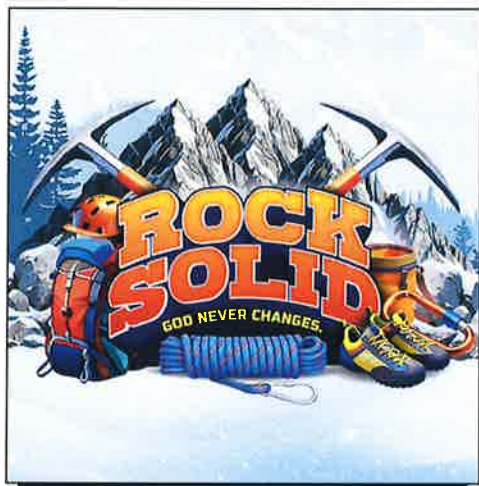




JACOB'S DREAM

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

FIND IT
IN THE

Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching illustration: Abram

Say: Last week we learned about Abram and Lot and how God is in control.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible.

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Genesis. Genesis is the first book of the Bible and found in the Old Testament.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline.

Say: This story falls in the "Patriarchs" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened in the beginning days of God's people, the Israelites!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme.

Say: This month we are focusing on the truth that God is unchanging.

Say: This week we will learn together about Abram's grandson Jacob and that even when we make mistakes, God's love for us never changes.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Genesis. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Genesis 27-28).

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.

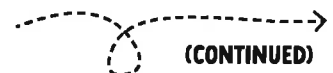
Read Genesis 28:12-13 directly from the Bible: *And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham 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

LEFT SIDE, RIGHT SIDE

SUPPLIES: None

OR

HOW DOES IT CHANGE?

SUPPLIES: Sponge, water, rock, dirt, bowl, table, paper towels

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

TRICKY VOICE VERSES

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide

OR

UNCHANGING LIGHT

SUPPLIES: Bible, cardstock (1 per kid), flashlight, kid scissors (1 per kid), coloring supplies

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 NEVER CHANGES

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

OR

GOD LOVES ME ALL THE TIME!

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, paper



LEFT SIDE, RIGHT SIDE

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Have kids turn and face the wall of their choice if you don't have space for them to physically move there.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: If quick movements are a challenge, kids can use an arrow on an index card and point it left or right.

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! I will tell you something and if you think it can change, move to the right. If you think it can't change, move to the left.
 - Leaves
 - The ocean
 - A bed
 - The sun rising
 - A book
 - Bugs
 - Butterfly
 - A dog
 - A chair
 - God
5. **Say:** Some of these things are living and some are not, but all living things change somehow, except God! God never changes!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Great job working through whether or not these things changed. There are some things in our lives that will change. God never changes!



HOW DOES IT CHANGE?

SUPPLIES:

Sponge, water, rock, dirt, bowl, table, paper towels

PREP:

Lay items out on a table for easy use.
Fill the bowl with water.

LEADER TIP: Swap out the items for any easy items you already have that can change.

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:** I have a bunch of items here on my table. Take a look at them and think about how they might change over time.
5. **Discuss:** How could some of these items change?
6. *Invite kids to give suggestions.*
7. **Say:** If I put this sponge in the water, what might change?
8. *Guide kids to say the sponge gets wet and it soaks up some of the water.*
9. **Say:** That's right! Both the water and the sponge change. What if I put this rock in the water?
10. *Guide kids to say the water will rise.*
11. **Say:** Good job! The water rises in the bowl. What if I put this dirt in the water?
12. *Guide kids to say the dirt sinks under the water.*
13. **Say:** Wow! That was a lot of changing.

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Great job guessing on how these items will change. This month we are learning about Someone who never changes: God! No matter how much time goes by, God is unchanging.



TRICKY VOICE VERSES

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Kids might have difficulty keeping their eyes closed for this period of time. They can also sit with their back toward the speaker.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How did God show Jacob that He never changes and is always good, loving and in control?
3. *Practice the verse together several times.*
4. **Say:** Let's practice our memory verse by changing our voices and seeing if we can guess who is saying the verse!
5. *Have all the kids close their eyes. Quietly tap one kid on the back. Have them go up front and say the verse in a disguised voice. While their eyes are still closed, give the other kids three chances to guess who is saying the verse. Have everyone open their eyes to reveal who was speaking.*
6. *Have everyone close their eyes again and repeat the activity as many times as you have time for.*
7. **Discuss:** This activity reminds us of Jacob tricking Isaac by disguising himself as Esau. Was it hard to tell whose voice was saying the verse?
8. **Discuss:** Does God change over time?
9. **Say:** God is always the same. We can trust that He is always good, loving and in control.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

We can trust that God never changes and is always in control! He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow!



UNCHANGING LIGHT

SUPPLIES:

Bible, cardstock (1 per kid), flashlight, kid scissors (1 per kid), coloring supplies

PREP:

Ensure your space can be darkened enough to see the shadows.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Encourage kids to draw their shape before cutting to make it easier for them to make.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What change did Jacob see in his life?
2. **Say:** Jacob's life was full of change. He went from home to the wilderness, from comfort to running away, from lying to hearing God's promise.
3. **Discuss:** Does God change over time?
4. **Read:** Malachi 3:6a.
5. **Say:** God is always the same. We can trust that He is always good, loving and in control. God gave Jacob a promise that He had already given to Abraham and Isaac. God's plans and character stayed the same, no matter what changed around Jacob.
6. *Give kids time to think of something that has changed in their lives. It could be moving to a new house, losing or gaining a friendship, or starting a new sport. Have kids cut out a shape from their cardstock to represent that change.*
7. *Dim the lights and turn on the flashlight. Shine it at the wall. Invite kids to bring their shapes and move them around in the light to cast shadows on the wall.*
8. *Turn the lights back on and gather kids in a seated circle.*
9. **Discuss:** What changed with your shapes? What never changed?
10. **Say:** The light never changed! Your lives will shift and change. God's character doesn't change based on what happens in our day. He is always good, loving and in control. This light reminds us of God. It stays steady and bright.
11. **Read:** James 1:17.
12. *Invite kids to write or draw one thing on their cut-out shape that reminds them of God's unchanging character.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God's unchanging light is the same in Jacob's time, our time and forever. He never changes, and we can trust Him completely.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: Jacob didn't make great choices, but God chose to make the same promises to him that He had made to Jacob's father and grandfather. God's goodness didn't stop even when Jacob himself wasn't good.

Read Psalm 100:5 directly from the Bible: *For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.*

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 NEVER CHANGES

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).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What were some bad choices or mistakes Jacob made in our story?
2. **Discuss:** Did God's love for Jacob change after his bad choices?
3. **Discuss:** Did God's plans for Jacob change after his bad choices?
4. **Read:** Romans 8:38–39.
5. *Pass out the printable page.*
6. **Say:** This page tells us a truth about God.
7. *Read the page to kids.*
8. **Say:** Crumple up your piece of paper, uncrumple it and crumple it again.
9. **Say:** Now uncrumple your paper and make it as flat as you can.
10. **Say:** This paper represents our mistakes. It isn't perfect. Even though the paper is wrinkled and messed up, we can still see God's love coming through!
11. **Say:** This is the same in our lives. Even though we make mistakes, God's love for us still shines through!
12. **Discuss:** Do our mistakes change God's love for us?
13. **Say:** No! God's love for us doesn't change. He loves us no matter what.
14. **Read:** Lamentations 3:22–23.
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.



GOD LOVES ME ALL THE TIME!

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, paper

PREP:

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

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Pair kids with physical limitations with a buddy for support while jumping.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What were some bad choices or mistakes Jacob made in our story?
2. **Discuss:** Did God's love for Jacob change after his bad choices?
3. **Discuss:** Did God's plans for Jacob change after his bad choices?
4. **Discuss:** What are some mistakes we make?
5. *Make a list of things kids say and add your own so there are at least 10.*
6. **Discuss:** Do our mistakes change God's love for us?
7. **Say:** No! God's love for us doesn't change. He loves us no matter what.
8. **Read:** Romans 8:38–39.
9. **Say:** No matter where Jacob went on his journey or how he messed up, God loved him! That is the same God who loves us today!
10. *Have kids line up on one side of your space. State something from the brainstormed list of mistakes. State each item as a question, "Does God love me when ___?" Kids will jump forward and call out, "Yes!" Repeat until you have gone through the entire list and kids have jumped across your space.*
11. **Say:** Each of you is so precious to God! We will all make mistakes in life but nothing we could ever do will separate us from His love. Let's pray together and thank God that His love never changes.
12. *Lead the group in a prayer, thanking God for His never-changing love. Encourage kids to pick one item from the list and silently talk to God about it. End the prayer with everyone saying, "Thank You, God, for Your love! Amen."*
13. **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.
14. **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.



GOD NEVER CHANGES

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JACOB'S DREAM

PAGE 1 OF 1

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



JESUS
LOVES
ME!

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3:22-23)*



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](https://britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

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



GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week!

Read each passage with a grown-up and answer the three questions together.

☐ **DAY 1**

Read: Genesis 28:10-13

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?

?

☐ **DAY 2**

Read: Genesis 28:14-16

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**

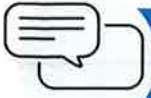
Read: 2 Timothy 2:11-13

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

COLOR THE ILLUSTRATION



WORD SEARCH

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

Find these: Jacob, Esau, Dream, Ladder

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!

GENESIS 27-28

JACOB'S DREAM

