

Jacob Dreams at Bethel

Worship Emphasis

God is always with us.

Scripture Reference

Genesis 27:41-28:22

Hymn of the Month

Come Christians Join to
Sing

Morning Overview

First Hour

9:35 - 10:00

Kinder Church (4s/5s)

10:05 - 10:30

Cherub Church (2s/3s)

Craft: Jacob's Dream
Maze
Snack

Second Hour

Craft: Shapes Angel
Story
Questions for Review
Singing
Scripture Memory
Optional Activities

Preparing Your Heart to Share the Wonders

When Jacob awakened from his sleep, he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not." Jacob did more than to awake from physical slumber. The heavenly vision and the voice of the Lord became a sudden awakening of the inner life. It used to be said of a person who was converted to Christ he or she had had a spiritual awakening. There is no better way to put it.

Jacob had lived with the thought that he controlled his world. Suddenly he found himself confronted by the God who made the world and who sustains it by the word of His power. God is in His world, and many people still do not know it.

In awaking, Jacob did not say, "God came here." With a new awareness and conviction he said, "God is here. This is the gate of heaven." God had been there all the time. The problem was that Jacob did not know it.

So Jacob awoke to the presence of God. There at lonely Bethel he discovered the shining knowledge of a personal God. He became aware that God was and is in the world He crated.

But where do you and I find God? I rejoice to tell you that Christ is our meeting place. The angels long ago announced it when they said that His name should be Immanuel-God with us.

A. W. Tozer, Men Who Met God

Notes for 9:30

Craft: Jacob's Dream Maze

Supplies: preprinted cardstock, paper strips, crayons, glue sticks

Directions:

Let the children color the picture.

Have children add strips of paper to form the ladder.

Lesson Objectives

1. Children will complete the craft with help.
2. Children will participate in the Transition Game.
3. Two and three year olds will sit quietly for at least 8 minutes and listen to the story. Four and five year olds will sit quietly for at least 12 minutes and listen to the story.
4. Children will be able to give simple answers to the questions listed at the end of the lesson. You may want to intersperse the questions throughout the story rather than waiting to ask them all at the end.

11:00 Craft and Transition to Story Time

Craft: Shapes Angels

Supplies: cardstock triangles and circles, glue sticks, crayons or markers

Directions:

Fold larger circle in half. (this will form the wings)

Glue the triangle on the half circle. (this forms the body)

Glue small circle to the top of triangle. (this is the face)

Decorate with markers or crayons.

Finger Play

Open, shut them. Open, shut them.

Give a little clap

Open, shut them. Open, shut them.

Fold them in your lap.

Prayer

Father, help us to sit still and listen to this true story. In Jesus' name.

Transition

Do you ever have dreams? Are they funny ones? (discuss dreams)

When you wake up, well, maybe you're not even certain where you are or what happened! But there you've been sleeping in your own bed all the time! Today I'm going to tell you about a time Jacob had a dream.

Or (and much better)

Bring a large rock and a pillow. Ask the children if they were taking a nap which they'd prefer to rest their head on? Let them try using a rock for a pillow.

Today in our story I'm going to tell you about the time Jacob put his head on a rock and went to sleep.

Notes

Key Concepts:

It would be wonderful if our little ones could grasp these main points:

- God loves His children all the time.
- God is always with us.
- God always fulfills His promises.

Story

Leaving home

Esau was very mad at his brother Jacob. Remember how Jacob had tricked his father by pretending he was Esau so he could get the special blessing. Jacob was blind and unable to see which of his sons had come asking for the special blessing. So he thought Jacob was Esau. When Esau found out, he was so angry. Why, he was planning to find Jacob and to hurt him.

When Jacob and Esau's mother Rebekah found out, quickly she ran to tell Jacob, "Leave and go to your Uncle Laban's house far away in Haran. Stay with him for awhile until your brother is no longer angry with you, but forgets what you did to him.

"I'll send someone to tell you when it's time to come home." Rebekah was so sad and so troubled. She had done the wrong thing. She had helped Jacob trick his father. Now Jacob, who Rebekah loved so much, was leaving home.

Isaac, Jacob's father, called for Jacob and said, "Go far away to your Uncle Laban's house. Find a lady there to be your wife, a lady from our family." Isaac did not want his son Jacob to marry a lady who did not believe in God.

Esau had done that. He had married a lady who did not believe in the true God and it had made his parents very sad. They did not want Jacob to do the same thing. At Uncle Laban's house he could find a wife.

So quickly and quietly Jacob left home. It must have been pretty hard for Jacob to do that. He loved being at home. Remember Esau spent lots of time outside, but not Jacob. He liked home. But now he had to leave. Jacob had had a very nice life too. Why his father Isaac was very rich! There was a lot of good food to eat and servants to take care of Jacob. But now Jacob had to leave his home and servants and his mom and dad too. He had tricked Esau and it was not safe for Jacob to say at his home. So Isaac packed a small bag and left.

A lonely journey

Uncle Laban's house was far, far away – more than 300 miles! It was in the town called Haran. Jacob had to walk and walk over the hot sand. The Bible doesn't say there were any servants with Jacob. It seems that he was all alone. Sometimes when you're all alone, it's a good time to think. I bet Jacob was thinking. I bet he was remembering how he had tricked his father. He was probably very sad – sad that he had to leave

home, sad that he had done bad things.

On and on Jacob walked until it was almost dark. There were no houses or tents or any place like that where Jacob could sleep. Finally Jacob found a place where he could stretch out on the ground. He was so tired. It's hard to walk for a long time, you know. Even the hard ground felt good to tired Jacob. But everyone needs a pillow and Jacob didn't have one. So he found a rock, picked it up and put it right under his head. Jacob went to sleep.

A special dream

The Bible says that after Jacob went to sleep he had a dream. But it wasn't a scary dream or a funny dream or anything like that. This was a special dream that God had given Jacob.

In his dream, Jacob saw what looked like a ladder, a very tall ladder. The bottom of the ladder was on the ground and the top of the ladder was high, reaching into heaven. And on the ladder were angels, beautiful angels. The angels were God's angels and they were going up and going down the ladder. High, at the very top of the ladder stood the Lord.

The Bible doesn't say what He looked like. It just says that Jacob saw him standing there. God said words to Jacob, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your family the land on which you are lying. Your family will be like the dust of the earth and you will spread out in every direction. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go." God was making the same promise to Jacob that He had made to his father Isaac and to his grandfather Abraham as well.

Yes, Jacob had done bad things and he had to leave home, but God still loved Jacob. God was watching him even as he walked over the hot sandy ground to Uncle Laban's house. God would give him a big family, just as he had promised Isaac and Abraham.

When Jacob woke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I didn't know it." The Bible says Jacob was afraid. It would be a little scary if we knew God was right here. Why He is so holy and perfect and powerful – very different than we are!

Jacob's response

Early the next morning, Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up high. Then Jacob took some oil and poured it on top of the stone. Jacob called that place Bethel. The word Bethel means "house of God." Jacob always wanted to remember the dream God gave

Notes

him where he had seen a ladder, beautiful angels and God himself.

Then Jacob continued on his way to Uncle Laban's house, just like his father had said. But I bet he wasn't so lonely anymore.

For the 2s - Tell the story simply

Questions

younger: Who did God give a special dream to?
 What did Jacob see in his dream?

older: Where was Jacob going?
 Why was he leaving home and going to Uncle Laban's?
 What did God promise Jacob?
 Who loves us all the time and promises to watch over us
 wherever we go?

Singing Review

Come Christians Join to Sing

Alphabet Memorization: V

"Verily I say to you, Whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you." John 16:23

Optional Activities

Jacob went on a long, long walk. (walk in place swinging arms)

On a stone, he lay down to sleep. (place hands together under head; Tilt it to the side to show sleep)

Dreamed of angels climbing on a stair. (make a hand-over-hand motion to show someone climbing a ladder)

Heard God say His promises He'd keep. (stand straight)

302: Come, Christians join to sing

Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!