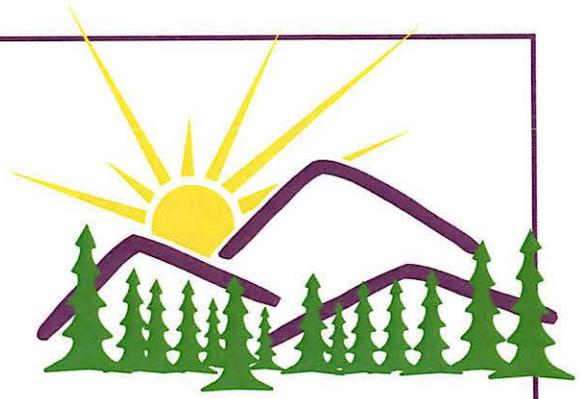


Jacob: A Man Who Wrestled with God

Theme: Obedience — Working with God, not against Him



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: Make a fill-in-the-blank worksheet as on page 79 in this Guide, but without  "New" in the title. This helps prepare students for reciting the Memory Verse in class.

Bible Facts: Brush Up On Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each one completes it, the children may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work be successful. Give guests an opportunity to say the Memory Verse. Have the Memory Verse printed on a sheet of paper or enlarged on a poster. Continue the display that will eventually feature all Memory Verses and the names of students who said them. Prepare a card for each student with his or her name and the Memory Verse citation ready to put on the display. A sample wall display is shown on page 11.

Prayer

Lesson of the Day

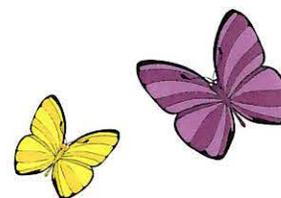
Ideas for Telling the Story

1. In the classroom Bibles, find and mark Genesis 33:1.
2. Have one child use a pointer to point out on the time line when today's lesson events took place.
3. Take Bibles and move to the Floor Map Bible Story Center.
4. Give each child a card featuring someone's name in today's story.  Print or write the characters' names on the cards. Using the Lesson Graphics from the *All Things Made New Gift Box*, tell the lesson story. As the story unfolds, students may hold up whichever character card is prominent in the story. Read together Genesis 33:1-4. If needed, give the character cards to other students and retell the story. Talk about lessons we learn from this Bible story, especially emphasizing forgiveness.

Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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5. List on a board—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. Have the students tell you some of the things each one did wrong, but also discuss what they had in common—faith and obedience. Discuss the fact that even though each one sometimes did wrong, God still used them to carry out His purpose of sending His Son Jesus through their family.



Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: For younger children: Prepare a worksheet featuring the sons of Jacob.

 For older children: Prepare a worksheet with a “Tricky” theme. On the left side of the page, list people who were tricked. On the right side of the page, list people who tricked someone. Abraham tricked Pharaoh, Jacob tricked Isaac, Laban tricked Jacob, sons tricked Jacob. Provide spaces in the center of the page for the students to write what the trick was. Talk about how Jacob tricked and then got tricked several times. You may include Scripture references to help students find the answer.

Bible Facts: Brush Up On Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Repeat the Sunday Morning memory work activity for any students who were not present. Talk with all students about what the verse(s) tell us about God. Genesis 12:1-3 tell of God’s promises.

Prayer

Starter

Have your parents ever told you to do something that you just didn’t want to do? Suppose your mom tells you to clean your room. You didn’t do it and ended up having to clean your room, and another room, and you were grounded. Sometimes we argue with our parents, but in the long run it is much better just to do what they ask when they ask.

Jacob was a man of faith, but at times in his life he didn’t act like it. God even changed Jacob’s name to Israel because this name means “fighting with God.” Jacob made life and faith difficult when he wrestled with God.

Briefly Review the Lesson Story from Sunday Morning

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Story

1. *Objective: Demonstrate that God keeps His promises “one piece at a time”*

 Using the graphics provided on page 75 of this Guide, make a puzzle using poster board. Remove the page from the Workbook and glue it to a piece of colored poster board. On the back side of the poster board, write the name of JESUS in big letters. Cut along the gray lines. The pieces feature 1) Isaac being born to older people, 2) Esau selling his birthright, 3) Jacob deceiving Isaac to get the blessing, and 4) Jacob’s ladder or stairway dream.

Hide the puzzle pieces in the room and have students search for them. Let them put the puzzle together with the pictures face up while you briefly discuss each scene. Once the puzzle is completed, turn the pieces over to reveal God’s greatest blessing — Jesus! Talk briefly of how the story goes from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob and ultimately to Jesus.

2. *Objective: Demonstrate working together instead of against one another*

☀ Provide some craft sticks and small stackable objects, such as Legos or dominoes. Give each student at least one object and instruct all students to work together to build a bridge. When the project is almost completed, the teacher discourages the students by “accidentally” shaking the table. Have the students start over, but this time encourage and help them build. Talk about how Jacob sometimes worked against God, but that he learned to work with Him. Make the application that people must work together with one another and with God, and how this makes it possible to do many good things. Also, talk about how we work against ourselves when we will not work together.

3. *Objective: Learn or review the twelve sons of Jacob*

Sing a song featuring the names of Jacob’s twelve sons. The tune is *One Little, Two Little, Three Little Indians*. The words are: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, and Benjamin. These are the twelve sons of Jacob.

4. *Objective: Reinforcing and reminding students that God’s way always involves choices*

Use the happy and sad faces mounted on craft sticks from Lesson 2, page 19 of this Guide. Construct a story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that reviews what God has been doing with His people. Include people’s good and bad actions. Tell the story and ask students to hold up the proper face as the story ebbs and flows.

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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