

# Lesson 7: The Life of Jacob –Jacob’s Faith in God Increases

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 32: Jacob prepares to meet Esau and Jacob wrestles with God.
- 2) Learn that God will be with us if we follow Him and we can turn to Him when we are scared.
- 3) Learn that Jacob becomes Israel.

## Supplies:

### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Jacob’s New Name Sheet – one per child
- Find the Hidden Message Sheet – one per child

### Optional:

- Jacob Prays to God Color Page – one per child who is too young to do Find the Message
- 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:

- Animal Crackers 6 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.

**What did we study last week about Jacob and his family?** Rachel stole her father’s household idols when Jacob and his family decided to flee Laban.

**This week we will study that Jacob returned to Esau, had an encounter with God, and that God changes Jacob’s name. Can anyone remember who else had their name changed by God?** Sarai to Sarah and Abram to Abraham.

### 2) Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau

10 minutes

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

Ask students to turn to Genesis 32:1. Then ask for a volunteer(s) to read **Genesis 32:1-21** or read it yourself.

Discuss the following Questions:

**Why was Jacob scared to meet his brother?** Because earlier Jacob stole his brothers blessing from his father Isaac so now Jacob is not sure how his brother will react when he sees him again.

**What was Jacob's attitude when he prayed to God?** Humble and aware of how little he had and how much God has blessed him since he turned and followed God. See verse 10

**What does Jacob admit in verse 11-12?** He is scared but knows that God said he would let him have many descendants so he knows God is not going to let him die at this point. But he is still scared.

Allow for questions before moving on.

### **3) Find the Hidden Message 10-15 minutes**

Hand out one sheet per child along with pencil crayons. Read the directions aloud and check to make sure children understand before working on their own. Go around helping if needed and have them write their name on their page.

**Answer: I am unworthy of all your kindness.**

**Jacob had gone from an arrogant deceiver to a humble follower!**

### **4) Optional – Jacob Prays to God Color Page 10-15 minutes**

Hand out one sheet per child – especially for children too young to do the Find the Message Activity. Explain to them that Jacob – when he was scared – prayed to God. We should remember to do that too! Hand out crayons and allow them to color the page.

Have them write their name on the page when done and clean up the crayons before moving on to the next activity.

Talk about ways God helps us when we are scared and things we should thank God for like Jacob did.

### **5) Jacob Wrestles with God and Activity Sheet 10-15 minutes**

Hand out Jacob's New Name Sheet to each student along with a pencil. Have students read the directions aloud. Have them start at the place where it says "start" and go around the circle on the page writing the first letter of each picture presented to find the name God gave to Jacob.

Answer: ISRAEL

After students have found out the name, say it aloud so they know how it is pronounced and then have students turn in their Bibles to **Genesis 32:22-32** ask for a volunteer(s) to read or read yourself.

Discussion Questions:

**We know that Jacob was scared when he prayed to God in verses 9-12. He was afraid his brother would hurt him and his family.**

**Jacob was left alone, what happened?** A man wrestled with him till daybreak. The man was God.

**What did the man do to Jacob's hip?** Touch it so it was hurt.

**What did the man change Jacob's name to?** Israel.

**Why?** Because Jacob had struggled with men and God and had overcome. He was a man of God and a man who could handle his problems with other men by relying on God. Earlier Jacob said he was afraid of a man – his brother Esau – now God is showing him, he has nothing to fear – not man, not God. God would be with him and would help him overcome his fears. Jacob became Israel the father of the twelve tribes of the nation Israel. He had nothing to fear!

**Why did Jacob name the place Peniel in verse 30?** Because he saw God face to face and yet his life was spared. Remembering that Jacob did not see God in the Spirit but that God came in physical form as a man so that Jacob could see Him.

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.

#### **6) Optional – Snack: Animal Crackers**

**5 minutes**

Hand out animal crackers enough for each child. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“When Jacob came to meet his brother he prepared many gifts. Let’s see if we can find any of those gifts in our animal crackers today! Examples: rams, camels, cows, goats, sheep, and donkeys.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

#### **7) 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) **Father Abraham Song with Actions** – see lyrics from Lesson 1
- 3) **Sons of Jacob** (to the tune of "Ten Little Ladybugs")

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

#### **8) 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.

Pray that we will always remember to talk to You God when we are scared or have problems and trust that You will help us – as you did Jacob. Pray that You will bless us and help us grow up following and believing You Lord, every day of our lives! Pray for those who are suffering or sick at this time and that You will be with them and bless them and help them.

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Thank you for serving Christ in this way!