Preschool–Grade 6

Jacob, Rachel and Leah

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Love helps. I can show love by helping.
Bible passage: Genesis 29:1–30. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her." *Genesis 29:20 (KJV)*. The old words mean: **served** means worked, and **they seemed unto him but a few days** means the years felt short.
You need: a Bible, a big gray paper circle (the stone), a blue paper circle a little smaller (the well), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Genesis 29. Lay the blue circle on the floor with the gray circle on top.

1. Opening game: Little Sheep (5 minutes)

The kids are little sheep. Say: "Little sheep, eat grass!" (they pretend to eat). "Little sheep, lie down!" (they lie down). "Little sheep, come to the well!" (they crawl to the circles). Let one child slide the gray stone off the blue well. Say: "Today a man named Jacob rolls a big stone off a well to help a shepherd girl named Rachel."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 29. Say: "This story is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jacob walked a long, long way (Genesis 29:1). *(Walk in place.)*
He came to a well with a big stone on it (29:2). *(Make a big circle with your arms.)*
Rachel came with her father's sheep (29:9). *(Say "Baa!")*
Jacob rolled the big stone away (29:10). *(Push with both hands.)*
He gave the sheep water (29:10). *(Pretend to pour water.)*
Jacob loved Rachel (29:18). *(Make a heart with your hands.)*
He worked seven years for her (29:20). *(Count to seven on your fingers.)*
It felt like only a few days, because he loved her (29:20). *(Hug yourself.)*
Laban tricked Jacob. He gave him Leah instead (29:23–25). *(Shake your head.)*
Jacob kept working, and he married Rachel too (29:28). *(Nod your head.)*
Say it with me: "Love helps!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What was on the well? *(A big stone, Genesis 29:2)*
2. Who rolled the stone away? *(Jacob, 29:10)*
3. How many years did Jacob work for Rachel? *(Seven, 29:20)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jacob worked seven years for Rachel, and it felt like only a few days, because he loved her." Teach the motion: hold up seven fingers on "seven years," wiggle a few fingers on "but a few days," and make a heart with your hands on "for the love he had to her." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Genesis 29:20" and clap seven times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Rachel's Sheep (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a blue well and fluffy white sheep around it, and themselves helping. While they color, ask: "Who rolled the stone away? How can you help at home?" Kids who finish early can take turns being Jacob and sliding the gray stone off the blue well.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for loving me.
Help me show love by helping. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and simple. Say the trick part quickly: "Laban was not honest, but Jacob kept his word." Practice ways to help: picking up toys, holding a door, sharing. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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