

Leah And Rachel

Genesis 29:1-30

MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 11:18

The wicked man does deceptive work, but to him who sows righteousness will be a sure reward

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A clean two liter bottle, tape, and a wad of paper.

A cone shaped object like a bottle or vase, and masking tape.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

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 won't 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. He has made promises to His children that He intends to keep 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 deceitfully and it came back on him, just like that paper

came back on us. Deceit will always come back on those who practice it.

LESSON TIME

Jacob's name means deceiver, and it describes him well. He had deceived his brother in order to gain his birthright, and he deceived his father to gain his blessing. His mother sent him off to find a wife and to protect him from Esau, his brother, who was angry with Jacob. Deceit will always come back on those who practice it.

In today's lesson we are going to learn about a time when Jacob deceived. The Bible tells us that we will reap what we sow. Jacob sowed deceit in his life and now will reap deceit in his life. We will learn some valuable lessons in today's Bible study.

GENESIS 29:1-10

So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east.

And he looked, and saw a well in the field; and behold, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks. A large stone was on the well's mouth.

Now all the flocks would be gathered there; and they would roll the stone from the well's mouth, water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the well's mouth.

And Jacob said to them, "My brethren, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran."

Then he said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "We know him."

So he said to them, "Is he well?" And they said, "He is well. And look, his daughter Rachel is coming with the sheep."

Then he said, "Look, it is still high day; it is not time for the cattle to be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go and feed them."

But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and they have rolled the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep."

Now while he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

Jacob traveled a long distance to Haran where his ancestors were from. He reached a well where sheep were given water and inquired of some shepherds about his uncle. They said he was well and that his daughter Rachel was approaching. When the others would not open the well, Jacob removed the stone and served Rachel by giving water to her sheep.

GENESIS 29:11-14

Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept.

And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. So she ran and told her father.

Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things.

And Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.

Jacob was glad to see Rachel and his relatives. Jacob told Laban his uncle all about his travels and he stayed with him one month. After having to run away from his home he was very glad to be able to spend some time with his relatives.

GENESIS 29:15-20

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what should your wages be?"

Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance. Now Jacob loved Rachel, and he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."

And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me."

So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed but a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

As a result of Jacob deceiving Esau (taking his birthright and blessing), Jacob became a servant to Laban. **Deceit will always**

come back on those who practice it. Jacob decided to work for Laban for seven years in exchange for Rachel, Laban's younger daughter. But the time went by fast because he loved Rachel very much.

Has there ever been something that you wanted so much that the work you had to do to get it didn't seem like very much. Maybe you were promised a big bowl of ice cream if you weeded out a flowerbed at home. Once the work is done and you get your ice cream the work doesn't seem so bad. That is how Jacob felt about working seven years in order to marry Rachel.

GENESIS 29:21-26

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her."

And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast.

Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.

And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"

And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn."

Jacob worked his seven years waiting patiently for Rachel. The wedding was prepared but Laban switched his daughters and brought Leah, his older daughter, to Jacob. When Jacob found out it was Leah, it was too late. The marriage was official. He had been

deceived and was stuck. This all sounds very familiar doesn't it? Jacob received the blessing and it was too late for Esau. But now Jacob is learning what it is like to be deceived.

We need to be careful in our life not to be deceptive. The truth will always be found out and it will only cause problems in our lives. We will find that when we deceive others that we ourselves will end up being deceived.

Jacob then received Rachel as wife, but had to work seven more years for her. Now Jacob was forced to wait for his heart's desire and to respect the birthright. Though Jacob was deceitful, Laban was also; Jacob tasted the consequences of deceit. In all, Jacob would spend a total of 20 years away from his home. Something he probably never planned on when he deceived his father and Esau. **Deceit will always come back on those who practice it.**

GENESIS 29:27-30

"Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."

Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also.

And Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as a maid.

Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.

So Jacob fulfilled his service to Laban and Jacob loved Rachel and favored her over Leah. Jacob learned a valuable lesson. We see in Jacob's life that God was changing a man who was filled with deceit into a man who was ruled by God. In fact, Jacob means "heel

catcher or deceiver” and later God changes his name to Israel or “ruled by God.”

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.

Jacob’s sin came back upon him; He experienced the same deceit used on him that he had used earlier. When God wants to do a work in our lives and teach us something, we cannot avoid it. **Deceit will always come back on those who practice it.**

We need to be open to God’s instruction, and patient for His action. We need to seek God’s will and allow him to work in His own time. Never be deceitful, but always be honest.

Roll-a-Rang

You must have a cone shaped object; something that is more slender at the top than the bottom (like a vase or a bottle). Tape two 3’ wide circles about 6’ apart. Divide your class into pairs and have them separate and form lines behind each circle. Have one of each pair enter the circle and instruct them to carefully roll the

bottle to their partner. They may not leave the circles or reach outside of them. Allow many groups to try.

Because the object is cone shaped, it will not go the distance to their partner; it will just roll in a circle. Explain to your class that when we take matters into our own hands, no amount of effort will create the desired results. Like the bottles, our efforts will just come back on us.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be honest, asking God to help us avoid deception. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.