

3-6 | August 24

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

Key Question: What helps you remember that God is with you?

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)*

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering Container
- ☐ Snowballs x10
- ☐ Streamers x10
- ☐ Wooden Spoons or spatulas x10
- ☐ Floor Tape

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!

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Mark a starting line and a finish line using floor tape.
- Divide the kids in groups of two.
 - It's okay if you have a group of three.
 - Partner boys together, and partner girls together.
- Give each group a plastic bowl.
- Explain and demonstrate the challenge:
 - Each pair is to stand back-to-back with one teammate facing the finish line.
 - Each pair must hold a plastic bowl between their backs.
 - If the bowl drops, they must stop, pick it up, and restart from where they are.
 - The first group to cross the finish line with the bowl between their backs wins.
- For each new round, add a new object for groups to try to keep between their backs.
 - snowballs
 - streamers
 - wooden spoons or spatulas
- By the last round, the groups should be attempting to balance all the items at once.
- Gather the kids to discuss.

What You Say:

"All of these objects give us clues about today's Bible Story! **[Transition]** We'll hear about someone who made unwise choices. BUT God was with him and proved it by showing up in a very unexpected way. Let's go find out more!"

Inclusive Pro Tips

- Be mindful of pairing kids with someone they feel comfortable with or allow them to choose their partner.

- For any kids with limited mobility, allow groups to stay in one spot and work as a team to balance all of the items on their heads.

Lead your group to watch today's video lesson.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need:

- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Paper

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle, putting some space between them and the kid next to them.
- Give each kid a clipboard, a marker, and a stack of paper that is equivalent to the number of kids in the group.
 - For example, if you have eight kids, each clipboard should have eight sheets of paper.
- On the first page, instruct kids to write about a situation in which it would be important to remember that God is with them.
 - If kids are stumped, share these examples: taking a big test, or moving to a new school
- After a minute or so, direct the kids to pass their clipboards to their left.
- On the second page, instruct the kids to draw a simple picture representing the words on the first page.
- Once they're finished, encourage the kids to move the first paper with the words on it to the back of the stack.
- Instruct the kids to pass the clipboards to the left again.
- Direct the kids with the clipboards to use the picture to write a short description of what they think the picture represents on the next page, then move the paper with the picture to the back of the stack.
- Keep passing, alternating between drawing and writing until each person has their original stack of paper back.
- Encourage the kids to read and share what they originally wrote and how their message changed.
- Discuss with your group:
 - Why is it a situation where you'd want to know God is with you?
 - How can you remind yourselves of God's presence in hard times?
 - Is it a sign of weakness or strength to rely on God?
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you knew God was with you. How did God show up and remind you that He was there?)***

Inclusive Pro Tips

- Be patient with the kids and give them extra time to write or draw for each round if needed.

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible x1
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Fine-tip Markers
- ☐ "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give one kid from each team a clipboard with 10 pages of paper and three fine-tip markers.
- Explain and demonstrate how to play "Knuckle Draw":
 - The kid with the clipboard is to go first.
 - You will show both kids the same card from the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page without letting others see it.
 - The kid will hold all three markers between the fingers of one hand. (Demonstrate using the picture on the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page as an example.)
 - The goal is for the kids to write the bolded word from the cards while holding the markers in this way.
 - The rest of their team will try to guess the word.
 - The first team to guess correctly wins the round.
 - After each round, read the sentence on the card and let kids share what they remember about that part of the Bible Story. (*Refer to Genesis 28:10-22; 25:19-34; 27 if needed.*)
- Switch kids and use a new card for the next round.
- Continue until everyone has had a turn writing and all 10 cards from the "Knuckle Drawing" Activity Page have been used.
- Ask:
 - How does Jacob's story show us that we can trust God no matter what?
 - How did God remind Jacob that He was with him?
 - How does God let us know He's with us today?
 - When you feel alone or are facing something tough, what helps you remember God is with you?
- Share with kids that Jacob wasn't perfect. He made mistakes, but God never left him!
- Explain that all of God's promises to Jacob came true. Eventually, Jesus was born into Jacob's family!
- Encourage the kids that no matter what happens or what we do, God is always with us. We can trust God because of who God is and what He has done! He is good and He has always been good.

Inclusive Pro Tips

- Think about the needs of your group. Let the kids verbally describe the word instead of writing it if they don't feel comfortable.
- Be mindful of any kids with sensory sensitivity by offering a quiet guessing option where kids raise their hands to guess a word.

4. **Pray and Dismiss**

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, 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.”