## Bible For Teen Girls: Great Bible Stories For Teen Girls

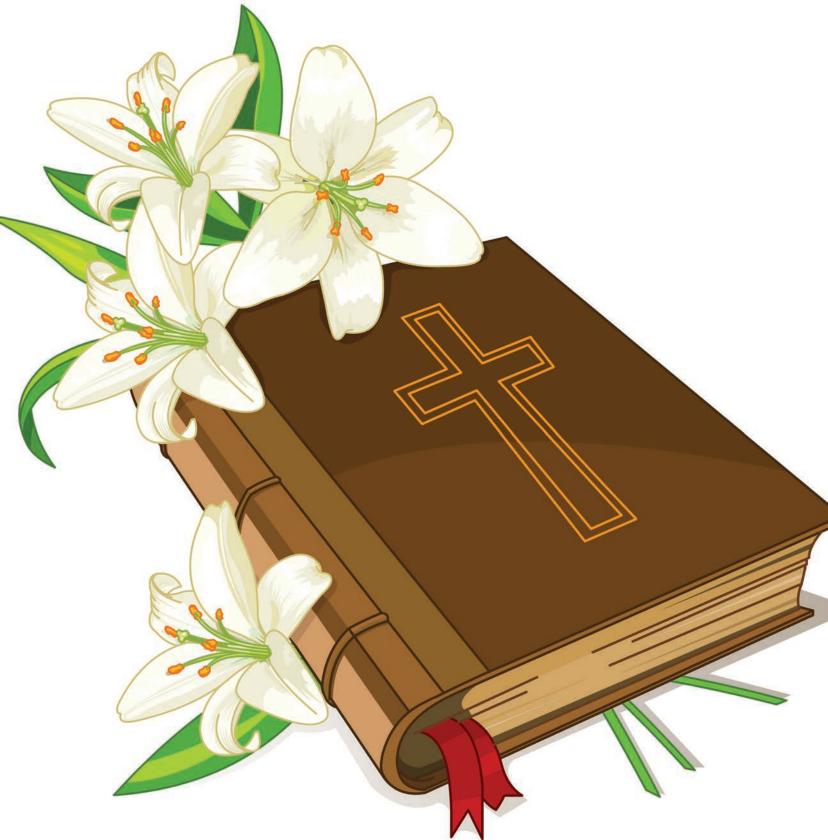
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### A Love Story: Jacob & Rachel

Jacob was on the run.

He was running from his brother Esau.

Jacob had tricked his brother out of their father's blessing, and now Esau was so angry, he wanted to kill him.

So Jacob was traveling east, to the land where his grandfather Abraham was born.

He was also hoping to choose a wife from his grandfather's family.

Early on a warm afternoon, he came to a well in the fields outside the town of Haran. The well was just like the one that his grandfather's servant had come to many years before, when he was looking for a wife for Isaac. It may have been the very same one.

Three flocks of sheep were lying in the fields beside the well, waiting for their shepherds to water them.

There was a large stone covering the well, and the shepherds had to wait until all the shepherds were there before they could move it.

So Jacob came up to the shepherds and said, "My friends, where are you from?"

- "From Haran," they answered.
- "Then you must know my uncle Laban! He is from Haran," Jacob said.
- "Yes, we do," the shepherds answered.
- "Is he well?" Jacob asked.
- "Heiswell, indeed," the shepherds said, 
  "And look, here comes his daughter 
  Rachel now, with his flock of sheep!"

Jacob said, "Let's roll back the stone so that we can water the sheep."

"We can't, the stone is too heavy," the shepherds answered. "We have to wait until all the shepherds are here."

At that moment Rachel arrived with her father's sheep.

When Jacob's eyes met Rachel's, it was as if the world came to a stop. The crying of the sheep, the laughing and talking of the shepherds, all seemed to disappear. It was as if there was no one else in all the world but the two of them.

Jacob fell so deeply, crazy in love with Rachel, that he walked over to that huge stone and rolled it away himself.

"Here, now you may water your sheep!" he said to Rachel.

And then he kissed her.

"I am your relative. Your aunt Rebekah is my mother," he told her at last.

Rachel ran home to tell her father all that had happened. When her father heard the news, he ran to meet Jacob. He hugged and kissed this nephew he hadn't known until now, and brought him to his home.

When Jacob had told his story, Laban said, "You are indeed my own flesh and blood!"

And so Jacob stayed with his uncle's family for a whole month. Then Laban said to Jacob, "You shouldn't have to work for me for nothing just because you are my relative! How can I pay you?"

Now, Laban had two daughters. Rachel was the younger, and Leah was the older. Leah had beautiful eyes, but Jacob was in love with Rachel. And so Jacob said, "I will work for you for seven years if you will let me marry your daughter Rachel."

Laban said, "I would rather give her to you than to anyone else."

And so Jacob worked for his uncle for seven years.

But to Jacob, the years seemed like nothing at all. Just to be near the one he loved was enough to fill his heart.

Finally, the day came that Jacob had worked for all those years. At last, Laban gave his daughter Rachel to be married.

There was a great wedding feast. And that night, under a sky of shining stars, Rachel came to Jacob's tent. She was wrapped from head to foot in layers of veils and flowing robes.

Jacob took her by the hand and led her inside. He wrapped his arms around her and held her tight. They were alone together at last. And that night, in the eyes of God, Rachel became Jacob's wife, and he became her husband.

Before that night they were two separate people. Now God had joined the two together, and they became one family.

The two became one.

But, when the light of morning came, Jacob awoke to a big surprise.

It wasn't Rachel he had married at all! It was her sister Leah he was lying beside!

Jacob jumped from his bed and ran straight to the tent of his Uncle Laban.

"You tricked me! You promised me Rachel, but you gave me Leah instead!"

Well - look who's talking! The cheater got cheated.

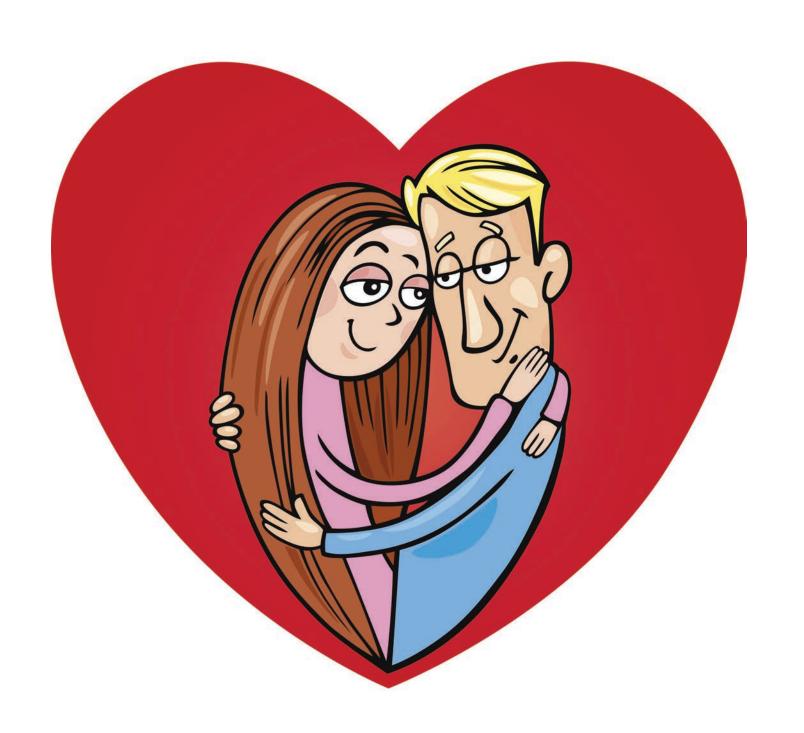
He didn't like it very much.

Laban said to him, "It isn't our customtogivetheyoungerdaughter in marriage before the older. Work for me another seven years, and I will give you Rachel as well."

And so Jacob agreed, and Jacob and Rachel were married at last.

Jacob worked for his uncle another seven years.

He would have gladly worked a hundred, he loved her so deeply.





### ASlave Girl Who Helped Her Master

Naaman, the commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a man who was beloved by his master and was held in high honor, for through him Jehovah had given victory to Aram. He was an able man, but he was a leper.

Now the Arameans had gone out to rob and had brought away captive from the land of Israel a little maid who became the servant of Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "O that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told the king what the maid from the land of Israel had said. The king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the ruler of Israel."

So Naaman set out and took with him a thousand pounds of silver and six thousand gold pieces and ten suits of fine clothes. He also brought to the ruler of Israel the letter, which read: "This letter is to tell you that I have sent Naaman, my servant, to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."When the ruler of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I a god, who can kill and make alive, that this king sends a man to me to cure him of his leprosy? But you can clearly see that he is seeking a quarrel with me!" When Elisha the man of God heard that the ruler of Israel was tearing his clothes, he sent this message to him: "Why are you tearing your clothes? Let him come now to me and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel!" So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him to say, "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan and your flesh will again be well and clean."

But Naaman wentaway in a rage, saying, "I expected that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of Jehovah his God and wave his hand over the place, and so cure the leper. Are not Amana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. But his servants came near and said to him, "If the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? Why not, then, when he says to you, 'Wash and be clean!"" So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan as the man of God commanded; and his flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was cured of his leprosy.

Then Naaman, with all his followers, returned to the man of God. When he arrived, he stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no god in all the earth, but in Israel; therefore accept a present from your servant." But Elisha said, "As surely as Jehovah lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing." And although he urged him to take it, he would not. Then Naaman said, "If not, at least give your servant a load of earth, what two mules can draw, for your servant will from this time on offer burnt-offering and sacrifice to no other god but Jehovah." And Elisha said to him, "Go, and may good fortune attend you."

But when he had gone from him a short distance, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, thought to himself, "My master has let this Naaman the Aramean go without accepting what he brought! As surely as Jehovah lives, I will run after him and take something from him." So Gehazi ran after Naaman; and when Naaman saw some one running after him, he stepped down from the chariot to meet him and said, "Is all well?" Gehazi replied, "All is well. My master has sent me to say, 'Just now two young men of the followers of the prophets have come to me from the highland of Ephraim.

Give them a hundred pounds of silver and two suits of fine clothes.'"
Naaman said, "Agree to take twice as much silver." So he urged him and bound up two hundred pounds of silver in two bags, with two suits of fine clothes, and laid them on two of his servants, and they carried them before Gehazi. But when he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and hid them in the house and let the men go.

Then he went in to Elisha; but when he stood before his master, Elisha said to him, "Where do you come from, Gehazi?" He answered, "Your servant has not been anywhere." But Elisha said to him, "Was I not in spirit with you when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Now you have received money and you may get clothes, olive yards, vineyards, sheep, oxen, and slaves; but the leprosy of Naaman shall stick to you and to your children forever." Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence a leper as white as snow.

# Jesus Talks with a Samaritan Woman

When Jesus left Judea and went back into Galilee, he had to pass through Samaria; and he came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the piece of ground that Jacob gave his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus, therefore, being wearied by the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon and a woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me who am a Samaritan?" for the Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing with which to draw and the well is deep; where then do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and himself drank from it, together with his children and his cattle?"

Jesus answered her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give shall never thirst. The water that I give him will become in him a well of water springing up into eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst again nor have to come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, then come back here." The woman answered, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; in saying that, you spoke the truth."

The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the time will come when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor at Jerusalem. The time is coming, yes, has already come, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for such worshippers the Father seeks.

God is a spirit, and they who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah (which means Christ) is coming. When he comes he will explain all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I who am talking to you am he."

At this point the disciples came up and were astonished that he was talking with a woman; but none of them said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you talking to her?"

Then the woman left her waterpot and going into the city said to
the men, "Come, see a man who
told me all that I ever did. Is not
this the Messiah?" And they set
out from the town on their way
to him.

Meanwhile Jesus' disciples urged him, saying, "Master, take some food"; but he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you know not." So they said to one another, "Has any one brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to carry out his work.

Do not say, 'Four months and then comes the harvest'; I say to you, lift up your eyes and see these fields white for the harvest! Already the reaper is receiving his wages and gathering in a crop for eternal life, that the sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the proverb holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap a harvest for which you had not toiled; other men have toiled and you are sharing the results of their toil."

Because of the words of the woman who had said, "He told me everything that I ever did," many Samaritans from the town believed in Jesus; and when they came to him, they begged him to stay with them. And he stayed there two days, and many more believed because of what he himself said. To the woman they said, "Now we believe, not because of your words but because we have heard for ourselves and know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world,"



## God Will Provide the Lamb



Sometimes it is hard to know why God does the things he does. We may never know. But we know two things.

God loves us.

And God is good.

God loves us more than we will probably ever know. And there is not even the smallestsmidge of bad in him. God cannot do anything mean or evil. God could no more do anything evil than a banana could ride a bicycle. It's just impossible!

So it happened that one day God came to Abraham and said, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," Abraham said.

"Abraham, I want you to take your only son, whom you love, and go to a mountain I will show you. There I want you to sacrifice your son as a burnt offering to me."

What was God thinking? How could he ask Abraham to do such a thing?

Remember, Abraham had waited a long, long time for his son Isaac. It seemed impossible that he would ever even have a son. But God had promised, and God kept his promise. Now was God going to take his only son away?

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But God had also promised that from Abraham would come as many children as there are stars in the sky.

And God always keeps his promises.

That must have been what Abraham kept telling himself early the next morning when he went to gather wood for the sacrifice. "God always keeps his promises," he must have told himself over and over.

Abraham bundled the wood up and put it on his donkey, and then Abraham, Isaac, and two of Abraham's servants set out on the way God had directed them.

After walking for three days, Abraham looked up and saw the place where God was leading him.

Abraham said to the two servants, "Wait here with the donkey while Isaac and I go to worship God." Then he took the wood for the sacrifice and laid it on his son Isaac's back.

Imagine, Isaac had to carry the wood for his own sacrifice.

Many, many years later, God's own son would have to carry the wood for his own sacrifice. Then, it would be the wood of the cross.

SoAbrahamandIsaacwalkedontogether. Abraham couldn't say a word. After they had been walking a while, Isaac said, "Father?"

"Yes, my son," Abraham said.

"We have the wood for the sacrifice and the fire, but where is the lamb?"

That question must have nearly broken his father's heart.

But, God had promised Abraham that through him many people would be blessed. And God always keeps his promises.

"God will provide the lamb," Abraham said. He probably didn't even know what he was saying. He didn't understand, but he trusted God.

The two walked up the mountain in silence. Abraham couldn't have loved his son more. How hard that walk must have been.



When they got to the top of the mountain, Abraham built an altar. He laid the sticks of wood on the altar, and then he tied his son with rope and laid him on the wood. His heart was breaking. Still, he trusted that God was good. He couldn't understand why he had to sacrifice his son. He only knew that God had commanded it.

Abraham took out his knife and raised it in the air. Just then the angel of the Lord called out, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," Abraham said.

"Do not harm your son Isaac," the angel said. And Abraham put down the knife.

Then the angel said to Abraham (it was really God speaking), "Now I know you really believe in me."

Just then Abraham saw a ram tangled by its horns in a nearby bush. Here was the animal for his sacrifice.

God HAD provided the lamb - just like Abraham said he would!

And so Abraham called the place on that mountain "The Lord Will Provide."

And then God called to Abraham again. "Because you obeyed me, even when I asked you to do a hard thing, I will richly bless you. From you will come a great nation, and all people on earth will ask to be blessed the way I have blessed you, all because you obeyed my command."

