



# MOSAIC Gospel Project

## Volume 1, Unit 3, Lesson 2: Jacob and Rachel

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 29-31

### Personal Preparation

When Isaac and Rebekah sent Jacob away from his home in the promised land of Canaan to escape the wrath of his brother Esau, Rebekah expected him to be gone for a few days—just until Esau calmed down (Gen. 27:44). But days, weeks, and then months passed; Jacob was with Laban for twenty years (Gen. 31:38).

Before Jacob left home, Isaac blessed him and instructed him to find a wife among his relatives. And that's what Jacob did. On his way to Laban's house, God appeared to Jacob at Bethel in a dream and gave Jacob the same covenant he gave to Abraham. Jacob believed God had chosen him as an heir of the promise—to follow God, to lead the family, and to teach the next generation to follow God too.

This meant Jacob would have a family. He arrived in Haran and saw Rachel, the daughter of Laban. Jacob loved Rachel. He agreed to work for seven years for Laban if Laban would let him marry Rachel. After seven years, Laban deceived Jacob. Instead of giving him Rachel, Laban gave him Rachel's older sister, Leah.

Jacob was angry. Laban demanded that Jacob work another seven years if he wanted to marry Rachel. So Jacob worked seven more years. However, Jacob's own plans for his life were not lining up with the Lord's plans. He wanted to have children with Rachel, but she was barren. His first four sons came from Leah. Finally, Rachel had Joseph and Benjamin.

In time, Jacob fathered twelve sons—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.

Even though Jacob did not love Leah, God loved her and he chose Jacob and Leah's son Judah to be the heir of the promise. Through Judah's family, God would show his love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior he promised.

As you prepare to teach today, reflect on how God has accomplished his purposes through broken people. Thank God that he loves people who are unloved and uses people whom the world has rejected. Pray that the individuals would be encouraged that God loves them and will use them even if the world says otherwise.

### Memory Verse

Begin class by reviewing the memory verse.

#### Genesis 28:15

*"What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you."*

### Points of Emphasis

1. Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah and Rachel.
2. God always keeps His promises because he is faithful.

### Activity #1

Let the individuals begin working on the first page of the activity sheet. Feel free to let them continue as you teach the lesson.

## Video

Last week, we learned Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into blessing Jacob. Their sin did not stop God from working out his promise that Esau would serve Jacob one day. This week, we will learn about what happened to Jacob when he fled the land of Canaan to escape Esau, who wanted to kill him. Jacob ended up living with his uncle, a man named Laban. Our story today is called “Jacob and Rachel.”

Play the video lesson for today titled “Jacob and Rachel.”

## Bible Lesson

Wow! Last week, Jacob and his mother tricked his father, and this week, Jacob’s uncle did something similar to him. Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah when Jacob only wanted to marry Rachel. He even worked as a shepherd for seven years so that Laban would allow Jacob to marry her. But Laban did not want Jacob to marry Rachel unless Leah was already married. So he lied to Jacob. Jacob did marry Rachel too, but he had to work another seven years.

In some ways, Jacob’s family was very different from what we see today. But just like in modern times, they struggled to trust that God would keep his promises. Many in Jacob’s family felt they needed to trick one another to control their circumstances. As a result, there were a lot of painful feelings and frustration.

For example, Jacob did not love his wife Leah. God gave her sons, and she hoped Jacob would grow to love her; but even after she had many sons for Jacob, he still loved Rachel instead of her. Thankfully, God loves even those whom the world does not value. God chose to use Leah’s son Judah to pass on the covenant promise of blessings that would bless the whole world.

## Activity #2

Lead the group to complete the second page of the activity sheet. Review the memory verse and help the individuals learn it and practice what they have learned. Let them write the verse using the Velcro pictures.

## Christ Connection

Nothing could stop God’s plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even though Jacob did not love Leah, God loved her and used her in his plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah’s son Judah, God would show his love for the world by sending his Son to be the Savior he promised.

Leah tried to earn Jacob’s love by giving him many sons, but it was not enough, and Jacob loved Rachel more. Thankfully, we don’t have to earn God’s love. He sent Jesus because he knew we could not save ourselves. He loves us even though we do not deserve it. Jesus died for us to save us from our sin and rose again on the third day to conquer sin and death.

## Review Questions

*(Optional: Watch the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to further the discussion about Jacob and Esau. Today’s episode asks how we can know what God’s plan is for our lives and how we can follow it.)*

Group A

Early Learner

Let the individuals point to the pictures provided or draw to respond.

1. **Point to the woman who Jacob wanted to marry.** Rachel
2. **Point to the woman who Jacob was tricked into marrying.** Leah
3. **Point to the woman that Jacob loved more.** Rachel
4. **Point to the woman who God used to continue his blessing on Abraham’s family.** Leah

## Group B

1. **Which woman did Jacob want to marry?** Rachel, Laban's younger daughter
2. **Why did Laban trick Jacob?** He wanted Leah to marry before Rachel because Leah was older.
3. **How many sons did Jacob have?** Twelve: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin
4. **God had compassion on Leah when Jacob did not love her. What does this show us about God?** God shows mercy and love even to those the world does not value. All people are made in God's image. Leah's son Judah would be the one through whom God sent Jesus many years later.
5. **How do we know that God loves us?** God demonstrated his great love for us by sending Jesus. God knew that we could not earn salvation, so he sent Jesus to save us and give salvation to all those who believe in the gospel.
6. **What are ways we can show love to people when they feel lonely, misunderstood, or unloved?** Guide the individuals to discuss the importance of being kind to others. Help them think of ways to serve others and remind them that sharing the gospel is a great way to show you care about someone else.

## Group C

1. **God's plan always happens. How does knowing this help you face difficult or unexpected events in your life?** God is good, and he loves us. Even when life doesn't go according to our plan, it always goes according to God's plan. We can trust him even though we don't always understand his ways.

2. **How much does God love you? How do you know?** God is our Creator and King. God's greatest display of love was sending Jesus to die the death we deserve for our sin so that we can live with him forever.
3. **How can we show love to people who are lonely or misunderstood?** Guide the individuals to consider how they want to be treated. Point out that God loves us unconditionally, so we can share his love with everyone.

## Group D

## Advanced Learner

1. **Why did Laban and Jacob trick others?** Laban and Jacob didn't trust God to keep his promises. Each person was trying to accomplish God's plan on his or her own, or worse; these people were living for their own plan.
2. **Why is trusting God better than trusting in ourselves?** When we trust God, we don't have to try to be in control of our lives. We can trust that God loves us. God always keeps his promises because he is faithful. He is in control.
3. **How do you know God loves you?**
4. **How can you show God's love to others?**

## Prayer

**Lord God, thank you for your Word. Through the Bible, we see that you love us so much! Even when others are unloving to us, your love never changes. Help us to share your love with others, especially those who may feel lonely or misunderstood. Amen.**

