

LESSON 18

# Jacob's Dream

GENESIS 28:10-22



————— BIBLE TRUTH —————

JACOB'S TRUE BIRTHRIGHT IS GIVEN BY GOD WHO DRAWS NEAR

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION ..... 5 MIN
2. BIBLE STORY ..... 10 MIN  
*SUPPLIES:* *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 18)
3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION ..... 5 MIN  
Where Is Jesus?  
*SUPPLIES:* Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare
4. SNACK QUESTIONS ..... 10 MIN  
*SUPPLIES:* Snack food/water
5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY ..... 5-10 MIN
6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN  
Coloring Page 18  
*SUPPLIES:* markers/crayons  
  
Steps to Heaven  
*SUPPLIES:* sheet of white paper accordion folded  
  
Remembering the Promise  
  
Our Wedding Vows  
*SUPPLIES:* wedding pictures; copy of wedding vows  
  
Giving a Tenth
7. CLOSING PRAYER ..... 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today’s lesson the children will learn about the vision God gave Jacob and how God repeated his promise to Jacob that he first gave Abraham.

Ask the children in your class if they have ever had a dream. Allow the children to talk about the dreams they can remember. Then tell them a story about a dream that you’ve had. Explain that God sometimes used dreams to speak to people about who he is and what he wanted them to do for him.

Explain that in today’s Bible story God is going to give someone a very special dream. The dream is special because it is going to give Jacob a hint about something special God planned to do.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 18, “Jacob’s Dream,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What did Jacob see in his dream?  
*(Jacob saw a stairway going from earth to heaven with angels going up and down on it.)*
- Who stood above the stairway?  
*(the Lord)*
- What did the Lord promise Jacob?  
*(Just like the Lord promised to Abraham and Isaac, the Lord promises that all the peoples of the earth would be blessed through Jacob.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- **What did Jacob think of God’s dream?**  
*(It helped him to know that God is real.)*
  
- **How do we know that God is real for us today?**  
*(We read about all he did in his Word. We can pray and he answers our prayers. Just like Jacob sensed the presence of the Lord after his dream, we can feel the presence of the Lord in our hearts by faith.)*

**Where Is Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_**

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: John 1:43–51

God came to Jacob in a dream of a ladder between earth and heaven. In the dream, God promised Jacob the same thing he had promised Jacob’s grandfather Abraham—to bless all families of the earth through his offspring. This blessing refers to salvation through Jesus Christ.

In John 1, Jesus lets us in on a little secret: he is the ladder of Jacob’s dream! Jesus is the only way to cross from earth to heaven. Jesus made it possible for man to be forgiven and go to heaven to live with God. He is the one who made the way for us.

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5–10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20–30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page 18—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What would it be like to see such a vision?  
*(Answers may vary.)*
- What will heaven look like?  
*(It will have streets paved with gold with crystal walls and be decorated with precious stones. There will be a river of life flowing from the throne of God, and God's light will light up everything [see Revelation 21 and 22].)*
- What do you think the angels in the coloring page are doing?  
*(worshiping God)*

**Steps to Heaven**

Prior to class take a standard sheet of paper and accordion fold the paper back and forth long ways. Then unfold the paper and notice that it resembles a stairway.

Ask the children if they have any steps in their houses. Take time to interview several of the children asking them where the steps go in their house. Tell the children that you made a miniature set of steps and then show them the paper you folded earlier. Using your index and middle fingers as pretend legs show how a set of steps can help you get up to a place that you could not reach.

Then ask the children what places the steps help them reach in their homes. Finally ask them where the steps in the story go from and to? (The steps in the story go from earth to heaven.) Tell the children that the steps represent a person who helps us go to heaven. Ask them, who is the person that helps us get to heaven, a place we would not be able to reach if it wasn't for him? (Help them with clues to answer Jesus if they don't get it right at first.)

Jesus is the set of steps or ladder (many translations describe the stairway of Jacob's vision as a ladder) that leads to heaven. We can only get there by taking the way Jesus provides through his death on the cross.

### Remembering the Promise

Have the children try to remember all the aspects of God's promise. See if they can guess all the parts that are repeated here from this passage.

- I will give you the land on which you are lying.
- Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth.
- You will spread out to the East, West, North, and South.
- All peoples of the earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.
- I am with you and will watch over you.
- I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised to you.

### Our Wedding Vows

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ wedding pictures
- ✓ copy of wedding vows (optional)

Bring in your wedding picture. (If you are single, bring in a wedding picture of parents or friends.) Tell the children about the wedding. Tell them your wedding vows. If you have a copy, read them to the children and explain that a vow is a special promise that is meant never to be broken. See if they can recall the vow God made Abraham that he repeats here in today's lesson to Jacob, see Genesis 12:2–3. Explain that the word “vow” is just another name for a promise.

Ask them if they've ever made a promise. If so, was it ever hard for them to keep?

### Giving a Tenth

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ several sets of ten items (small toy animals, pennies, etc.)

Read Genesis 28:20–22. Explain to the children that this is one of several places in the Bible where a person gives God back one-tenth (one out of ten) of all that he gives them. This can be a start to understanding tithing. Ask the children the following questions:

- If God gives Jacob ten (*insert name of item you've brought in*), how many (*name of item again*) will Jacob give back to God? (*one*)

- If God Gives Jacob ten bushels of wheat, how many bushels of wheat will Jacob give back to God?  
*(one)*
- If God gives Jacob ten baby lambs, how many baby lambs will Jacob give back to God?  
*(one)*
- Why would Jacob want to give God back one in ten of everything?  
*(to thank God for what he has given Jacob)*
- Of what do we give one out of every ten back to God?  
*(Our money—we give back one out of every ten pennies, quarters, and dollars.)*
- Why do we do this?  
*(to show our thankfulness to God for all he has given us)*

**PRAY** ..... **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 18 - JACOB'S DREAM

