



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for October 21, 2007
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"Jacob Loved Rachel"

MEMORY VERSE:

"And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her" (Genesis 29:20)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Genesis 29:20-35

20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

21 And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.

22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.

23 And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her.

24 And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.

25 And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?

26 And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

27 Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

28 And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

29 And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.

30 And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

31 And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.

32 And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.

33 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.

34 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi.

35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

To teach that not giving up is a good character trait to have.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. We should not give up when doing something for a good purpose.
2. God is in control of all things.
3. God keeps His promises.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures of shepherds and sheep.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

In last week's lesson, we discussed how Jacob had to flee his home after deceiving his brother Esau. We learned that his parents sent him to his mother's old home in Haran to get him away from Esau and to find a wife. On this journey, Jacob had an encounter with the Lord at Bethel. After Jacob's dream at Bethel, discussed in last week's lesson (Genesis 28:10-22), he continued this journey toward Haran.

Jacob eventually arrived at the home of his Uncle Laban. After working for his uncle for a month, Jacob had fallen in love with Laban's younger daughter Rachel. He decided to stay and made an agreement with Laban to work seven years in order to marry Rachel. This week's lesson describes the events and the planned marriage at the end of this seven-year agreement.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

As you begin your discussion with your class, the concept of a "dowry" or "bride price" may be necessary to help understand the events of the story. Explain to your class the tradition of Jacob's time that would require him to make a gift to the father of the woman that he intended to marry. Instead of the usual money or goods given as the "bride price," Jacob offered to work for Laban for seven years in exchange for marrying Rachel (Genesis 29:18). Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

1. How did Jacob feel about serving Laban seven years to marry Rachel?

Seven years might seem like a long time to some people, but not to Jacob. Genesis 29:20 says that Jacob did not seem to mind serving that entire period of time to get to marry Rachel. Even though it was seven years, it felt like only a few days to Jacob because he loved Rachel so much. Perhaps Jacob felt that the seven years were insignificant compared to what he would get in return – Rachel for his wife. Also, the seven years, no doubt, gave Jacob and Rachel the opportunity to get to know each other and to develop their relationship. Note that Jacob was working at this time as a shepherd for Laban. Show pictures of shepherds and sheep and explain what was involved in this job.

2. In what way did Laban deceive Jacob?

At the end of the seven years, in accordance with the custom of the day, Laban invited all the people in the area for a wedding celebration that would last for seven days. At the end of the first day when the groom was to be united with his bride, Laban substituted Leah for Rachel. Since his bride was brought to him in the evening (Genesis 29:23) when it was dark and since Leah would have been heavily veiled, Jacob did not know until morning that he had been united with the wrong woman.

3. What happened as a result of Laban's deceit?

When Jacob discovered that he had been tricked, he confronted Laban. Laban's excuse is that their local custom would not permit the younger daughter to marry before the older, so Leah had to marry first. Laban, however, did make a slight concession to Jacob. He offered Jacob another bargain. If Jacob would continue to honor Leah's week (the remainder of the 7-day wedding celebration), he could also marry Rachel at the end of the week and then continue to work for Laban for another seven years. Multiple marriages were common at that time, and Jacob loved Rachel so much that he agreed to the terms.

Note the irony of this situation – Jacob who had deceived his own father (Genesis 27) is the one who is now being deceived. It is also ironic that Jacob, who was the younger between him and his brother Esau, disrespected the significance of birth order (Genesis 25:24-34) but is now tricked by Laban into honoring the order of birthright (Leah must marry first).

4. Why were Jacob's two wives jealous of each other?

Jacob clearly favored Rachel over Leah. Rachel after all was the one he loved and wanted to marry. Leah was forced on him as a wife. So because of this situation, there was animosity

between the two sisters from the beginning of the marriages. Leah was jealous of Rachel because she was the one Jacob loved. Rachel was jealous because Leah, in the beginning, was able to have children and she could not.

5. How do we see God's promise to Jacob starting to come true?

At Bethel, God had promised Jacob that the promise made to his grandfather (Abraham) and to his father (Isaac) would also be extended to him. He promised to multiply Jacob's offspring in all the earth and to bless all people through them. The start of Jacob's blessing is seen in this lesson as he begins to have children that would eventually lead to the fulfillment of this promise.

Although Rachel is barren at this point and cannot have children, the lesson tells about four of the sons that Leah would have for Jacob – Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah. This would be just the start of the large family that God had promised Jacob. Leah would bear six sons in all (Genesis 35:23) and a daughter (Genesis 30:21). Rachel would also bear two sons, and two other wives of Jacob would bear four other sons (Genesis 35:24-26). These twelve sons would become the twelve tribes of Israel.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Jacob and Laban did not always choose to do what was right. We can learn important things from what they did and the things that happened to them. Just like Jacob who had to work hard for a long time to get what he wanted, we should not give up. Even when we are faced with a difficult challenge, we should depend on God to give us success and to help us not give up.

Difficulties and challenges help us to learn and bring us closer to the Lord. Through hard times, our blessings show God's love and care. Remember in these situations that we can choose whether to grumble and complain over the difficulties or to learn from them and to praise the Lord for His blessings.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Use activities to help your students remember the important points of the lesson. Activities will vary depending on the age of your students. Two activities have been included with this lesson summary – a word jumble and a word search. Use these activities to further discuss and emphasize the important truths of the lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her" (Genesis 29:20)

Long, difficult jobs may seem to go by faster when we are working for the right reason or for something that is very important to us. Seven years working for Rachel's father did not seem like a long time to Jacob because he was very much in love with Rachel. The custom of that day required a man to give a woman's family a gift in order to marry her. Jacob's gift to Laban was to work for him for seven years. These seven years only seemed like a few days to Jacob because marrying Rachel was very important to him.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank you and praise you for all our blessings. Help us to remember to praise you even in difficult times. Help us to know that all things work together for our good. We love you, and we thank you for your love and care of us, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Peace Between Brothers" from Genesis 33:1-11 and describes the reconciliation between Jacob and his brother Esau.

Lesson Summarized By:

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WORD JUMBLE
Jacob and Rachel
(Genesis 29:20-35)

Unscramble the jumbled word on the left to answer the question.

- 1 VSEEN The number of years Jacob agreed to work for Laban for a wife (Genesis 29:20).
- 2 LACRHE Laban's daughter that Jacob loved (Genesis 29:20).
- 3 DHEESPHR Jacob's job during the time he worked for Laban.
- 4 AETSF Laban gathered everyone together to have this to celebrate the marriage of his daughter to Jacob (Genesis 29:22).
- 5 HELA Laban's daughter who became Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23).
- 6 NENVIEG It was this time of day when Laban brought his daughter to Jacob (Genesis 29:23)
- 7 BTSFORINR Laban could not give the younger before the _____. So Rachel could not marry Jacob first (Genesis 29:26).
- 8 RAEBRN Rachel could not have children because she was _____ (Genesis 29:31).
- 9 UEBNRE Jacob and Leah's first son (Genesis 29:32).
- 10 AJHUD Jacob and Leah's son whose name means "praise" (Genesis 29:35)

WORD SEARCH
Jacob and Rachel
(Genesis 29:20-35)

Find each of the following words.

SEVEN	FIRSTBORN	LEAH	BARREN
EVENING	DECEIVE	LABAN	FEAST
MARRIAGE	SERVICE	RACHEL	JACOB
HUSBAND	YEARS	WIFE	YOUNGER

E O H U S B A N D N R T A B E S B F N F S A C
E N F D C V I R S Y R A I E R E G N U O Y R E
U G E R A C H E L S G V B B E F I W H C B B T
B D V E R I B A F M N L L S E R V I C E L R R
O S I E F S D O A L I G E I D U N R S G R H E
C V R S M T G R B E N W R E E R E E T I N E E
A O G N F T R S R R E S I N R U R R N E R G N
J S D U A I S E R R V E V R C A J R E A G C N
V C A E A R F A H A E L N O B F E C H C S R L
I A N G C A S I E D E A A B S F A C B R E B N
D D E H I E E E C F B Y E T E S G F E N V A V
R T F R O E I E E A A E H S N E R R A B E Y I
L G I A R B U V L A V B S R D D A V R C N R I
L A A V V E Y A E A E E V I V R O E I E N T N
R R B E E I N O A E E N I F C B A S R R H B B
O O F E F U V L C E I C L N U B T E R L W I E

ANSWERS TO WORD JUMBLE for "JACOB AND RACHEL"

- 1 - seven
- 2 - Rachel
- 3 - shepherd
- 4 - feast
- 5 - Leah
- 6 - evening
- 7 - firstborn
- 8 - barren
- 9 - Reuben
- 10 - Judah

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH for "JACOB AND RACHEL"

H U S B A N D

R A C H E L G

R E G N U O Y

E F I W

B M N S E R V I C E

O A I

C R N

A T R S E N

J D I S R V R

E A A H A E L N O S

G C E E A B E

E E F B Y T V

I A S N E R R A B E

V L R N

E I

F