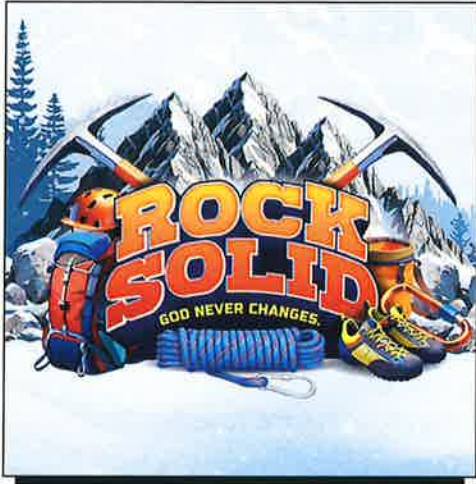




JACOB'S DREAM

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 27–28

FOCUS VERSES: Malachi 3:6a, Romans 8:38–39,
Lamentations 3:22–23

Summary: God made the same promise to Abraham's son Isaac that he made to Abraham. Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Isaac intended to bless Esau, but Jacob deceived him and received the blessing instead. Esau was angry, so Jacob fled. On his journey, Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching heaven and heard God reaffirm the covenant. Despite Jacob's deceit, God revealed His plan and faithfulness through His promises.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



God never changes.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:

HE

DOES GOD CHANGE OVER TIME?

God is always the same. We can trust that He is always good, loving and in control.

WE

DO OUR MISTAKES CHANGE GOD'S LOVE FOR US?

No! God's love for us doesn't change. He loves us no matter what.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: RECOGNIZING ABUSE

As a loving, caring adult, you will be in a position to learn a lot about kids' lives. You could be a first line of defense in recognizing when something is not right. A kid may share that they are being hurt, but most often they won't. Here are some signs that a kid may be in danger:

- **Physical abuse:** unexplained bruises or other injuries, repeated injuries, burn marks, scars from previous injuries.
- **Sexual abuse:** drawings or play with sexualized tones, talking about sexual topics that are not age-appropriate, excessive touching of self.
- **Neglect:** consistently poor hygiene, malnutrition, stealing food, seems to lack adult supervision.
- **General potential signs of abuse or neglect:** sudden unexplained change in behavior, withdrawal, increased aggression with others, increased anxiety or clinginess.

If you have concerns that a kid is experiencing abuse or neglect, report your observations to appropriate local authorities right away and also share with your church leadership. You do not need solid proof to report and you could save a kid's life.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: LONELINESS

Loneliness is pervasive in our culture. One survey reveals 28 percent of Gen Z reported that they frequently feel lonely.* Our kids are growing up in a very lonely culture. Many spent their younger years isolated from others due to the pandemic. In today's lesson, Jacob is very much alone after having to flee his family. You can help your group be a place where kids do not feel lonely. Be intentional in connecting kids together. Watch for kids who tend to isolate and work to build relationships with them. Utilize the Belong activities to get to know kids and pay attention to things they share about themselves. Help kids feel known. Most importantly, emphasize that God is always near to them, loving them, and helping them.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:

britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Blessing: gift of power, wealth, success and a special relationship with God

Covenant: a very special promise

Deceive: deliberately causing someone to believe something that is untrue

Unchanging: always stays the same

Bible TEACHING

JACOB'S DREAM GENESIS 27-28



PRAY: God, You are good and You keep all Your promises! Thank You that You never change and we can always trust Your Word. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, skein of yarn, robe

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Pull the yarn from the middle of the skein so that it doesn't tangle.

Say: God promised Abraham that he would have a great land, a large family and that his family would be a blessing to the whole world.

Call up a volunteer to be "Abraham." Ask the volunteer to hold one end of the yarn.

Say: He promised Abraham a son in his old age. God kept that promise. Abraham's son was named Isaac.

Call up another volunteer to be "Isaac." Have Isaac stand next to Abraham and hold the yarn a short distance away so that the two are linked together.

Say: When Isaac grew up, God made the same covenant, or promise, with Isaac as He had made with his father. Isaac married Rebekah and they had twin boys named Esau and Jacob.

Show teaching illustration: Isaac with His Twins.

Call up three volunteers to be "Rebekah," "Esau" and "Jacob." Have each hold the yarn so that all five volunteers are linked together. Have Jacob stand on the very end and add some extra length of yarn between him and Esau.

Say: As time passed, Isaac grew older and could not see well. He wanted to give Esau his blessing before he died. Rebekah made a plan for Jacob to pretend to be Esau so that he could receive the blessing instead. Jacob wore his brother's clothes and even put goat skin on his hands and neck so he would seem hairy like Esau.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Place the robe around Jacob's shoulders.

Say: He took delicious food to his father, letting Isaac think he was Esau.

Say: The plan worked. Isaac gave Jacob the blessing intended for Esau. Esau was furious and wanted to kill his brother. Rebekah told Jacob he should run away to Haran, where her brother Laban lived.

Have Jacob take a few steps away from the other volunteers without letting go of the yarn. Then have him sit down on the ground.

Say: Jacob left his home. Along the way, he stopped and camped for the night, using a stone as a pillow. He had a strange dream.

Show teaching illustration: Jacob's Dream.

Have Jacob close his eyes and pretend to sleep.

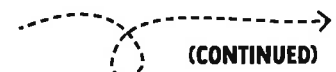
Read Genesis 28:12–13 directly from the Bible: *And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.*

Say: God also told Jacob, "Your descendants will stretch from west to east and from north to south. All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you. I am with you wherever you go."

Have everyone clap for your five volunteers and invite them to return to their seats.

Say: Our volunteers demonstrated something important for us. The yarn represented God's promise to His people. Jacob deceived his family and ran away from home in shame, but was he ever disconnected from God's promise to his family?

Allow the kids to answer.

 (CONTINUED)

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: God made the same promise to Jacob that He had made to Abraham and Isaac. God had a plan for Jacob. Jacob had lied, schemed and tried to get ahead by doing things his way, but God showed Jacob that the true source of hope was in God and His promises.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God kept His covenant to bless the nations through Abraham's family. God had a plan for Jacob even when it seemed his mistakes would mess things up. God's promise carried on for many generations until one day, the greatest gift of all would come through the family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—our Savior, Jesus.

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

BE MY TWIN

SUPPLIES: Timer

OR

MEMORY MOVEMENT

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

COLOR RUN

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable page, coloring supplies, painter's tape

OR

PASS THE PRESENT

SUPPLIES: Bibles, gift box, plastic wrap, printable pages, scissors

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

GOD'S MERCY

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, poster board, sticky notes (several per kid), painter's tape

OR

PRAYER WHEEL

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page



BE MY TWIN

SUPPLIES:

Timer

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Encourage kids to pair up with someone they don't get to see very often.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that God always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Discuss:** Does anyone know any twins?
5. **Discuss:** Have you ever participated in twin days? What did you do? What made you "twins?"
6. *Divide kids into pairs.*
7. *Pairs will stand facing each other. Choose one person from each pair to be the Leader. The other person will be the Twin. The Leader will slowly move their body and the Twin will need to mirror their movements exactly. Set a 30 second timer for the Leader to move around. Then have kids switch roles and repeat.*
8. *Have kids find new partners and repeat as time allows.*
9. **Say:** Great job moving together!
10. **Discuss:** Was it easier to be the Leader or the Twin?
11. **Discuss:** Was the Twin able to copy the movements exactly?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we are learning about a set of twins. No matter how much changed in their lives, God always stayed the same.



MEMORY MOVEMENT

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Have kids stand in a circle in your space.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Consider the physical needs of your group when choosing movements. As an alternative, kids can move a small object across a table in different ways.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that God always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Say:** Let's play a game where the rules constantly change!
5. **Say:** We will move across our space and see who can get there first by following directions.
6. *Line kids up on one side of your space.*
7. **Say:** Start by crab-walking across our space.
8. *When kids are only halfway across your space, change the instructions.*
9. **Say:** Let's change the instructions from crab-walking to walking.
10. *Once kids are all on the other side, give the next direction.*
11. **Say:** This time, hop back across our space.
12. *When kids are halfway across your space, change the instructions.*
13. **Say:** Let's change that from hopping to skipping.
14. *Play as many rounds as time allows.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

That was a lot of change! It's hard to play a game when the rules keep changing! Isn't it great to know that God will never change! We live in a world where change happens a lot, but God will always be the same—yesterday, today and tomorrow.



COLOR RUN

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable page, coloring supplies, painter's tape

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide. Print two copies of the printable page on cardstock. Tape them side by side to the wall on one side of your space. Place coloring supplies under each verse.

ADAPTATIONS FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Kids with mobility issues can be stationed near the words and have a runner take their place, tagging them when it's their turn to color. Or they can have a buddy run with them for support.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
3. **Discuss:** Does God change over time?
4. **Say:** God is always the same. We can trust that He is always good, loving and in control.
5. **Discuss:** How did God show Jacob He never changes?
6. **Say:** Despite Jacob's tricks and schemes, God still made the same promises to Jacob that He made to Abraham.
7. **Say:** God is the Lord of the whole universe. Not only is He in control of everything, but He is good and loving. He keeps His promises to His people.
8. **Say:** Let's practice memorizing this verse together by having a relay race.
9. *Divide kids into two teams and have them line up on the opposite side of your space as the printable pages.*
10. **Say:** Each player will race to their memory verse, read the verse out loud and color in one word of the verse. Then they will race back and tag the next player.
11. *Start the race and cheer kids on!*
12. *Play until both teams completely color in all the words of their verse.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Praise God for He is the same yesterday, today and forever! We can trust that God never changes.



PASS THE PRESENT

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, gift box, plastic wrap, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out. Place the "God never changes!" page inside the box. Wrap the box multiple times in plastic wrap (1 layer per kid). As you wrap the box, place the "Attributes of God" cards in between the layers.

LEADER TIP: Attach small prizes or candy to the "Attributes of God" cards and wrap them up with the box. Remind kids that the prizes are reminders of God's goodness and love.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids in a seated circle.*
2. **Discuss:** What promise did God make to Abraham?
3. **Say:** There was a long time between God's promise to Abraham and His promise to Jacob.
4. **Discuss:** Abraham and his relatives didn't always follow God's plan. Why didn't God change His mind about the promises He made?
5. **Discuss:** Does God change over time?
6. *Lead kids to find Malachi 3:6a in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
7. **Say:** God is always the same. We can trust that He is always good, loving and in control.
8. **Say:** This box has a special message inside. Let's take turns unwrapping the box.
9. *Hand the box to the first kid and have them unwrap a layer and then pass it to the next kid. They will keep any cards that fell out.*
10. *Once the box is completely unwrapped, open it and show kids the piece of paper. Have kids hold up their cards and read them aloud.*
11. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
12. **Say:** Every time we unwrapped a layer around this box, the box changed. But God never changes, no matter what else is going on! These truths about who He is never change!
13. **Discuss:** Which attribute of God do you find the most comforting?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is unchanging! He will always keep His promises!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Why do you think the birthright and Isaac's blessing were such a big deal to Jacob and Esau? Was this a normal thing for families to do?

Say: In the days of Jacob and Esau, being the firstborn came with privileges such as being head of the family and inheriting a double portion of land and money. Ancient laws required that a father couldn't just give away his wealth to his favorite child. Instead, the oldest son received the birthright. Archaeologists have discovered ancient texts such as the Mari Tablets and the Nuzi Tablets, which record cultural rules that Isaac would have known and followed. Rules for birthrights and deathbed blessings appear in these ancient texts, showing us that this story from the Bible matches what was happening in Isaac's culture at the time. However, God showed this family that hope comes from Him, not from tradition or an inheritance.

Read Jeremiah 29:11 directly from the Bible: *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... LONELINESS?

Discuss: Can you share about a time when you felt lonely?

Discuss: Do you think kids are lonelier these days? What might be some reasons for that?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: A lot of people feel lonely these days. If you've felt that, you are not alone. Sometimes it might feel challenging to make friends or hang out with others. We spend a lot of time on screens, but this isn't the same as having real friendships with people. God wants us to connect with other people. Maybe this week you can make a point to talk to someone new, especially someone else who might be lonely too. Even when we're alone, we can trust God is always with us. The Bible teaches us that when we feel lonely, we can talk to God. Psalm 25:16 says: *Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.*



GOD'S MERCY

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, poster board, sticky notes (several per kid), painter's tape

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Write the word *mistakes* on the poster board. Hang the poster board on the wall in your space.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What mistakes did Jacob make in our Bible story today?
2. *As kids brainstorm, write their answers in small text on the poster board.*
3. **Discuss:** How did God respond to Jacob's bad choices?
4. **Discuss:** Does God's love for us ever change?
5. *Lead kids to find Lamentations 3:22-23 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
6. **Discuss:** God's mercies never cease. What about when we make mistakes? What are some mistakes we make?
7. *As kids brainstorm, write their answers in small text on the poster board.*
8. **Say:** We all make mistakes, but His love and forgiveness are so great that it covers our mistakes.
9. *Distribute sticky notes and writing supplies to everyone.*
10. **Say:** Write simple messages about God's love (e.g. God loves me no matter what, God's love never changes, God loves, etc.).
11. *Have kids draw a heart or cross.*
12. **Say:** Then go up to the poster board and place them over the words.
13. **Discuss:** Do our mistakes change God's love for us?
14. **Say:** We all make mistakes. God is so merciful and loving that He covers our sins with His grace. God's love for us doesn't change. He loves us no matter what.
15. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change. Thank You that Your love for us is always the same. Help us trust You every day. Amen.
16. **Say:** God never changes. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



PRAYER WHEEL

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).
Print the printable page (1 per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: To support kids who have difficulty brainstorming, first make a list of a few ideas for each ring as a group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Did Jacob's actions change God's love for him?
2. *Lead kids to find Romans 8:38–39 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
3. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
4. **Say:** Do our mistakes change God's love for us?
5. **Discuss:** No! God's love for us doesn't change. He loves us no matter what.
6. **Say:** It is not always easy to remember how much God loves us. Especially if we feel like we messed up or made a mistake.
7. **Say:** We will write some things on this paper we can pray about, and then we will write our reminder of God's love.
 - **On the outer ring:** Write something that tries to pull us away from God.
 - **On the middle ring:** Write something about God that never changes.
 - **On the inner ring:** Write a truth from Romans 8:38–39 (e.g., God always loves me, nothing can change God's love for me, God is always with me, etc.).
8. **Say:** When you are done writing, find an area in our space to be by yourself and pray about the things on your prayer wheel.
9. **Discuss:** How can we show others the same type of love that never gives up, just like the love that God shows us?
10. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change. Thank You that Your love for us is always the same. Help us trust You every day. Amen.
11. **Say:** God never changes. Let's take time to respond to Him.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



**JESUS CHRIST
IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY
AND TODAY
AND FOREVER.
(HEBREWS 13:8)**



God Never Changes!



PASS THE PRESENT

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JACOB'S DREAM

PAGE 2 OF 3

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out.

God is unchanging.	God is faithful.
God is trustworthy.	God is wise.
God is good.	God is the Creator.
God is mighty.	God is in control.
God is King.	God is with us.



PASS THE PRESENT

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JACOB'S DREAM

PAGE 3 OF 3

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out.

God helps us.	God gives us hope.
God is a Promise Maker.	God is a Promise Keeper.
Jesus is the Son of God.	Jesus is Lord of all.
Jesus is our Savior.	Jesus teaches us.
God knows us.	God loves us.

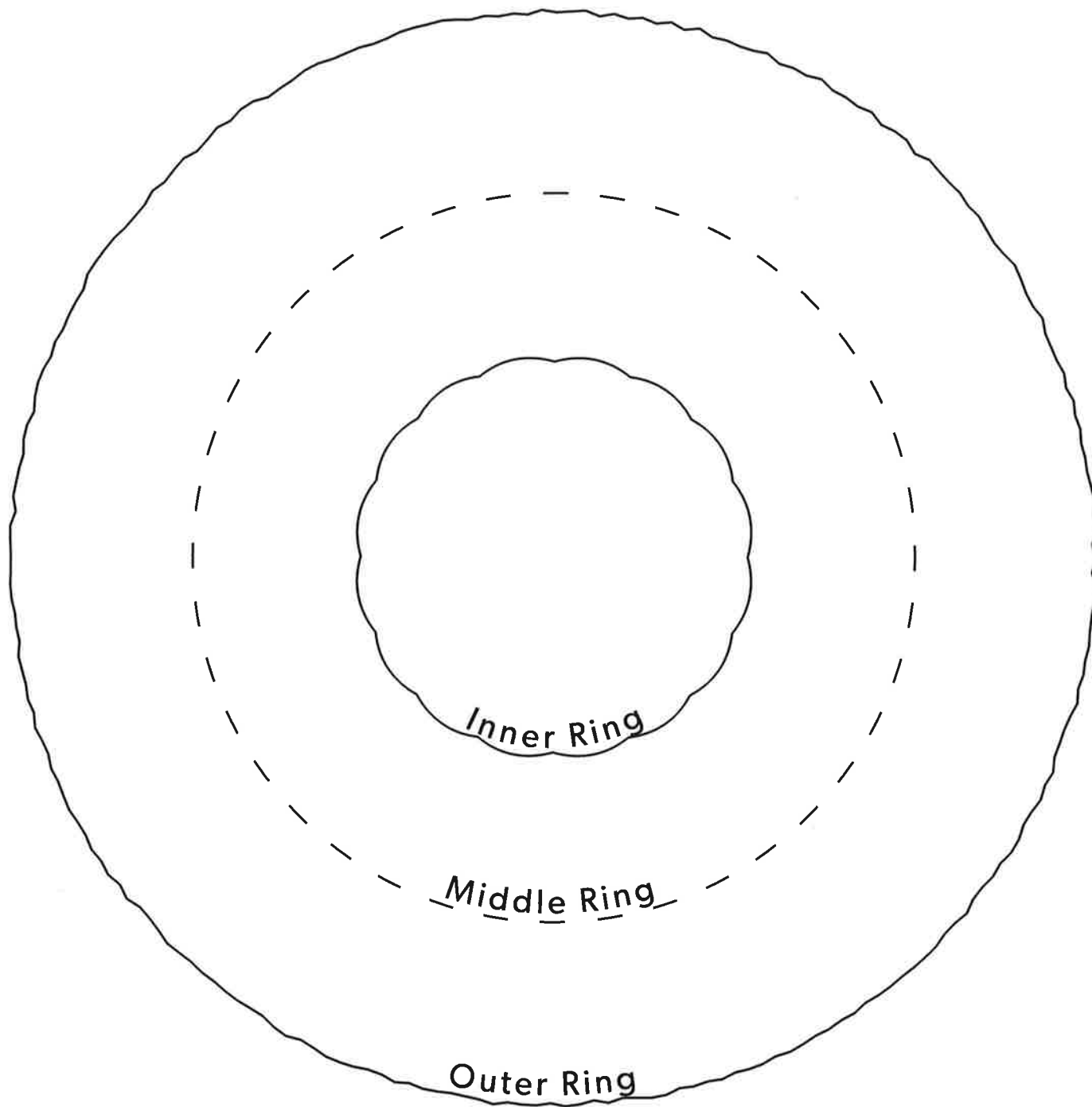


PRAYER WHEEL

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JACOB'S DREAM

PAGE 1 OF 1

PREP: Print the printable page (1 per kid).



***For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 8:38-39)***



TAKE-HOME

JACOB'S DREAM

BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 27-28 Jacob tricked his father Isaac and took Esau's rightful blessing, so he ran away. On the journey, Jacob dreamed of a ladder to heaven, and God reminded him He was still faithful and keeps His promises.

POINT TO JESUS: God had a plan for Jacob even when it seemed his mistakes would mess things up. His promise carried on for many generations to come until one day the greatest gift of all would come through the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — our Savior, Jesus.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever.*
(HEBREWS 13:8)

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!



**WHAT IS SOMETHING SURPRISING THAT
HAPPENED TODAY?**



DOES GOD CHANGE OVER TIME?
God is always the same. We can trust
that He is always good, loving and in
control.



**DO OUR MISTAKES CHANGE GOD'S LOVE
FOR US?**
No! God's love for us doesn't
change. He loves us no matter what.

HOW IS GOD INVITING **ME** TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ I can talk to God about ... | ☐ I wonder ... |
| ☐ I can remember ... | ☐ I can ... |



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Everyone write a mistake you've made on a paper slip. Throw it away. Talk about how nothing we do changes how God feels about us.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Loneliness can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**





GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week! Read each passage and answer the three questions.



DAY 1

Read: Genesis 28:10-17

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 2

Read: Genesis 28:18-22

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 3

Read: Isaiah 40:6-8

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 4

Read: 2 Timothy 2:11-13

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?





TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

JACOB'S DREAM



FINISH THE ILLUSTRATION

WORD SEARCH

F H C P S C H T S H C C H P H C
O T R T U N C H A N G I N G H T
R T L T L T S T H F D L P L K B
G K P K A A K T L K R E K T T L
I R R F D V R B R R E S A U R Y
V F O F D V N R B F A R F R F H
E S D S E N S T V S M A B L S N
N N I N R T N L T N P T N T N V
E L G L Y J L T R L V T L L L N
S U A V L R N I R N T N N T R L
S U L J A C O B B T H N C L N J

Find these: Jacob, Esau, Dream,
Ladder, Unchanging

SOS

- Instructions: With a partner, use different colors to take turns writing either an S or an O in a square.
- If you write "SOS" in order in any direction, draw a line through it with your color.
- The ends when the grid is completely filled.
- Whoever has the most SOS's in their color, WINS!