Jacob’s Ladder

Bible Verse
The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24)

Did You Know?

Jacob needed comforting! Considering all the terrible things that Jacob had done to his brother, Esau, it is no wonder! Jacob had stolen both Esau’s birthright and his blessing. If Jacob had any conscience at all, he knew that he had treated his brother badly; and yet, we will see that God chooses to work with Jacob and his family. God’s understanding and forgiveness is unfathomable.

The place where Jacob experiences his life-changing dream became an important place to Jacob—a sacred place. Jacob set up a stone and poured oil on it to remember the sacredness of the place. The dream may have been a turning point in Jacob’s life because he decided to stay close to God and give God one-tenth of everything he acquired. Jacob promised, “This stone that I’ve set up as a sacred pillar will be God’s house, and of everything you give me I will give a tenth back to you” (Genesis 28:22). Jacob recognized God’s presence in his life, just as his grandfather, Abraham had, and his father, Isaac had. Through Jacob, God continued the family and their blessings. This experience and this dream had such a profound affect on Jacob that he acquired the courage and resolve to continue on his way.

You, too, have been called by God to work with God’s children and help them discover God and choose to follow God. Young children can learn to feel God’s presence in their lives. Encourage the children to seek God just as you continue to seek God every day.

Exploration Points

• God forgave Jacob for the mistakes he had made and continued to love him and be with him throughout his life. God will do the same for us.

• We should remember to thank God for the many blessings we have in our lives.

Leader’s Guide • Bible Stories & Stickers • Kids Stuff • Class Stuff • CD-ROM • DVD • DeepBlueKids.com

Requires preparation.
Jump In!
The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, 31; CD-ROM; Bible Stories & Stickers; tape, CD player, offering basket
- Greet each parent and child as they arrive. Play music (CD-ROM) to familiarize the children with the music for the quarter.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Hang the Attendance Chart (Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, 31) in a place where the children can reach it. Help each child put his attendance Sticker (ladder) on the chart.

BUILD A SACRED PLACE

Supplies: cardboard blocks or interlocking blocks
- Let two or three children build a sacred place where they can worship God.
- Suggest that it could look like the inside of the church sanctuary, OR let the children build a sacred place out of interlocking blocks. As the children work, talk to them about what a sacred place is.

SAY: A sacred place is a place where you feel close to God.

JACOB’S DREAM

Supplies: Leader’s Guide—p. 77, Bible Stories & Stickers, craft sticks (5 per child), crayons or markers, construction paper, glue sticks, glue
◆ Reproduce “Jacob’s Dream” (Leader’s Guide—p. 77) for every child.
  - Give each child “Jacob’s Dream.” Invite her to color Jacob.
  - Have the child glue the picture to construction paper. Help the child create a ladder by gluing down two craft sticks as the sides of the ladder and three craft sticks as the rungs. The ladder should reach from Jacob to the clouds.
  - Have the child add the angel Stickers (Bible Stories & Stickers) to the ladder.

SAY: In our Bible story today, Jacob has a dream about angels.

Dive Deeper

TIME FOR THE BIBLE STORY

Supplies: Bible
- Invite the children to the Bible Story Circle by asking them to hop on one foot. When the children arrive, ask them to sit down in the Circle.
ASK: Did any of you fall or stumble hopping over here? If you had fallen, do you think I would forgive you for falling? Do you know who forgives you and loves you even when you make a mistake? (God) In today’s Bible story, (show the children a Bible) a man named Jacob made mistakes, but he had a special dream and then promised God that he would be better. Do you think Jacob made God happy?

SAY: We are going to play a Shouting Game. I will say a sentence, and then you shout: God loves you! Let’s begin:

Does God love me when I can’t find my shoe? (God loves you.)
Does God love me when I color the wall blue? (God loves you.)
Does God love me when I whine because I can’t go to the zoo? (God loves you.)
Does God love me when I tell my little sister that pigs go “moo”? (God loves you.)

SAY: Sometimes we make mistakes, and we do the wrong thing, just like Jacob did; but God forgives us and loves us. Let’s shout out: God loves you! (God loves you!)

SEE THE BIBLE STORY

Supplies: Deep Blue DVD, DVD player
• Let the children sing and dance to the theme song “Let’s Go Deep Blue.”
• Let the children watch the DVD session for the day.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stickers—p. 2
• Read the Bible Story through one time. Read the Bible story again, and invite the children to guess the rhyming words throughout the story.
• After the second reading, SAY: Jacob needed a place to lie down to sleep. What did he sleep by? (A big rock) What was climbing up and down the ladder in the dream that Jacob had? (Angels) Who else was in Jacob’s dream? (God) Did Jacob believe that he had a very special dream? (Yes) Did Jacob believe that he was in a special place? (Yes)

MOVE TO THE BIBLE STORY

Supplies: Class Stuff—p. 8, masking tape, blindfold
• Punch out the poster and the angels. Post the “Tape the Angel on the Ladder Game” on a wall or bulletin board. Put a loop of tape on the back of the angels.
• To play: Put a blindfold on the child. Turn the child around, and point her in the direction of the game. Give the child an angel (p. 8) and invite her to stick the angel on the ladder. Let every child have a turn.

SAY: Look at the angels. In his dream, Jacob saw angels climbing up and down a ladder to heaven.
Grow Stronger

KIDS STUFF

**Supplies:** Kids Stuff—Session 12b, crayons or markers, clear tape

- Punch out the ladder and the strip of angels (Kids Stuff, Session 12b).
  - Show the children how to fold the ladder. Help them tape the sides together. *(The ladder rungs will curve out some.)* Invite the children color the three angels.
  - Demonstrate how to move the strip of angels up and down “inside” the ladder.

**ASK:** Have you ever had a dream with angels in it like Jacob’s dream?

THANKSGIVING TURKEYS

**Supplies:** Leader’s Guide—p. 78, colored construction paper or tissue paper, glue sticks or glue, 9-inch paper plates, washable markers, scissors

- Cut colored construction paper or tissue paper into 1-inch squares. Trace the handprints and the turkey heads from “Thanksgiving Turkeys” onto construction paper, then cut them out.
  - Give the children paper plates, and invite them to glue small squares of construction paper or tissue paper onto the back side of the paper plate. When the glue is dry, show the children how to fold the paper plate in half so that it stands up.
  - Have the children glue the handprint to the folded plate so that it sticks up like a turkey’s feathers. Then have them glue the turkey’s head near the front of the plate.
  - Open the paper plate and write for each child: “I am thankful for __________.”

**SAY:** It will soon be Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is when we remember to be thankful to God for all the many blessings we have in our lives.

Worship

GATHER AND PRAISE

**Supplies:** Class Stuff—pp. 13 & 20, 28; CD-ROM and CD player or Deep Blue Kids DVD and DVD player; tape

- Locate the mural piece (ladder, p. 28) for the “Bible Story Mural” (pp. 13 & 20).
  - Gather the children around the Worship Table.
  - Invite a child to tape the mural piece of the ladder to the Bible Story Mural.

**SAY:** God is with us all the time, even when we are scared.

- Let the children listen to “Blessings and Birthrights” on the CD-ROM or DVD. The second time you play the song, encourage the children to sing along with you.
- Form a Prayer Circle. Go around the Prayer Circle and pray for each child by name.

**PRAY:** Dear God, be with ______ this week. We thank you for the many blessings we have in our lives, and we thank you for always being with us. Amen.
Jacob’s Dream
Thanksgiving Turkeys