

LESSON 18

Jacob's Dream

GENESIS 27:41 – 28:22



BIBLE TRUTH

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Genesis 28:10–22 from the Scriptures or read story 18, “Jacob’s Dream,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Blessing and the Rock
SUPPLIES:
✓ a bag of one-inch decorative rocks (one for each child)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Giving a Tenth
SUPPLIES:
✓ a box of sugar-coated fruit flavored cereal
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
The Ladder
SUPPLIES:
✓ crayons, colored pencils, and paper
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Who Is the Ladder?
SUPPLIES:
✓ six-foot stepladder
✓ three signs that read, “Jesus,” “Heaven,” “Earth”
✓ tape

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jacob leaves, Esau rebels—Rebekah has heard that Esau plans to kill Jacob, so she devises a plan to protect her favorite son. Neither Isaac nor Rebekah wants Jacob to marry a Canaanite woman. So this is the perfect time for Jacob to escape from Esau by leaving Canaan and going to the home of Laban, his uncle, to find a wife.

As Jacob leaves, Isaac blesses him a second time. Esau is so bitter and resentful that he disobeys his parents and does exactly the opposite of what Isaac told Jacob to do. To spite his father, Esau marries a Canaanite woman.

God confirms his covenant with Jacob—God reaches out in a dream and confirms his covenant with Jacob. Notice how God repeats to Jacob the same promise he made to Abraham. Jacob was on a journey, but he wasn't searching for God. It was God's idea to appear to Jacob. God is always the one who reaches out to us; we could never reach out to him on our own.

Jacob is afraid when he realizes God is in that place. But it is not a fear that makes him run away; instead, Jacob calls that place the "house of God" and the "gate of heaven."

Jacob commits his life to serving God—Jacob wakes up and knows God has been with him in his dream. He takes the stone he slept on and sets it up as a memorial, a pillar to mark the spot. Jacob is now excited about and committed to the purpose of God.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Genesis 28:10–22 from the Scriptures or read story 18, "Jacob's Dream," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Blessing and the Rock

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag of one-inch decorative rocks (one for each child)

Pass a rock to each of the children. Reread the part of the story where Jacob took the stone he used for a pillow the night before and set it up to mark the spot where the Lord met with him. He also vowed to serve the Lord at that place.

Ask the following questions:

■ How did God bless Jacob?

(God blessed Jacob by appearing to him in a dream, encouraging him, promising him many children and that he would be a blessing to many.)

■ How has God blessed you?

(The children might need some help in articulating the blessings they have been given by God. Also make sure to include the cross and the death of Christ as a blessing.)

Tell them to take their rock home and place it where it will remind them to thank God for his blessings.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Giving a Tenth

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a box of sugar-coated fruit flavored cereal

Give a handful of cereal to each of the children in your class. Ask them to divide it into piles of ten. Read Genesis 28:22 about the story of Jacob's oath to God after the dream of the stairway to heaven. Explain that a tithe is simply giving back to God one out of ten and it demonstrates our acknowledgment and gratitude that all we have comes from God. Have them pick one piece of cereal out of each pile of ten.

Then ask the class the following questions:

■ Does one out of ten seem like taking away a lot of your cereal?

(Steer them toward the reality that they still have most of their cereal left.)

■ Why does giving a tenth to God demonstrate gratitude?

(Just like it is selfish to keep a whole bag of candy for yourself, so it is selfish to keep everything you receive for yourself. Throughout history God has used the tithe—the tenth—to build his church and provide for the work of ministry. Giving back a small portion speaks of our trust in the provider to give us everything we need.)

■ What are the blessings the Lord gives us?

(Everything we have is a gift from God [James 1:17]. The greatest gift he has given us is eternal life through his Son [1 John 5:11]. By returning some of the material blessings that we have received from God back to God, we are saying that God is more important than what he gives.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

The Ladder

SUPPLIES:

crayons, colored pencils, and paper

Have the children draw a simple ladder with angels going up and down the ladder.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Who Is the Ladder?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ six-foot stepladder
- ✓ three signs that read, "Jesus," "Heaven," "Earth"
- ✓ tape

After reading and explaining the story, have all your children lie down and close their eyes as though they are sleeping. Set up the stepladder in front of the class. Have the children open their eyes and pretend they are dreaming. Tell them that in their dream they see a ladder (point to it). Then ask for a few volunteers to climb up and down the ladder. Line up three or four volunteers and allow each to climb to the top of the ladder and back down again. (Be sure to have another adult spot the children to make sure they do not fall.)

Have your volunteers sit back down and then show the class the three signs and ask the following questions:

Which sign should go on the floor at the base of the ladder? (Earth)

Which sign should go on the very top step? (heaven)

Which sign should be taped to the side of the ladder? (Jesus)

Ask the class to explain why the ladder in the story represents Jesus. Use the “Where Is Jesus?” section to teach them the answer.

LESSON 18 - JACOB'S DREAM

