

15. Jacob and Rachel

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

15. Jacob and Rachel

- a. Note for adults only: From our perspective, Jacob's marriage to two wives and two concubines was not idealistic. But he was of his time. Also, he did not choose anyone except Rachel. Left to himself he would have had a simple family—Rachel his wife, and their two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. Although the children can't be told all this, it represents how we fall in love with true idealism (the spiritual Rachel) but have to wade through many lower, more practical motives to get to heaven.
- b. So treat this as a love story. Jacob comes, all alone, to Haran. There across the fields, comes this beautiful girl who is of his family. He falls in love with her.
- c. Note the great stone on the mouth of the well. The implication is that it takes more than one person to move such a stone (which is why they usually waited until all the flocks were gathered). But when Jacob sees Rachel, he does it himself, and waters her flock.
- d. Note his great joy over meeting her, and specifically that he loved her so much that the seven years seemed like a few days. The Writings point out that time moves quickly when you are happy. Children can see this—when they are playing happily, time passes very quickly.
- e. Talk about the love of two people in marriage.



Text simplified by Carol Bongers Buss
Pictures by Dianna Echols Synnestvedt
Notes by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

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The Lord Gives Jacob a Beautiful Bride

And Jacob left Bethel and continued to the land of his mother's family. And as he drew near he saw a well in the field, and there were three flocks of sheep lying down near it, waiting to be watered. A great stone was placed upon the mouth of the well. And the men rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered their flocks. Then they returned the stone to its place.

And Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where are you from?" They said, "We are from Haran." Then Jacob said to them, "Do you know Laban?" And they said, "We know him. And look, Rachel his daughter comes with her flock." While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with the flock which was her father's, for she was a shepherdess. And when Jacob saw Rachel, he came to the well and rolled the stone from the mouth and watered the flock of Laban for her.

Then Jacob kissed Rachel and he cried with happiness, and he told Rachel that he was Rebekah's son. Then she ran and told her father. And Laban ran to meet Jacob, and hugged him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. Laban said to him, "You are family." So Jacob stayed with him for a month and worked for Laban. Then Laban said to him, "You are family and should not work for me for nothing. Tell me what shall be your reward?"

Now Jacob loved Rachel, who was very beautiful. He said to Laban, "I will work for you for seven years for Rachel to be my wife."

So Jacob worked for seven years for Rachel and they seemed as only a few days to him as he loved her so.

And later the Lord blessed them, and Rachel gave birth to a son whom she called Joseph.

Genesis 29

