

K-2 | August 24

**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)*

## 1. Opening Activity

### What You Need:

- ☐ Offering Container

*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.
- Gather the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you're going to create a silly dream story together!
- Start a story using one of the statements below.
  - Last night, I had a dream that three purple giraffes showed up in my backyard. When I asked them to leave because my backyard wasn't big enough for three giraffes, they. . .
  - Last night, I had a dream that I had to give a speech about racecars in an auditorium full of people. When I started to speak, I couldn't remember what a racecar was so I . . .
  - Last night, I had a dream I could fly like an eagle. But only when it rains. The first time I decided to fly to . . .
- The kid to your left will add the next sentence. Then, the next kid continues the story.
- Keep going around the circle until the story gets too long or kids start running out of ideas. Then, start a new dream story!
- When the story gets too long or the kids run out of ideas, start another story or dream.

### What You Say:

"Whoa! We came up with some pretty crazy dream stories! **[Transition]** Today in our true story from the Bible, we'll hear about a man who had a pretty epic dream and how God was always with him—even when he made mistakes. Let's go hear more!"

### Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider the needs of your group. Some kids might need extra time to process and come up with their sentences.
- Modify the activity if kids struggle with the sentences. Let kids add just one word at a time instead of full sentences.

Lead your group to watch today's video lesson.

## 2. Faith Rocks

### What You Need:

- ☐ Small Flat Stones
- ☐ Acrylic Paint pens
- ☐ Small Paper Plates
- ☐ Plastic Tablecloth
- ☐ Wet Wipes
- ☐ Completed Rock Example
- ☐ Permanent marker

### Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Various stickers

### What You Do:

- Cover the floor tables with the tablecloth.
- Set the Acrylic paint pens on the tablecloth, a handful per table.
- Display the completed rock example to the group.
- Give each kid a rock and a plate.
- Read the bottom line together: **[Bottom Line] you can trust that God is with you.**
- Repeat it again.
- Instruct the kids to place the label on the bottom of the rock and then place the rock on the plate.
- Have the kids write the word FAITH on the top of the rock.
- Kids may then decorate the rock with the acrylic paint pens. They may decorate them however they want.
- While they paint, engage the kids with these prompts:
  - Do you ever doubt that God is with you?
  - Why do you think we sometimes doubt that God is with us? (*Because we can't see God with our eyes; because sometimes we face hard things, and we wish God would fix them.*)
  - Is God still with us when we make bad choices? How do you know this is true? (*Yes, God promises to be with us—even when we make bad choices. We know this is true because God always keeps His promises. We can look back at all the times God was with us in the past when we made bad choices. We can also read stories from the Bible about people like Jacob who made bad choices and God was still with him.*)
- Once the kids finish, instruct the kids to leave the rocks on the small plates at their tables to dry for pick up.
- Write the kid's names on their plates with a permanent marker.

### What You Say:

"Can you imagine using a stone as a pillow like Jacob did? Not sure I'd get much sleep if I tried that! I love your colorful rocks and how they're all unique. I want you to take these home and place them somewhere as a reminder that **[Bottom Line] you can trust that God is with you.**"

### Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Some kids might need extra time to process the questions. Be patient, pause frequently, and repeat the questions as needed.
- If kids don't like the feeling of paint, provide stickers for kids to decorate their rock

### 3. Stepping Stones

#### What You Need:

- ☐ Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1
- ☐ “Hebrews 11:1 Stones” Activity Page x2
- ☐ *Optional: floor tape*

#### What You Do:

- Select a kid to open the Bible marked at Hebrews 11:1.
- Read the verse out loud to the group.
- Lead the group to repeat the verse together several times.
- Discuss any unfamiliar words with the group.
- Share with the kids that faith is trusting in God when you can’t see because of what you CAN see!
- Place the “Hebrews 11:1 Stones” Activity Page cards on the floor in verse order.
  - Allow kids to help put the cards in verse order by looking at the numbers on the cards.
  - Place the cards close enough together so that kids can hop from one “stone” to the other.
  - *Optional: Use floor tape to secure the “Hebrews 11:1 Stones” Activity Page in place.*
- Lead the kids to repeat the Memory Verse as they hop along the stones, one kid at a time.
- Assist the kids as needed by reciting the verse with them as they hop.
- Gather the kids to discuss.

#### What You Say:

“Amazing hopping, friends! When Jacob used a rock for a pillow, he had a crazy dream with a staircase that went all the way to heaven! In the middle of a tough situation when he was on the run, God reminded Jacob that He was with him, even when he’d made so many bad decisions.

“In some ways, we aren’t much different than Jacob. In fact, we all make bad decisions. But I’m so glad that God sent Jesus to pay for sin and defeat it once and for all so we could be close to God again. See, that awful curse of sin would separate us from God without Jesus. BUT God loves us so much, and wanted us to be close to Him, so Jesus gave His life to pay for sin.

“And guess what? God wants to be even closer to us! When Jesus returned to heaven, God sent us the Holy Spirit to live inside of His followers! When you decide to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you! He is closer than close, friends. Not only that, but the Holy Spirit leads and guides us to be more like Jesus every day!

“Should we try to do better? Of course! But God’s love for us doesn’t change because of something we’ve done wrong. When you make a wise or a not so wise choice, when you follow God well and when you don’t, God’s love for you stays the same! We can hope and trust in a God we cannot see because we can see all the wonderful things He has done. No matter what happens, **[Bottom Line] you can trust that God is with you.**”

*NOTE: Be sensitive to kids who might have questions about following Jesus. Follow your church's policy for having conversations with kids about salvation. Involve families with this discussion or decisions as well.*

**Inclusive Pro Tips:**

- Consider the needs of your group. Some kids might need extra time to process the words of the verse. Assist as needed.
- Consider alternative movements for kids who are unable to hop on the stones. Invite kids to point to each stone and recite the memory verse from their spot.

## **4. Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:**

*Optional:*

- ☐ *Rocks from Faith Rocks Activity*

**What You Do:**

- Gather kids in a circle.

Option 1: If you painted rocks from the Application Activity:

- Invite the kids to hold up their rocks.
- Lead the kids in saying together: **[Bottom Line] You can trust that God is with you.**
- Close in prayer.

Option 2:

- Ask the kids if they'd like you to pray for anything specific.
- Lead the kids in saying together: **[Bottom Line] You can trust that God is with you.**
- Close in prayer.

**What You Say:**

"Dear God, thank You for Your constant love for all of us! Just like You were with Jacob, You are with us. You don't hold our bad choices against us, and we are so grateful for that. Instead, You offer forgiveness when we turn to You through Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for being a good, good God who we can trust, always. Teach us to listen to Your Holy Spirit and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**Inclusive Pro Tips:**

- When you're praying with the kids, speak slowly and clearly, and give the kids time to say "Amen" with you at the end.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their painted rocks and talk about how just like God was with Jacob that **[Bottom Line] you can trust that God is with you.**