

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 1 • Unit 6 • Week 3

JACOB, LEAH, RACHEL AND LABAN

OBJECTIVE:

The children will learn that being dishonest and deceitful is wrong and it hurts relationships.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Supplies: Four paper cups

Four cardboard disks the size of a quarter

- Prepare:
- Write a different name on each cup: Jacob, Leah, Rachel and Laban.
 - Cut out disks from heavy cardboard (use heavy enough cardboard that writing won't show through to the other side.
 - Draw a star on only one side of one disk.

Say: Today we are going to read a story about four people. But before we get to the story, let's play a game. It's called the "Jacob, Leah, Rachel and Laban" shell game.

Do: As you say each of their names—Jacob, Leah, Rachel and Laban—place the cup with that name on it upside down on the floor or table between you and the children. Place them close enough that the students will be able to reach the cups. Explain how the shell game is played.

Say: I'll place a disk under each of the cups. One is marked with a star. Next, I'm going to mix the cups up, and you try to find the one with the star.

Ask: Is it under Jacob, Leah, Rachel or Laban's cup? [Have them use the names to help them familiarize them with the characters.]

Note: When you put the marked disk under the cup, make sure you place it with the star side down so that no matter which cup they choose, they won't be able to find it. It might be necessary to have them close their eyes while you hide it.

Do: Continue to play the game, giving each child a turn. Mix up the cups after each turn. When each child has had a turn and they still haven't found the marked disk, reveal the trick.

Say: I tricked you! [Show the trick.]

Ask: Was it nice to trick you? How did it make you feel?

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: Today I want to read you a story about people who were dishonest with each other.

Do: Before you read the story, discuss what the word dishonest means.

Say: While I read the story I want you to think about how the people who were tricked felt and how the story might have been different if they hadn't been dishonest with each other.

Read: Genesis 29:15-30 or a story version of the events.

Ask: How would you feel if your mom or dad told you that they would give you a big surprise after you cleaned up your room?

Say: I suppose you'd probably work really hard to get it done just right. Imagine going to them to get your big reward only to find that they changed their mind. They tell you that if you go and help clean up the kitchen too, then you'd get the big surprise.

Ask: Would you be mad or sad?

Ask: Would you trust them the next time?

Say: Dishonesty is wrong and it hurts. It's hard to be friends with someone you can't trust. It is very important to always be honest with people. They will be able to trust you and you will have a good relationship with them.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies: Four 3 x 5 inch cards

Prepare: Write a different name on one side of each of the 3 x 5 inch cards: Jacob, Leah, Rachel and Laban.

Do: Place the four 3 x 5 inch cards on the floor or the table with the names face down. Have the class pick two cards. (The children can each take turns, or the class can answer together.) When the cards are drawn, ask them the following questions for discussion:

- How are these two people related?
- Was one of them dishonest to the other one?
- How do you think it felt to be treated like that?
- How would their relationship have been better if they had been honest with each other?
- Do you think they deserved to be treated that way? (Note: In Jacob's case this would be a good time to remind them of the time he tricked his Father to get the birthright.)

Music:

"I Will Call Upon the Lord" (*Great Praise Songs for God's Kids*, Word Music, 1995).

MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 12:19 "The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment."

Do: Rehearse the memory verse a few times with the children repeating it. Form a circle. Take a small beanbag or balloon and toss it to one of the children. Have them try to say the verse or as much of the verse as they can and then toss the bag to someone else. Give everyone a turn.

family activity

THE POINT:

From the story of Jacob, Leah, Rachel and Laban (Genesis 29:15-28), the children learned that being dishonest and deceitful is wrong and it hurts relationships.

ASK ME...

What does the word "dishonest" mean?

How much did Jacob love Rachel?

How was Laban dishonest with Jacob?

How did Jacob feel when he saw he had been cheated?

Why did Laban cheat Jacob?

Do you think he was right?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Have a family discussion about how it feels when someone doesn't treat you honestly. Give examples from your life. Tell how you felt and mention how it hurt your relationship with that person.

Have your child draw a picture of how someone might look when someone has been dishonest. Put the picture on your refrigerator to remind everyone that being dishonest hurts people.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the back. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)