

Bible background

Genesis 29:1-30

Aim of lesson

- (a) To show how God guided and helped Jacob.
- (b) To show how Jacob showed patience when waiting to marry Rachel.

Preparation required

Colour and cut a set of figures and background to use as you tell the story. You will also need colouring materials, scissors, and some blu-tack would be useful.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Remind the children of what happened last week, and how in the end Jacob had to run away. Tell the children that he had a very long walk and was very tired when at last he came to a well.
2. Using your set of figures tell the rest of the story, leading up to the marriage. Tell how Jacob had waited seven years to marry Rachel. Discuss with the children how they feel when they have to wait for something; are they patient? How would Jacob have felt when he lifted the veil and found it was Leah.
3. Go on to tell how after a week Jacob married Rachel but had to work another seven years for Laban.
4. The children can re-tell the story using your set of figures - they could take turns to be different characters. With younger children, you may need to narrate while the children speak for the characters.
5. Either individually or in groups, the children can colour and cut out their own characters from the sheet and act out the story for themselves.

Alternative activities

1. Role play: Help the children to mime the sort of work Jacob might have done e.g. herding sheep, feeding them, checking to see if they are healthy, and perhaps planting seeds, weeding, watering, and harvesting.
2. Make a collage picture showing the different people in the story and Laban and Jacob's flocks.
3. Make sheep masks from paper plates using plenty of cotton wool.

Relevance to the children's lives

God took care of Jacob on his long journey and showed him the way to his family. Discuss how God takes care of us today.

Prayer

What prayer might Jacob have said on his journey? Use this to lead on to a prayer asking God to help us today.

Verse

'Teach me your way, O Lord: lead me in a straight path.' Psalm 27:11.