

Jacob the Heel Grabber

God's promise is mentioned again to Jacob, confirming that the covenant God made to Abraham will stretch for many generations up to the present. In this lesson, children learn that God always keeps His promises and so should we.

TOPICS

Blessings, Child of God, Jacob, Promises

AS KIDS ARRIVE (12 minutes)

Who Am I? (Coloring Activity) [page 3](#)

BIBLE VERSE (10 minutes)

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go." Genesis 28:15a NIV

Assign actions to the different words as shown below to help the children memorize this verse.

When saying this word:

With you:

Watch:

Wherever:

Go:

Perform this action:

Give yourself a hug

Pretend to be looking through binoculars

Point your finger all around the room

Walk in place

Along with this new verse, review the verse the children learned during the past two weeks: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" Proverbs 3: 5a. See who can remember it. Then ask the following questions:

1. Who is with you wherever you go? (*The Lord.*)
2. Who will watch over you wherever you go? (*The Lord.*)
3. Who can we trust with all of our heart? (*The Lord.*)

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After each introduction, read the below passages directly from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

Last week we learned about Isaac being born to Abraham and Sarah. Isaac grew with the same faith as Abraham and Jacob. He met Rebekah who later became his wife. Let's see how God continued His promise to Abraham through Isaac's son. We are going to read two stories, right from the Bible.

Read Gen 25:21-28 (The birth of Jacob and Esau)

Discussion and Questions:

1. Was Jacob the only son? (*No, he had a twin.*)
2. What was Jacob's twin brother's name? (*Esau.*)
3. Who was the hairy one? (*Esau.*)
4. Which twin was grabbing the heel of his brother when he was born? (*Jacob.*)

Do you remember how God told Abraham to move to a new place? When Jacob received his blessing from his father Isaac, he was also told to move to a different place. On his way, he had a dream.

Read Gen 28:1-4, 10-15 (God's promise to Jacob)

Discussion Questions:

1. Who gave Jacob a blessing? (*His father Isaac.*)
2. What was in Jacob's dream (*Ladder, angels.*)
3. Who was going to be with Jacob wherever he would go? (*God.*)
4. Did God bless Jacob also? (*Yes.*)

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Remember, in our first lesson when God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many peoples on earth? Then, God gave Abraham a son when he was very old, named Isaac. Then God gave Isaac a son when he was very old, named Jacob. God always fulfills His promises, even when it seems impossible. Through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, there became many generations of God's people.

FUN TIME (10 minutes)

Ladder of Angels (Activity) [page 4](#)

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)

As the children wait to be picked up, have them finish coloring their pictures of Jacob and Esau. Ask the children how many different things can they find between the two men?

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WHO AM I?

(Connect-the-dots) Children must first connect the dots before they can tell which twin is Jacob and which is Esau in this coloring activity.

TOPICS:

Blessings, Child of God, Jacob, Promises

MATERIALS:

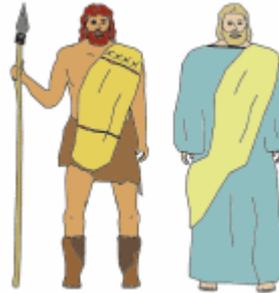
Esau coloring activity [page 5](#)

Jacob coloring activity [page 6](#)

Crayons or colored markers

DURATION:

Approximately 12 minutes



PREPARATION:

Before class, print out one copy of each coloring activity for each child. Review the story of Jacob and Esau found in Genesis 25:24-28.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Explain how Isaac and Rebekah were very old when the Lord finally gave them a child. In fact, God blessed them with twins.

While working on their coloring activities, read Genesis 25:24-28 to the children. Discuss how Esau and Jacob were twins and how they fought even before they were born. Talk about how they were very different from each other, although they were twins.

The children will first connect the dots of each picture, to discover how different the two twins were from each other. Then, they can trace around the names at the bottom to learn which one is Jacob and which one is Esau. Finally, give them time to color both pictures based on the descriptions read from the Bible passage.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you know any twins?
2. If Esau and Jacob were twins, why didn't they look alike?
3. Do twins always look alike?

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LADDER OF ANGELS

*A fun way for children to pretend they are angels going up and down a ladder just like in Jacob's dream.
(Genesis 28:12)*

TOPICS:

Angels, Heaven, Jacob

MATERIALS:

1 large box (about 18 inches high)
2 medium boxes
2 small boxes
Lots of old clothes

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



PREPARATION:

Find two similar boxes to use for the lower steps, two for the middle steps, and one taller box for the middle step. The boxes should not be too tall so the children will not fall off to the ground. Before class, decorate the boxes with clouds, and stuff them full with old clothes so they will be sturdy. If available, you can also use plastic or wooden crates turned upside down.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

During class, put the boxes in the middle of the floor with the big one in the middle, put the medium ones on each side, and the small boxes on each side of the medium boxes, forming a "ladder." The children will go up on one side, and down the other.

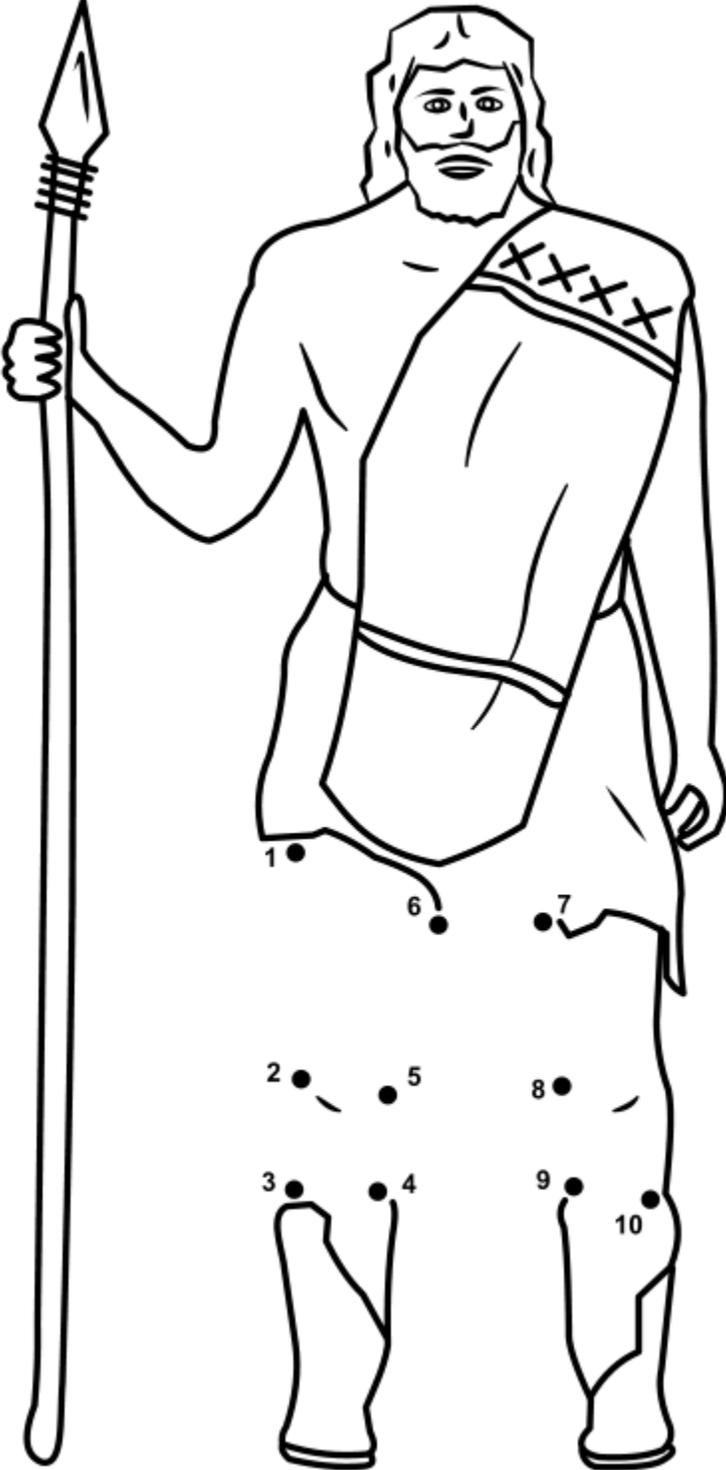
Note: Close supervision is needed to make sure the children do not fall off or hurt themselves.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

(If not part of your Bible study, read Genesis 28: 10-17 about Jacob's dream.)

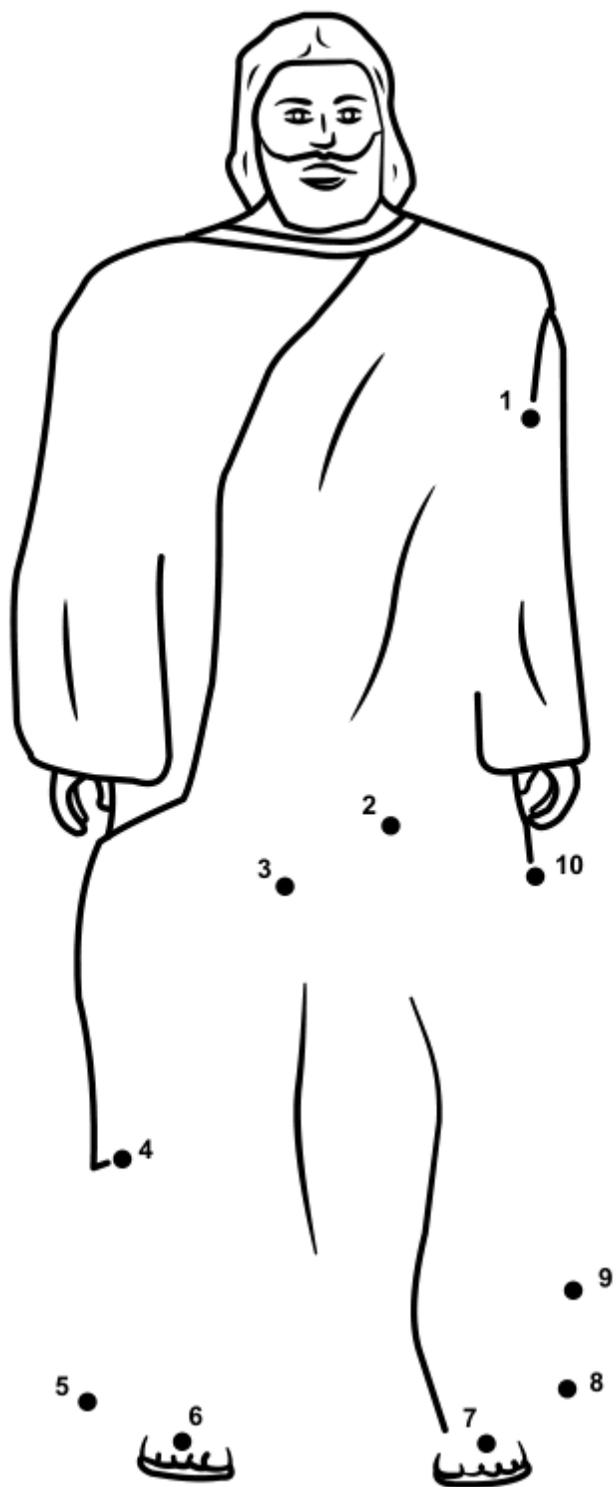
Do you remember what was in Jacob's dream? Yes, he dreamt about a ladder reaching up to the sky with angels going up and down. Let's pretend we are angels in his dream and go up and down the ladder.

Who am I?



Isaiah

Who am I?



Jacob