

City SG—September 18th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Fall Asleep (Jacob's Dream) • *Genesis 28:10-22 (Genesis 25:19-34; 27)*

Today's Bottom Line: You can trust that God has a plan.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 (NIRV)*

1. Story Sequence (Non-Reader Option highlighted below)

What You Need: "Story Cards" Activity Page cards (1 set per Group) and painter's tape

What You Do:

- Shuffle the "Story Cards."
- Without showing kids the cards, pass a card facedown to each kid.
- On your "GO!" instruct the group to flip over their cards and work together to place their cards in the sequence of the story. If you have fewer than 12 kids, hand out two to three consecutive Story Cards to the same kid.
 - o ***Cards will be numbered, and kids can place the cards in number order as well.***
- Once the kids think they have the correct order, read the cards out loud.
- Allow the kids to change spots to make corrections to the storyline if necessary.

Note: This story has a lot of details and doesn't necessarily follow a "normal linear" storyline. Let kids know that it will be challenging to get all of the cards in order, but you know that they can rise to the challenge!

Correct Story Order:

1. After waiting a long time, Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy named Isaac.
2. When Isaac grew up, he had TWIN boys, Jacob and Esau.
3. One day, Esau was out hunting and didn't catch anything. By the time he got home, he was very hungry.
4. Jacob had just cooked up a pot of delicious red stew, and Esau begged him for some.
5. Esau traded his birthright for a bowl of stew.
6. Their father, Isaac, wanted to pass on a special blessing to his oldest son. So he sent Esau to hunt and prepare him a tasty meal first.
7. Their mom, Rebekah, helped Jacob pretend to be Esau and take the blessing.
8. Esau was going to try to get rid of Jacob, so his mom persuaded him to run away to her brother, Laban, in Harran.
9. With no place to stay, Jacob curled up on the hard ground with a stone for a pillow.
10. Jacob had a dream.
11. Jacob took the stone he had used as a pillow and set it up as an altar for God.
12. Jacob continued on his journey to Harran.

What You Say:

"Today's story is one of the way early ones. It was SO long ago. And even all those years ago, people needed to trust God. Jacob needed to trust God in our story today. He needed to trust that God would be faithful to him. And God was, even though Jacob did many wrong things. He tricked his brother—twice! And he lied to his father. Would Jacob be someone you would trust? (*Pause for responses.*)

"Even though Jacob messed up, God kept the promise made to Jacob's grandfather, Abraham. God told Jacob, '*I am the LORD. I am the God of your grandfather Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your children the land you are lying on. They will be like the dust of the earth that can't be counted. . . All nations on earth will be blessed because of you and your children after you. I am with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. And I will bring you back to this land.*' (Genesis 28:13-15 NIRV)

“God promised Jacob’s grandfather that the whole world would be blessed through his family, and God kept that promise. One of Jacob’s descendants—that means his kids and their kids and on and on—was Jesus! That is so cool! That’s just more proof that **[Bottom Line] you can trust that God has a plan.**”

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you could not see the path ahead but you knew that God was with you. What happened? How did trusting God’s plan help you face the unknown? Make sure your example is age-appropriate)

2. You or Me

What You Need: Bibles, painter’s tape, and beanbag (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Proverbs 3:5 with the navigation tips below and read it out loud a few times.

Finding verses with your Group: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find “Proverbs” in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 5 in chapter 3.

- Tape three concentric circles or squares to make a target on the floor.
- About two feet away from the target, tape a small start line.
- Instruct the kids to line up behind the start line.
- Give the first kid in line a beanbag.
- Invite the kids to take turns tossing the beanbag at the target.
- If a kid makes it anywhere within the target, direct the kid to lead the group to say the memory verse together.
- If a kid lands in the center, instruct them to point to you to say the verse.
- Pass the beanbag down the line so that each kid has a turn throwing the beanbag.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“Trusting God is often one of the hardest things for us to do. I think one of the reasons is in our verse today in the part where it says, ‘lean not on your own understanding.’ Instead of trusting in God, we think we can do it all. We think we know it all or think we don’t need to ask God for help. But God is God! God is almighty, all-powerful, and all-knowing! And God has a plan to make things right with the world. God sent Jesus to prove how much He loves us and to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him now and forever. **[Bottom Line] You can trust that God has a plan.**”

3. Who Said That?

What You Need: “Who Said That?” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Hold up the pictures of Isaac, Jacob, Rebekah, and Esau from the “Who Said That?” Activity Pages and let kids share one thing they remember about each person from today’s Bible story. (It’s okay if there are repeated answers.)
- Place the pictures in four different areas of your space.
- Explain that you will read a statement and the kids should run/walk quickly to the picture of the person in the story they think could have spoken those words.
- Use the statements below or add others that are distinct to one of the four main characters.

- Are your arms as hairy as mine? (*Esau*)
- I made this stew, and it is delicious. (*Jacob*)
- I have twin sons. (*Isaac or Rebekah*)
- I love to hunt. (*Esau*)
- I have a special blessing to give my oldest son. (*Isaac*)
- I gave away something very valuable for a bowl of stew. (*Esau*)
- I helped Jacob pretend to be Esau. (*Rebekah*)
- I got something that wasn't mine by being sneaky. (*Jacob*)
- I sent Jacob to live with my brother. (*Rebekah*)
- I went to live with my Uncle Laban. (*Jacob*)
- My name sounds like "see-saw." (*Esau*)
- I used a rock for a pillow and had a dream about God's plan. (*Jacob*)
- I'm old and can't see very well. (*Isaac*)

What You Say:

"Some of the people in our story made some very bad choices, but God was still with them. Even though Jacob did some pretty sneaky things, God didn't go back on that promise to bless the world through Isaac's family. They were part of God's big plan to one day send Jesus, and even though they messed up, they couldn't stop God's big plan. How can we know that? Because many hundreds of years later, Jesus was born into Jacob's family line as part of the plan to bless the whole world just as God said. **[Bottom Line] You can trust that God has a plan**, and you're part of it, too. God's plans are bigger and better than you can imagine. God knows everything about you and is with you every day. You can trust that God's plan is the best plan because God loves you. And because of that, we can trust and depend on God, no matter what."

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Say:

"Thank You, God, that You love us more than we can imagine. Thank You that You always have a bigger plan in mind, a plan to ultimately show Your love to the world by making things right through Jesus. When we don't understand the things going on around us, help us trust You, no matter what, because there's a bigger plan. We love You, Lord. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."