

Lesson 3: The Life of Jacob –Jacob’s Dream

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 28: Jacob leaves his family to go to Haran and has a dream
- 2) Learn that God will be with us if we follow him.
- 3) Do activities that remind us of Jacob’s life beginning to turn to God.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Jacob’s Dream Color Page – one per child
- Popsicle sticks – approximately 8-10 per child
- Scissors to cut sticks
- White Glue to share
- Construction Paper – one per child

Optional:

- Jacob’s Promise Break the Code Sheet – one for students who can do basic reading
- Jacob’s Dream Booklet – one for students unable to read yet (there are 3 sets on a page)
- Storybook of this chapter in Genesis with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board and characters to show the story of this chapter. (if available)

Snack:

- Pretzel Sticks 8 - 10 per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance. Once children are seated say:

This quarter we will continue to study about the life of Jacob.

What did we study last week about Jacob and his family? Jacob stole Esau’s blessing from his father Isaac and because of it his brother was angry enough to kill him so his mom told him to leave to Haran where her family is from and Jacob fled. **Today we will see that while Jacob travels to Haran, something interesting happens – Jacob the deceiver and trickster starts to follow God!**

2) Jacob’s Dream

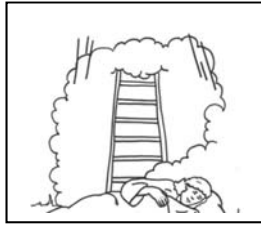
15-20 minutes

Optional: if you have a book with pictures or visuals showing this story you can show the pictures as you read from the Bible.

Have you ever seen someone who used to be mean, or lie, or be pushy or bossy become more Godly over time? This is what we are going to learn about today. Because of God in our lives

we and other people can move away from doing bad things to good things and being helpful, kind and truthful. Just like Jacob!

Read from **Genesis 28:10-22**. Have



students follow along and if using, show visuals. When finished hand out color page and crayons and have them color as you discuss questions. (IF you have students who can't focus on the questions while coloring have the coloring page to color after questions.)

Discussion Questions:

What did Jacob use as a pillow? Stone

Who was at the top of the ladder or staircase? God

What did God say to Jacob? I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you the land, you will be numerous, and all people will be blessed because of you. I am with you and will watch over you and will bring you back to this land.

The promises God made to Abraham are now being made to Jacob as well. Jacob is being told in the dream by God; you are now the head of the house. I now recognize you, I now bless you and I will now speak to you.

How did Jacob feel when he woke up? Scared and amazed - verse 17.

What did Jacob build? A pillar with the stone he had slept on.

What was Jacobs vow? If God will be with me, then the Lord will be my God and I will give a tenth of all God gives me.

Jacob leaves as a scared thief and God will teach him step by step why relying on your own wits and skill is pointless and doesn't work - instead rely on God through faith!

God shows him right away that He is willing to be with him. Jacob now realizes God is with him. He recognizes that God is willing to be there for him. His response is not one of complete trust yet - he responds - "sure if you do all these things you say, plus give me clothes, food and safety you can be my God and I will give you a tenth of everything you give me." He still is planning and scheming and not quite the faithful man God can use....yet. But thankfully God is willing to work in Jacob and all of us - if we just let Him.

Let's sing a song about Jacob!

Sing the Jacob song at the end of the lesson and have children do the actions. Repeat the song once or twice so they get familiar with it.

Allow for questions, state that you will come back next week with answers if the questions are too big for you to deal with this week and address the person next week if appropriate. Then, move on to the next activity. Always have the children look to the Bible for their answers and help them find the verses they need where possible.

3) God's Promise - Ladder Craft

10-15 minutes

Before class get Popsicle sticks and construction paper. At class hand out one piece of construction paper to each child along with 8-10 Popsicle sticks. Have white glue, markers and scissors on hand as well. Cut 2 sticks in half for each child as they will use these as rungs for their ladder.

Say to the students: **We are going to make a ladder like Jacob saw to remind us of the promise God made to Jacob. To begin we are going to lay out our popsicle sticks on the page before gluing so we know how wide and how much space each stick will need to be.**

- **First put Popsicle sticks as the tall pieces on a ladder going up each side.**
- **Then make rungs for the ladder by carefully putting Popsicle sticks that were cut in half.**
- **Then glue the half pieces evenly spaced up the ladder poles to make a ladder and then glue the tall pieces. When done this, use a marker and write one of these words in each rung.**

God
Is
With
You.

For kids that have trouble writing, help them. You can show them this sheet with the words on it, or you can take a blank piece of paper and write each word in order so they can know how to spell and where to place the words correctly.

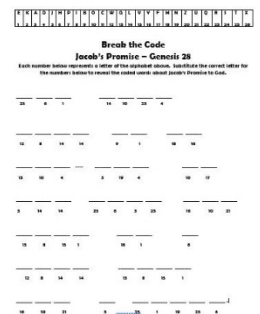
Finally write your names somewhere on the page and color or decorate as you want until everyone is finished. Remind the students they can draw fluffy clouds around the ladder, or other things that show the ladder came down from heaven. **When finished help clean up so we can then move on to the next activity.**

4) Optional: Jacob's Promise - Break the Code Sheet or Booklet

10-15 minutes

For students who can read, hand out one break the code sheet with pencils. Read the instructions aloud and help the children if needed get started filling in each blank with the correct letter from the alphabet. When finished check as a group to make sure the phrases are completed correctly before moving on.

For younger students, hand out one booklet with crayons. Let them color each page and then fold them like an accordion so that the number 1 is at the top and as they unfold they see each picture.



Answer:

The Lord will be my Godand of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.

5) Optional: Snack Pretzel Ladders

5 minutes

Hand out pieces of pretzels enough for each child to make a ladder out of them. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“When Jacob dreamed, he saw a ladder or staircase showing angels coming up and down to him. God was showing that He was going to be with Jacob. Let's make a ladder out of our pretzels and then eat them to remind us that God is willing to be in each of our lives if we only let Him!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

6) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

1) **Old Testament Books of the Bible – Sung to the Alphabet song**

2) **Jacob's Walk** - To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" *Actions in blue!*

Jacob took a walk *"Walk" fingers up the other arm*

Jacob took a walk

He walked and walked all by himself;

Jacob took a walk.

Jacob went to sleep,

Fold hands together under head; close eyes

Jacob went to sleep;

He put his head upon some stones;

Jacob went to sleep.

Jacob had a dream.

Continue "sleeping"

Jacob had a dream;

The ladder stretched from earth to Heav'n; *Hold one hand low, the other up high.*

Jacob had a dream.

Some angels came to walk,

"Walk" fingers up and down.

Some angels came to walk;

Up and down the angels went;

Some angels came to walk.

God himself was there,

Look up; point up with index finger

God himself was there;

He talked to Jacob in his dream;

God himself was there.

Jacob soon woke up,

Open eyes; look around

Jacob soon woke up;

Made a special place to pray;

Fold hands in prayer

Jacob soon woke up.

God always keeps his word,

Form book with hands.

God always keeps his word;

So Jacob worshiped only God;

God always keeps his word.

The Lord was in that place,

Point out from self.

The Lord was in that place.

And He is here with us today;

Point to self

The Lord was in that place.

7) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank God that He is willing to be there for us – if we will turn to Him. Ask God to guide us in wisdom and kindness as we grow. Pray that God will be with those in the church who are sick or weak and help them to return next time.