

UNIT 3 | SESSION 2

Slash 12/15

# JACOB FLED FROM CANAAN

GENESIS 28; 32



**KEY PASSAGE:** Genesis 50:20

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God changed Jacob and gave him a new name, Israel. Jesus came so that we might have a changed life, forgiven of sin. Jesus' death and resurrection provided sinful people the way to be welcomed into God's family forever.

**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 kids and open the session



## LEARN

### 25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



## LOVE

### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



## LIVE

### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- ☐ “Complete the Stairway” activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ twine
- ☐ clothespins, 1 per kid

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ painter's tape



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ brown craft paper
- ☐ dry erase board and marker

#### Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “Jacob Fled from Canaan” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

#### Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 3, Session 2” Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- ☐ “William and Crystal Enete Photos” printable
- ☐ cardstock

#### Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “God Planned It for Good (Genesis 50:20)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ cardstock



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** 🗨️ Do you dream at night? Have you ever had a dream that was fun and exciting? What did you dream? 🗨️

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Complete the Stairway” activity page.

**SAY** 🗨️ Today, we’ll see how Jacob had a dream and that through this dream, **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB.** 🗨️

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: PROMISES CIRCLE

Before the session, write the words God’s promises on pieces of paper for each kid in your group. Cut a piece of twine long enough for all kids to hold it while standing in a circle.

Provide each kid with the sheet of paper with the words God’s promises and a clothespin. Place a long piece of twine on the floor. Tell kids that on your start, they all will need to quickly take hold of the piece of twine and clip their paper to the twine using their clothespin. Then tell kids to continue holding the twine, with their papers attached, and form a circle. Time kids to see how quickly they can form the “promise circle.” Consider repeating the activity to see if kids can beat their previous time.

**SAY** 🗨️ God’s promises will never fail. Like a circle has no end, God’s promises will last forever. He is always faithful to His promises. Today, we will see how the promise God made to Abraham is passed down to his grandson, Jacob. Just as God had been with Abraham, **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB.** 🗨️

#### ☐ OPTION 2: STEP DOWN



Tell kids that they are going to climb down an imaginary stairway by answering some questions. Place a piece of painter’s tape on the floor to represent the bottom of the stairway. Explain that if the kids answer the question correctly, they may “step down” the stairway by taking a step forward. Tell kids that if they answer the questions incorrectly they remain in place. Consider mixing up questions to include Bible story reviews and general questions all kids might know. For example, “Who created the whole world?” “What color is made when you mix blue and yellow?” “What did God command Noah to build?” “How many legs does a spider have?” etc. Challenge kids to answer the questions correctly to be the first to reach the bottom of the stairway.

**SAY** 🗨️ Today, we will see how God came down a stairway in Jacob’s dream. We’ll learn how God came down to remind Jacob that He would keep the promises He made to Abraham. 🗨️

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







## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** 🗨️ Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I am so excited you are here. Together, we get to read true stories from the Bible. In our story today, we will discover how **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB**. [Display the Story Point poster.] We'll see how God passed on the promises He made to Abraham to his grandson, Jacob.

If you have your Bible with you, please take it out. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, as we open our Bibles, let's prepare our hearts to hear from God. Pray with me: 'Dear God, please open our hearts and our minds to learn more about You. Give us faith to believe that Your Word is true and that we can trust Your promises. Amen.' 🙏

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** 🗨️ Who can remind me of our big picture question? [Allow responses.] **Who is in control?** [Allow responses.] That's right! **God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.**

We can trust that God is control of our lives. Last week, we learned how Jacob tried to take control of the events in his life. But God was the One who was really in control of Jacob's life. Even in our story today, we'll see how **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB** and lead Jacob into the land God had promised Abraham. 🙏

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** 🗨️ Last week, we saw how even though Rebekah and Jacob tried to take control of God's plan by tricking Isaac and Esau, God was still in control. Because Jacob lied and deceived to get the blessing, Esau became angry at Jacob. Jacob fled from Canaan to escape his brother's anger. Today, we will see that even though Jacob ran, **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB** and to fulfill His promise to Abraham's family. 🙏

worship

\* I believe

\* offering

\* There's nothing That our God can't do

\*

\*



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story



#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 28:10-22; 32:24-30. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jacob Fled from Canaan.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### JACOB FLED FROM CANAAN

“After Jacob stole his brother Esau’s blessing, Esau was so angry that Jacob had to leave home. Jacob’s father Isaac sent him away to find a wife from among Abraham’s people. Jacob traveled toward Haran. When the sun set, he stopped to sleep for the night. Jacob used a stone for a pillow and fell asleep.

As Jacob slept, he had a dream. In the dream, a stairway was set on the ground, and its top reached the sky. God’s angels were going up and down on it. The LORD was standing beside Jacob. He said, “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your children the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will spread out in every direction, and all peoples on earth will be blessed through your family.” This was the same promise God had made to Jacob’s grandfather Abraham and to his father, Isaac!

Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place!” Jacob took the stone that he slept on, set it up as a special marker, and poured oil over it. He named that place Bethel, which means “House of God.”

Then Jacob made a promise. He said, “If God will be with me and watch over me during my journey, if he gives me what I need and brings me safely back home, then the LORD will be my God, and I will worship Him.”

Years passed. Jacob got married and had a family. Finally, Jacob took his family and all his possessions and headed home to Canaan. That night, a man appeared to Jacob. The man wrestled with Jacob all night. Jacob refused to give up, so the man injured Jacob’s hip.

“I will not let You go unless You bless me,” Jacob said.

“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man said. “Your name will be Israel because you wrestled with God and men, and you have won.” The man blessed Jacob. Now Jacob went to meet Esau. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. He was not angry anymore. Esau returned to his home. Jacob and his family traveled on, and Jacob bought land for them to live on. Jacob was finally home in the land God had promised him.

Christ Connection: God changed Jacob and gave him a new name, Israel. Jesus came so that we might have a changed life, forgiven of sin. Jesus’ death and resurrection provided sinful people the way to be welcomed into God’s family forever. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Say it:** Invite kids to say the name “Israel” when they hear Jacob’s name. Tell kids that the Bible sometimes uses both Jacob and Israel to refer to the same person.

**Dim the lights:** Set the mood of the story by dimming the lights.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** 🗨️ Jacob was on the run because he stole the blessing from his brother Esau. As he slept in the wilderness, he had a dream. What did Jacob see in the dream? [Allow responses.] God came to Jacob in a dream, promising to be with Him and to give him the land He had promised Abraham. God said Jacob's family would become a great nation. Is God faithful to keep His promises? [Allow responses.] God always keeps His promises. He is in control and nothing can stop His plans. We can trust God and know that, in Jesus, He has good planned for us.

Years after Jacob's dream, he got married and had many children. Jacob took his family back to the land God had promised him. Then one night, a man appeared to Jacob. What did he and the man do? [Allow responses.] They wrestled all night long! Jacob would not give up until the man blessed him. The man hurt Jacob's hip, but he finally blessed Jacob. What did the man change Jacob's name to? [Allow responses.] The man changed Jacob's name to Israel. Jacob said he had seen God face to face! It was God who had come down to wrestle Jacob and bless him. Even though Jacob's hip was injured, his life was spared. When we trust in Jesus, our lives are spared from the death we deserve because of our sin.

**GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB.** God changed Jacob and gave him a new name, Israel. Jesus came so that we might have a changed life, forgiven of sin. Jesus' death and resurrection provided sinful people the way to be welcomed into God's family forever. 🗨️

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** 🗨️ Jacob sinned and had to leave his home. But **GOD PROMISED TO BE WITH JACOB.** When we sin, we are separated from God. But God sent Jesus to bring us back to Him. Faith in Jesus is the only way to be forgiven of our sin and become a part of God's family. 🗨️

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

## 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 3, Session 2" Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. If people are bad and they believe in God, can they still go to heaven?
2. Why is faith in Jesus the only way to be with God forever?

## 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the "William and Crystal Enete Photos." Remind kids that William and Crystal Enete were missionaries in Brazil. Tell kids that William Enete learned many different skills as he grew up. Explain that he worked in a blacksmith shop, a boat repair shop, and an automobile repair garage. Tell kids that after William finished Bible college, he and his wife, Crystal, felt that God was calling them to serve Him on the international mission field.

**SAY** 🗨️ While the Enetes were learning Portuguese, William began telling people in Brazil about



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus. He used his skills in photography and other creative methods to help people in Brazil know about Jesus. 📷

Invite kids to create “photographs” to help tell others about God’s plan to send Jesus into the world to save us from sin. Encourage kids to draw Bible stories or pictures of Jesus’ birth, death, and resurrection.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write the key passage on pieces of cardstock. Then cut the cardstock to make puzzle pieces. Create a puzzle for each group of three or four kids. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Genesis 50:20 together.

**SAY** 🗣️ God did not abandon Jacob when he sinned against Him. God was in control of everything and promised to be with Jacob. God was working in Jacob’s life to bring about His good plans to bless the whole world. 🙏

Provide each group of three or four kids with a puzzle. Lead kids to scatter the pieces on the floor. Then challenge kids to work as a team to complete the puzzle.

Lead kids to sing “God Planned It for Good (Genesis 50:20).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** 🗣️ God, thank You for promising to always be with us when we trust in Jesus. Help us trust that You are in control of everything under heaven and earth. Guide us to obey You and love others. Amen. 🙏

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







THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

## LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 28. Challenge kids to turn to the book of Exodus. Tell kids that Jacob's name Israel will also become the name of God's people. Explain that we will learn more about the nation of Israel when we get to the book of Exodus.

Consider pointing out the location of Bethel (G4), where God appeared to Jacob in a dream, on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 28:15 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** 🗨️ Even when Jacob sinned and had to leave his home, God did not leave Jacob. God gave Jacob the same promise He made to Jacob's grandfather, Abraham, and to his father Isaac. In verse 15, we see that God promised He would be with Jacob no matter where he went, and would bring Jacob back to the land He had promised. God promises to always be with His people, and we can trust Him because He never lies. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever! 🗨️

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** 🗨️ Can we mess up God's plans? Why not? 🗨️

Discuss how our sins or mistakes don't mess up God's plans. Remind kids that God is in control of everything, including the times we disobey Him. Explain that God is not pleased when we sin, but that He can use evil plans for good. Discuss how Jacob's sin brought about the consequence of leaving the promised land, but God never left Jacob and had a plan to bring him back.

**SAY** 🗨️ God changed Jacob's name. How does God change us? 🗨️

Tell kids that the Bible tells us that when we trust in Jesus, God makes us into new creations. Discuss how God gives us new hearts that want to love and obey God. Explain that we want to be like Jesus and follow Him. Discuss how we feel sorry for our sin and want to turn away from it.

**SAY** 🗨️ Jacob went back home to the land of Canaan just like God promised. What home has God promised everyone who trusts in Jesus? 🗨️

Remind kids that God has promised everyone who trusts in Jesus a home with Him forever. Tell kids that God will make a new heaven and earth where there will be no more sin, death, sadness, or brokenness. Encourage kids to remember that God keeps His promises and that we can look forward to our final home with great joy.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### ☐ OPTION 1: WHO DOES GOD CALL US?

Before the session, create a banner using brown craft paper. Then write the following Bible references on the banner:

2 Corinthians 5:17; John 1:12; John 15:15; Ephesians 1:7; Ephesians 1:5. On a dry erase board, write a list of the following words: adopted, forgiven, children of God, new creation, friend of Jesus. Form kids into five groups and assign each group a Bible reference. Challenge kids to work together to find the verse and read it. Then direct groups to find the word(s) from the dry erase board that match their verse and write it on the banner under their Bible reference.

**SAY** When we trust in Jesus, God calls us by new names. He says that we are His child, forgiven, a new creation, and so much more! God gives us a new identity in Jesus and nothing can separate us from His love. Just as God changed Jacob's name and promised to be with him, God changes us and promises to be with us.

##### ☐ OPTION 2: DOMINO REACTION



Form kids into groups of three or four and provide each group with a set of dominoes or small building blocks. Encourage groups to line up their dominoes one in front of another, being careful to not let any of them fall. Then tell kids to create a chain reaction by knocking the first domino into the one next to it. Challenge groups to build additional chain reactions and consider creating different designs like a spiral or a semi-circle.

**SAY** What happened when you knocked the first domino into the one next to it? [Allow responses.] The whole line of dominoes fell down. This reminds me of God's plans. When God sets a plan in motion nothing can stop it. It will continue until it is complete. **God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.**

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.