



Life of Jacob: The Dream

Lesson Aim: To trust God to keep His promise to be with us wherever we go.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Keeps His Promises

THE WORD

Bible Story: Genesis 28:12-17

What He Has Done: God told Jacob in a dream He would keep His promise.

THE WAY - BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I will watch over you wherever you go." Genesis 28:15

| Unit 7: The God Who Keeps His Promises | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | Bible Story | What He Has Done | Lesson Aim |
| 32 | Abram and Lot, Genesis 13:1-2, 5-11, 14-18 | God gave Abram the land and blessed it. | To see how to live in peace with one another. |
| 33 | Hagar and Ishmael, Genesis 21:12-20 | God kept His promise when He rescued Hagar and Ishmael in the desert. | To know God watches over us. |
| 34 | Abraham's Visitors, Genesis 15:5-6; 18:1-14 | God sent three men to say His promise would come true. | To know God can do anything He promises. |
| 35 | The Search for Rebekah, Genesis 24:34-46, 61-67 | God helped Abraham's servant find Rebekah. | To show how to obey and pray. |
| 36 | Jacob and Esau, Genesis 27:30-35; 32:5; 33:4-11 | God kept His promised plan for each brother. | To know we can forgive each other. |
| 37 | Life of Jacob: The Dream, Genesis 28:12-17 | God told Jacob in a dream He would keep His promise. | To trust God to keep His promise to be with us wherever we go. |

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Galatians 3:26-29. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, God, for the way You always watch over us and always keep Your promises. Help the children understand the depth of Your faithfulness. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Bible Activity Centers. Introduce the "Talk About" points to the first children who come to do an activity. When another child joins in, ask the first children to share what they are doing. Ask them how it applies to the Bible story. Assign a center to each of your helpers so you can spend your time welcoming children into the classroom. Be prepared for children to move from center to center by placing the centers strategically around the room. It's OK for children to just play with the materials for a center.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

| Segment | Minutes | Activity | Supplies |
|-------------|----------|--|---|
| THE WELCOME | Up to 20 | Treasure Chest | Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cloud or attach a cotton ball to a sticker or label |
| | | Coloring Center: Jacob's Dream | Coloring pages of Jacob's dream, crayons |
| | | Play-Dough Center: A Stone for a Pillow | Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools |
| | | Block Center: Ladder to Heaven | Legos, Duplo, or other toy building materials that can be connected together to create a ladder |
| | | Dramatic Play Center: God Is with Us | Dishes, cups, napkins, play food |
| | | Preparing for Worship | None |
| THE WORSHIP | Up to 20 | Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. | Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Am with You" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "Guide Me in Your Truth" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Will Listen to the Lord" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" Additional Song Suggestions: "Father Abraham" "My God Is So Big" by Mary Rice Hopkins |
| | | Offering | Baskets |
| | | Worship Illustration | <i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 37 |
| THE WORD | Up to 10 | Watch the Word: Genesis 28:12-17 | Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 28:15-16 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, pillow, large stone |
| THE WAY | Up to 25 | Craft: Jacob's Ladder | Standard-size light blue sturdy paper, 4 cotton balls, glitter paint (or glue and glitter) |
| | | Game: Act It Out! | Step stool, chair, optional: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am with You" |
| | | Game: God Is with Me | Soft ball |
| | | Snack: God Is in This Place | Pretzel ladders (Children use small marshmallows, grapes, or another food to connect the pretzel sticks into a ladder shape.) |
| | Final 5 | Final Five | Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 37 |
| GOT TIME? | Up to 10 | Say & Do: Genesis 28:12-17 | None |
| | Up to 10 | Game: Stand Up and Say It! | None |
| | Up to 10 | Game: Wherever You Go | Chairs (optional) |
| | Up to 10 | Story Time | Any story about God's promises or God's family |

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I am glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure. Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a cloud or a cotton ball attached to a sticker or label. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a cloud remind you heaven is above the clouds. God is there in heaven and He is here, too.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: JACOB'S DREAM

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Jacob's dream, crayons

DO

Children color their pictures while talking about the story.

TALK ABOUT

Today we're going to hear about an amazing dream Jacob had. In the dream, he saw angels and God spoke to him! Can you count the angels in the picture with me? (Children respond.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: A STONE FOR A PILLOW

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children create a place to sleep with the play-dough to share while discussing today's lesson.

TALK ABOUT

Our story today is about Jacob and his special dream. Jacob was walking a great distance, farther than he could go in one day. At night, there was no place for him to stay. He slept on the ground and all he had for a pillow was a large stone. Would you want a stone for a pillow? (Children respond.) **Can you make a sleeping Jacob and give him a stone for a pillow?** (Children respond.)

THE WELCOME *continued ...*

BLOCK CENTER: LADDER TO HEAVEN

SUPPLIES

Lego, Duplo, or other toy building materials that can be connected together to create a ladder

DO

Children connect the blocks to make a ladder.

TALK ABOUT

When do we dream? (When we are sleeping.) **Our story today is about Jacob and a special dream that God gave to him. Jacob dreamed he saw a ladder reaching all the way up to heaven. On the ladder were many angels going up and down. How would you feel if you had a dream like this?** (Children respond.) **God gave Jacob the dream so he could tell Jacob He was always with Him.**

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: GOD IS WITH US

SUPPLIES

Dishes, cups, napkins, play food

DO

While children are playing, talk with them about today's lesson aim: God keeps His promise to be with us wherever we go.

TALK ABOUT

Our Bible Memory Verse tells us God will watch over us wherever you go. Can we see God? (No.) **But, the Bible tells us God is always with us. We can trust Him to keep His promise to us. Is God with us when we are here at church?** (Yes.) **Is God with us when we are in our homes?** (Yes.) **Can God make you better when you are sick?** (Yes.) **If you are lost, is God with you?** (Yes.) **If you are sad, can you pray and ask God for help?** (Yes.) **Is there anywhere we can go where God is not with us?** (No!) **God is always with us.**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Once the service has begun, clean up and begin the planned activities.

Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away. Praise any child who helps.

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"I will
watch over you
wherever
You
go."
Genesis 18:15**

(I) Point to self.
(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.
Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.
Index finger points straight ahead.
Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



The God who keeps His promises

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



I'm so glad you are here today. Did you know God is here with us? (Children respond.) **We can't see God, but we know He is always watching over us and we can talk with Him through prayer. Let's do that right now.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, we are so glad to know You are here with us. Thank You for keeping Your promise to watch over us. Amen.**



Let's celebrate by singing about our mighty God who is always with us! Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."

Today, we will hear about Jacob's special dream. His dream was a reminder that God was with him. God is with us, too. Sing: "Be Still and Know" while the offering is collected.



Let's see if Delbert and Lello know about Jacob's dream. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 7, Lesson 37.



Where do we find God's promises to us? (In the Bible.) **God made a special promise to us when He said, "I will watch over you wherever you go." Let's say our Bible Memory Verse. together.** Practice with the motions a few times.

**"I will
watch over you
wherever
You
go."
Genesis 18:15**

(I) Point to self.
(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.
Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.
Index finger points straight ahead.
Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing: "I Am with You"



God promised to be with us

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 28:15-16, picture of the Bible story, pillow, large stone

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| With my eyes on my teacher; | Point to eyes. |
| My mouth quiet as can be, | Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign. |
| I will listen to hear, | Cup hand around ear. |
| How God loves you and me. | Hug self, point to others, and then self. |

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Today, I brought a pillow and a stone. What can you tell me about the pillow? (It's soft and fluffy. You can use it to rest your head.) **What can you tell me about the stone?** (It's hard, heavy.) **On which would you rather rest your head?** (Children respond.) **Why wouldn't you want to use the stone?** (Children respond.) **Our story today is about Jacob and his special dream. He had to use a stone as a pillow. Let's find out what happened.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Genesis 28:15-16.



WATCH THE WORD: GENESIS 28:12-17

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Jacob was traveling as the sun began to set.**
- **With a stone as his pillow, he lay down his head.**
- **The Lord was with Jacob who fell fast asleep**
- **And a ladder to heaven appeared in his dream.**

- **Angels moved up and down on each ladder stair.**
- **And at the top, he saw God standing there.**
- **"I am the God of your father," He said.**
- **"Through you and your children all the world will be blessed."**

- **"I am with you, watching over you wherever you go."**
- **God said, "I will keep My promise." Then Jacob awoke.**
- **He thought, "Surely this is heaven's gate.**
- **And surely the Lord is in this place!"**

What did Jacob say after he woke up? ("God is in this place.") **What promise did God make to Jacob in his dream?** ("I am with you. I will watch over you wherever you go.")



God is with us
THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: JACOB'S LADDER

Purpose: To illustrate Jacob's dream.

Note: A craft template with instructions and a sample are available at ResourceWell.org or use the following instructions to design your own.

Supplies: Standard-size light blue sturdy paper, 4 cotton balls, glitter paint (or glue and glitter)

Prepare: Print 4 ladder steps from bottom to top across the paper. Print one angel figure on each step of the ladder. Under the ladder, print:

**"The Lord is in this place."
Genesis 28:16**

Directions:

1. Color the picture.
2. Glue the 4 cotton balls across the top of the light blue paper.
3. Decorate each angel figure with glitter paint.
4. Allow to dry.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remembers what Jacob said when he woke up?** ("God is in this place.") **Lord is another name for God.**
- **Have you ever dreamed about heaven?** (Children respond.)
- **What do you think the angels looked like in Jacob's dream?** (Children respond.)
- **Our Bible Memory Verse comes from the promise God made to Jacob in his dream. Who can say that promise?** ("I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go," Genesis 28:15.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: ACT IT OUT!

Purpose: To remember God's promise in Jacob's dream.

Supplies: Step stool, chair, optional: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Am with You"

Let's act out Jacob's dream.

Directions:

1. Choose a child as Jacob to lie on the floor pretending to sleep with cheek resting on a fist as a rock. **With a stone as a pillow, Jacob laid down to rest.**
2. Choose another child to be God. Assist the child while he or she stands on a chair (the top of the ladder). **God was with Jacob.**
3. **While Jacob is sleeping, the rest of you will be the angels who move up and down the ladder.** Assist the children as they take turns stepping up on and down off the step stool. You may choose to have them sing the Bible Memory Verse Song as they do this.
4. Have the child who is God announce God's promise: **"I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go."**
5. If time allows, change roles and repeat until each child has a turn as Jacob, God, and an angel.

GAME: GOD IS WITH ME

Purpose: To expand their understanding of God's omnipresence.

Supplies: Soft ball

Just as God was with Jacob wherever he went, God is with you, too. He will watch over you wherever you go. Let's think of the places you go where God is with you.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Roll the ball to a child. Instruct the child to say,
"God is with me in _____."
(My bedroom, dreams, backyard, classroom, car, swing, bicycle, etc.)
3. Everyone responds by saying **"God is with you wherever you go."**
4. Repeat steps 2-3 until each child has a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: GOD IS IN THIS PLACE

Purpose: To remember we can trust God to keep His promise to be with us wherever we go.

Snack Suggestion: Pretzel ladders (Children use small marshmallows, grapes, or another food to connect the pretzel sticks into a ladder shape.)

Use the dip to connect your pretzel sticks and create the shape of a ladder on your plate. In his dream, Jacob saw God and he knew God was watching over him.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father, once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Do you think God is here in this room with us as we eat our snack?** (Yes.)
 - **Just as we hear and see each other now, God hears and sees us, too. Do you think He saw and heard us thank Him for our blessings?** (Yes.)
 - **God is with us everywhere. Where is your favorite place to be with God?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| "I will | (I) Point to self. |
| watch over you | (watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you. |
| wherever | Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side. |
| You | Index finger points straight ahead. |
| go." | Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward. |
| Genesis 18:15 | Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible. |

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: GENESIS 28:12-17

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Jacob was traveling as the sun began to set.** (Walk in place.)
- **With a stone as his pillow, he lay down his head.** (Rest cheek on fist.)
- **God was with Jacob who fell fast sleep** (Close eyes.)
- **And a ladder to heaven appeared in his dream.** (Open eyes; point to heaven.)

- **Angels moved up and down on each stair.** (Pretend to climb.)
- **And at the top, he saw God standing there.** (Point to heaven.)
- **"I am the God of your father," He said.** (Point to self.)
- **"Through you and your children all the world will be blessed."** (Stretch arms wide.)

- **"I am with you, watching over you wherever you go."**(Point to other children.)
- **He said, "I will keep My promise." Then Jacob awoke.** (Rub eyes.)
- **He thought, "Surely this is a special place.** (Nod head in agreement.)
- **And surely God is in this place!"** (Point to ground.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I will watch over you wherever you go." Genesis 28:15

GAME: STAND UP AND SAY IT!

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

In the Bible, God made a promise to watch over us. We can remember that promise by saying it to one another. Practice saying the Bible Memory Verse together a few times.

Directions:

1. Say, **"If you are a girl, I want you to stand and say God's promise together."**
2. The girls stand and say, **"I will watch over you wherever you go."**
3. Repeat steps 1-2 with various groups such as:
 - If you are a boy.
 - If you love God.
 - If you are wearing something blue.
 - If you have a brother or sister.
4. Play as often as you like, announcing different groups each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: WHEREVER YOU GO

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Chairs (optional)

Prepare: In this game, the children will pretend to travel to various locations. You may choose to set up two rows of chairs next to each other as a pretend car or the children can sit in rows on the floor.

In the Bible, God made a promise to watch over us wherever we go. What are some of the places we go? (e.g., Grandma's house, store, playground, doctor's office.)

Directions:

1. Children sit in the chairs or sit in rows on the floor.
2. **Let's pretend we're riding in a car.** Ask one of the children, **"Where should we go?"**
3. Have fun pretending to drive the car to that location. Pretend to stop for traffic or to take a wrong return. When you arrive, say, **"We're here!"**
4. You may choose to have the children get out of the car and act out an activity they might do at that location, such as hugging grandma, buying milk, or running in place for the playground.
5. Ask, **"Is God with us when we are at name of location?"**
6. Lead the children in saying, **"God says, 'Yes! I will watch over you wherever you go.'"**
7. If the children got out of the car, have them take their seats again. Play as often as you like or as long as children are interested. You may choose to change the vehicle into a bus, train, or airplane depending on the location to which you are traveling.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God's promises or God's family.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 7, Lesson 37: Life of Jacob: The Dream

PONDER! God told Jacob in a dream He would keep His promise(Genesis 28:12-17). What was God's promise to Jacob? Is God always with us, too? (Yes!)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, Lord, for watching over us wherever we go. Help us remember You are always with us, even as we sleep and dream. Amen."

PLAY! Cut a large circle from sturdy paper. On the circle, write "God is with me!" and decorate it. Punch a hole in the top of the circle. Lace and tie a 24-inch piece of yarn or string through the hole. Wear your "God is with me!" necklace to remind you that wherever you are, God is with you.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"I will
watch over you
wherever**

**You
go."**

Genesis 18:15

(I) Point to self.

(watch) Pointer and middle finger point out away from you.

Hold up pointer finger and shake it from side to side.

Index finger points straight ahead.

Both index fingers move away from the body as they tip forward.

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.