

Lesson 9

Jacob's Family

Objective

Study Genesis 35: Jacob's last son is born and the deaths of Rachel and Isaac. God keeps His promises and Jacob follows God.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Jacob's Family Visual Aid – one for class
- Jacob's Family Activities Sheet – one per student
- Bibles – enough for everyone to have one
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Attendance Chart

Optional Supplies

Print From the Site:

- Jacob's Family Word Search – one per student
- Paper Cups – about 20 for the class
- Marker – one for teacher to write on the cups
- Snack: Mini Marshmallows – handful or paper cup full for each student
- Napkins – one per student

Teacher Tips

- ★ See Lesson One to Review

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance.

Today is the last day we will study the life of Jacob, next week we will study the life of his son Joseph.

What did we study last week about Jacob and his family? Jacob met his brother Esau. Esau forgave him and they both settled in the land in different locations. We also learned previously that Jacob had his name changed by God to Israel and Jacob wrestled with God and was blessed.

2) Class Time – Jacob Returns to Bethel

10-15 minutes

Have visual and Bibles ready. Read **Genesis 35** yourself as there are a lot of names that may be difficult for students.

Read **Genesis 35:1-4**

Jacob told his family and the servants who were with them to remove their idols and bury them under a terebinth tree. (Show visual aid of terebinth tree.)



Terebinth has many uses. Palestinians use it to make their famous doqqa/dukkah (a Palestinian spice mix). Palestinian farmers used its wood to make farming tools. The wood was also used to produce incense and make implements for grinding coffee.

The immature fruits, including the stems, are preserved in vinegar and salt. Known as 'atsjaar', they are used as a relish. The fruit is about 7mm long and 6 mm wide, it contains a single seed. An edible oil can be made from the seed. The terebinth is a large, long-lived tree.

Jacob said to bury their idols. Back then and still today an idol was false gods that the people worshipped that were made of wood or stone usually. But these aren't the only idols. An idol is anything that you love more than God. It could be money, game, toys, entertainment, social media, a person, pride, power, a material thing, yourself, food, whatever causes you to love it/them more than God. We will study more about idols and why we need to remove them in a few moments. Does anyone have any questions related to the story so far? Let students ask. If not related tell them it is an interesting comment or question but not related to the story so they can ask you again later after class.

Read **Genesis 35:5-7**

Jacob came back to where he started! Remember that after Jacob lied and tricked his dad and brother, he fled. The place he was now, was where he had been years ago. He went from a scared, unbelieving liar and returns a confident, honest believer!

Read **Genesis 35:8-13**

God reminded Jacob that he was now to be called Israel.

God kept all His promises to Jacob. Promises God made to Abraham as well.

What were some of the promises God made to Jacob in verses 11-12? A nation will come from Jacob. Jacob's descendants would include kings. Jacob's family would get the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and now Jacob. And as God promised Jacob when he fled, God said Jacob would return to his family's area and he did.

Notice that even though Jacob's name was changed to Israel, he is still called Jacob in the Bible including verse 14 which we will read soon. The name Israel is the nation that would come from Jacob – his name as a nation would be Israel, but he was still called Jacob as a person.

Read **Genesis 35:14-21**

What was the name of Jacob's last son? Benjamin

Rachel died while giving birth. That happens then and still happens today. It is sad when someone dies but when they are faithful to God, they go to heaven and if we are faithful too, we will see them one day as well! So even though we are apart for a time, it is not forever. But she was able to have her son Benjamin. She also had a son years earlier and his name was Joseph. So now Jacob has 12 sons and 1 daughter including Joseph and Benjamin.

Read **Genesis 35:27-29** (Show the visual aid – page 2)

Jacob returned to his family's land and even saw his father and brother again in Hebron. Just like God said.

How old was Isaac when he died? 180 years old! He lived a long full life.

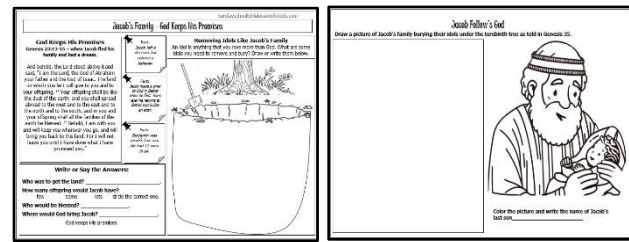
Who buried him? Jacob and Esau.

3) Jacob's Family Activities

30 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student with pencils and pencil crayons and read through together and do the activities as a class.

Go around helping if needed and have them write their name on their page.

**Answers:**

Who was to get the land? Jacob's family

How many offspring would Jacob have? Lots

Who would be blessed? All nations – that includes you and I today.

Where would God bring Jacob? Back to the land.

God did bring Jacob back to the land of Bethel and his father in Hebron. God kept all His promises and will keep all the promises He made for you and I in the New Testament when we follow and obey Him.

Jacob left a scared, lying trickster. He returned a trusting, honest believer. God can do great things in the lives of people we love and in us as well if we let Him. Listen and follow God and see all the good things that come from it when you do!

Example of idols we need to bury:

Anything that you love more than God – money, game, toys, entertainment, social media, a person, pride, power, a material thing, yourself, food, whatever causes you to love it/them more than God.

Remember if we love God first and foremost – all the good things we need and love will work out and we can still enjoy them. I can love God and still love my mom. But I have to love God first and foremost. That means I will follow God and do what He says no matter what. I can still love ice cream, but I am not going to miss worship to get it. I can play video games but shouldn't love them so much I would steal, lie, or want them more than I want to please God.

4) Optional: Removing Idols Game

10-15 minutes

Prep

Have paper cups and a marker ready. Use a table to set up the paper cups when you start the game.

Activity

Today we are going to remove idols! First, we are going to build a temple with all the idols that people might have in their lives and then you get to take turns flicking them down one-by-one!



Let's start by you telling me one by one some of the idols people might have in their lives. I will write one "idol" on each paper cup and stack them.

Write on one side of the cup all the idols people can have. Each time the class thinks of one to write down – write it and start making an idol "temple" with it. Have the words face the students. Try to come up with 10 or more.

Examples:

Money, game, toys, entertainment, social media, a person, pride, power, a material thing, yourself, food, false gods, or a sin you don't want to stop.

Next, read the ways we can remove idols. Let them each take a turn flicking off one cup. If more than one cup falls, put the extra one(s) back up again until all are torn down.

- 1. Ask God for help removing our idols – flick a cup.**
- 2. Recognize that idols take away from our true purpose and are not pleasing to God – flick a cup.**
- 3. Recognize that we can still like things in our life and love people but they should never be more important than God – flick a cup.**
- 4. Remember God's wonderful promises and why we should worship Him only – flick a cup.**
- 5. Focus on all the good things God does for us – flick a cup.**

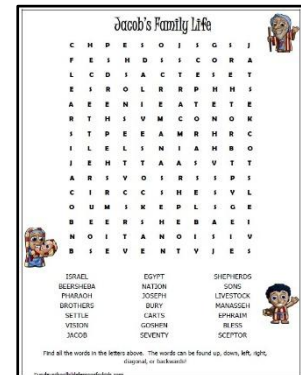
6. Now name some of the good things God does for us – have them flick another cup each time until all the idol cups are torn down!

If you have an idol in your life – recognize it and admit that. Ask God to help you remove it through prayer, spend more time focusing on God rather than things or other people or the sin that is holding you back. Spend time with people in the church who will help you focus on the good rather than the bad. Remember that false gods are just that – false. Something made of wood or stone is made by man – God isn't made by anyone! A true God would not be made, but is the One who made us. There is only One God – that is the God of the Bible. God keeps His promises and is the only One worthy to worship and adore.

5) Optional: Jacob's Family Word Search

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencils. Read the instructions aloud along with the words in the list to ensure each child knows what the word is, and help students if needed by going around the room to check. Have them put their name on the page when done and help clean up before moving onto the next activity. As they work go through each word on the word search and ask students how that word relates to the life of Jacob.



6) Optional Songs

5 minutes

Sons of Jacob (to the tune of "Ten Little Ladybugs")

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,
Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali,
Gad, Asher, Joseph, Benjamin.
These are the sons of Jacob.

Sing the books of the Old Testament together as practice as well if you choose.

7) Optional Snack: Mini Marshmallow Altar

5 minutes

You've all done a great job this morning learning about Jacob's family. Hand out handfuls or paper cups full of mini marshmallows and a napkin to "build" the altar for each student. Explain that: **When Jacob got to the land he was waiting for and God spoke to him, Jacob built an altar where that happened and Jacob called the place "Bethel" which means house of God. Let's build our own pretend altars and then eat them. Today we don't build altars to God for real but back in the day of Jacob, an altar was a reminder of the commitment and promise made to God! It wasn't something to be worshipped, but a reminder of the commitment or promise someone made.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

Any questions about today's story?

What was a favorite thing you learned or did today? Why?

8) Closing Prayer

****Before the prayer, make sure the activities/snacks have been cleaned up. Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share and if so write them down.**

Dear God thank You that You keep Your promises. Thank You for all the love and care You provide. We pray You will help us with our families. Bless us and help us make wise decisions. Help us to remove the idols we may have in our life and remember that You alone are worthy of worship and praise. May we worship You as we should. When we focus on bad things in our life or put things or people as more important than You, help us see that. Instead help us do what is pleasing to You and remember we can still have many good things in this life without idolizing them.

We pray for those who are sick, weak, or could not attend and that they will return to us next time. We pray for the church family, that we will all worship You in spirit and truth as You ask us too.

Thank You for Your help, Your love, and for being our Father. In Jesus' name, Amen.

9) Things to Remember

Thank the children for coming.

Take their activity sheets home.

Make sure students leave with a responsible person.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!