but Isaac's God – Laban was not a follower of God even though God had come to him in a dream.

What reason did Jacob give to Laban for running away without telling him? Jacob was afraid Laban would take his family back by force.

Although Jacob knew that God was with him, did he show trust in God by running away from Laban without telling him? No.

Rachel lied to her father and did not tell Jacob about what? That she took Laban's idols.

What did Laban and Jacob build to remind them to not harm the other? A heap of stones.

Who did Laban say would judge between them? God.

What did Jacob offer at the end? A sacrifice to God.

What problems did Rachel's stealing cause? Laban was angry, chased his family down, Jacob not knowing she took them said whoever it was would not live – she could have died, she was now holding on to idols that did not belong to her and she would have to keep them hidden. God says we should not have idols. Allow for other answers as well.

Allow for questions, state that you will come back next week with answers if the questions are too big for you to deal with this week and address the person next week if appropriate. Then, move on to the next activity. Always have the children look to the Bible for their answers and help them find the verses they need.

5) Optional: Jacob and Laban's Heap Craft

15-20 minutes

Before class gather the needed items – see list in materials section.

At class hand out one piece of construction paper, cut out egg cartons pieces – 4 per student, cotton balls, Cheerios, markers, glue and scissors.

Tell the children: **We are going to make a scene from the Bible about Laban and Jacob when they made a heap of stones to remind them not to harm one another.**

Your construction paper will be the ground. With the egg cartons you will cut out and use the egg carton bottoms as tents – each child should get 4 – one for Jacob, Leah, Rachel and Laban. Using markers label and decorate each “tent” and then glue the bottom to the construction paper.

Next, use cottons balls as sheep and glue them to the page and use the markers to make feet and eyes, maybe even a tail. Finally, draw a path through your scene and somewhere make a heap of Cheerios by gluing them together on the paper one at a time to complete the scene.

When finished, decorate your sheet by drawing grass, rocks, trees, people, whatever you think will look appropriate, then clean up and move on to the next activity.

Ask students if they need any help and do so as needed.

6) Optional – Snack: Cheerios Heap

5 minutes

Hand out handfuls of Cheerios enough for each child to make a heap out of them. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“When Jacob and Laban met up after Jacob fled, they decided to make a heap of stones as a marker to show that when they passed by they were not to harm the other person. Let’s try and make our own heaps with our Cheerios and think of people we should remember not to do harm when you see them while you eat your heap!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

- 1) **Old Testament Books of the Bible – Sung to the Alphabet song**
- 2) **Father Abraham Song with Actions** – see lyrics from Lesson 1
- 3) **Sons of Jacob** (to the tune of "Ten Little Ladybugs")

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,
Issachar, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali,
Gad and Asher, Joseph, Benjamin - These are the sons of Jacob.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Pray that we will trust in God and recognize that God is willing to be with us and keep us safe if we let Him. Pray that we will not steal or lie like Rachel did. Pray that we will not trust in things (such as idols) as Laban did, but trust in the true and living God of heaven and earth!

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!