

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 – GRADE 1-5

WONDER TRUTH: God is Faithful

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 32-33

GOD'S BIG STORY: Twenty years after tricking his way into the family's blessing, Jacob is on his way to see his brother again when an angel wrestles with him and renames him Israel. Though people are not always faithful, God is!

WORD OF WONDER: Before you created the whole world and the mountains were made, from the beginning to the end you are God. —Psalm 90:2

- During the week, look over the lesson plan. Ensure you are familiar with the Bible story, the main theme of the lesson, and what we want the kids to take away this Sunday.

DID YOU KNOW?

WHO?

Jacob, son of Isaac and Rebekah, and twin brother to Esau, tricked his father into giving him the family blessing and lived in hiding for many years. While Jacob was in hiding, he married and had many children, and God blessed and multiplied all he did.

WHAT?

Years earlier, Jacob received the blessing and birthright intended for Esau, the firstborn, so Jacob was afraid Esau might kill him. After Jacob prayed for God's protection, an angel who looked like a man came and wrestled with him until morning, renaming him *Israel*.

WHERE?

Jacob had been in Haran living with his uncle. When the time came, he returned to Canaan and settled in Bethel, where he previously had seen God and built an altar because he knew God was there.

WHEN?

Twenty years after he fled to safety, Jacob left Haran with his family and all he had accumulated to head back to the place God had shown him. That 20 years allowed for reconciliation between him and Esau.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Despite all Jacob's deceptions and lies, God still chose to protect him and work through his family to fulfill the promise He had made to Abraham. The Savior Jesus would one day be born in Jacob's family line, blessing the whole world as God had promised.



LEADER GUIDE

☐ Kid City Meeting (9:15/11:15)

☐ Classroom Team Meeting (9:30 AM / 11:30 AM)

- If you are the lead teacher for that Sunday, please ensure that all tasks are assigned. You can find the job descriptions on your cart when you arrive.
- If you are the helper for the Sunday, please choose one or two volunteer tasks to assist with. We are a team, and it is important that everyone shares the load to ensure things run smoothly.

REMINDERS: When you're not engaged in one of your assigned roles for that morning, please assist in the following areas:

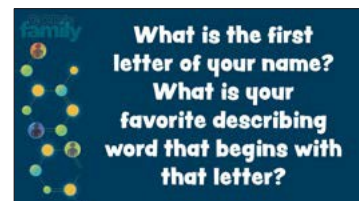
- Sit with the kids and help them engage in the lesson.
- Pay attention to the room:
 - Is the teacher having trouble getting the kids' attention?
Help by sitting with a child who might be disrupting the group.
 - Is the teacher giving out prizes?
Assist by taking the kids aside and helping them choose their prize.
 - Are there any children struggling to sit and participate in the lesson?
Help by guiding them to the calm corner and offering support. Ensure the child feels seen and heard, and check if there is an unmet need.
 - Is a child misbehaving or being disrespectful?
Use a "Fair," "Firm," and "Friendly" voice to remind them of the expectations. If the behaviour escalates and intervention is needed, notify the parents or let the Ministry Lead know so everyone can decide the next course of action.

9:30 AM / 11:30 AM – ATTENDANCE

- One volunteer at the door. Be sure to look over the job description for this task. (Attached to the cart)

9:30 AM / 11:30 AM – WELCOME AND RULES

- One volunteer to do the welcome and rules. Look over the job description for this task. (Attached to the cart)
- Consider putting this question on the whiteboard when the kids walk in.



9:35 AM / 11:35 AM – BIBLE STORY INTRO & VIDEO

At your start time ...

Warmly welcome kids with a smile and show them the Welcome Question.

Read the questions aloud and share your own response. **What is the first letter of your name? What is your favourite describing word that begins with that letter?** Once all the kids have heard the Welcome Question,

display the Describing Words Slide. Encourage kids to refer to it for ideas if they can't think of a descriptive word that starts with the first letter of their name, and help younger kids read and understand the words on the slide that start with the same letter as their names.

Describing Words		
A: amazing, adventurous, athletic	K: kind, knowledgeable, kindly	U: unusual, upbeat, understanding
B: beautiful, bright, brave	L: loved, loyal, lively	V: valiant, versatile, vivacious
C: compassionate, cheerful, confident	M: musical, magnificent, multi-talented	W: warmhearted, welcoming, wise
D: determined, devoted, daring	N: nurturing, notable, nimble	X: wonderful (friendly), exceptional
E: enthusiastic, energetic, excellent	O: optimistic, outstanding, open-hearted	Y: young, youthful, yappy
F: fun, fantastic, funny	P: playful, polite, persistent	Z: zany, zesty, zippy
G: generous, gentle, graceful	Q: quiet, quirky, quality	
H: helpful, happy, humble	R: reserved, respectful, robust	
I: incomparable, incredible, inspiring	S: strong, sensitive, smart	
J: joyful, just, jolly	T: tough, trustworthy, talented	

Names are so interesting, and I love knowing each of yours! Today we will hear about a man in God's big story who wrestled with someone unusual and was given a new name at the end of the wrestling match. But first, it's time to be curious.

I'm curious ...

- When you hear your own name, how do you feel? What does it remind you of?
- If you could choose a new nickname just for fun, what would you choose? Why do you like that name?

Today in God's big story, we're going to learn more about a man who was called Jacob until God gave him a new name with a very special meaning! God may have changed Jacob's name, but He never changed His mind about him. Even when Jacob made wrong choices, God loved him, protected him, and kept His promises to him and his family because God is faithful and always does what He says He will do. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD IS FAITHFUL**.



Before we watch our video for today, let's say our declaration together. Remember, a declaration is when we say something out loud to God that we really believe or want to stand strong in. It's kind of like:

Telling the truth about who God is ("God, You are always with me!") and reminding ourselves of what God says in the Bible ("I am never alone because You are with me.")

Leader Tip: For *Older Kids*. Have them read it together with you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)
 You made me on purpose, for a purpose! (Kids repeat.)
 And I am Your Kid (Kids repeat.)
 You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)
 You never change your mind about me! (Kids repeat.)
 You are always faithful! (Kids repeat.)
 My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

LESSON 4 JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD



Invite kids to turn to Genesis 32 in their Bibles. Help them know they can pick up God's Holy Word for themselves and find this story in Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament. Encourage volunteers to assist the kids as they locate the verse. **Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!**

There are multiple ways for kids to engage with the Bible through the God's Big Story Videos in this series:

1. Use the [Early Childhood Video](#) to help teach elementary kids the Bible story.
2. Show the [Elementary Video](#) to reinforce the Bible story with preteens after they have read the lesson's Scripture passage and/or participated in the Experience It! Script.

9:45 AM / 11:45 AM – BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD IS FAITHFUL**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Even though Jacob lied to and tricked his father, God still chose to protect him and work through his family to fulfill the promise He had made to Abraham. God promised Abraham to bless the whole world through his family, and Jesus—the Saviour—would one day be born in Jacob's family line. Jesus is the blessing God promised!

What surprised you the most about this part of God's big story? Allow kids to answer freely. Consider sharing your thoughts as well.

What did you notice Jacob doing in this story? What did you notice God doing? Invite kids to share their first thoughts with a neighbor and then with the whole group.

9:50 AM / 11:50 AM – WORD OF WONDER

Write the Word of Wonder on the White Board. **The Word of Wonder (memory verse) for this month is Psalm 90:2. Today we learned that God cared for Jacob even when Jacob had made wrong choices because God is faithful! Let's praise God by saying our Word of Wonder together.**

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or watch the Elementary Word of Wonder Video. Then read Psalm 90:2 several times together.

9:55 AM / 11:55 AM – SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**DISCOVER GOD'S WORD**

Help the Kids Find the Verse & Read it together: **GENESIS 32:9-12**

GRADE 1-2

- What did Jacob do at the beginning of the story? Why did he go to live with his uncle? *(Jacob lied to and tricked his father to get what he wanted. Jacob went to live with his uncle to get away from Esau, who was angry with him.)*
- Twenty years after tricking his father, Jacob went back to face his brother Esau. Do you think Jacob changed during this time? Why or why not?
- Why was Jacob afraid to see Esau? *(Jacob thought Esau might still be angry with him and want to hurt him.)*
- When have you been afraid? How did you respond?
- When Jacob was afraid, he prayed to God, and God was faithful. Have you ever prayed when you were afraid? Tell us about it.
- God was faithful to Jacob and took care of him even when Jacob had done wrong things. When have you experienced God's faithfulness? When has God taken care of you?

People are not perfect, but God is perfect. We often choose to do the wrong thing, but God is faithful always. Let's thank Him in prayer for His faithful love.

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to share their ideas and thoughts openly. Listen deeply and invite the Holy Spirit to give you fresh wisdom and ideas.

Make It Inclusive: Some kids in your ministry may live in fear because of trauma they have experienced. Be sensitive to all kids, assuring them of God's love and creating a space where they feel seen and loved. If a child confides in you about any possible abuse, invite your ministry leader into the conversation.

GRADE 3-5

- How would you describe Jacob at the beginning of this story? Why did he go to live with his uncle? *(Jacob lied to and tricked his father and took advantage of his brother's hunger to get what he wanted. Jacob went to live with his uncle to escape Esau, who was angry with him.)*
- How did Jacob change? What details from the story show us how much he changed through his experiences? *(Jacob became a man who prayed to God and trusted Him when he was afraid. He was gracious and generous to his brother, offering him gifts and kind words.)*
- Do you think God changed during the course of the story? Explain.



- Why was Jacob afraid to see Esau? What did Jacob do when he was afraid? (*Jacob thought Esau might still be angry with him and want to hurt him. Jacob prayed that God would protect him.*)
- When have you been afraid? How did you respond?
- God was faithful to Jacob and took care of him even when Jacob had done wrong things. When have you experienced God's faithfulness? When has God taken care of you?

People are not perfect, but God is perfect. We often choose to do the wrong thing, but God is faithful *always*. Let's thank Him in prayer for His faithful love.

9:55 AM / 11:55 AM – SMALL GROUP PRAYER TIME

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises. Encourage them to thank God for His faithfulness in their lives. Be sensitive to any hesitancy to participate and warmly encourage quieter kids to pray silently if that makes them more comfortable, or to share an “unspoken” prayer request. Thank God for always being faithful to keep His promises!

Leader Tip: Consider allowing a child to pray for the group, or you could ask everyone to say something. Use the following example prayer or consider using your own words.

Example Prayer: **God, we invite You to speak to our hearts today through Your Holy Spirit. As we remember what You did in the life of Jacob, teach us more about Your love and faithfulness. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

10:00 AM / 12:05 PM – ACTIVITY TIME

ACTIVITY 1: MY NAME TAG

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry-erase marker, colouring utensils, writing utensils, masking or painter's tape (optional), posterboard (optional), marker (optional) **Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** My Name Tag Slide, Name Tag Sheet (1 per kid), Faithfulness Verses Slides, [God's Family Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

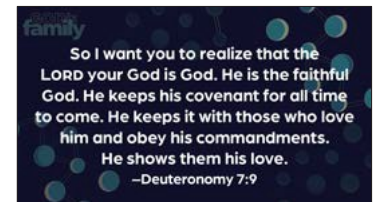
Ahead of time, print a copy of the Name Tag Sheet for each kid. Set a whiteboard where kids can see it or, alternatively, tape a posterboard to the wall.

Gather the kids together. **Today in God's big story, we heard about how God was faithful to Jacob and his family even when Jacob had done wrong things. The Bible says that "Even when we are not faithful, [God] remains faithful" (2 Timothy 2:13a). Let's read some verses from the Bible that tell us more about our faithful God. As we read each verse, let's look for words that describe who God is. Show the first Faithfulness Verses picture, which shows Deuteronomy 7:9. Read the verse out loud.**

In this verse, Moses is telling God's people about God. What words from this verse show us what God is like? Invite kids to share words from Deuteronomy 7:9 that describe God, and write the words they share on a whiteboard or posterboard. They might share words like "faithful," "keeps his covenant," and "love." Remind kids that a *covenant* is an unbreakable promise.

Show the second [Faithfulness Verses Page](#), which shows Psalm 36:5. Read the verse out loud. **Many years after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, their relative King David wrote this verse in a praise song to God. What words or phrases in this verse show us what God is like?** Again, invite kids to share, and write what they share on the whiteboard or posterboard.

Show the [third Faithfulness Verses Page](#), which shows 1 Corinthians 1:9. Read the verse out loud. **Hundreds of years after King David, a Jesus-follower named Paul wrote these words to other followers of Jesus. What words in this verse show us what God is like?** Invite kids to share words from 1 Corinthians 1:9 and write their answers on the whiteboard or posterboard. **Are there any words in this verse that describe us?** Pause for kids to answer, and if needed, reread the verse for them. **Yes! Paul says that we are *chosen* by God to share life with Jesus! Because God is *faithful*, He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to bless the whole world by dying on the cross and rising again. Because God is *faithful*, we can be His kids through Jesus! Because God is *faithful*, we are chosen, loved, and forgiven!**



LESSON 4 JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD



Hand out the Name Tag Sheet to each kid and set out writing and colouring utensils. **God was faithful to Jacob and gave him a new name—Israel. God’s people—Jacob’s family—would become known as the Israelites. Names are important, and God knows each of us by name! Let’s create name tags for ourselves that show something about who God is and who we are because of Him.**

Invite kids to write their names on the giant name tags on their sheets and then decorate around them with pictures or symbols that show something about God and about themselves. They might draw pictures of Bible stories that show God’s faithfulness. Or they might write words that describe God like “faithful” and “love” and words that describe themselves like “chosen,” “loved by God,” and “God’s kid.” They can look at the words on the whiteboard or posterboard for ideas. Play the [God’s Family Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids work.

Leader Tip: Ahead of time, create your own giant name tag on a Name Tag Sheet to show kids as an example. Write your first name in large letters and around it, draw pictures or write words that show who God is and who you are because of Him.

When everyone has finished their name tags, invite kids to hold them up for others to see. Then encourage kids to repeat this simple prayer: **Faithful God, thank You for loving me and choosing me!**

ACTIVITY TWO: A NEW NAME

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry-erase marker, colouring utensils, writing utensils, posterboard (optional), marker (optional), masking or painter's tape (optional) **Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** A New Name Slide, Name Tag Sheet (1 per kid), Identity Verses Slides, [God's Family Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Name Tag Sheet for each kid. Write the following across the top of a whiteboard: "Because God is faithful, I am ..." Alternatively, write these words across the top of a posterboard and tape it to the wall.

Show the A New Name Page and gather kids together. **Today in God's big story, we heard about how God was faithful to Jacob and his family even when Jacob had done wrong things. The Bible says that "Even when we are not faithful, [God] remains faithful" (2 Timothy 2:13a). We learned that after Jacob wrestled all night with an angel sent by God, the angel gave him a new name. Do you remember what Jacob's new name was? Invite kids to answer. Yes! Jacob was given the name *Israel* because he had wrestled with God and with people. God's people—Jacob's family—would become known as the *Israelites*.**

Names are important, and when God looks at each of us, He sees who we truly are and calls us by name. Let's read some Bible verses that tell us more about our faithful God and about who we are because of Him. Display the first Identity Verses Slide, which shows Jeremiah 31:3b.

Invite a volunteer to read the verse out loud. **A prophet is someone who speaks God's words to others, and the prophet Jeremiah wrote this verse to Jacob's future family, the Israelites. What does this verse show us about God's people?** Invite kids to share words or phrases that describe God's people based on this verse. For example, God's people are *loved by God*. Record their ideas on the whiteboard or posterboard. **Because God is faithful, these words don't just describe the Israelites in the Old Testament, they describe everyone who follows Jesus! Let's look at another verse.**

Display the second Identity Verses Slide, which shows Psalm 139:14. Invite a volunteer to read it out loud. **Many years after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, their relative King David wrote this verse in a praise song to God. What does this verse say about who we are?** Invite kids to share words or phrases based on this verse that describe us. For example, we are *made in a wonderful way*. Record their ideas on the whiteboard or posterboard.





Display the third Identity Verses Slide, which shows Galatians 3:26. Invite a volunteer to read the verse out loud. **Hundreds of years after King David, a Jesus-follower named Paul wrote these words to other followers of Jesus. What does this verse say about who we are?** Invite kids to share, and record their answers on the whiteboard or posterboard. They might say things like “God’s kid” or “son or daughter of God.”

God changed Jacob’s name to *Israel*, and He has a special name for each one of us. Because God is *faithful*, He sent His Son Jesus to earth to bless the whole world by dying on the cross and rising again. Because God is *faithful*, we can be His kids through Jesus!

Hand out the Name Tag Sheet to each kid and set out writing and colouring utensils. **When God looks at you, what does He see?** Pause for kids to think quietly. **Through Jesus, you are beloved, chosen, and forgiven. Let’s spend some time asking God what name He calls you. It might be a word or phrase from one of the verses we just read. Or it might be another word, phrase, or even a name that reflects how precious you are to God. Write this special name, word, or phrase on your giant name tag along with pictures or symbols that show more about who you are.** Play music from the [God’s Family Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids write and draw on their Name Tag Sheets.

Leader Tip: Ahead of time, write a name, word, or phrase on a Name Tag Sheet that you sense God calling you. Decorate it to show more about who you are. Then show your name tag to kids as an example.

When everyone has finished, invite kids to share their new names with two or three others. Then close this time in prayer, thanking God for His faithfulness and for calling each person by a special name.

10:15 AM / 12:15 PM – FREE TIME / PICK UP

- One volunteer per responsibility. Look over the job description for this task. (Attached to the cart)

CLEANING CHECKLIST

- Kids' Supply Bins: Ensure all used bins and supplies are neatly put away.
- Tables & Chairs: Clean and reset the tables and chairs.
- Floors: Vacuum if necessary (vacuum located in Kid City tech booth).
- Green Carts: Return any extra supplies, attendance records, and nametags to Kid City in the green carts.



VIDEO & MUSIC RESOURCES:

[Elementary Word of Wonder Video.](#)



[God's Family Elementary Spotify playlist](#)



[Early Childhood Video](#)



[Elementary Video](#)

