



Date: _____
Series: Pass the Promise
Fall Year 1, Lesson 18

Jacob's Dream

Take Home Point: *God helps us through big family problems.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Genesis 28:10-22

Key Verse: Genesis 28:15, "Remember, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go."

We will help kids know:

- God came through a dream to Jacob when on the run from family problems.
- God promised the Messiah (Jesus) would come to his descendants.
- Jacob's life was different when he trusted and obeyed.




We will help kids feel:

- They can feel confident that God will be with them in their times of trouble.
- They can feel secure that they are forgiven and Jesus goes with them in all they do.

We will help kids do:

- Discuss their times of family difficulties and how God might "come to them."
- Plan how they can help their family through difficult times.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	Have you ever wanted to run away? Sometimes problems make us feel like running away. Kids will write about or draw their worries and then pack them in a bag like they were running away.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lunch bag for each child • small sheets of paper • pencils or pens • spiral notebook for each group
Large Group 	4 8-9 9-10 11-12	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Big Family Problems" Dramatic Presentation: "Jacob's Dream and God's Promise" Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Big Family Problems"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy with a backpack • small video game in backpack pocket • large stepladder covered with white sheets • a few children with white robes can portray angels • fog machine (optional) • black lights (optional) • pillow or bean bag covered with a white sheet • adult actor costumed as Jacob • football for Pass the Promise series
Small Group Application 	5-6	In the Bible, God has promised to be with us when we have problems. As they depart for the day, the children will leave the bags they have packed with worries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copy of "Bible Promises for Our Problems" (see page 7) for each child • prayer journal • one large stepladder covered with sheets should be close to the small group area

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

During warm-up time, the goal is to begin developing relationships in which children will feel comfortable sharing. Listen to what kids are saying and what God is giving you in response to them.

Each week use a prayer journal (a spiral notebook) to write down the children's prayer concerns as they come up throughout the lesson. Pray for these concerns at prayer time.

Every child feels picked on or misunderstood at one point or another. Begin the discussion by telling about a time you, as a small child, felt like running away, or make up a story about a child who wants to run away. Then ask:

How many of you have ever wanted to run away?

Let kids share their stories.

What are some things you would take with you if running away?

Sometimes there are problems or things that scare us and make us feel like running away and hiding. Do you have problems in your family that are very difficult for you to handle?

Hand kids small sheets of paper and pencils or pens. Have them write or draw pictures of things that make them worry or scare them. Then hand each child a paper lunch bag and say:

Now let's each take one of these brown paper bags and stuff it with our problems or worries.

Have them crumple up their papers of worries or fears and stuff in the bag.

This is like packing our bag to run away. If we were really running away, the bag we would take would get really heavy. It might be full of things we would want to take with us or things that worry us.

Today we will talk again about Jacob. Do you remember from last week, how Jacob tricked Esau out of his birthright? How would you feel if you were Esau and someone did that to you?

Esau was pretty angry and wanted to kill Jacob. How would you feel if you were Jacob? Jacob was scared, and he decided to run away.

Today we will learn how God came to Jacob and how **God helps us through big family problems.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview:

Puppet Presentation: “Big Family Problems”

Gordy has a fight with his brother and decides to run away.

Dramatic Presentation: “Jacob’s Dream and God’s Promise”

Jacob describes his dream of angels ascending and descending a ladder that went to heaven. He also hears how God passes the promise from Abraham and Isaac to him (Genesis 28:10-22).

Puppet Presentation: “Big Family Problems” Conclusion

Gordy learns that **God helps us through big family problems* by being with us and helping us to forgive others.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Genesis 27:41 and 28:10 in their Bibles.

Why did Jacob run away from home? (Genesis 27:41. Esau was planning to kill Jacob.)

What happened when Jacob stopped and rested for the night? (Genesis 28:12. Jacob had a dream.)

What did Jacob see in his dream? (Genesis 28:12-15. Review the facts of the dream with the children.)

What did God promise Jacob? (Genesis 28:13-15. Land, promise of the Savior, God's presence.)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How did Jacob feel when he woke up? (*Genesis 28:16-18. He was filled with awe that the Lord had been in that place and had come to him.*)

Why was God's promise important to Jacob? (*Take kids responses.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Jacob had to leave home because Esau was so angry he planned to kill Jacob. Hopefully, we have never been in exactly that situation in our families. Has there ever been a time when you felt like running away to solve a family problem? (*Listen with a caring heart to their answers.*)

What did we hear about Jacob's story that we can apply to our problems?

What did God promise us when we have problems? In our Bible verse for today, God says in Genesis 28:15, "*Remember, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.*"

How do you think it would feel to give your problems to Jesus?

When we are having a problem with someone, it's easy to think of ways the other person should change. What are some changes you may need to make to solve the problem? (*Forgive them, sharing God's love, praying.*)

Who do we need to depend on to change our own heart and attitudes? (*The Holy Spirit.*)

God spoke to Jacob when he had family problems. God can speak to us when we have family problems also. I have some special Bible verses for each of you to take home. The next time you have a family problem; you can read this and remember that God comes to you to help you with your problems.

Give to each child a copy of "Bible Promises for Our Problems." Have them read this to themselves and pick out a particular verse that they might apply. For younger children who cannot read, pick out one of your favorites and read it to them. Suggest that kids might look up these verses in their own Bibles and underline them.

Today we learned that **God helps us through big family problems.* As we leave, we will take the bags we packed earlier with our worries and problems and put them on the ladder. Do you remember how God came to Jacob when he had problems? Jesus wants to come to

you when you are having worries and problems, too. We can leave our problems with him. God passes his promises onto our families, too.

After prayer and as the children leave, have them place their bags of worries, fears, and problems on the ladder outside the small group area.

Closing Prayer:

Pray for concerns written in your prayer journal. Let this also be a time of healing for the children as they let God take their family problems. Ask the Holy Spirit to change hearts to help kids better show God's love in the middle of family problems.

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Bible Promises for Our Problems

"Be angry without sinning. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the devil any opportunity to work." *Ephesians 4:26-27*



"Be kind to each other, sympathetic, forgiving each other as God has forgiven you through Christ." *Ephesians 4:32*



"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and should not get angry easily." *James 1:19*



"Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." *Colossians 3:13*



"Turn all your anxiety over to God because he cares for you."
1 Peter 5:7



"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble." *Psalms 46:1*



"Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." *Matthew 11:28*



(Jesus said,) "And remember that I am always with you until the end of time." *Matthew 28:20*



"But first, be concerned about his kingdom and what has his approval. Then all these things will be provided for you." *Matthew 6:33*



"Remember, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go."
Genesis 28:15

Large Group Presentation

Big Family Problems Puppet Presentation

(Gordy enters with backpack and paces back and forth.)

Mr. King: Where are you going? On a vacation?

Gordy: Nope.

Mr. King: Are you going to school?

Gordy: School? On a Sunday?

Mr. King: How about Kingdom Quest?

Gordy: Mr. King, I'm running away from home because my brother bugs me!

Mr. King: I'm sorry, Gordy. What does he do?

Gordy: He grabs my arm and slugs me.

Mr. King: That sounds terrible. Why does he do that?

Gordy: No reason.

Mr. King: Are you sure there's no reason?

Gordy: Well, there's no *big* reason. All I did was borrow his video game.

Mr. King: And he slugged you?

Gordy: Well, I didn't return it...because I lost it.

Mr. King: And then he slugged you?

Gordy: Then he slugged me and I cried and he got in trouble. And then he called me a crybaby and then I told on him. And then he said, "I'm so mad I could kill you!" So then I decided it's time to leave.

Mr. King: So you are running away?

Gordy: Yeah! Wouldn't you?

Mr. King: Before leaving I would listen to today's Bible event. It is about two brothers who had big family problems. Even when our families aren't perfect, God still loves us and forgives us. **God helps us through big family problems.* Why don't you stay and watch?

Gordy: Well, I don't know.

Mr. King: I think it would help.

Gordy: Okay, I will if you promise to help me look for my brother's video game.

Mr. King: I'll do that right after this. Pay attention to the story of twin brothers, Isaac's sons, who grew up and had serious problems.

Go to the dramatic presentation, "Jacob's Dream and God's Promise."

Jacob's Dream and God's Promise

Dramatic Presentation

Use a large stepladder covered with white sheets as the stairway to heaven. A few children sitting on the ladder with white robes can portray angels "floating" up and down the ladder to heaven. Special effects such as a fog machine and black lights are helpful in creating a dream-like appearance. A pillow or beanbag covered with a white sheet can be symbolic of the rock where Jacob laid his head.

Jacob enters and begins to tell his story directly to the audience. When he describes his dream, the lighting in the room changes to enhance the dream-like scene.

Hello, boys and girls. My name is Jacob. As you know, I have had lots of family problems. Do you remember the story from last week of how I tricked my brother Esau into giving me his birthright? It seemed like such a clever idea at the time, but soon I was afraid for my life. I thought Esau would kill me after my father Isaac died. So I left in search of my mother's hometown where I might find a wife.

The most unusual thing happened along the way. You see, God passed me the promise. Let me tell you how it happened.

As I journeyed across the land of Canaan, I was exhausted and tired. I used a stone as a pillow and fell asleep for the night. That's when it happened. I had a dream.

Turn down lights, use a black light and fog machine.

I dreamed that I saw a ladder. It started here on earth and went so high that its top went into the very heavens. Down this ladder came angel after angel, who then went back up the ladder. At the very top of the ladder, stood the Lord God. That's when I heard God pass me the promise.

God said, "I am the Lord, God of your fathers Abraham and Isaac. I am the Lord who will be your God, too. The land that you are sleeping on I will give to your children and to your children's children. Your family shall be as countless as the dust. From your family will come a descendant who will bless all the families of the world. Jacob, I am with you."



When I awoke, I was trembling with fear. I was in awe because I was in a holy place! The Lord had spoken to me! I knew he was in this place. This must be the very house of God...so I named it Bethel, which means "house of God." I poured oil on the rock as I named the land.

God had heard my problems. I asked him to protect me as he promised that he would and one day take me back in peace to my father's house.

Even today, God's words—the promise he passed me—still rings in my ears. Even when I was having family problems, God said, "I am with you and I will watch over you wherever you go." I know that God does watch over me. And someday I shall return to this land. My descendants will multiply and prosper here until one is born who is a blessing to all the people of the world.

Well, I must be along on my journey. I bid you farewell until I see you next week and continue my story.

Big Family Problems

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: Jacob and Esau had serious problems just like I do.

Mr. King: That's true, Gordy. But Jacob learned that God came to him in his problems. God even passed him a promise when he said, "I will send a Savior." That Savior would be one of his great, great, great grandchildren.

Gordy: I know who that is! It's Jesus!

Mr. King: Right. Even when Esau and Jacob's family wasn't perfect, God was still passing a promise to them. He wanted them to learn the power of forgiveness.

Gordy: It would be great if God would come to me right now and help me.

Mr. King: Jesus does come to you, Gordy. Whenever you have a problem, he is there to help you with it. You know what?

Hold up the football with cross logo.

**God passes you the promise that says, "Jesus will be with you."
*God helps us through big family problems. He gives you forgiveness, even for your mistakes in the family and he helps you forgive others.**

Gordy: Even for losing a video game?

Mr. King: Even for that, Gordy. Why don't we pray about this together. Gordy, will you let us pray for you?

(Gordy nods head.)

Mr. King: Heavenly Father, please help Gordy with his brother. Help Gordy understand that when we have problems, running away will not fix the problems. Give Gordy and his brother the power of your forgiveness. We pray in the name of Jesus, who gave his life for us. Amen.

Gordy: Thanks, Mr. King. I feel better.

Mr. King: You're welcome. Now let's go look for that video game right after Kingdom Quest.

Gordy: Okay, Mr. King. I'll wait for you while I check out what I put in my backpack for my runaway survival kit.

Mr. King: *(Points to backpack.)* **What's that?**

Gordy: What?

Mr. King: **Oh, you didn't see this pocket here? Might that be?**

Gordy: My video game!

Mr. King: **You mean your *brother's* game?**

Gordy: All right! Thanks, Mr. King! I'd better get this back to him right away. See ya!

Mr. King: **Bye, Gordy.**