

Lesson 43

Jacob's Family Grows

Jacob marries Leah and Rachel and has many children.



K-1st Lesson

Review

- How many of you have been to a magic show and watched the magician do fun tricks? *Show of hands.*

Place the two gift bags or boxes on a table in front of the class. Have the blindfold ready.

- I have a trick I want to play on somebody. I call it “The Big Switch-a-roo!” Who wants me to play my trick on you? *Choose a volunteer to stand at the front with you.*

Show the two bags or boxes. I have two gifts here. If I let you choose one, which one would you choose? Have student point to the preferred gift. I’m going to let you grab one, but you have to wear a blindfold. Put the blindfold on the student. Make a show of waving hands in front of the student’s eyes, making sure he can’t see.

Quietly switch gifts so that the student ends up choosing the plain one. Alright. Here we go. All you have to do is reach out and take the gift that you like.

- Take off your blindfold and see which gift you got. Is that the one you wanted? *No.*
- Oh, I tricked you and switched the gifts! What do you think of my trick? *Allow answer.*
- That wasn’t a very nice trick, was it? *No.*

Since you helped me with my trick, I’ll let you have the good gift. Here, switch back. Trade the nice gift for the plain gift and allow the student to open it and enjoy the treat inside.

Some tricks, like at a magic show, can be fun, and they don’t hurt anybody. But some tricks can also be mean or dishonest. When we try to trick someone to be mean or to get our own way, that’s not right. God doesn’t want us to do that. In our

lesson today, we’re going to see how someone did a trick a lot like the one I did here. But his trick caused problems for a whole family. Let’s get started!

Refer to the Lesson 42 Flip Chart. Remember how Rebekah and Jacob wanted to “help” God keep his promise that Jacob would lead the family someday? So they planned a way to steal the blessing. Since Isaac was blind, they decided to trick him and make him think Jacob was Esau.

- How did they do that? *They put Esau’s clothes on Jacob and goat skins on his hands and neck.*

Then Jacob lied to his father, and Isaac was tricked into giving him the special blessing. The blessing that Jacob stole made him leader over his brother, Esau. It also meant that he would get most of his father’s money and things.

- How did Esau feel when he found out Jacob stole the blessing? *Very angry.*

Esau was so angry that he talked about killing Jacob. Rebekah, their mother, didn’t want this to happen.

- So what did she tell Jacob to do? *Go to his uncle’s home.*

Right. She told Jacob to go stay with her brother, Laban, back in the country where she had come from. So Jacob left and headed to his uncle Laban’s home.

Jacob Receives a Promise

Jacob traveled a long way. One night on his journey, he lay down and placed a stone under his head for a pillow. As he slept, Jacob had a dream.

- The Bible tells us what he saw in his dream. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

Genesis 28:12

Let’s read about his dream in Genesis chapter 28. *Read Genesis 28:12.*

- What did Jacob see in his dream? *A ladder.*
- Where was the ladder set up? What was it standing on? *On the earth.*
- Where did the top of the ladder reach up to? *Heaven.*
- And who was moving up and down on the ladder? *Angels.*

Then the Lord spoke to Jacob in his dream. God gave him some promises. He promised Jacob that he would have land and many offspring, or descendants, including a special descendant that would come to bless all families—Jesus.

- What is a descendant? *Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on.*

Refer to the Genesis Timeline. Haven’t we heard these promises before? These are the same promises God gave to Abraham and Isaac! And now God was passing them on to Jacob.

Laban Tricks Jacob

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Jacob continued his long journey. He finally came to the city of Haran where he found his uncle Laban. Jacob also met Laban’s two daughters, Rachel and Leah. Laban invited Jacob to stay at his house, so Jacob lived with Laban’s family and worked for him.

After a month went by, Laban asked Jacob how he could pay him for the work Jacob was doing. Jacob loved Rachel. She was beautiful and prettier than her sister. So he said he would work seven years if he could marry Rachel. Laban said okay.

So Jacob worked for seven years, taking care of Laban’s flocks of sheep and goats. But when the time came for the wedding, Laban played a mean trick on Jacob.

Genesis 29:22–23

Let’s read what he did in Genesis 29:22–23. *Read the verses.*

Laban gathered people together and threw a feast for Jacob’s wedding.

- What’s a feast? *A big party with lots of food.*
- Right! Have you ever been to a wedding? Did they have lots of food and cake and punch? *Allow discussion.*
- This wedding feast was probably a fun time. BUT which daughter did Laban give to Jacob? *Leah.*
- Was Leah the woman Jacob wanted to marry? *No!*
- Who did Jacob want to marry? *Rachel.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Remember how I switched the gifts in my trick earlier? Well, Laban did the same thing with Leah and Rachel; he switched them so Jacob would marry the wrong sister! How terrible! The bride would have worn a veil

over her face, so Jacob didn’t know it was Leah until it was too late. Leah was his new wife!

Jacob was angry—Laban had tricked him. Jacob thought he was marrying Rachel, but Laban switched her with Leah instead!

- Was Laban’s trick just a funny, silly trick? *No.*

No! This was a mean trick. It was wrong for Laban to trick Jacob this way. Jacob was angry with Laban. But Laban didn’t want Jacob to quit, so he let Jacob marry Rachel, too, if Jacob would keep working for him—another seven years! Jacob loved Rachel, so he stayed there and kept working for Laban.

- But what about God’s promise to Jacob? Do you think God could still keep his promises even though Laban tricked Jacob? *Allow discussion.*

God is sovereign. That means he is in control of everything. We’ll see that God can still work everything out the way he promised even though people sin.

Jacob’s Family Grows

Refer to the Flip Chart. Let’s go back to the Flip Chart. Jacob stayed with his uncle for many years. During that time, his family grew, and he had many children.

- What’s the biggest family you know of? How many children do they have? *Allow answers.*
- How many sons do you think Jacob had? *Allow guesses.*

God blessed Jacob with 12 sons. Let’s see how many that would be. *Count together as you draw 12 circles or stick figures on the board. That’s a lot of boys!*

We’ll see that the sons of Jacob were an important part of history. Remember the promise God told Jacob in the dream? God gave Jacob a lot of children because he promised to give him many descendants. Jacob’s 12 sons would grow up and have families that would grow into a great nation, just like God promised!

Even though Jacob made some sinful mistakes by tricking his brother, Esau, and his father, Isaac, and then Laban tricked him, God was still in control. God made a promise to Jacob, and he would make sure it happened just the way he said it would no matter what anyone else did.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

Jacob **LOVED** Rachel.

Laban **TRICKED** Jacob.



Jacob had **MANY** children.