



Date: _____

Series: **EVEN in Tough Times**
Fall Year 2, Lesson 23

Jacob's Dream

Bible Event: Genesis 28:10-22

Take Home Point: ***EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES** – *God never leaves me alone.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (**CAPS**). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus is with me always.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God is always there for us. Whenever we go through hard times, we may feel alone, but we never are. Even after Jacob tricked his brother and ran away, God never left him. We can trust that God is always with us, too. Kids will take home the point: **EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES** – *God never leaves me alone.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Echo Pantomime

An echo pantomime gives children the opportunity to act out the Bible Event in unison as directed by the presenter. It works best when the presenter reads the script as the narrator and a helper or another adult repeats the lines and demonstrates the action. For example: the presenter says the line "Jacob was walking." The helper and the children in unison repeat the phrase and add the action that the helper demonstrates. (E.g. walking in place.)

Remember last week – Jacob tricked his brother and now he's on the run.

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Jacob was walking and walking. | (Walk in place.) |
| When the sun set, | (Sweep hand across sky.) |
| He stopped to sleep. | (Close eyes.) |
| He used a rock for a pillow. | (Pick up imaginary rock; place under head.) |
| Then Jacob had a dream. | (Open eyes.) |
| He saw a staircase leading up | |

to heaven.	(Hand like visor over eyes.)
He saw angels going up and down.	(Moving hands up and down.)
At the top, he saw the Lord.	(Hands out wide.)
Then the Lord spoke.	(Cup hand around ear.)
He said, “I am the Lord,	(Cup hands over mouth.)
God of your father Abraham	(Cup hands over mouth.)
and God of Isaac.”	(Cup hands over mouth.)
“I will give you and your family	(Sweep hand out.)
this land you are standing on.”	(Pat the ground.)
“Your people will spread out.”	(Spread arms apart.)
“I will bless all of them.”	(Hold hands, palms forward to bless.)
“I will watch over you always	(Hands like a visor over eyes.)
and I will keep my promises.”	(Fist in palm.)
Then the dream was over	
and Jacob woke up.	(Open eyes and jump up.)
He said, “This is God’s land!	(Hands up to heaven.)
This place is awesome!	(Pat the ground.)
He took the stone he had	
been sleeping on	(Lift imaginary stone.)
And set it up on the ground	(Set imaginary stone on ground.)
and poured oil on it.	(Pour oil on stone.)
Then Jacob made a promise	
to God.	(Fold hands.)
“If God will watch over me”	(Place hand like a visor over eyes.)

“and gives me food to eat” (Pretend to eat.)

“and gives me clothes to wear” (Pretend to put on a shirt.)

“Then the Lord will be my God” (Hands to the heavens.)

“And I will love God!” (Place hands over heart.)

Pauses for a minute and looks at the children.

Children, God watches over you and wants to be your God. He loved us so much he sent his Son, Jesus, to the cross to take our wrongs on himself. He will always be ready to listen to you and love you. Love God and promise to serve him. Remember *EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – *God never leaves me alone.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide each child with some chocolate pudding. Have them think of a tough time they've had this week. Then allow each child to add some whipped cream from a can or Cool Whip to their pudding to remind them that God is always with them.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Use raisins or grapes and let the children count out one for each time they can think of that God was with them when they didn't even realize it this week.

Drama Zone: Provide costumes and let the children re-enact the scene.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to discuss friends, how friends help out in tough times and how we all have a friend in Jesus.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Jacob's Dream from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #18, "Jacob's Dream" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Have hearts and triangles pre-cut out of white paper. Have children glue the triangle onto the heart, so the base of the triangle provides the base for the angel and the heart provides the angel's wings. Allow children to decorate the angels with markers, glue, cotton balls, glitter, etc. Attach a pre-made label "Jacob's Dream – We are never alone."

Option: Attach a paperclip to the top of the angel. Give each child two feet of string or yarn and allow the angel to slide along the string.

Play Zone: Play "Rock Drop." Place a paper cup on the floor behind a chair. Have children keep their arms even with the back of the chair and try to drop a rock (or small ball or other object) into the cup. Remember: Even when you miss, God is still with you.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jacob's Dream. Provide pillows for children to lay down and read and to scatter around the room.

Music Zone: "Jacob's Ladder"

Coloring Zone: "Jacob's Dream" coloring page.

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Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes onto stage with a pillow. She wants to fall asleep and have a dream so she can talk to God. The large group presenter is glad that Judy was listening to today's lesson and that she wants to talk to God, but explains that it doesn't really work that way today. When we want to talk to God, we pray. That's when we tell God everything we want and need to tell him. No matter what, God is listening! We can always pray to God.

When we love God and believe in Jesus, then God is in our heart. That's how God talks back to us. He doesn't come in a dream at night, but God helps us to do right things and be nice to others and to tell others about Jesus. When God is in our hearts, we can talk to him everyday and he will always be there for us. We are never alone, because God is with us! Remember: ***EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – God never leaves us alone.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible

Action Zones:

Snack:

- chocolate pudding
- canned whipped cream or Cool Whip
- option: raisins or grapes

Drama:

- costumes for Jacob and angels

Craft:

- pre-cut hearts and triangles (out of white paper)
- glue
- markers, cotton balls, glitter, etc.
- pre-made label “Jacob’s Dream – We are never alone”
- optional: paper clips and two foot lengths of string or yarn

Play:

- paper cups
- many small rocks, balls or other small objects
- chairs

Quiet Reading:

- pillows, basket of books

Music:

- song, “Jacob’s Ladder”

Puppet:

- assorted puppets

Felt:

- “Jacob’s Dream” materials (For example: use *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*, Lesson 18.)

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books