

# Jacob, Rachel, and Leah

The Years Away

**Ages about 7-11** | Video 7:27 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

**Central truth** God sees and loves each person. His faithfulness calls us to treat others honestly and kindly.

**Learning goals** Recall Jacob's years with Laban; recognize Leah and Rachel as people God cares for; suggest a fair and caring choice.

**Gather** Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

**Watch online** [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

## Before watching | 2 minutes

Introduce Jacob, who has left home after deceiving his father and hurting Esau. Explain that the story contains unfair choices and family rivalry. Use pretend examples, not private family stories.

## Watch and notice

Notice Jacob helping at the well, Laban's broken agreement, Leah's sadness, Rachel's longing, and God's promise to be with Jacob.

## Talk together | 6-8 minutes

### 1. How did Jacob help Rachel at the well?

He moved the heavy stone and watered her father's sheep.

### 2. Was Laban fair to Jacob?

No. He broke the marriage agreement and later changed Jacob's wages. Jacob's earlier deception did not make this right.

### 3. What do we learn from Leah and Rachel?

Their sadness and jealousy mattered to God. Each person deserves love; comparing people can hurt them.

### 4. What did God tell Jacob to do?

Return to his own land. God promised to be with him.

**Then respond and pray** Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

# Lead the response

Jacob, Rachel, and Leah

**Short family lesson** Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

## Choose a handout

**Draw & Tell** Draw a caring action from the story and a fair choice in a pretend situation. An adult may write the child's words.

**Read & Write** Recall the story, explain why unfairness is wrong, and apply kindness without comparing people.

## Adapt by readiness

Emerging readers: read aloud and invite pointing, drawing, or spoken answers.

Confident readers: distinguish God's faithfulness from approval of hurtful choices.

## Practice fairness | Optional 4 minutes

Two pretend children want the same toy. Practice taking turns and inviting someone left out to join. Ask a trusted adult for help when a situation is unsafe or unfair.

**Look for understanding** A child names one caring action, recognizes a broken promise, and suggests a fair response.

**Closing prayer** Faithful God, you see every person. Help us tell the truth, keep our promises, and care for people who feel left out. Stay with us as we learn to love. Amen.

**At home** Invite someone into a game or help with a small task. Thank God for that person without comparing them with anyone else.

**Handout answer notes** Well: Jacob waters the sheep. Laban breaks his agreement. God calls Jacob home and promises his presence. Fair-choice answers vary.

## Teach with care

Let children pass on personal sharing. Use fictional examples. Unsafe treatment calls for a trusted adult's help. Ancient plural marriage is not God's original plan. A baby is not a reward for goodness; infertility is not a lack of faith. God remembering Rachel means acting with care, not forgetting her first.

**Words to explain** Wages: payment for work. Covenant: a solemn agreement. Faithful: true to a promise.

## Sources for the leader

Scripture: [Genesis 29 \(USCCB\)](#)

Scripture: [Genesis 31, especially 31:3 \(USCCB\)](#)

Scripture: [Genesis 30 \(USCCB\)](#)

# Every person matters

Jacob, Rachel, and Leah

God sees Leah, Rachel, and Jacob. We can notice others and choose kindness.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult helper** Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

## 1 Draw Jacob helping Rachel water the sheep at the well.



## 2 Draw a fair or kind choice that helps someone feel included.



**Tell** What makes your second picture fair or kind? Tell an adult how God cares for each person.

**Pray** God, thank you for loving each person. Help me be truthful, fair, and kind. Amen.

**At home** Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

# Choose fairness and kindness

Jacob, Rachel, and Leah

Remember the story. Then think about how to treat people with care.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Remember the story

What did Jacob do to help Rachel at the well?

*Jacob helped by ...*

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## 2 Think about fairness

Laban broke his agreement with Jacob. Did Jacob's earlier wrongdoing make that fair? Explain.

*I think ...*

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## 3 Help someone feel included

Two pretend children leave someone out of a game. What could they say and do differently?

*They could ...*

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**Pray** God, thank you for loving each person. Help me be truthful, fair, and kind. Amen.

**Go deeper** Read Genesis 31:3 with an adult. What did God promise Jacob? How can prayer help us choose a good next step?