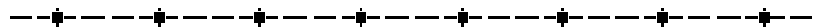


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Man Finds a Wife

Jacob and Rachel

Genesis 27-30

A Man Finds a Wife

Genesis 29:1-14

Memory Verse:

I will show loving-kindness to them and forgive their sins. I will remember their sins no more."
Hebrews 8:12 New Life Version

Lesson Goals:

1. Learn that Jacob had to flee from Esau.
2. Understand Jacob encountered God.
3. Recognize that God forgave Jacob and promised to be with him.
4. Understand that God will forgive us.

Last week, we learned about Jacob and Esau. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob because he did not consider it important..

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 29:1-14 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

Today we will see what happened as a result of the things Jacob did to Esau and how God was gracious to Jacob.

Jacob tricked Isaac into blessing him with the blessing that belonged to Esau. When Esau found out, he hated Jacob and wanted to kill him.

Rebekah found out that Esau wanted to kill his brother (Do you remember two brothers with a similar situation? Cain killed Abel.) Isaac and Rebekah asked Jacob to go to where her family lived and find a wife.

(Genesis 27:42-46) "So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him." (Genesis 28:1) He prayed that God would give him many children.

He prayed that Jacob would be able to take over the land that God promised Abraham. Then Isaac sent Jacob away. (Genesis 28:1-5 NlrV)

Jacob must have been very sad and very sorry for what he had done to his brother Esau. Now Jacob had to go away because his brother hated him.

On the way, God appeared to Jacob. He promised Jacob and his children the land where he was living. God promised Jacob many children.

(Genesis 28:13-15) "Good will come to all the families of the earth because of you and your children. See, I am with you. I will care for you everywhere you go." (Genesis 28:14-15 NlrV)

Even though Jacob had wronged his brother, God forgave him and promised to be with him.

God will forgive us, too. "I will show loving-kindness to them and forgive their sins. I will remember their sins no more." (Hebrews 8:12 New Life Version)

Jacob must have been surprised. He probably did not expect to hear from God with everything he had done. Do you ever feel that God might be mad at you when you sin? Well, sin makes God sad, but He stills loves us.

We can go to God and ask Him to forgive us. He will forgive us like He forgave Jacob.

God spoke to Jacob and let him know that He had good plans for him. God wants to do the same for us. "I know the plans I have for you, announces the Lord. I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come." (Jeremiah 29:11 NlrV)

Jacob and Rebekah Bible Facts

1. Jacob had to go away because Esau hated him.
2. God promised to be with Jacob.
3. Rachel was from Rebekah's family.
4. Laban allowed Jacob to work for him.
5. Rachel became Jacob's wife.

Jacob continued on his journey until he reached Rebekah's family. God was with Jacob and when he asked some men if they knew any of the members of his family, they said, they did. They told him that Rachel, the young woman who was coming with the sheep, was a member of his family. Jacob was so excited, he began to cry. (Genesis 29:1-11) Jacob told Rachel who he was. Rachel ran to tell her father. When he heard the news, he hurried to meet him. Jacob told Laban everything. (Genesis 29:12-13) Laban said, "You are my own flesh and blood." (Genesis 29:14)

Jacob probably felt lonely, knowing that he was not going to see his own family for a long time. He was probably glad to have a place where he could be a part of a family again. Jacob found a new home among his mother's relatives. He began to work for Laban. While things were not perfect, Jacob did find a wife. He had to work fourteen years so that she could become his wife. The Bible says that Laban gave him his daughter Rachel for a wife. (Genesis 29:15-28). God sent Jesus so that we could become a part of God's family. Jesus came to show us how much God loves.

Review questions.

1. Why did Jacob have to leave home? (Esau hated him)
2. What did God say to Jacob? (God promised to be with Jacob)
3. Who was Rachel? (daughter of Laban, part of Rebekah's family)
4. What did Laban do? (Laban allowed Jacob to work for him)
5. What happened between Jacob and Rachel? (Rachel became Jacob's wife)

Do you know Jesus? Jacob had to leave home. He had to leave his family. Laban received Jacob as part of his family. God sent Jesus so that we could become part of God's family. God wants us to become His children. That happens when we invite Jesus into our heart. (Romans 10:9-10)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can become part of God's family.
3. Ask God to help you show love and kindness.
4. Pray for friends and family members who may have conflict.

Application

Jacob had to flee from Esau. Jacob encountered God. God forgave Jacob and promised to be with him. Good will come to all the families of the earth because of you and your children. See, I am with you. I will care for you everywhere you go." (Genesis 28:14-15 NIV)

God will forgive us.

I will show loving-kindness to them and forgive their sins. I will remember their sins no more." Hebrews 8:12 New Life Version

Planning for the next week:

Jacob and Laban (A Deceitful Father-in-law) — Genesis 28-31

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 29:1-14 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Sing: “The Family of God,” or another song related to the story.

(Ask the children if they have ever been to a family reunion. Ask them if they met people who were family members that they did not know? Brings clothes for the kids to dress up and pretend they are at a family reunion.)

Have you ever been away from family at daycare? Or overnight? Jacob moved away from his family. He probably felt lonely, knowing that he was not going to see his own family for a long time.

When he got to the place where his mother’s family lived, he was probably glad to have a place where he could be a part of a family again. Jacob found a new home among his mother’s relatives.

Jacob found a very special friend. Her name was Rachel. He decided that he would marry Rachel. He began to work for Laban. Jacob worked fourteen years so that Rachel could become his wife. The Bible says that Laban gave him his daughter Rachel for a wife. (Genesis 29:15-28).

God sent Jesus so that we could become a part of God’s family. Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.

Prayer Time

- 1. Take a moment to listen to God.**
- 2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can be a part of God’s family.**
- 3. Thank God for all the members of your family.**

Did you know? You can help a preschooler feel important (self-esteem). Consider this: Talk to them. This will let them know that you see them as a person. Listen to them. This will let them know that they are important enough to be heard. Tell them what you expect from them. This will let them know how you want them to behave. Praise their accomplishments. This will let them know that you notice that they have fulfilled expectations. Praise their efforts. This will let them know that you care about them with an unconditional love (even when they fail).

Learning Activities

Memory verse activity— Bring a sleeping bag. Place cards with the memory verse inside the sleeping bag. Tell the children that Jacob didn't carry a suitcase when he moved. Ask them to take turns pretending they are traveling on a journey.

- **Test your memory**— Play hopscotch. Ask the children to answer questions about the story. If they answer correctly, they may move once on the hopscotch. If possible, you may create several hopscotch. If you are indoors, you can create them with masking tape.
- **Taste activity**— Bring tea. Add sugar to sweeten it. Add lemon to flavor it. Tell the children that in life sometimes good things happen and sometimes it feels like bad things happen. Remind them that God is always with us.
- **Think about it** — Talk about forgiveness. Tell the children God does not want us to keep a list of wrongs that others have done. Ask the children to write down something that bothers them. It could be a wrong they have done. It could be a wrong someone had done to them. Ask them to write it down, or to color a simple picture. Bring a sculpture of hands that are cupped together. You may make one out of clay or bring a picture. Ask them to place their piece of paper in Jesus' hand. Place a container in front of the hands for the paper. Tell them that the hands symbolize God's hands. When everyone has done that, place the paper in a small tub of water with a little bit of Clorox so that everything will be erased. Tell them when we ask God to forgive us, He does. Remind them God wants us to forgive others.
- **Touch activity**— Cut out circles. Ask each child to draw a picture of their face or any face. Add craft sticks to make them into a puppet.
- **Run and play**— Have the children run races. Tell them that Jacob had to run away from Esau.
- **Listen**— Remind the children that God forgives them. As they take time for silence before God encourage them to thank God for His loving-kindness.
- **Sing**— Sing “Thy Loving Kindness,” or a song related to the story.

Memory Verse

I will show
loving-
kindness
to them and
forgive their sins.
I will remember
their sins
no more.

Hebrews 8:12
New Life Version

Word Art

Trace the letters.

I will

show

loving-

kindness.

Word Puzzle

E L W R O N G E D F I K
Q N I N A T I V E H I I
D G O J B O C I J L H S
W P O L L F E G L P F A
Y I L O A T P R F M I D
E M D M J P R O M I S E
B C I E H R U F E H E S
O L G A R E W B L D G P
Y V T E G S E L L E N I
F E D A I E T S A G E V
D L D N P N S I V U O P
O A N X Q T U D N L Y R

WRONGED

HATED

KILL

FLEE

ALONE

FAMILY

FORGIVE

PRESENT

PROMISE

Word Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | L | W | R | O | N | G | E | D | F | I | K |
| Q | N | I | N | A | T | I | V | E | H | I | I |
| D | G | O | J | B | O | C | I | J | L | H | S |
| W | P | O | L | L | F | E | G | L | P | F | A |
| Y | I | L | O | A | T | P | R | F | M | I | D |
| E | M | D | M | J | P | R | O | M | I | S | E |
| B | C | I | E | H | R | V | F | E | H | E | S |
| O | L | G | A | R | E | W | B | L | D | G | P |
| Y | V | T | E | G | S | E | L | L | E | N | I |
| F | E | D | A | I | E | T | S | A | G | E | V |
| D | L | D | N | P | N | S | I | V | V | O | P |
| O | A | N | X | Q | T | V | D | N | L | Y | R |

WRONGED

HATED

KILL

FLEE

ALONE

FAMILY

FORGIVE

PRESENT

PROMISE

Anagram

1. aiacs-

2. hbaeker-

3. bajoc-

4. suea-

5. rlaceh-

6. lnaab-

7. dorl-

8. nscpreee-

Anagram

1. aiacs– Isaac

2. hbaeker– Rebekah

3. bajoc– Jacob

4. suea– Esau

5. rlaceh– Rachel

6. lnaab– Laban

7. dorl– Lord

8. nscpreee– Presence