



Pre-K & Kindergarten

Unit 3: The Promise

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

Some Pre-K kids may arrive at the beginning of the service. Do these two activities with them:

TABLE ACTIVITIES - Start with play-doh, puzzles, pop beads, or coloring from the cabinet.

WORSHIP - At 8:45 / 10:30 have kids clean up and gather on the carpet for music. Sing songs with them as you feel led. You may use the CD player and song sheet or sing a song of your choice.

WELCOME - About 15–20 minutes after service starts, have kids sit in a circle on the rug. Consider welcoming them with the following song, to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

We're glad you're here today (*clap*), we're glad you're here today (*clap*),
Wave your hands and say hello (*everyone waves*), we're glad you're here today (*clap*).
God loves you, so do we (*hug yourself*), God loves you, so do we (*hug yourself*),
We are all a family (*everyone puts hands in the middle*), God loves you, so do we (*hug yourself*).

Set behavioral expectations with the following questions:

Where are we? *We're at church.*
Why are we here? *To learn about God and worship him.*
How should we act in this special place? *Listen carefully and respect each other.*

Go around the circle and let each kid introduce themselves and answer the Question of the Day. (At your discretion, pass a stuffie around during introductions.) *Have you ever had a dream that you wanted to tell everyone about?*

BIBLE SKILLS - Get out the Bible. Explain that the Bible is our greatest treasure because it is the Word of God. (Pre-K will find the Bible in the Treasure Box). Explain how God, the creator of the world and everything in it, teaches us about himself in this special book. Go over the Bible knowledge points below:

The Bible has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
Both parts teach us about God's big plan to save people from their sins.

Let kids pass the Bible around the circle, with each of them patting it gently and saying, “The Word of God.”

MEMORY VERSE - “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice!” ~ Philippians 4:4

- Show them where the words are in the Bible to help them understand that it is a part of God's Word.
- Practice the verse together - Consider using one of the activities on the Memory Game List

BIBLE STORY - Have the kids move to the center of the rug if they are not already there for storytime. Using the pictures and/or items provided, tell the story for today.

(*Show the picture of the family tree.*) Our story this week is about Isaac and Rebekah's twin boys. The first was Esau; the second was Jacob. When Esau was born, his body was red and hairy. He loved to be outside and was a good hunter. Jacob was not very hairy and he was a quiet man who liked to be inside instead. (*Stand up if you like to be outside like Esau. Put your hands on your head if you like to be inside like Jacob.*)

Isaac was very old and was nearly blind. (Point to the picture of Isaac on the family tree.) Rebekah and Jacob had a plan to trick Isaac. She dressed Jacob up in Esau's clothes and stuck fur on his skin (put on furry gloves) so, when Jacob brought his father a yummy meal, his father would think he was Esau. (show them meal on tray) It worked! Isaac gave Esau's blessing to Jacob.

Esau was really mad. What do you do when you're mad? What do you think Esau wanted to do to Jacob? Esau wanted to hurt Jacob, so Jacob had to leave to go to his uncle's house. I think Jacob must have been pretty scared. Have you ever made a bad choice and then been scared of what would happen? Even though Jacob did a mean thing to Esau, God still was with him. God even came to tell Jacob not to be afraid two times!

On the way, he stopped to sleep and had a strange dream about a ladder full of angels going up and down from earth to heaven. God stood above the ladder and reminded Jacob of his promises. He said, "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised." (Genesis 28:13–15). I bet that made Jacob feel much better.

Guess what? God came to him again! One night, he wrestled with a mysterious man all night. Jacob would not let go until he received a blessing. God gave him the blessing of a new name. He became known as Israel. God also gave him a bad hip to remind him of this night. As Jacob limped away, he was amazed: "I have seen God face to face" (Genesis 32:30). Can you limp like Jacob did after he wrestled with God?

God blessed him with a lot of animals and a big family, and from that big family would come Jesus, who would bring blessing to all families. God always keeps his promises.

God blessed Jacob even though he was tricky, and He reminded Jacob that He would be with him.

5. SNACK & REVIEW - Pass out snacks and water at the table (check allergies on attendance roster). Ask kids if they have any prayer requests and pray before eating. As they're eating, review the story and take some time getting to know them!

6. CRAFT: NOODLE STEW - Give each kid a paper bowl and have them put the label that says, "God blessed Jacob even though he was tricky." on the side of it. Have them color the inside of the bowl with brown crayons to make the stew and then glue on the noodles to the bottom of the bowl. Review the story with the group as they complete their 'stew'.

7. PLAYTIME If time allows, kids may play with toys or do a community game until their parents come.

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