

Today's Suggested Schedule—August 2025, Week 4

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

Bottom Line: You can trust that God is with you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)*

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Super Boost

Application Activity: Jacob's Ladder Paper Chain

- ☐ tape
- ☐ markers

Memory Verse Activity: Assemble!

- ☐ floor tape
- ☐ timer-use your phone timer

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

- ☐ legos or building blocks

Pray for your group before they arrive.

Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time.

Recall a time in your life when you experienced uncertainty, but you knew that God was with you. Ask God to give each child courage when they face uncertainty.

Pray they will trust God even when they don't know what's next.

Ask God to help the kids see that God is always working in their lives!

1. Bible Story Review- Super Boost

What You Need:

- ☐ “Super Boost” Activity Page (next page)

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Direct each team to sit together.
- Explain the game:
 - You will read a question out loud about the Bible Story.
 - The teams will take turns answering the questions you ask.
 - If a team answers correctly, they will get a “super boost.”
 - *The whole team gets a round of high fives!*
 - If a team answers the question incorrectly, the other team gets a chance to “save the day” by answering it correctly.
- One at a time, ask a question about the Bible Story to one of the teams from the “Super Boost” Activity Page.
- Continue asking questions until all of the questions have been asked and answered.
- After all the questions have been asked and answered, ask:
 - What was your favorite part of the story?
 - How did Jacob show God was with him, even when he made bad choices?

What You Say:

“Jacob made a lot of mistakes and bad choices in his life. But God continued to be faithful to Jacob—and God continued working on His great rescue plan! In Jacob’s dream, God spoke the promises to Jacob that He had made to Abraham and Isaac. But God also made another important promise to Jacob in his dream. God said this: ‘I am with you.’

“You see, Jacob had heard about God, but he didn’t have the privilege of reading the Bible and learning all of these truths about who God is like we do. But God wanted Jacob to know that He was always with him, so God told him.

“And God has made the same promise to us: He is always with us.

“God is even with us in an even more incredible way! After Jesus’ resurrection, when He went to heaven, He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of His followers. When you become a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit came to live inside of you too! So the promise God made to Jacob is true of all Jesus-followers too! ‘I am with you.’

“So no matter what happens, **[Bottom Line]** you can trust that God is with you too!”

[Make It Personal] (Share how you are learning to trust that God is always with you. Share some of the prayers you are praying to ask God to help you learn to trust that He is with you. Share how you aren’t a perfect follower of Jesus, but how you have seen God work for good even when you haven’t been perfect.)

Inclusive Pro Tip:

- Some kids might need extra time to process the questions. Be patient and give them a moment to process before moving on.
- Some kids might be sensitive to touch. If they don't want a high five, give them a verbal cheer or a thumbs-up!
- Consider adding movement to this game by inviting a kid on each team to run to you when they are ready to answer the question.

1. Who were Isaac and Rebekah's children?

(Answer: Esau, Jacob)

2. What did Esau grow up to be like?

(Answer: Esau was wild, impatient, and a great hunter.)

3. What did Jacob grow up to be like?

(Answer: Jacob preferred to stay at home and was sneaky.)

4. What did Esau trade to Jacob for a bowl of soup?

(Possible answers: Esau gave up his birthright as the oldest son, he gave up the blessings that came with it.)

5. How did Jacob trick Isaac into giving him the special blessing?

(Answer: Jacob disguised himself by pretending to be Esau.)

6. How did Esau feel when he discovered that Jacob had taken the blessing?

(Answer: Esau was very angry and planned to kill Jacob.)

7. Where did Rebekah tell Jacob to go after Esau got angry?

(Answer: Rebekah told Jacob to go to her brother Laban and stay there until Esau calmed down.)

8. What happened when Jacob was alone in the wilderness?

(Answer: Jacob had a dream about a stairway to heaven with angels going up and down, and God standing next to the stairway.)

9. God made several promises to Jacob in Jacob's dream. What were some of those promises that God made to Jacob?

(Possible answers: God promised to give Jacob and his children the land Jacob was on, God promised that Jacob would have lots of children, God promised that all nations would be blessed through them. God also promised to be with Jacob, to watch over him, and to bring him back to the land he was on.)

10. What did Jacob do in response to God's promise?

(Possible answers: Jacob made a promise to God, he set up the stone he was sleeping on as a sacred stone, he poured out oil on the stone he had been sleeping on, he called the place "Bethel," and he promised that God would be his God.)

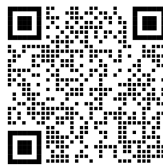
2. Jacob's Ladder Paper Chain

What You Need:

- ☐ "Jacob's Ladder" Activity Page (next page)
- ☐ Prepared Ladder Examples
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Construction Paper Strips
- ☐ Tape or glue



What You Do:



- Use this [instructional video](#) for a visual guide:
- Instruct each kid to select two different colored strips of paper.
- Set out the markers.
- Explain the activity:
 - On one strip of paper, kids are to use the markers to write areas where we might make bad choices. *(For example: being impatient, not sharing, always thinking about ourselves first, etc.)*
 - On the other strip of paper, kids are to write God's promises. *(For example: God will always love us, God is always with us, God made a way for us to be forgiven through Jesus, God gave us the Holy Spirit, etc.)*
- Display one of the prepared ladder examples to the kids.
- Use the "Jacob's Ladder" Activity Page to show the kids how to put the strips together, alternating between our bad choices and God's promises, to show how God was always faithfully building despite our bad choices.
- Ask: "How does this ladder remind you of Jacob's dream?"

What You Say:

"Wow! You all did a great job making your Jacob's Ladder paper chains! This paper chain reminds us of Jacob's dream when he saw the stairway with angels going up and down and God standing beside it. God made a connection between heaven and earth—Jesus came down to Earth to restore people's relationship with God. God was working and working on that plan for a long, long time."

“We also made those ladders personal. On one piece of paper, you wrote down some of your bad choices. On the other are some of the promises God made to us as His friends. These promises are truths about God! God will always love us! He is always with us! He always forgives us!

“Take these home and remember: even though we all make bad choices, God’s promises are always true. Because we are Jesus’ friends, God will always love us, God will always forgive us, and God will always help us. You can always trust that God is with you, even when things are hard or we mess up.

“God is building a beautiful friendship with you, always, despite whether or not you make good choices, because He is good.

“Should we aim to be more like Jesus every day? Yes! Will we be perfect? No! The Holy Spirit will help us daily when we choose to follow Jesus. But hold onto these truths: No matter what, you can trust that God loves you, you can trust that God is always on your side, and **[Bottom Line] you can trust that God is with you!**”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- If writing is challenging for the kids, let them draw symbols to represent their ideas.
- If a kid isn’t comfortable sharing out loud, let them point to or hold up a strip they feel connected to.
- Allow extra processing time for any kids who need it! Be patient and let them work at their own pace.

"JACOB'S LADDER"

1. Lay the 1" wide strips perpendicular to each other and overlap at one end.
2. Then, tape the ends together.
3. Take the strip at the rear and fold it over the front strip.
4. Then take the second strip and fold it forward over the first.
5. Continue folding until both strips are folded (see the illustration).



6. To finish the chain, tape the ends together.
7. Pull the ends to open the ladder.

3. Memory Verse Activity- Assemble!

What You Need:

- ☐ “Assemble!” Activity Page (Memory Verse cards)
- ☐ Floor Tape
- ☐ Timer-use your phone

What You Do:

- Place a line of tape in the center of your group space.
- Set two sets of “Assemble!” Activity Page Memory Verse cards on the line of tape.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Create a start line for each team a few feet from the tape line.
- Direct each team to line up behind their team’s tape line.
- Let each team know which color set of cards is theirs.
- Explain how to play:
 - You will start a timer and kids on each team will take turns running to the tape line, picking up one verse card in their color, and running it back to their team.
 - The teams are to continue sending one kid at a time until they’ve collected all their verse cards.
 - Once all the verse cards are gathered, each team is to work together to put the verse in order.
- Instruct the teams to shout, “Assemble!” and strike a superhero pose!
- Declare the first team who says, “Assemble!” to be the winner.
- Cheer the other team on together until they finish.

What You Say:

“Whoa! You all worked so well together to assemble this month’s Memory Verse! Our verse, Hebrews 11:1, reminds us what faith means—it’s trusting in what you can’t see because of what you CAN see.

“Even though you couldn’t see the finished verse until you worked together, you trusted that each piece you picked up would help you complete it. That’s what faith is like!

“We may not ‘see’ God, but we can look at all the things God has done and trust what He has said to be true.

“God says He loves us. We can trust that to be true. God says that He forgives us. We can trust that to be true. And there’s another thing God says: He is with us! Because God is always trustworthy, **[Bottom Line] you can trust that God is with you!**”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- You can modify the running by offering different pace options like hopping, rolling, etc. You can allow various participation styles by letting some kids be the “assemblers” while the other kids retrieve the pieces.

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- ☐ LEGO® or building blocks

What You Do:

- Set LEGOs or building blocks in the center of your group space.
- Invite the kids to quietly and independently build a tower at their own pace.
- As the kids build, talk about how trusting God is like building a tower. Each time we trust God, we add a block to our tower.
- Encourage each kid to think about one way they can trust God. Ask them to say it aloud as they add a block to their tower.
 - *For example: trusting God for their family, when they're scared, with friendships, at school, with hobbies, when they're trying something new, when unsure what's coming next, etc.*
- *NOTE: Let the kids repeat answers, what's important is that it's meaningful to them.*
- Once their towers are built, take turns praying aloud. Encourage kids to share one thing they're trusting God with.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much! You promised that You are with us, please teach us how to trust that You are with us every second of our lives. Lord, we want to trust You with everything, all of these things we said as we built these towers, and we want to connect with You as You are with us every second as we go throughout our lives. Teach us how to connect with You over everything we face in our lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider allowing kids to work in pair or smaller groups to support anyone who might find it hard to focus.
- If some kids prefer not to speak their prayer out loud, let them know they can pray silently!

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to share their Jacob's Ladder paper chains and what they represent!