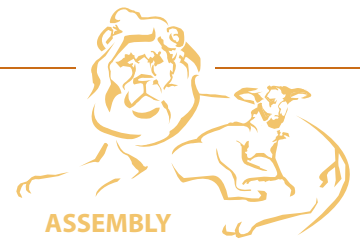


JACOB FLEES FROM LABAN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 31:1-21



*The story is short and can be read directly from the NIV Bible.
The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

LESSON IDEAS

FLEE EVIL

Supplies:

eight large index cards
with the following written
on them: evil desires of
youth, sin, love of money,
idolatry, righteousness,
faith, love, peace.

Explain to the children that God often teaches us to flee from things that are not good for us. God told Jacob to flee from Laban. In 2 Timothy 2:22, God tells us to "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Tell the children you are going to hold up a card and read it and (all together) they are to either to say "flee" or "follow." Go through the cards then ask the following questions.

- Why would God ask us to flee from things? (God wants to protect us from things that are harmful to us and things that do not honor Him.)
- What other things should we flee? (Accept other sins such as lying or disrespect.)
- What other things should we follow God in? (They may be able to name other fruits of the Spirit like kindness or self-control.)

JACOB FLEES FROM LABAN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 21:1-21

GOD'S WORD PROTECTS US

Supplies:

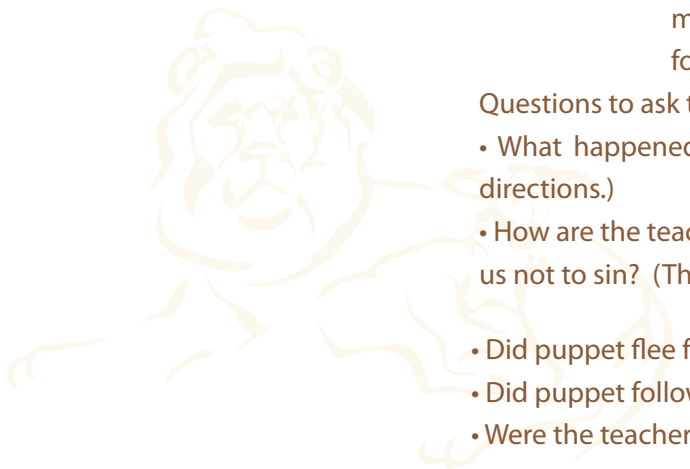
- a raw egg
- a small box

Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching.

- Teacher: (This is not the person with the puppet) Okay Puppet, I need to go out of the room for a bit, don't touch anything on the table.
- Puppet: Okay teacher, I won't touch anything.
- Teacher: I will be right back. Don't touch anything, especially that box. (On the table is a small box with a raw egg inside.)
- Puppet: (to himself) No problem, I'm not going to touch . . . I wonder what is in the box? No, I can't touch it. Well, I could touch it without picking it up. (Puppet cautiously touches the box and quickly backs away.)
- Puppet: I wonder what is in that box? I guess it can't hurt to pick it up. (Puppet picks up the box and then puts it right down again.)
- Puppet: There is something inside this box rolling around or something. Maybe if I shake it gently . . . (Puppet shakes box enough to move egg but not break egg.) I still can't tell what it is.
- Puppet: (to audience) Should I shake it a bit harder? He shakes it harder then whacks the box on table to crack egg) Uh-oh. (He puts the box down quickly then turns away just as the teacher comes back into the room.)
- Teacher: Puppet, did you move this box?
- Puppet: Well, I just. . .
- Teacher: (Opens the lid to reveal a cracked egg, letting some spill out to make a bit of a mess for the kids to see) Puppet, look what you did! My egg is broken!
- Puppet: I'm sorry, I guess I didn't follow your instructions.
- Teacher: I didn't tell you not to touch the box to hurt you, but to help keep you from breaking the egg. Next time you should follow my instructions. I know you didn't mean to break the egg. I forgive you.

Questions to ask the class:

- What happened? (The puppet disobeyed and didn't follow the teacher's directions.)
- How are the teacher's directions to not touch the box like God's directions for us not to sin? (They are both for our good so that we do not get into trouble.)
- Did puppet flee from evil? (No)
- Did puppet follow his teacher's directions? (No)
- Were the teacher's directions for Puppet good? (Yes)



JACOB FLEES FROM LABAN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 21:1-21

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.

God separated Jacob from Laban by His Word. Jacob's call was to return to the land of promise where through Jacob the generations promised to Abraham would come. God's mission would not be thwarted by Laban. Though Laban would pursue Jacob, God would warn Jacob in a dream not to harm Jacob. This is not the last time God would use a dream to keep the heir of His promise safe from harm. Jesus was protected in a similar way.

In the end, the Lord prospered Jacob and brought the Savior through the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as was promised. All of history including the events of Jacob's life, moved in the direction of God's redemptive plan.

