

# JACOB FLED FROM CANAAN

GENESIS 28; 32



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God gave Jacob a new name, Israel. When we follow Jesus, God calls us His children.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who is in control? God is in control.

**KEY PASSAGE:** God can make bad things good. Genesis 50:20

**STORY POINT:** God promised to be with Jacob.



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## LEADER Bible Study

In today's passage, God continued His faithfulness to Abraham by extending kindness to Jacob amidst a time of great turmoil. God promised to bless Jacob, be with him, watch over him, and never leave him until His faithful promises had been fulfilled. Jacob found himself at a crossroads, seemingly alone, and was tasked with finding a wife in accordance with God's plan to bless their family.

What can we learn from Jacob's time of trial and his wrestling with God? How can this help us when we are suffering or wrestling with God ourselves?

After receiving his father's blessing, Jacob was instructed by his mother and father to flee Esau's wrath and find a wife. While on the run, God visited Jacob in a dream by which He confirmed the promises He had made to Abraham. Even in Jacob's sinfulness, God's faithful lovingkindness was shown to him as God declared that His covenantal promises would continue through Jacob's family. Then, Jacob made a vow, just as God had made one to him: "If God remains with me, watches over me, provides for me, and returns me safely as He says He will, then He will be my God."

Later in chapter 32, we see the next phase of Jacob's journey with God, as he wrestled with Him unknowingly. Jacob said to the man, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man—whom we know to be God—changed Jacob's name from that of a deceiver to Israel, meaning "He struggled with God." Despite Jacob's struggles with God, he prevailed and was blessed by Him. In the end, Jacob realized that God spared his life in this encounter. By grace, he was granted a new name and identity and was able to return home.

Today, we come to a similar crossroads as we wrestle with the role Jesus deserves in our lives as Savior and Lord. Those who surrender to Him by faith can, like Israel, experience new life in He who redeems and restores sinners, bringing them into His family forever. No longer are we bound by our old selves but given a new identity in Jesus.

Ask God to reveal to the boys and girls in your group the reality of the new life He offers in Jesus. Though we may not always understand His ways, God gives us grace as we come to surrender to His will for our lives. May His truth become clear in their hearts and minds as you teach them about His love.



## PREPARE

### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



## WELCOME

### 10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



## LEARN

### 25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



## LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

### 30–40 MINUTES



## LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



## BONUS

### 60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



### WELCOME

#### Guess the item

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ small brown paper bag
- ☐ rock



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ rocks, 1 per child

#### Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "Jacob Fled from Canaan" video (optional)

#### Review the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

#### Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



### LOVE

#### Explore rocks

- ☐ rocks
- ☐ magnifying glasses
- ☐ baby wipes
- ☐ small flashlights

#### Pack for a trip

- ☐ small suitcase
- ☐ children's clothing items
- ☐ socks
- ☐ shoes
- ☐ small toiletry containers



### LIVE

#### Paint with rocks

- ☐ small container with a lid
- ☐ rocks
- ☐ art smocks
- ☐ washable paint
- ☐ "Key Passage Phrase Label" printable

#### Missions activity

- ☐ "William and Crystal Enete Photos" printable
- ☐ cookie tray
- ☐ salt or sand

#### Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Match the Rocks" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



### BONUS

#### Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

#### Dot paint names

- ☐ 12-by-18 inch construction paper, 1 per child
- ☐ dot paint markers
- ☐ art smocks

#### Put babies to bed

- ☐ baby blankets
- ☐ small pillows
- ☐ doll beds or medium-sized boxes



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

### GUESS THE ITEM

Post the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster near the entrance to the classroom. Place a small rock in a bag. Greet preschoolers as they enter the classroom and point out the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster. Shake the bag. Encourage preschoolers to feel what is inside the bag and guess what it is. Give clues as needed.

**SAY** Welcome to church today. I am so glad that you are here. Something was hidden inside the bag. Was it hard or soft? It was a rock. Jacob left home after he took his brother Esau's blessing. When the sun set, he stopped to sleep for the night. Jacob used a rock for a pillow and fell asleep. **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB.**

Worship

\* Joy

\* God is so good

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**







LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story

#### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Place rocks around the classroom. Encourage preschoolers to find a rock and bring it to group time. Assist preschoolers as needed so that everyone is able to bring a rock to the group.

**SAY** “ Jacob went away from home after he took his brother’s blessing. When he stopped to sleep for the night, Jacob used a rock as a pillow. **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB.** ”



#### 2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY Video

Open your Bible to Genesis 28; 32. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

#### JACOB FLED FROM CANAAN

**SAY** “ After Jacob took his brother Esau’s blessing, Esau was very angry. Jacob went away from home. When the sun set, he stopped to sleep for the night. Jacob used a rock for a pillow and fell asleep.

That night, Jacob dreamed about a stairway going up to the sky. Angels went up and down the stairs. God stood next to Jacob and said, “I am God. I will give this land to you and your children. All peoples on earth will be blessed through your family.”

This was the same promise God made to Jacob’s grandfather Abraham and to Jacob’s father, Isaac! God promised to be with Jacob.

Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely God is here!”

Years passed and Jacob decided to go home. That night, a man appeared to Jacob. The man wrestled with Jacob all night.

“Your name was Jacob,” said the man, “but now your name will be Israel. You wrestled with God and with men, and you have won.” The man blessed Jacob.

Jacob went to meet his brother Esau. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. Esau was not angry anymore! Jacob bought land for his family to live on. He was finally home in the land God promised to give him. ”

Christ Connection: God gave Jacob a new name, Israel. When we follow Jesus, God calls us His children.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY



Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Ask preschoolers how they think the people in the Bible story felt at different points in the story. Invite preschoolers to make each expression with their faces as they answer. Highlight different parts of the story such as Esau when Jacob took his blessing; Jacob when God promised to be with him, Jacob when he was given a new name, Jacob when he decided to go home to Esau, and Esau when he saw Jacob.

**SAY** 🗣️ You showed how Jacob and Esau may have felt in the Bible story. God promised that all people on earth would be blessed through Jacob's family. Jacob was given a new name. He went home to the land God promised to give him. **God is in control.** 🗣️

#### 4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow":

God can make bad things good.  
God can make bad things good.  
God can make bad things good.

Genesis 50:20



"For Good" worship song

#### 5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE



Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Genesis 50:20. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase. Yawn and stretch as you say the key passage together several times.

**SAY** 🗣️ We yawned and stretched as we said the key passage like Jacob may have before he slept on the rock. Jacob took his brother's blessing and went away from home, but God was able to make the bad things good and bless people through Jacob's family. **God is in control.** 🗣️

#### 6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for loving Jacob and giving him a new name. Thank God for loving us and calling us His children when we follow Jesus.



LOVE

## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE God because of what we learned

#### 1 PLAY WITH PLAY DOUGH



Invite preschoolers to play with play dough. Demonstrate how to roll the play dough into the shape of a rope or snake. Guide preschoolers to make the letters J and I with the play dough ropes.

**SAY** Jacob's name begins with the letter J. Israel begins with the letter I. One night a man appeared to Jacob and wrestled with him. The man said, 'Your name was Jacob, but now your name will be Israel.' God gave Jacob a new name, Israel.

#### 2 EXPLORE ROCKS

Place rocks, magnifying glasses, flashlights, and wipes on the table. Invite preschoolers to examine the rocks with the magnifying glasses. Some children may want to clean the rocks with the wipes. Demonstrate how light from a flashlight can be used to see the rocks more clearly.

**SAY** After Jacob took his brother Esau's blessing, Jacob went away from home. When the sun set, he stopped to sleep for the night. Jacob used a rock for a pillow and fell asleep. Would you want to use a rock for a pillow? Do you think that would be very comfortable? Jacob dreamed about a stairway going up to the sky. God stood next to Jacob and said, 'I am God. I will give this land to you and your children. All people on earth will be blessed through your family.'

#### 3 PACK FOR A TRIP

Invite preschoolers to pack a suitcase or backpack with items they would take on a trip. Demonstrate how to fold the clothes and match the socks. Encourage preschoolers to arrange the items in their bags. Lead preschoolers on a trip around the classroom, if space allows.

**SAY** We packed clothing, shoes, and toiletries for our trip. Jacob took a trip. After Jacob took his brother Esau's blessing, Esau was angry. Jacob went away from home. Jacob had a dream. In the dream, **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB**. Years passed and Jacob decided to go home. Jacob went to meet his brother Esau. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. Esau was not angry anymore! Jacob was finally home in the land God promised to give him.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE for God out of love

#### 1 PAINT WITH ROCKS

Before the session, print the “Key Passage Phrase Label” printable onto adhesive address labels. Cut a piece of construction paper to fit inside a container. Assist preschoolers with putting on a smock. Place the paper and a small amount of paint in the container. Invite a preschooler to add a few small rocks. Close the lid and allow the preschooler to gently shake or roll the container. Open the lid to reveal the artwork. Add a key passage phrase label to the painting.

**SAY** “ I love the way your rock painting turned out. Jacob used a rock for a pillow one night. That night he dreamed that God stood next to him and said, ‘I am God. I will give this land to you and your children. All peoples on earth will be blessed through your family.’ **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB.** Just like our key passage says, ‘God can make bad things good.’ ”

#### 2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Print and display a copy of the “William and Crystal Enete Photos” printable. Pour salt or sand into a tray. Guide preschoolers to take turns writing one of the letters for JESUS and GOD in the salt tray as you talk about the missionaries.

**SAY** “ William and Crystal Enete served as missionaries in Brazil for 34 years. William and Crystal used many creative ways to tell people in Brazil about Jesus. For many years they used dolls to tell thousands of people in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay about Jesus. **[Lead a prayer.]** ”

#### 3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

**SAY** “ God gave Jacob a new name, Israel. When we follow Jesus, God calls us His children. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**







## **BONUS** Teaching Hour Group Time

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### **1 SLEEP TIGHT**

Invite children to yawn and stretch like they are preparing to go to sleep as you gather for group time. Tell preschoolers that Jacob used a rock for a pillow one night.

### **2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY**

Open the Bible to Genesis 28; 32. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

#### **JACOB FLED FROM CANAAN**

- Jacob had taken his brother Esau's blessing. Esau was mad, so Jacob went away from his home.
- Jacob stopped to sleep. He used a rock for a pillow. Jacob dreamed about stairs going up to the sky. Angels went up and down the stairs.
- God came to Jacob and said, "I will give this land to you and your family. People will be blessed by your family." Jacob woke up and said, "God is here!"
- Years later, Jacob wanted to go home. A man came to Jacob at night. He wrestled with Jacob. The man said, "Your name will be Israel." Then the man blessed Jacob.
- When Jacob got home, Esau was not angry anymore. Jacob was finally home in the land God had promised to give him.

### **3 SING A SONG**

Sing the song below to the tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow":

God can make bad things good.  
God can make bad things good.  
God can make bad things good.  
Genesis 50:20

### **4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE**

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Genesis 50:20. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage boys and girls to give themselves a hug, like Esau hugged Jacob, as you repeat the verse several times.

### **5 PRAY**

Pray, thanking God for always being with us like He promised Jacob.



## BONUS

### TEACHING HOUR

## BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

### 6 DAY AND NIGHT

Cut a piece of paper into strips. Write a daytime or nighttime activity on each strip. Activities could include eating breakfast, getting dressed, reading a book, brushing your teeth, going to bed, or riding in the car. Invite a preschooler to choose a strip. Read the activity and encourage the group to play out. Talk about whether the activity is done in the daytime, nighttime, or maybe both.

**SAY** “I liked the way you played out the activities. Some things we do in the daytime and others we do at nighttime. After Jacob took his brother Esau’s blessing, he left home. When the sun set, he stopped to sleep for the night. He used a rock for a pillow when he slept. That night, Jacob had a dream. In his dream, **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB**. Jacob woke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely God is here!’”

### 7 DOT PAINT NAMES

Write each child’s name across a long sheet of construction paper. Space out the letters. Assist preschoolers with placing a smock over their clothing. Demonstrate how to use the dot markers to dot over the letters in their names.

**SAY** “You painted over your name. A person’s name is very special. It lets us know who someone is. After Jacob had decided to go home to his family, a man appeared to Jacob and wrestled with him all night. The man said, ‘Your name was Jacob, but now your name will be Israel. You wrestled with God and with men, and you have won.’ The man blessed Jacob. God gave Jacob a new name, Israel. When we follow Jesus, God calls us His children.”

### 8 PUT BABIES TO BED

Invite children to help you put the baby dolls to bed. Demonstrate how to wrap the dolls in the blankets. Encourage preschoolers to sing songs and rock the dolls back and forth to help them go to sleep. Arrange pillows and blankets in doll beds or medium-sized boxes to be used as doll beds. Demonstrate how to gently lay the baby dolls in their beds.

**SAY** “The baby dolls are all asleep now. You took care of them by wrapping them in their blankets and placing them on pillows in their beds. Jacob left home after he took his brother Esau’s blessing. When he stopped to sleep for the night, he used a rock for a pillow. He had a dream about a stairway going up to the sky. God stood next to him and promised to be with Jacob. **God is in control.**”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.