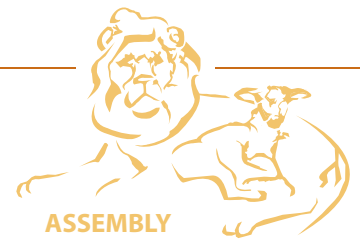


JACOB'S WRESTLING MATCH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 32



*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

ARM WRESTLING CHALLENGE

Have one of the dads participate in this lesson. Have the dad challenge any of the boys to an arm wrestling contest. Ask for volunteers. Line up three challengers. Have the dad quickly (but gently) beat the first two challengers. Then with the third challenger, have him apply just enough strength to make it a good contest. Finally after struggling for a minute or two, have the Dad allow the boy to win. Lead the class in shouts of hurray for the winner! Ask the class the following questions:

- Do you think the Dad was stronger than all three? (Yes)
- What happened in the last arm wrestle? (The dad allowed the boy to win.)
- How is this like our Bible story? (God is all-powerful and could have beaten Jacob, but He allowed Jacob to win.)

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THE ANGEL'S TOUCH

Have all the class line up along the wall. Have a teacher stand in the center of the room and pretend that they are an "angel". Have the children cross the room one at a time, walking past the angel. The "angel" should touch them with one finger on the leg or arm. The children are to act as though the touch hurt them. If they are touched in the leg, they should limp or hop to the other side of the room. If they are touched in the arm they should hold the "wound" with the other arm. When everyone has had a chance, gather around and discuss the skit with the following questions:

- What does our game remind you of from the story? (When the angel touched Jacob's hip, he hurt him.)
- Where is your hip?
Point to it.
- What can we learn from our story today? (God is very powerful. He can cause pain with just one touch.)
- Why do you think God did this to Jacob? (He wanted Jacob to always remember how powerful He is.)

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.

Jacob received a new name, Israel. Under the banner of this name that God would address His people. He would call them, "His people Israel." Jesus would be the one God chooses out of Israel to shepherd His people Israel. In the end all those who are in Christ will be called Israel. (Romans 9:25)

Christ is the one who appears as the Lord wrestling with Jacob. His appearance here as the Angel of the Lord anticipates the day when He would walk among us as a man.