



# Life of Jacob: The Family

**Lesson Aim:** To encourage overcoming obstacles and perseverance in relationships with God and family.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** The God Who Keeps His Promises

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Genesis 29:25-27; 31:40-42; 32:24-30; 35:1-3, 10-12

**What He has done:** God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.

**Key Verse:** Genesis 32:28

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Romans 5:3-5

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-18; 14:13-16	God gave Abram the land and blessed it.	To learn how trust and the desire to please God are the keys to being a peacekeeper.
33	Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 16:7-16; 21:9-20	God watched over Hagar and Ishmael and gave them a promise.	To see God watches over us and ensures His plans for us.
34	Abraham and Isaac, Genesis 22:1-2, 6-18	God fulfilled His promise of a son for Abraham and tested Abraham's faith.	To challenge children to a more active faith by offering their lives as a living sacrifice.
35	The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-51	God helped the servant fulfill his mission and find Rebekah.	To see God is fully present in the jobs we are given. He calls us to obey, pray, and give ourselves away.
36	Jacob and Esau, Genesis 25:22-34; 27:41	God had a plan for each brother, Jacob and Esau.	To consider the importance and long term consequences of our choices.
37	Life of Jacob: The Family, Genesis 29:25-27; 31:40-42; 32:24-30; 35:1-3, 10-12	God kept His promises to be with Jacob and to make him into a nation.	To encourage overcoming obstacles and perseverance in relationships with God and family.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 5:1-5. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, God, for the way You always watch over us and keep Your promises. Help the children understand the depth of Your faithfulness. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Family Olympics	Hula hoops, chairs, tables, tape, stopwatch or clock
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "You Will Seek Me" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "I Am with You" "I Lift Up My Eyes" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Standing on the Promises" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Psalm 135:3-4	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 37 High Sea Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Genesis 29:25-27; 31:40-42; 32:24-30; 35:1-3, 10-12	Map—Ancient Palestine (Haran, Jabbok river near Succoth), Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discussion</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Romans 5:3-5	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treat—Small stone, W <sup>3</sup> s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Promise Pudding	Vanilla or chocolate pudding, chocolate chips
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Jacob's Family Find	Paper, marker, tape, optional: poster board
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> Promise Balloons	Large balloons, paper, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	<b>Discussion:</b> Jacob's Tithe	None
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Scrambled Promise	Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Understanding the Promise	None
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Timeline

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

# THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: What is the best dream you have ever had?**

## **GAME: FAMILY OLYMPICS**

**Purpose:** Players will race through an obstacle course while linking arms with their "family" teammates.

**Supplies:** Hula hoops, chairs, tables, tape, stopwatch or clock.

**Prepare:** Set up the following events or create your own events. If you have room and enough supplies, set up parallel events so teams can run the course at the same time.

- Bobsled: A table.
- Balance Beam: Tape stretched into a straight line on the floor.
- Ski Jumping: A hula-hoop.
- Figure Skating: 4 chairs in a line with space to walk between them.

**How many people are in your family?** Allow several children to share. **Today, we are going to discover how God kept His promise to a father, his son, and his grandson by giving them a big family that became a whole nation of people. That means they have millions and millions of children and grandchildren. That's a really big promise! Let's form pretend families and have a Family Olympics.**

### **Directions:**

1. Demonstrate how each event is completed using the instructions below.
2. Form "families" of six players each.
3. Ask the members within each family to stand shoulder to shoulder and link arms at the elbow. Families (teams) must keep their arms linked at all times.
4. On your signal, the first family moves quickly through each event until they have completed the course. Use your stopwatch or clock to record the time it takes for them to complete the course. Encourage everyone to cheer for the family who is on the course.
5. Repeat steps 3-4 for each family.
6. The goal is to be the family who completes the course in the shortest time.

### **Event Instructions:**

- Bobsled: Families sit on the floor and scoot in the sitting position under the table from one side to the other.
- Balance Beam: Families slide their feet down the length of the tape without stepping off.
- Ski Jumping: A teacher or helper holds the hula hoop in the vertical position as all the family members step through the hoop.
- Figure Skating: Families weave between the chairs.



The God who keeps His promises

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

**Welcome! Today, we worship the God who keeps His promises. He promised Jacob in a dream that He would be with him. God kept that promise.**



**As we give our offerings, let's celebrate God's promise to always be with us. He is with us now through His Holy Spirit, who lives in the hearts of all who believe.**

Sing: "I Am with You" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God being with us.



Read Psalm 135:3-4.



Perform High Sea Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 37.



Jacob overcomes in his relationships

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."**

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Last time, we learned Jacob tricked his brother and his father. What did Esau trade his birthright for?** (A bowl of stew.) **What did Jacob steal from Esau by tricking their father, Isaac?** (The blessing meant for Esau as the oldest son.) **Today, we will look at the next twenty years of Jacob's life. During this time, Jacob overcame many obstacles. He never gave up building his relationships with his family and with God.**



**If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 29:25-27; 31:40-42; 32:24-30; 35:1-3, 10-12. **Let's see who can Find Genesis 32:28. First! Ready? Set? Go!** Children race through the pages to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 32:28.**

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**Jacob ran away to Haran to work for his Uncle Laban. There, he fell in love with Laban's younger daughter, a shepherdess named Rachel. For permission to marry her, Jacob agreed to work seven years for Laban. But after the seven years, Laban tricked Jacob into marrying his older daughter, Leah. Check out what happened after the wedding night.** Read Genesis 29:25-27. (Note: In Bible times, it was common for men to have more than one wife.)

**Jacob worked seven more years so he could marry Rachel. He had twelve sons and one daughter. His favorite son was Joseph who was his first child with his favorite wife, Rachel. Later, Jacob ran away with his family and servants. Laban chased and caught up with them. Read what Jacob told Laban about his past twenty years of hard work.** Read Genesis 31:40-42.

**Jacob sent a message to Esau because he was sorry for what he had done. He was afraid Esau would still be angry, so he sent many gifts ahead for him. Then, he sent his wives and children to safety across the Jabbok River and he stayed behind.** If a map of Ancient Palestine is available, point to Haran, then to the Jabbok River near Succoth. **Let's read what happened near the Jabbok River shore.** Read Genesis 32:24-30.

**The next day, to Jacob's surprise, Esau hugged and kissed him; all was forgiven. Then, God sent Jacob to the place where 20 years earlier he had dreamed of a ladder to heaven. In the dream, God promised to be with Jacob.** Read Genesis 35:1-3, 10-12.



Relationships with God and with our family

## THE WAY

To gain his father's blessing, Jacob tricked Isaac into believing he was Esau. Seven years later, Laban tricked Jacob into believing Leah was Rachel. How do you think Jacob felt to be tricked? (Children respond.) Jacob did not give up. He chose to work another seven years to marry Rachel. What negative choices could he have made instead? (To quit, seek revenge, etc.) Have you ever faced an unfair or discouraging time when you wanted to give up? (Children respond.) If so, how does this story encourage you? (Children respond.)

When Jacob sinned against Esau, he broke their relationship. Esau chose to hold a grudge against him. Twenty years later, what did Jacob do even though he was afraid of Esau? (He sent him a message and gifts to show he was sorry.) Have you ever needed courage to ask someone for forgiveness? (Children respond.) Esau hugged, kissed, and forgave Jacob. How does Esau's choice to forgive remind you of God? (Children respond.) What negative choices could Esau have made instead? (To refuse to come, to seek revenge, etc.) Is there a broken relationship in your life? If so, what obstacles do you face in mending that relationship? (Fear, guilt, revenge, etc.)

Just as Jacob never gave up on building a relationship with Rachel and then with Esau, he never gave up on seeking God's presence and His blessing. When Esau hugged him, Jacob said it was like seeing God's face. What other time did he feel that way? (When he wrestled with the stranger God sent in the night.) In the same way Jacob wrestled physically for God's blessing, we sometimes wrestle with God through our prayers. Who did Jacob say he saw face-to-face as he wrestled? (God.) Jacob would not let go until God blessed him. Have you been waiting for God to bless you in some way? (Children respond.)

What was Jacob promised in God's blessing? (A nation and community of nations would come from him, kings would come from him, the land promised to Abraham and Isaac.) What new name was given to Jacob? (Israel.) What was the reason given for changing Jacob's name? (Because he struggled with God and with men and had overcome.) Jacob's struggles brought him closer to God and his family.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

1900 years after Jacob overcame so many obstacles in his relationship with God and his family, Paul wrote about the good things God builds in us during hard times.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Romans 5:3-5. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Romans 5:3-5.

What examples can you find in Jacob's story to show his suffering led to perseverance (never giving up), character (making right choices), and hope? (Children respond.) Jacob suffered when tricked by Laban, but he persevered in his work for twenty years which built his character enough for him to approach Esau and to wrestle for God's blessing. When have your struggles built your perseverance, character, or hope? (Children respond.)



# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## **GOLDEN BOWL**

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.** Read names in Golden Bowl.

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a stone. Jacob built an altar of stone to worship and thank God for keeping His promises to be with him. Let's each take home a stone to help us remember to thank God for keeping His promises to us.

**W<sup>3</sup>:** Take home today's W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry #37. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Esau running to meet Jacob. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "You Will Seek Me," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: PROMISE PUDDING**

**Purpose:** To enjoy a snack and build relationships by discussing promises.

**Snack Suggestion:** Vanilla or chocolate pudding, chocolate chips

**Let's have some Promise Pudding for our snack! In today's story, we heard how God kept His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As we enjoy our Promise Pudding, I would like to hear about a promise someone gave to you and kept. What was the promise and how did you feel when they kept it?**

**Directions:**

1. Scoop some of the pudding into each child's bowl. Sprinkle a few chocolate chips on top of the pudding. Serve the drinks.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. As you eat, discuss the questions above. Start the discussion by sharing your own answers.

### **GAME: JACOB'S FAMILY FIND**

**Purpose:** Children learn the names of Jacob's twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Supplies:** Paper, marker, tape, optional: poster board

**Prepare:** Print one of the following names each on a separate slip of paper: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher. Before class, hide the slips of paper around the room. Designate a wall, white board, or hang a piece of poster board where children can tape the names they find.

**God made a promise to Abraham, his son Isaac, and his grandson Jacob. He promised He would give them land and a big family that would become an entire nation. God always keeps His promises. Jacob had many sons who became the first people in the nation of Israel, just like God promised! There were twelve sons and each of them had children. Let's play a game to find out the names of those sons.**

**Directions:**

1. Divide group into teams of two or three. Each team links arms for the duration of the game.
2. On your signal, teams search the room for the slips of paper.
3. When a team finds a slip of paper, they should shout out the name on the slip of paper and then move to the designated area to tape the name they find.
4. When all twelve names are found, the game is over.

**Teacher Tip:** You may choose to limit the number of papers each team finds. For example, if there are four teams, each team sits down after finding three names.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: PROMISE BALLOONS**

**Purpose:** For children to decorate memory verse papers for their family members and insert them into a balloon to use for family discussion.

**Supplies:** Large balloons, paper, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** Print a copy of the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse for each child on paper. Make sure the top to bottom length of the paper is less than the length of the deflated balloon. If you have time in class, you can have the children copy the verse themselves.

**We can always trust God to keep His promises. Some of His promises are found in our Bible Memory Verse, Jeremiah 29:11-13. Let's each make a Promise Balloon to take home to our families. At home, pop the balloon with your family, and read the Bible Memory Verse together. Work together to find the promises God gives us in these verses.**

### **Directions:**

1. Decorate a Bible Memory Verse paper.
2. Roll the paper into a tight stick.
3. Carefully insert the stick into the open end of the deflated balloon until it disappears inside.
4. Blow up the balloon and knot the end. (Teacher Tip: If you underinflate the balloons, they will be less likely to pop accidentally.)
5. As you work, talk about the promises found in Jeremiah 29:11-13.
6. Instruct children to take the balloon home, pop it, and read God's promises with their families.

**Optional:** Invite the children's families into your classroom when they arrive for pick-up. Lead the families through popping their balloons and reading the verse together. Encourage the families to discuss God's promises during the car ride home.

## **DISCUSSION: JACOB'S TITHE**

**Purpose:** To help children see Jacob promised to tithe ten percent back to God.

**Supplies:** None

**After Jacob woke up from his dream, he made a promise back to God. Let's read Jacob's promise.** Read Genesis 28:20-22. **What did Jacob promise to give God?** (He promised to give back one tenth of everything God gave him.) **Giving back one tenth to God is called tithing. Jacob was one of the first people in the Bible to promise to give his tithe to God.**

**God has given us everything we have. We can show our love and worship Him by giving back one tenth of our money to Him. If I have ten coins, how much would I give back to God? (One coin.) If you need help figuring out how much ten percent is, be sure to ask a parent or teacher for help.**

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

## **GAME: SCRAMBLED PROMISE**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Sturdy colorful paper, Bible or Bible Memory Verse poster

**Prepare:** Cut out 17 large heart shapes (8-inch by 11-inch) from colorful sturdy paper. Print brief phrases of Jeremiah 29:11-13 on each heart as follows: For I know/ the plans/ I have for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to prosper you/ and not to harm you/ plans to give you hope/ and a future/ Then you will call/ upon Me and come/ and pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will seek Me/ and find Me/ when you seek Me/ with all your heart

### **Directions:**

1. Shuffle the hearts.
2. Give one heart to each child or group of children.
3. On your signal, children race to get the hearts in the correct order to unscramble the verse.
4. Variations of this game include relays, setting time limits, or timing each individual.
5. To simplify the game, display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

## **DISCUSSION: UNDERSTANDING THE PROMISE**

**Purpose:** To help children understand the Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** None

**In our Bible Memory Verse, God promises He has special plans for each of us.** Read Jeremiah 29:11. **What does He say about those plans?** (His plans will be good for us: “...plans to prosper you and not to harm you.” We can look forward to what He has planned for us throughout our lives: “plans to give you hope and a future.”) **Just as God kept His promise to Abram, He will keep His promises to us. What plans did He have for Abram?** (God gave him a new land, a huge family that became a nation, and made him famous.)

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13. **What does God want us to do?** (Seek Him and pray to Him with all our hearts.) **What does God promise when we do these things?** (He will listen to us and we will find Him in our lives.) **Abram showed us how to seek God. Abram was always talking to God and was ready to listen each time God told him about His plan for him.**

**How can we seek God?** (Read the Bible, pray, worship, spend time with other Christians.) **Sometimes, God may show little bits of His plan to you over many years. Abram had to be patient and wait to see God’s plan for him, but it was worth the wait!**

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.)** How did God test Abraham? (God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.) **Who did God send to stop Abraham before he sacrificed Isaac?** (An angel.) **What did God promise Abraham?** (He would have more family than stars in the sky.)

**Isaac and Rebekah** Who did Abraham send to find the future wife for Isaac? (His chief servant.) **What happened when the servant arrived at the well?** (He prayed for God's sign to be a woman who gave him and his camels water.) **What was the name of the wife the servant found for Isaac?** (Rebekah.)

**Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.)** What did Jacob do to Esau? (He tricked him out of his birthright; He took his blessing by tricking their father Isaac into giving it to him.) **What did Jacob dream about when he ran away from Esau?** (Angels on a ladder going to heaven.) **What did Jacob do the whole night before he reunited with Esau?** (He wrestled with a mysterious man until God gave him a blessing.)

### How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

**Unit 10:** John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)