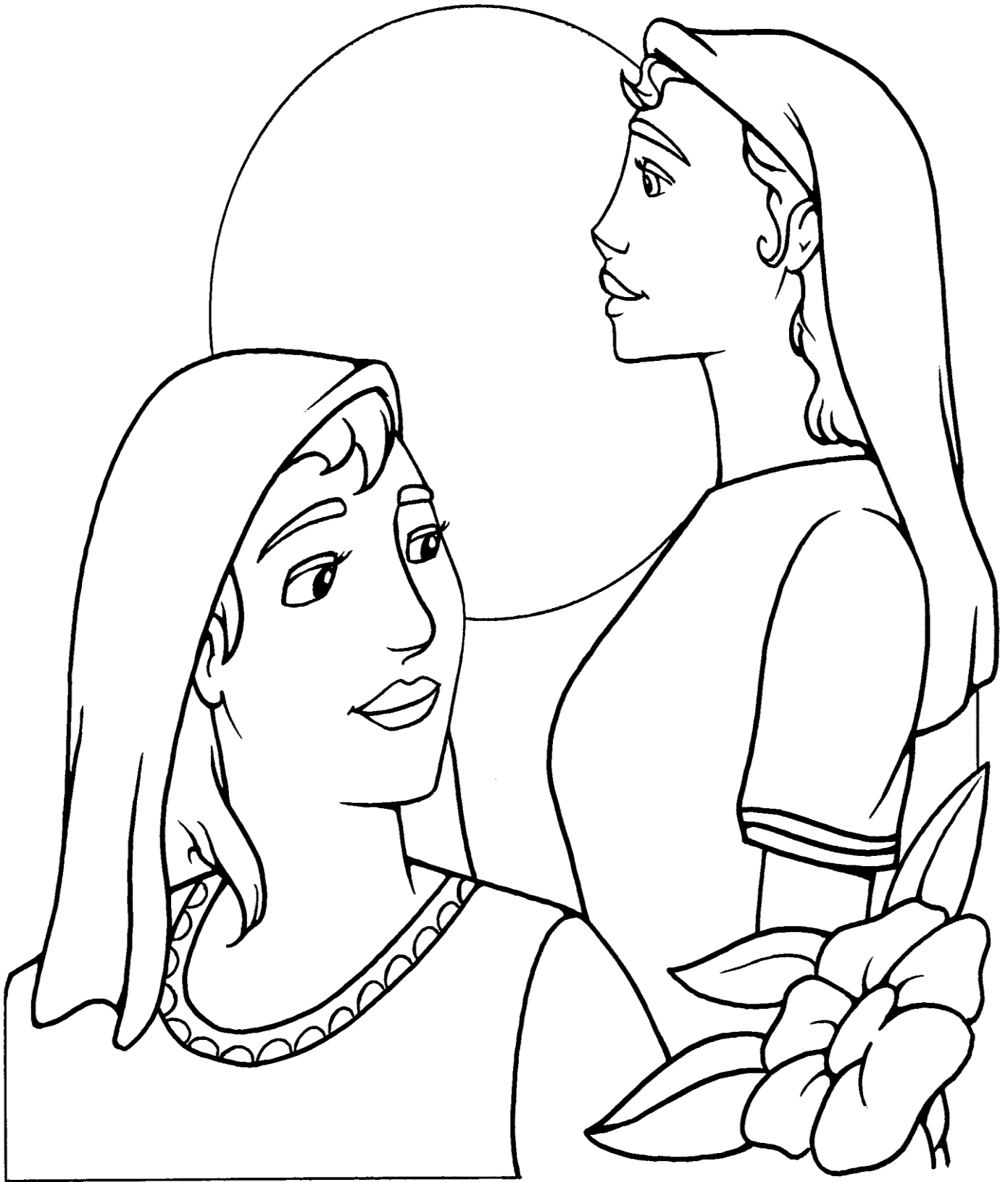


Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 25: LEAH AND RACHEL
GENESIS 29:1-30

Then Jacob continued his trip. He went to the country in the East. He looked and saw a well in the field. There were three flocks of sheep lying near the well, where the sheep drank water. There was a large rock covering the mouth of the well. When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the rock away from the well. Then all the sheep could drink from the water. After the sheep were full, the shepherds would put the rock back in its place. Jacob said to the shepherds there, "Brothers, where are you from?" They answered, "We are from Haran." Then Jacob said, "Do you know Laban, the son of Nahor?" The shepherds answered, "We know him." Then Jacob said, "How is he?" They answered, "He is well. Look, that is his daughter Rachel coming now with his sheep." Jacob said, "Look, it is still day and long before the sun sets. It is not yet time for the animals to be gathered together for the night. So give them water and let them go back into the field." But they said, "We cannot do that until all the flocks are gathered together. Then we will move the rock from the well, and all the sheep will drink." While Jacob was talking with the shepherds, Rachel came with her father's sheep. (It was her job to take care of the sheep.) Rachel was Laban's daughter. Laban was the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's mother. When Jacob saw Rachel, he went and moved the rock and gave water to the sheep. Then Jacob kissed Rachel and cried. He told her that he was from her father's family. He told her that he was the son of Rebekah. So Rachel ran home and told her father. When Laban heard the news about his sister's son Jacob, he ran to meet him. Laban hugged him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban everything that had happened. Then Laban said, "This is wonderful! You are from my own family." So Jacob stayed with Laban for a month. One day Laban said to Jacob, "You are a relative of mine. It is not right for you to continue working for me without pay. What should I pay you?" Now Laban had two daughters. The older was Leah and the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were gentle, but Rachel was very beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said to Laban, "I will work seven years for you if you will allow me to marry your daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It would be better for her to marry you than someone else. So stay with me." So Jacob stayed and worked for Laban for seven years. But it seemed like it was only a few days because he loved Rachel very much. After seven years Jacob said to Laban,

"Give me Rachel so that I can marry her. My time of work for you is finished." So Laban gave a party for all the people in that place. That night Laban brought his daughter Leah to Jacob. Jacob and Leah stayed the night together as husband and wife. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter to be her maid.) In the morning Jacob saw that it was Leah he had been with, and he said to Laban, "You have tricked me. I worked hard for you so that I could marry Rachel. Why did you trick me?" Laban said, "In our country we don't allow the younger daughter to marry before the older daughter. Continue for the full week of the marriage ceremony, and I will also give you Rachel to marry. But you must serve me another seven years." So Jacob did this and finished the week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife. (Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her maid.) So Jacob stayed with Rachel as his wife also. And Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. Jacob worked for Laban for another seven years.

LEAH AND RACHEL
GENESIS 29:1-30



"And Laban had two daughters: the name of the older one was Leah,
and the name of the younger daughter was Rachel."

GENESIS 29:16

25. LEAH AND RACHEL

GENESIS 29:1-30

MEMORY VERSE:

"The wicked man does deceptive work, but to him who sows righteousness will be a sure reward." **PROVERBS 11:18**

Review Questions

True or False

1. Jacob came to the well and saw Leah, Laban's daughter with Laban's sheep. (NO – it was RACHEL!)
2. Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son, so Rachel went and told Laban her father.
3. Laban had two daughters, the older one was named Leah, and the younger one was named Rachel.
4. Leah's eyes were gentle, but Rachel was very beautiful.
5. Jacob loved Rachel, and told Laban "I will work for you for 7 days if you let me marry your daughter Rachel."
6. Jacob worked for Laban for seven years, but it seemed like only a few days because he loved Rachel so much.
7. After seven years Laban gave Jacob his daughter Rachel to marry.
8. Laban tricked Jacob and gave him his older daughter Leah to marry instead.
9. Jacob said he would not work for Laban for seven more years so he could marry Rachel, because that was too long.

Questions

1. Who did Jacob see at the well with Laban's sheep that first day?
2. Was Laban happy to see Jacob his nephew?
3. Who did Jacob want to marry at first?
4. How long did Jacob say he would work for Laban so he could marry Rachel?
5. On Jacob's wedding night, who did Laban bring into his tent instead of Rachel to be Jacob's wife?
6. Why did Laban give Leah to Jacob instead of Rachel to be Jacob's wife?
7. Could Jacob still marry Rachel? What did he have to do to marry Rachel?

Lesson 25 Activity

Stubborn Paper

Turn a clean two-liter soda bottle on its side and tape it to the edge of a table so the open end is just past the edge of the table. Wad a small piece of paper and stuff it into the mouth of the soda bottle. Be sure that it is a very snug fit. Ask for a volunteer to come and see if he can blow the paper into the bottle. If the paper is snug enough, no matter how hard he blows the paper will not go into the bottle. It may move a little as he blows toward the inside of the bottle; but as soon as the air flow stops, the paper will be pushed back (maybe even out) because of the air pressure inside the bottle.

Explain to your class that God has a plan and design for each of our lives. God has made promises to His children that He intends to keep in His time and in His way. When we try to take matters into our own hands and force those promises to come true, we will meet with resistance, just like the bottle resisted our attempt to blow the paper into it.

We need to trust the Lord. Jacob tried to make something happen in his life by using deceit against his brother Esau and father Isaac; it came back on him, just like that paper came back on us. [Deceit will come back on those who practice it.](#)

Seven Minutes of Silence

Instruct your class to try to imagine what seven years is like. Tell them that you are all going to look at the clock for seven minutes and they must be completely silent. As the second hand rounds twelve, have them put up a finger to count how many minutes have gone by.

At the end of seven minutes, ask them if it seemed like a long time. Then tell them that you forgot, but to complete the lesson they must wait another seven minutes in silence. When they respond, tell them you are only kidding.

Explain to your class what it must have seemed like for Jacob to wait seven years for Rachel, only to discover he must work another seven years to keep her. Ask the class how that would make them feel.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be honest, asking God to help us be strong in the face of temptation to deceive. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.