

Old Testament

Jacob's Journey

Genesis 30:25-33:11

Younger Verse

Christ loves me and gave Himself to save me. Galatians 2:20

Older Verse

I do not live anymore—it is Christ living in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God. He loves me and gave Himself to save me. Galatians 2:20

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

When you do something wrong, is it hard for you to ask forgiveness? Let's see how Jacob acts when he travels to meet Esau.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jacob stayed with his uncle Laban in the land. He was a shepherd to the sheep and goats. One day he told Laban that he would like to go back home. Laban insisted that he stay. He told Jacob that because of his presence, many good things had happened. Jacob shared how he wanted to do something for his own family.

Jacob told Laban that he did not want anything. He only asked that Laban give him all the sheep and goats that were spotted, speckled or dark colored. Laban thought this was a good plan because there were only a few sheep and goats that were spotted, speckled or dark colored.

After they agreed on this plan, Jacob put cut branches from almond trees in the water where the sheep and goats drank. Believe it or not, this made the baby lambs and goats have streaks and spots! God blessed Jacob's sheep and goats. His flock grew very large. In fact, Laban and his sons became jealous of all the sheep Jacob had.

One night, God told Jacob to leave Laban and travel back to his home town. So, Jacob gathered his things and left secretly with Rachel and Leah.

Laban did not find out until 3 days later that they were gone. He quickly went after them, taking his family with him. He was very upset and angry that Jacob had gone.

As they traveled, God spoke to Laban. God told Laban to be careful about what he said to Jacob. God told Laban not to say anything to Jacob good or bad.

Lesson Goals

Explain what it means to forgive someone
Tell how God helped and protected Jacob

When Laban caught up to Jacob, he asked Jacob why he left without even letting him kiss his daughters and grandchildren goodbye. Laban told Jacob what God had said to him. Jacob confessed his fear to Laban and they made an agreement together. Jacob gathered stones in a pile and agreed that God would watch over both of them while they were away from each other.

Jacob and his family continued on their journey. He sent a note to Esau and was nervous when a note came back saying that Esau was coming with 400 men! Because he was afraid of Esau, Jacob divided his people into two groups hoping that one group would survive if Esau attacked him.

Jacob prayed to God for help, reminding God that He was the one who asked Jacob to go back to his home. That night, Jacob was left alone. Everything that he owned, he had sent ahead of him, thinking that it would soothe Esau's hard heart.

During the night, someone wrestled with Jacob until daylight. When the person saw that he could not be overpowered by Jacob, he touched Jacob's hip and it came out of joint. Then the man asked to be let go. Jacob replied that he would only let go if He would bless him. Right there, God changed Jacob's name to Israel. No longer was he called a "grabber" or "deceiver." He had a new name and God had given him that name. (His new name meant "struggler with God.")

When the sun rose, Jacob looked up and saw his brother Esau. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. He was so excited to see his brother. Esau explained that God had blessed him and he had forgiven Jacob of all his tricks.

Jacob built an altar to God there, thanking God for how He had been faithful to him and his family.

God took care of Jacob and knew that everything would work out. Even through all the hard times, God was faithful to keep His promises and even help Jacob change his ways.

Just as Esau forgave Jacob for his tricks, God can forgive us for all our wrongs. God made a way to clean us from all our sins. Jesus took all our punishment and died on the cross to erase it from our lives. He became pure and clean when we believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive all the mistakes we have made. God forgives us and cleans out our hearts. He changes us, just like he changed Jacob. We become like a new person, doing things God's way instead of our way, just like Jacob changed his ways and followed God. If you want to know more about how to follow God, talk to us about it.

Learning Activities

Try activities to show how to follow God, forgive others, and change our ways.

Memory Verse Activities

Today we are learning the last half of the verse. Take time to talk about the word "faith." Share an example from your life of how you trusted God.

Prayer Time

Take time to pray and ask God to help us forgive anyone who has hurt us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snacks together. Make sure the kids help clean up.

Planning for Lesson 19
Joseph's coat and dream
Genesis 37:1-36

Preschool Lesson
For
Jacob's Journey

Remember that last week we learned that Jacob got married. Jacob stayed with his uncle Laban in the land. He was a shepherd to the sheep and goats. (Make sounds like a sheep and goat)

One day he told Laban that he would like to go back home. Laban insisted that he stay. He told Jacob that because he was there, many good things had happened. Jacob shared how he wanted to do something for his own family. So, Laban gave him some of his sheep and goats.

One night, God told Jacob to leave Laban and travel back to his home town. So, Jacob gathered his things and left secretly with Rachel and Leah.

Laban did not find out until 3 days later that they were gone. He quickly went after them, taking his family with him. (Pretend that you are traveling on a donkey or camel) He was very upset and angry that Jacob had gone.

As they traveled, God spoke to Laban. God told Laban to be careful about what he said to Jacob. God told Laban not to say anything to Jacob good or bad.

Laban told Jacob what God had said to him. Jacob and Laban made an agreement together. Jacob gathered stones in a pile and agreed that God would watch over both of them while they were away from each other.

Jacob and his family continued on their journey. He sent a note to Esau and was nervous when a note came back saying that Esau was coming with many men! Because he was afraid of Esau, Jacob divided his people into two groups hoping that one group would survive if Esau attacked him. (Divide the class down the middle like Jacob might have done.) Then, Jacob prayed to God for help.

When the sun rose, Jacob looked up and saw his brother Esau. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. He was so excited to see his brother. Esau explained that God had blessed him and he had forgiven Jacob of all his tricks.

Jacob built an altar to God there, thanking God for how He had been faithful to him and his family.

Thank God for taking care of us like He took care of Jacob. Ask God to forgive all our mistakes and help us to do things His way.

Hands-On Activities
For
Jacob's Journey

Jacob had his name changed. He no longer was called a deceiver, liar, or grabber. When a person becomes a Christian, God changes their name too. Instead of being mean, a person is nice. Instead of hurting others, a person is kind. Think of some ways that people can change when they become a Christian. Challenge the Christians to look at how they are changing. Be sensitive to those who may be interested in a "new name!"

Sing "I will change your name" or "He's changing me."

Jacob wrestled with God. The kids may want to wrestle, but be careful. It is easy to get hurt. Also, be sure more than 1 adult is in the room. A calmer version is to leg wrestle.

Esau forgave his brother for all the tricks he played. God wants us to forgive others also. Ask the kids to silently think of someone that they need to forgive. Pray and ask God to help everyone forgive like Esau forgave Jacob.

There is a fun drink snack called "Jacob's juice" on the attached sheet.

Play bingo using Jacob's name.

There must have been a big celebration when Jacob and Esau met. Make fun musical instruments. See the attached page called Jacob's Jamboree.

This weekend is Cinco de Mayo (the 5th of May). It is a special celebration time for Hispanic people. Bring a piñata, chips and salsa, tortillas etc. to celebrate with everyone.
