

## Jacob Marries Rachel

Teacher Pep Talk: Jacob, escaping from the wrath of his older brother, Esau, traveled to the home of his mother's relatives. There Jacob, the trickster, who had gotten both Esau's blessing and his birthright, would meet an even bigger trickster; his uncle, Laban. The deceiver would soon find himself deceived! Desiring to marry Rachel, Jacob worked for Laban for 7 years. But after the wedding he realized he had been given Leah, her older sister, in marriage. In order to marry Rachel, whom he loved, Jacob would work another 7 years!

You will need: Bible  
A chart showing all 12 of Jacob's sons' names

Major Points: Jacob Ran Away to His Uncle's House  
Jacob Worked for His Uncle for 7 Years to Marry Rachel  
Laban Tricked Jacob into Marrying Leah First  
Jacob Worked another 7 Years for Rachel, Whom He Loved  
Jacob had 12 Sons

Scripture Ref: Genesis 29:1-28, and Genesis 35:23-26

Memory Verse: Genesis 29:18 *Jacob was in love with Rachel...*

Lesson: **Jacob Ran Away to His Uncle's House**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap. Also have the chart showing all 12 of Jacob's sons' names.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available – See series lessons instructions.]*
- Jacob and Esau were brothers. Do you have a brother or sister? Do you ever get mad at them? *(Wait for answers.)*
- Jacob had bought Esau's birthright for a bowl of soup. And he had tricked his father, Isaac, into giving him Esau's blessing.
- Esau got mad, and Jacob got moving!
- Jacob ran away to his mother's old home.
- There he met his uncle, Laban, and his two daughters: Leah and Rachel. Rachel was very beautiful.
- Jacob fell in love with Laban's younger daughter, Rachel.

### **Jacob Worked for his Uncle Laban for 7 Years**

- Jacob lived and worked with his uncle's family for a while.
- His uncle wanted to pay him. But what wages did he want?
- Jacob wanted to marry Rachel!
- He offered to work for Laban for 7 years to marry Rachel
- Laban agreed. And Jacob worked for him for 7 years.

### Laban Tricked Jacob into Marrying Leah First

- The Bible says that the seven years seemed like just a few days to Jacob because he loved Rachel so much! Isn't that sweet?
- Finally the day of the wedding came! Everyone was very excited, especially Jacob, who had been waiting for 7 years!
- But Laban TRICKED Jacob. Laban traded Leah for Rachel!
- In the morning, after the wedding, Jacob realized he had married Leah instead!
- (Leah was not as beautiful as Rachel and she had weak eyes)
- Jacob was very upset. He went to talk to Laban.
- "What have you done to me? This isn't what we agreed!"
- Laban told him that it wasn't their custom to marry the younger daughter before the older one.
- Jacob (the trickster) had been tricked himself!

### Jacob Worked another 7 Years for Rachel, Whom He Loved

- *(Back then people sometimes had more than one wife.)*
- Laban told Jacob that he could marry Rachel too, if he would agree to work for him for another 7 years.
- Jacob agreed because he loved Rachel so much
- So after spending his "honeymoon" (about a week) with Leah, Jacob was allowed to marry Rachel, too
- Then Jacob worked for Laban another 7 years!
- Let's count up how many years that was! First he worked for 7 years *(ask one child to hold up seven fingers)* and then he worked another 7 years *(another child holds up 7 fingers)*.
- $7 + 7 = 14!$  Jacob worked for 14 years to marry Rachel!

### Jacob had 12 Sons

- During their lives, Jacob and his wives had many sons. Guess how many? *(Wait for answers.)* Jacob had 12 sons!
- *[Show the chart of the 12 sons names]*
- They had different sounding names back then. Let's try and read some of them together. *(Let the children point to some of the names on the chart that look easy to read. Let them volunteer to read some of them. Read the other ones to them.)*
- Of all these 12 sons, Rachel only had two. They were Joseph (her oldest son) and Benjamin (who was the youngest of all)
- We will hear about Rachel's oldest son, Joseph, next time!
- God was with Jacob and watched over him.
- Later, God would change Jacob's name to Israel.
- From Jacob's 12 sons would come the 12 tribes of the great nation that God had promised to make of Abraham
- God always keeps His promises!

Let's pray and thank God for keeping His promises!

Prayer: Dear God,  
Thank you that you always keep your promises.  
Thank you for being with Jacob and for watching over him.  
Thank you for being with us and for watching over us!  
Thank you for loving us!  
We love you back!  
Amen.

Suggested Activities: (Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)

**Chart of Jacob's Sons' Names** – A chart of Jacob's sons' names is attached at the end of this lesson. It may help you in creating your own chart, or in writing the names on the board. For older children you may want to color code the names to reflect who their mother was. *For your reference, the sons' names are listed in Genesis 35:23-26.*

**Match the Name** – *The children will help match the names of Jacob's sons.*

Before Class: Make two copies of the chart of Jacob's sons' names. Color them to match each other. Attach one chart to a piece of poster board. Cut up the other chart; making pieces that have one son's name on each piece.

During Class: Make a game of taking the puzzle pieces and matching them to the names on the original chart. Consider using Sticky Tack on the backs of the pieces so that they will stay on and so that you can easily remove them and play again. Older children can try and say the names as they stick on the pieces each time.

**Playing Favorites** – *The children will discuss how it is best NOT to play favorites.*

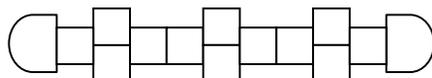
Before Class: Bring your favorite stuffed animal or doll to class.

During Class: Bring out the stuffed animal or doll. Explain that this is your FAVORITE stuffed animal or doll. Tell the children why it is your favorite. Explain that it is ok to have a favorite stuffed animal or doll, but it is never a good idea to have favorites when it comes to children. Jacob had 12 sons, but he loved Joseph more than the rest of them. Joseph was his favorite son, because he was Rachel's oldest son. It's not a good idea to play favorites, but in Joseph's case it had tragic consequences. We will hear more about Joseph in the next lesson.

**Hopscotch to Twelve** – The children will play hopscotch and count to 12.

Before Class: On the floor or carpet, use chalk or masking tape to mark off a hopscotch area. (You may want to provide a bean bag or an eraser to throw.)

During Class: Play "hopscotch", counting up to 12 (instead of the traditional 10). Throw the bean bag onto the "next" number and jump up to it. Pick up the bean bag and return. For faster play, do not use the bean bag. Simply stand at one end and hop all the way to the other end, saying the numbers as you hop. Then the next person goes.



**Paper Doll Chain** – *The children will learn to make and cut out paper doll chains.*

**Before Class:** Read the instruction sheet for Paper Doll Chains. Practice making and cutting out paper dolls on your own, until you are proficient enough to teach others how to do it. Review **Scissor Safety**. Provide paper and scissors. Consider cutting the paper into strips lengthwise before class. Each child will need 3 strips.

**During Class:** Show the children how to fold the strips to make packets of paper. Allow them to draw their own stick figures, or help them do so. Be sure the hands/arms go all the way to the edge of the paper packet. Supervise the cutting out of the stick figures. Carefully open the packets to reveal the paper doll chains. Display in the classroom!

**Jacob Had 12 Sons** – *The children will practice writing their numbers up to 12.*

**Before Class:** Make a copy of the activity sheet for each child in class. Provide pencils, and optionally crayons as well. Have a list of Jacob's sons' names available.

**During Class:** Explain that Jacob had 12 sons. That's a lot of sons! We'd better count them to see if they are all there! Ask the children to count the stick figures on the paper. Allow them to write numbers (up to 12) on the page; one near each stick figure. They may want to draw faces on the stick figures as well, or draw clothes and decorate the figures in some way.

Have some fun asking the children questions like:

Which one would you choose to be Joseph?

Which one would you pick to be Benjamin?

*(Of course, there are no "right" answers... just which one they would choose.)*

**OPTION:** Older children might choose to write the names of the sons on the paper.

**Snack Idea for Today**

12 of anything... (I vote for Cheez-Its or M & M's... oh... or those little bitty marshmallow things... I love those... but maybe not 12 of those... You decide!)

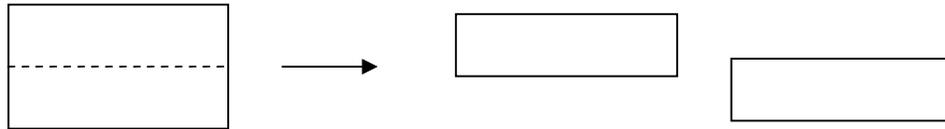
Jacob's Sons/ Israel's Sons:

Reuben
Simeon
Levi
Judah
Issachar
Zebulun
Dan
Naphtali
Gad
Asher
Joseph
Benjamin

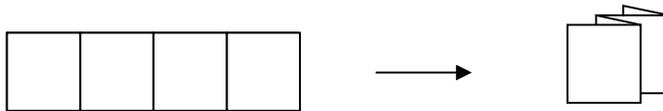
### How to Make a Paper Doll Chain

Jacob had 12 sons. Your class can learn to cut out paper doll chains to represent all of Jacob's sons. Each chain will have 4 men, so you will each need 3 chains to make 12.

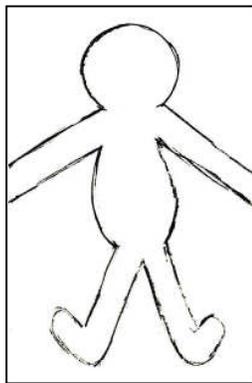
- 1) Take a sheet of paper (8 ½ x 11 inches) and cut it in half lengthwise, leaving 2 strips.



- 2) Fold each strip into 4 parts, accordion style, forming a packet of paper.

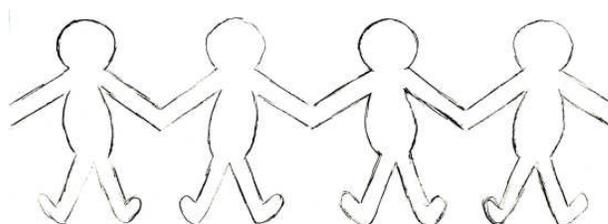


- 3) On the top of each packet of paper draw your own stick figure man.  
(You may copy this cute little guy... if you like.)



- 4) Carefully cut out the stick figure with scissors. (Cut through the whole packet.)

- 5) Gently unfold the packet of paper to reveal your paper doll chain.



**Jacob Had 12 Sons.** Can you count them? As you count them, write a number (1 to 12) next to each one. Are they all here? Which one would you choose to be Joseph? Which one would you pick to be Benjamin?

