

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**
Counting the Dust
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ magnifying glass
 - ✓ a spoonful of fine dust from a vacuum cleaner bag or a spoonful of cement mix
 - ✓ a sheet of paper (graph paper if you have it)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Promises and Challenges
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
Jacob’s Ladder
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ long strip of paper that can reach from the ceiling to the floor of your classroom
 - ✓ paper
 - ✓ colored pencils
 - ✓ stapler or tape
 - ✓ scissors
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Jesus Is the Ladder
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ 8½ × 11-inch colored card stock cut into 1½-inch strips (one strip for each child [one sheet will make seven strips])
 - ✓ pens and pencils

TOTAL 80 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Dreams

God has used dreams as a way to communicate with individuals he is calling on a mission. "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream" (Numbers 12:6).

God will also give interpretations of dreams such as he gave to Joseph to interpret the dreams of the cupbearer and baker. In fact, when Peter addresses the multitude in Acts 2:17, he affirms to the people that in the last days when God pours out his Spirit, the "young men shall see visions and ... old men shall dream dreams."

Though God still uses dreams as a means of communication, we don't have to wait for dreams to discover the will of God. Everything we need to live our Christian lives and find direction can be found in God's written Word.

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

Counting the Dust

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ magnifying glass
- ✓ a spoonful of fine dust from a vacuum cleaner bag or a spoonful of cement mix
- ✓ a sheet of paper (graph paper if you have it)

Cover a sheet of paper with light dust. Have the children try to guess how many individual particles are on the paper. Count the number of particles in a randomly picked one-eighth-inch

square. (If you're using graph paper, count the particles in a square and multiply by the number of squares on the sheet.) Then multiply by sixty-four to calculate the number of dust particles per square inch. Multiply that number by the area of the paper (in square inches) to give you an approximate number of dust particles on the paper. For example, if there are one hundred particles in one-eighth-square inch, multiply by sixty-four to get sixty-four-hundred particles in a square inch. If your paper is 8.5 by 11, then multiply 6,400 by 93.5 square inches (the area) to yield an approximate number of 598,400 particles of dust on the paper.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- If God were going to bless Jacob with descendants as numerous as the dust of the entire earth, how many would that be?
(It would be a number too large to count. And that is the point: not that we would know the exact number, but that it would be an unbelievable amount.)

- What is the ultimate blessing that would come through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?
(The blessing is Jesus and his salvation.)

- What do we learn about the mercy and kindness of God from the picture of the dust?
(God's mercy and kindness are incredibly large.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Promises and Challenges

Jacob fled to Haran to escape Esau's revenge (Genesis 27:41). Rebekah arranged for Isaac to send Jacob away to look for a wife, but the real reason motivating Rebekah was Jacob's safety. Have the children look at the story and come up with a list of Jacob's challenges and how God's promise would have ministered to him.

Challenge to Jacob

Jacob obtained the birthright deceitfully and he had to flee the very inheritance the birthright provided.

Jacob was all alone, having fled his home and everything that was familiar.

Though Jacob was rich, he had to leave his riches behind. When he finally reached Haran he had only his manual labor with which to purchase a bride.

Jacob did not have a relationship with God like his father did.

The Lord's care

The Lord blessed Jacob and gave him a promise of inheriting the land; thereby, giving Jacob a true birthright.

God tells Jacob that he is with him and will watch over him wherever he goes (Genesis 28:15).

The Lord promises to give Jacob the land and prosper him.

The Lord reveals himself to Jacob and gives him a vision of heaven.

Ask the children what our challenges are and how God has blessed us. Make sure to add to the list our fallen condition and the care demonstrated through the life and death of Christ. Refer to John 3:16 to connect the sacrifice of Jesus to God's love.

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 15 MIN

Jacob's Ladder

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ long strip of paper that can reach from the ceiling to the floor of your classroom
- ✓ paper
- ✓ colored pencils
- ✓ stapler or tape
- ✓ scissors

Before class, attach the long strip of paper to the classroom ceiling. Have the children each draw and color an angel then cut it out and affix it to the strip of paper. Ask the children what the strip of paper represents. (See "Where Is Jesus?" section of Teacher prep.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Jesus Is the Ladder

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ 8½ × 11-inch colored card stock cut into 1½-inch strips (one strip for each child [one sheet will make seven strips])
- ✓ pens and pencils

Have the children draw a simple six-rung ladder on their strip. Then, ask them to turn their ladder sideways and write the name JESUS with one letter in the space between each rung. Use this to help them remember that Jesus is the ladder or stairway in Jacob's dream. (See the "Where Is Jesus?" section of this lesson.) Tell the children to use the card as a bookmark to always remember that hints and prophecies about Jesus are found throughout the Old Testament. Ask them if they can remember some of the other places Jesus is pictured in the Old Testament. You can remind them of the animals God killed to clothe Adam and Eve, Noah's ark, or even the sacrifice that Noah offered after the flood. All these point to Jesus who provided our salvation by dying on the cross for our sins.