



1st & 2nd

Unit 3: The Promise

Story 8.B - Jacob (Genesis 25-32)

INTRODUCTIONS - Introduce yourself and consider having students do the same if you have children new to the group. Fill out the top of the Roster and take attendance.

BIBLE TIME - Have kids open their bookmarked Bibles (**Genesis 28**).

While Jacob travelled to Harran to escape Esau, he stopped for the night to sleep.

Read Genesis 28:12-15

Who did Jacob see walking up and down the stairs? (Angels were walking up and down between heaven and earth.)

Whose voice did he hear? (Jacob heard God talking to him.)

How did God introduce himself? (He said that He was the God of Abraham and of Isaac.)

Why do you think that would have been a good way to say who He was? (It was a way to remind Jacob that He is the God who made promises to his grandfather Abraham and to his father Isaac.)

What blessings does God give to Jacob? (Encourage discussion and take the time to go through each promise that the Lord made in these verses.)

Last week we learned that Jacob tricked his father into giving him a blessing. Do you think Jacob may have needed to hear it from God himself to believe that he really had the blessing? (Very likely, Jacob would have doubted that God would give him the blessing. He didn't know that God had planned to give him the blessing all along.)

Read Genesis 28:16-17

How did Jacob feel after his dream? (He was afraid because he realized that he had been wrestling with God all night and he didn't even know it.)

What did Jacob compare the place he was at to? (He said it was holy like the house of God.)

Jacob continued on to Laban's house. He got married to two sisters, Leah and Rachel, and had 11 sons. He finally decided to go home and make peace with Esau.

Read Genesis 32:22-25

Where was Jacob when he met the man? (Jacob was alone on the other side of a river.)

How do you think Jacob felt as he wrestled with a strange man all night? (Encourage discussion.)

What happened to Jacob's hip? (The man touched it and it became twisted.)

Read Genesis 32:26-28

What did Jacob demand in order to let the man go? (He demanded that the man would bless him.)

What did the man change his name to? (Israel, this is why we call the descendants of Jacob Israelites.)

Who was the man that wrestled with Jacob? (God.)

***Optional Extension: Read Isaiah 41:8-10**

This is a passage where God is speaking through Isaiah who was a prophet. What does He call Jacob? (He calls him His servant whom He has chosen.)

Think back to our lesson over the last two Sundays, when did God choose Jacob? (Before he was born, God told Rebekah that He would be chosen over his brother.)

What did God call Abraham, Jacob's grandfather? (God called Abraham His friend.)

Even though God says, "But you, Israel..." who is He talking to? (God is talking to the nation of Israel, who are Jacob's descendants.)

Why does God say that His people, the nation of Israel, should not be afraid? (He said that God is with them and will strengthen and help them.)

***Gospel Connection**

When Jacob tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing that was supposed to go to Esau, did he ruin God's plan? (No, in Genesis 25:23 God tells Rebekah that the older son would serve the younger one. He planned for Jacob to be the one who received the blessing from Abraham before Jacob was even born.)

Is Jacob a perfect person? Why or why not? (Encourage discussion.)

Even though he wasn't perfect, he was chosen for a perfect plan, to bring a perfect person into the world two thousand years later. What was that plan? (Jesus came from Jacob's family to live a perfect life and then die for our sin.)

Preview Next Week: This week we learned about how, despite the tradition of birthrights, Jacob ended up with the blessing and covenant promise handed down from Abraham. Next week we'll learn how God again can take the worst circumstances and use them to further his plans.

CRAFT: COOTIE CATCHER - Give each kid a copy of the cootie catcher. Before folding, go through each section. Guide them through the process of folding the cootie catcher. If there is time, allow them to play the game together for a while.

MEMORY VERSE - Practice the verse together using one of the activities on the Memory Game List.

Unit 3 Memory Verse: "Rejoice in the LORD always, again I will say, rejoice!" ~ Philippians 4:4

PRAYER

Ask the group if they have any prayer requests before leading the kids in prayer.

COMMUNITY & SNACK TIME

Hand out snacks, and water. This is an intentional time to create a sense of community within the group. Sit at the table with the kids and encourage conversation as they eat. If you have extra time, consider playing one of the community building games from the list.