



28th March

**Jacob, Rachel, &
Leah**



Dear Parent/Guardian

The first term of the 2020/2021 Sunday school year we looked into the book of Acts, throughout this we learnt about the first church, and the journey of Paul. Together we looked at how the disciples continued God's mission after Jesus' resurrection. We saw the amazing conversion of Saul to Paul. During the Daniel fast we looked at Galatians, which also referenced Abraham, and the book of Daniel.

During these times we were reminded of the incredible things God did for us all, and the vast history and build up to the event of Jesus on the cross, the event that redeemed us all.

For the rest of the year we will be going back to the start and will be discovering some of the many many incredible people that were involved in the lead up to the resurrection story. We will be going through the old testament and learn about one character each week.

Teaching videos, stories and worksheets, and zoom calls will continue throughout this meet and greet. During the school holiday we have chosen that although Sunday school sessions, whether physical or online, will not run. However, we will be releasing teaching videos and the weekly story and worksheet will be available. We felt that as there are so many stories to learn about this was the best course of action to help your children learn the most that they can.

you

-The Children's Team

Jacob, Leah, and Rachel

Genesis 29

After Jacob had stolen his brothers blessing, birth right, and inheritance; Jacob ran away and arrived in his fathers homeland.

Whilst he was there he met a woman called Rachel this was the daughter of Jacob's uncle, his cousin. Because they were related Rachel took Jacob to her father's home, where he was invited to stay and work.

One day Jacob's uncle, Laban told him that he wanted to pay Jacob for the work he had done. Jacob had fallen in love with Rachel. So he asked for her hand in marriage in return for 7 more years of work.

Rachel was the younger of Leban's two daughters, so when the time came for Jacob to marry Rachel, he tricked Jacob into marrying Leah. When Jacob realized that he had married Leah he was very angry. He asked Leban why he had tricked him. Leban said; "in our country we do not allow the younger daughter to marry first. Complete the marriage ceremony, and another seven years if work and I will give you Rachel to marry aswell."

So Jacob worked hard for another seven years and when his time had finished he was allowed to marry Rachel.

Jacob, Leah, and Rachel

Genesis 29

As time passed it was clear that Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. So God took pity on Leah and made it possible for her to have children. But Rachel could not have any children.

Leah became pregnant with their first son, Reuban (He has seen my troubles). Because the Lord had seen her troubles. She hoped that having a son would make Jacob love her.

Leah then became pregnant and had another son named Simeon (He has heard my troubles). Because the Lord had heard that she was still not loved so gave her another son.

Leah then gave birth to a third son and named him Levi (to be close to). She believed that Jacob would surely love her because she had given him three sons.

Leah then gave birth to a final son and named him Judah (praise). This time she declared that she would praise the Lord instead of hoping Jacob would love her.

Jacob, Leah, and Rachel

Genesis 29

Rachel saw that Leah was having children, whilst she herself had not had any. She became envious of Leah and begged Jacob to give her children. Jacob knew that only God can choose to bless people with children. So Rachel gave Jacob her servant to marry and have a child with, so Rachel could raise the baby. (Just like Abraham, Hagar, and Sarah)

Rachel's servant became pregnant and then gave birth to a son. Rachel said; "God has made me innocent, He has listened to my prayer and has given me a son." So she called him Dan.

Rachel's servant gave birth to a second son who Rachel called Naphtali because she had struggled against Leah and won.

Leah then became envious when she was no longer able to have children. So she told Jacob to marry her servant. Jacob did this and had a son who Leah named Gad because she was lucky to be blessed with a child via the servant. She then gave birth to another son named Asher.

Leah then gave birth to another son named Issachar. And then a sixth son, Zebulun. She believed that Jacob must love her now because she gave him six sons. She then also gave birth to Jacobs first and only daughter, Dinah.

God then remembered Rachel and answered her prayer for another son, Joseph. Later she gave birth to Jacobs final son, Benjamin. This all happened before Isaac died.

TAKE-AWAY

Just like the story of Abraham, Hagar, and Sarah, we see that God blesses and hears the cries of the broken and rejected.

Leah was living in a loveless marriage and cried for children so her husband. Would love her. So God blessed her with many sons and a daughter.

In the story we also see that Jacob suffered as a result of tricking his brother and father and stealing his brothers blessing and inheritance.

God does not want us to trick each other, or cheat and lie to get what we want. Especially if we do not deserve it, or have earned it.

Prayer:

Have you tricked someone, or lied, or cheated lately? This is part of human character, but God wants us to be better, because he knows we can be with his help.

Ask God to help you change your behavior, and ask him for forgiveness.

Is there anything that is making you sad, or are you feeling unloved? Sometimes we can't see how much other people love us. It might also be difficult for them to show us how much they love us.

Ask God to show you all the ways that He loves you.

ACTIVITY:

Using the scriptures Genesis 35: 23-26

Draw Jacobs family tree. Include all his wives and their children.

Then draw your own family tree.

You may need to ask your parents to help you with this.