

JACOB'S WRESTLING MATCH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 32

**The STORY**

Read "The Strange Wrestling-match" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 40-41).

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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

- What is this story about? (Jacob wrestling with an angel.)
- How long did Jacob wrestle? (All night long.)
- What did the angel do to Jacob? (Touched his hip and put it out of joint.)
- Who sent the angel to wrestle Jacob? (God)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jacob wrestling with an angel.

Engage the children by asking:

- Do all angels have wings? (No, some look like ordinary men.)
- What did Jacob say to the angel? (Genesis 32:26 says, "I will not let you go unless you bless me.")
- Why did Jacob know the angel could bless him? (Jacob thought that he must be powerful because he caused his hip to ache just by touching it.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

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

- Did angels ever appear to anyone else in the Bible? (Yes. The shepherds keeping watch over the flocks on Christmas Eve saw angels announce the birth of Jesus. The angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah to announce John the Baptist's birth. Gabriel also appeared to Mary to announce Jesus' birth. Angels also appeared to Joseph and to the wise men.)
- What was special about this angel? (Genesis 32:30 tells us that Jacob saw God face-to-face. The angel Jacob wrestled with was God disguised as an angel.)
- Who was more powerful: Jacob or God dressed as an angel? (God)
- How do we know from the story that God was more powerful? (The two wrestled all night long then God put Jacob's hip out of joint.)

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 as us as a man.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

