Act It Out:
Jacob Meets Rachel



At a Glance:
Students act out the story of Jacob meeting Rachel at the well and going to live with Laban as the teacher reads the script. *Optional:* Have a wedding feast.

Supplies Needed:
- supplies needed to create a well near the center of the room, e.g. mark a circle with tape, blue fabric, blue paper, cardboard box or plastic tub covered with sheet, etc.
- pillow or large cushion to use as a stone to cover the well
- play script
- *optional:* prepare or purchase food and have a "wedding feast" , napkins, cups, etc.

Teacher Preparation:
- Set up a well near the center of the room.
- *Optional*: Prepare and set up food for a wedding feast.

Directions:

1. Characters include Jacob, Rachel, Laban, shepherds (flexible numbers), Leah (optional). For a simpler play act out two or three of the characters from the list. For larger groups, add Leah and a larger group of shepherds.
2. Say, "We are now going to act out the story of Jacob meeting Rachel at the well."
3. Assign students to roles and position them at their starting places. Everyone sits down.
4. Say: "I'm going to read the story. When I read about your part you will stand up and act it out!"
5. Read the script, pausing to direct action.
6. *Optional:* serve a wedding feast.

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Jacob Meets Rachel Script

Position children before starting the play: Jacob, Rachel, Laban and Leah stand in different corners of the room. Put a well in the center of the room. Position shepherds next to the well. Read the play pausing for actions where indicated. Encourage the children to do the actions suggested.

Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East. (walk around the room as if on a journey)

And Jacob looked, and saw a well in the field. (raise hand above eyes as if looking for the well at a distance; walk towards the well and the shepherds)

And there were three flocks of sheep lying by it. 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, "Where are you from?" (as if talking to the shepherd.)

And they said, "We are from Haran." (shepherds point to where Laban is standing)

Then he said to them, "Do you know Laban?" (raise hands as if asking a question)

And they said, "We know him." (all nod)

So he said to them, "Is he well?" (raise hands as if asking a question)

And they said, "He is well. And look, his daughter Rachel is coming with the sheep." (all nod and point to Rachel; Rachel starts moving around the room and will eventually go to the well)

Then Jacob 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." (point up towards the sun)

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." (shake heads to indicate no)

Now while he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. (Rachel gets to the well)

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Jacob Meets Rachel Script
continued

When Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep, Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock. (move "stone" from the well and pretend to lead the sheep to the water)

Then Jacob kissed Rachel and told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. (Jacob gives Rachel a hug)

So she ran and told her father Laban. (Rachel goes to Laban)

When Laban heard about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. (Laban goes to meet Jacob at the well, puts his arm around Jacob and walks with him back to his "house"; they sit down on the floor together)

Jacob told Laban all these things. And Laban said to him, "You are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Tell me, what should your wages be?" (Laban gestures as if questioning)

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.

Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter." (hold up 7 fingers for 7 years)

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 only a few days to him because of the love he had for her. (everyone holds up 7 fingers to show 7 years)

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. (all go to Laban's house and sit down as if having a feast)

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