

Jacob's Ladder

Bible Verse

The LORD bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)

Did You Know?

Jacob was on his way from Canaan to Haran, Abraham's homeland. This long journey was especially taxing for someone who hadn't traveled very far before. Given all of the events that had passed, Jacob likely had a lot of thinking and processing to do on this journey. And in our dreams, we are often processing questions, problems, and future tasks.

In this dream, God was revealing to Jacob something that happens all the time: God's is continual involvement in the world and God's sending angels on missions. While we cannot see them, they are still at work in the world on behalf of God.

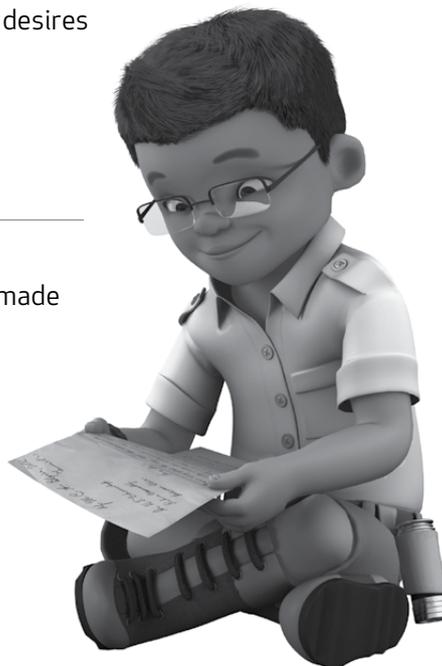
Jacob must have been feeling very anxious about his situation. He had lied to his father, taken God's name in vain, cheated his brother, made Esau want to kill him, and was leaving the Promised Land. But God stepped in to reassure Jacob that all was not lost. God was still at work in Jacob's life—not because Jacob deserved it but because God desired to work through Jacob for God's plan and purpose. Indeed, this dream was a special message of encouragement for Jacob directly from God.

God promised to be with Jacob, just as God had promised to be with Abraham and Isaac, even though Jacob was in a shameful place. This reassurance is good news to us, who may find ourselves faltering. In those situations, God is still with us. In this lesson, help children understand that even when we separate ourselves from God, the Lord calls us back and desires to love and bless us.

Exploration Points

- God loves us and seeks us out, even when we've made mistakes.
- A life with God can have special, holy moments.

Leader's Guide • **Reproducible Kids' Book**
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Bible Story

Genesis 28:10-22

Anchor Point

God blesses us.

Your Lesson

- Assemble the Crew
- Thanksgiving Placemat
- Table Grace
- Jacob's Ladder Snack
- Bible Adventures
- Bible Story
- Staircase Review
- Rock Painting
- Blessing Bags
- Jacob's Ladder
- Angel Transportation
- Worship

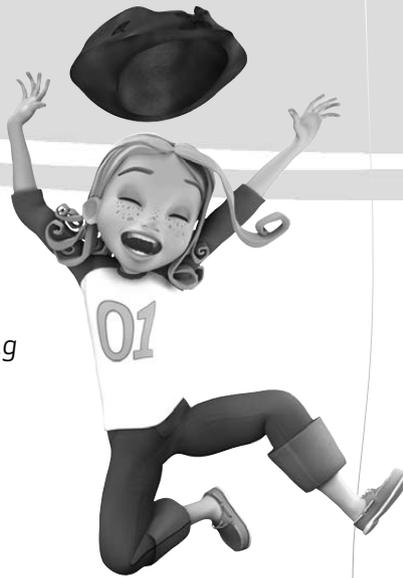


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 Requires preparation.

Jump In!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or with the entire group.



ASSEMBLE THE CREW



Supplies: Resource Pak—p. 2, DVD, DVD player, offering basket

- Greet each parent and child as he or she arrives.
- Display the Attendance Chart (Resource Pak—p. 2).
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Play “Let’s Go Deep Blue” on the DVD.

THANKSGIVING PLACEMAT



Supplies: Activity 12c, contact paper, construction paper, markers, scissors, glue; optional: crayons

- ⊗ Make a photocopy of “Thanksgiving Placemat” (Activity 12c) for each child.
 - Give each child a copy of the activity page. (Option: Let the children color the “Thanksgiving Placemat.”)
 - Tell the children to cut around the outside of the autumn border and glue the Scripture to a large piece of construction paper.
 - Encourage the children to write or draw along the construction-paper border things they are thankful for.
 - Help the children cover their placemats with contact paper on both sides to make the mats more durable for eating.

SAY: We’ve talked a lot about blessings and have learned that God blesses us and keeps us always. With Thanksgiving approaching, it’s good to remember all of the ways God blesses us so that we can give thanks to God. One way we can do so is with a special placemat to use on Thanksgiving.

TABLE GRACE



Supplies: Activity 12b

- ⊗ Make a photocopy of “Table Grace” (Activity 12b) for each child.
 - Give each child a copy of the activity page.
 - Teach children to say or sing the traditional blessing.
 - Encourage children to share the Table Grace on Thanksgiving Day and at any mealtime.

JACOB'S LADDER SNACK



Supplies: graham crackers, pretzel sticks, marshmallow cream, plastic knives, hand-washing supplies

SAY: Our story today is about a miraculous ladder. To get us in the spirit, we're going to make a ladder design for our snack.

- Have the children wash their hands.
- Choose a child to hand out napkins.
- Give each child a graham cracker.
- Help children spread some marshmallow cream onto their graham cracker.
- Show children how to place pretzel sticks on the marshmallow cream to create a ladder.
- Enjoy eating the snack together.

Dive Deep

DEEP BLUE BIBLE ADVENTURES

Supplies: DVD and player

 Cue the DVD to the “Jacob’s Ladder” selection.

- Invite the children to sit down where they can comfortably see the television.

ASK: What did Jacob rest his head beside? (*a rock*) What did Jacob do to mark the holy place? (*set up a stone pillar*)

BIBLE STORY



Supplies: Bibles, Resource Pak—p. 19, Activity 12a; optional: stage area

- Look up today’s story in the Bible. Encourage children to find the story in their Bibles. Nonreaders will not be able to find the story on their own, but it is important for all children to become accustomed to using a Bible.

SAY: In today’s story, Jacob is escaping from Esau to a place far from home.

- Punch out the following Unit 3 Bible Story Pieces (Resource Pak—p. 19): traveling Jacob, Jacob sleeping on a rock, a great staircase, and a stone pillar.
- Read “God Speaks to Jacob” (Activity 12a). Use a table or the optional stage area for the underlay, placing the Bible Story Pieces on it as directed on “God Speaks to Jacob.”

ASK: What was the specific name God used when speaking to Jacob? (*I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.*) Why, do you think, did the angels need a staircase to get from heaven to earth? (*Invite responses.*)



Set up the Bible Story Pieces by using paper clips before the session, or let children put them together during the Bible Story activity.

STAIRCASE REVIEW



Supplies: Activity 12d, access to stairs, two index cards, pen or marker, tape

 Write, “True” on one index card, and write, “False” on the other index card. Tape each index card onto a different step of a staircase.

SAY: You know, some people say that the ladder was actually a staircase. I’m not sure whether Jacob saw a ladder or a staircase, but he surely saw angels going up and down. To review the story, we’re going to play a game using these steps.

- Ask the children to stand at the bottom of the steps, and begin the “Staircase Review” game (Activity 12d).
- Explain to the children that they will answer one unit review question per turn as quickly as possibly by climbing the stairs to stand on the step marked “true” or “false.”
- If a child gets the answer wrong, he or she must try again.
- As soon as the child returns to the bottom of the stairs, it is the next person in line’s turn.



ROCK PAINTING



Supplies: washable paints, small flat rocks, newspaper, and hand washing supplies

SAY: In our story, Jacob used a rock to mark the holy place where he dreamed of the ladder going up to heaven.

ASK: Where are some of our holy places? (*church, sanctuary, and so on*)

SAY: A holy place can be any of those, and a holy place can be anywhere because God is everywhere. A holy place is anywhere you feel a special connection to God. Some people feel close to God inside a church building, and others feel close to God in the mountains or sitting quietly on the front porch. Today we are going to make special rocks to help us mark the holy places in our lives.

- Explain to the children that Jacob used a rock to mark the holy place where he dreamed of the ladder going up to heaven.
- Tell the children to decorate several rocks by using fingerpaints or other washable paints. Put newspaper down to catch any mess.
- Encourage the children to take their colorful rocks home to have a reminder that holy places are all around us because God is everywhere.

Grow Stronger

BLESSING BAGS

Supplies: completed blessing bag

- Gather children in a circle.

SAY: We have learned about what it means to be homeless. It can be hard to imagine how different it would be to live without a home. Even little things such as brushing your teeth would be different.

ASK: Why would something as small as brushing your teeth be different if you were homeless? *(no money to buy tooth care supplies, no bathroom, access to running water, and so on)*

SAY: Today we are adding two simple items most of us probably use every night: a toothbrush and toothpaste. At least I hope we all brush our teeth before going to bed! Who knows? Maybe Jacob brushed his teeth before he fell asleep that night.

- Collect the resealable bags.

JACOB'S LADDER

Supplies: Activity 12e, crayons

- ⊗ Photocopy “Jacob’s Ladder” (Activity 12e) for your nonreaders.
 - Give the younger children a copy of “Jacob’s Ladder” to color.

ANGEL TRANSPORTATION

Supplies: Activity 12f, pencils, crayons

- ⊗ Photocopy “Angel Transportation” (Activity 12f) for your nonreaders.

SAY: In Jacob’s day, angels used a ladder to go from heaven to earth. Without wings, how might angels get around today?

- Encourage the children to draw a picture or write a story.

Worship

Supplies: Resource Pak—p.16, CD-ROM or DVD and player

- Mount the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Resource Pak—p. 16) in your worship area.
- Play “Let’s Go Deep Blue” (CD-ROM or DVD) to signal the beginning of worship.
- Encourage children to gather in a circle.

SAY: Today we’ve learned that God is always with us, even when we make mistakes.

- Point out the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Resource Pak—p. 16).
- Read Numbers 6:24.

PRAY: Merciful God, we give you thanks for being with us always and everywhere. Help us to seek you out in times of trouble. Amen.

