



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:



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?

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

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 1 tablespoon of baking soda, ½ cup of vinegar, balloon, empty water bottle, table

2**FIND IT IN THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides

3**BIBLE TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****JACOB'S DREAM
(GENESIS 27–28)**

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, skein of yarn, robe

4**REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, hiking boot, table

5**LARGE GROUP WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Say: Welcome, everyone! In science, we learn that sometimes things in our world can change into something brand new. Today we will watch something solid (baking soda) get mixed with a liquid (vinegar) and turn into something completely different—a gas!

Stretch the opening of the balloon over the top of the bottle, taking care not to spill the baking soda inside. Lift the balloon so that the baking soda pours into the vinegar. The balloon will then blow up from the carbon dioxide created through a chemical reaction.

Say: A lot of things change. Sometimes change is good, like when a caterpillar changes into a butterfly or a rainy day turns sunny. Other changes are hard, such as changing schools or moving to a new town. No matter what, you can always know that God never changes.

SUPPLIES:

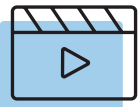
Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 1 tablespoon of baking soda, ½ cup of vinegar, balloon, empty water bottle, table

PREP:

Pour 1 tablespoon of baking soda into the balloon and place on the table. Pour a half cup of vinegar into a water bottle and place it next to the balloon at the front of your space.

LEADER TIP:

Create multiple sets of the science experiment and give kids a chance to do it!



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: It was awesome that Carson overcame his fears and climbed that wall with Lee's help.

Discuss: What gives you confidence when you're nervous to try something new?

Say: Here is a truth that should give us all confidence— Today's Brite Idea is: God never changes.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



Does God change over time?



Do our mistakes change God's love for us?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

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.



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, hiking boot, table

PREP:

Place the hiking boot on a table in front of your space.

INSTRUCTIONS: Bring two kids to the front of your space. The first to grab the hiking boot and answer correctly keeps playing. Bring up another kid to compete on the next question.

1. **What important promise did God keep to Abraham and Isaac?**
 - a. They would have a large family.
 - b. They would build boats.
2. **How did God speak to Jacob after Jacob ran away from home?**
 - a. Through a speaking donkey
 - b. Through a dream
3. **During the dream, how many families did God promise to bless through Jacob?**
 - a. All Israelite families
 - b. All families of the Earth

4. **What did Jacob's bad behavior do to God's plans?**
 - a. Nothing
 - b. God had to make new plans.

Jacob made bad decisions, but God never changes. His plans continue through every generation.

5. **Does God change over time?**
 - a. God only changes a little.
 - b. **God never changes.**

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

6. **Do our mistakes change God's love for us?**
 - a. **No!**
 - b. Not usually

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



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer

HE

Does God change over time?

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

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer

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.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video
after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, Your ways are higher and better than our ways. Thank You for never, ever changing! We trust in Your ways and will choose to live for You. Amen.