Dear Children's Church small group leaders,

Thank you for serving the children in Children's Church!!! You will join the children in Grace Park (the large area in the children's building) for worship and the Bible lesson. It will be your responsibility to shepherd them and, if needed, provide redirection during this time so that the leader leading worship or the Bible lesson can focus on leading and engaging the group. Below you will find a schedule for each age group and information about how to use the curriculum for small group time.

Schedule:

11:05ish	Kids dismissed from service	11:30	Small Group time in classrooms
11:05ish	Worship in Grace Park	12ish	Parent Pickup
11:10ish	Bible Lesson in Grace Park		

Using the Curriculum:
We will be utilizing the same curriculum (and hence, Bible passage) for Grace Groups and Children's Church. It's our prayer that this double exposure to the same Bible passage in different ways and by different teachers will allow children to know God's Word better; provide them with the time they need to process its meaning, significance and application for their lives through meaningful interaction and engaging activities; and leave them with a clear takeaway from Sunday morning's ministries.

You'll find the small group curriculum and resources for the Sunday that you're serving in this pdf. A copy of this curriculum and supplies that you request will be provided in your small group bin. This is located on the shelf above the microwave in the children's resource room and is labeled by small group.

NOTE: Please select the activities that you'll need for your group by the Wednesday before you serve. Please contact Jacob (for K-2nd grade classes) or Alicia (for PreK class) no later than 9:00am on Wednesday before you serve to request activities and/or supplies that you'll utilize for your small group time. Please include which memory verse game and lesson review game you'd like to do. The supplies will then be placed in your basket for you to use the coming Sunday.

Elements that should be used in Children's Church Small Group Time:

- ***A hands-on activity or two (e.g., game, craft, coloring page) that are found in this document***: At your request, supplies for the hands-on activity/ies will be gathered for you and placed in the small group bin. You may need to do some minimal, final prep on Sunday before children's church begins
- ***Memory Verse Game****: Instead of using this curriculum's memory verse, please use the small group's Awana verse(s) for the coming week.
- ***Lesson Review Game****: Kids may have already did this in their Grace Group, but you're welcome to do this again in children's church. The reason is that you may choose a different game than they did during Grace Group and/or each child will most likely be answering different questions than they did in Grace Groups. In order to get to the other elements of small group time, you may want to shorten the game by asking fewer questions.
- ***Prayer***: Please pray with your class.

*Lesson Review Games and Memory Verse Games options are found in the appendix located both with the curriculum in the bin for your small group. It's also found at graceplacechurch.org/servekids. Simply click on the button "Memory Verse and Lesson Review Games." If you have another game in mind, you're welcome to use it instead. The Review Questions and hands-on activity/ies that you have selected will be ready for you to use with your small group are found before the appendix in this document.
**Awana verses are found in this pdf and are organized by grade & date.

IMPORTANT: Please prepare in advance!

- Please read the passage (found on the first page of the lesson) and Prepare to Share!
- For all items that you'll need (copies, coloring pages, game supplies, etc…), please inform Jacob (for K-2nd grade classes) or Alicia (for PreK class) of supplies you need by 9 am of Wednesday prior to serving.

Thank you again for serving!

Should you need anything or have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us!
Jacob (405)973-6982
Alicia (808) 386-7067

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Genesis 32:1-33:20



Jacob Returns to Canaan

Jacob returns to Canaan and reconciles with Esau.

Lesson Focus

God blessed Jacob so much that he had a large family and many possessions when it came time to leave Laban's home. To return to Canaan, Jacob knew he must reconcile with Esau. Jacob was afraid of his brother, but God protected him and Esau forgave him. God gave Jacob a new name, Israel, to symbolize his new beginning in the land of Canaan.

Key Passages

Genesis 32:24, 32:27–28, 33:4

Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

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Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Jacob worked a total of 14 years for Laban in order to marry Rachel and Leah. After working seven years for his bride, Jacob was deceived by Laban on his wedding day. Laban switched brides and gave Leah, instead of Rachel, to Jacob. But Laban agreed to also give Rachel to Jacob in marriage after one week, provided that he keep working for him. Jacob's home life was not peaceful as the sisters began a fierce competition for Jacob's love and for sons. Leah had six sons and one daughter. Rachel was jealous of her sister's children and gave her maid Bilhah to Jacob. Bilhah bore two sons, and then Leah's maid Zilpah also bore two sons to Jacob. God eventually enabled Rachel to conceive, and she bore Joseph. After Joseph was born, Jacob told Laban he wanted to return to his own country and family. Laban offered to give Jacob wages for his service. Jacob agreed and separated his flocks from Laban's. Whichever animals Jacob specified for his wages, God caused Laban's flock to give birth to them. So for six years, Laban changed Jacob's wages in an effort to keep the best of his flock for himself, but God blessed Jacob instead of Laban. This made Laban's sons jealous of Jacob and changed Laban's attitude toward him (Genesis 31:1–2).

After Jacob had been with Laban for 20 years, God told Jacob to return to Canaan. Jacob called his wives to the field and explained Laban's unfair dealings regarding his wages and told them that God said he should return to his family. The sisters agreed to go, and the family packed up and left while Laban was away shearing sheep. Laban pursued them several days later with many men. He accused Jacob of stealing his daughters and household gods. Jacob replied that he had been afraid Laban would take his daughters by force, but that whoever had stolen his idols would die (Genesis 31:31–32). Now Rachel had stolen her father's household gods without Jacob knowing, so she hid them from her father, and Jacob rebuked Laban for accusing him of theft and for changing his wages (Genesis 31:36–42). Because Laban had been warned by God not to speak against Jacob, he made a covenant with Jacob and returned home.

With Laban gone, Jacob still had to face his brother Esau, who had threatened to kill him for stealing the blessing. Jacob had no way of knowing if Esau was still angry after 20 years. When he neared the land of Seir where Esau was living, Jacob sent messengers to let Esau know of his return. But his messengers reported that Esau was coming with 400 men! Jacob was afraid and divided his company into two groups, thinking that one group could flee if the other were attacked (Genesis 32:7–8). But in his distress, Jacob prayed and begged God for deliverance, reminding God of his promises (Genesis 32:9–12). He then sent a present of animals to Esau with servants who delivered a humble message. Jacob sent his family across the brook at Jabbok while he remained behind alone. At this low point of Jacob's fear and desperation, God came to him as both a Man and an adversary. God wrestled with Jacob until dawn and touched his hip to dislocate it. But Jacob refused to let go until God blessed him. God asked him his name, forcing Jacob to admit the kind of man he was—a deceiver. Then God changed his name to Israel because he had striven against God and men and had prevailed (Genesis 32:28).

With a new name and a limp, Jacob faced his brother Esau. He bowed down low, showing repentance and humility. Esau responded with love and forgiveness, and the brothers wept together (Genesis 33:4). Jacob introduced his family, and Esau accepted Jacob's gifts. Esau returned to Seir while Jacob continued into the land of Canaan. He was now reconciled with his brother and had a new relationship with God.

Historical/Apologetics Background

Two terms in Genesis 31–32 are difficult to translate and explain in English: *teraphim* and *Israel*. Let's examine these terms to learn more about their meaning and context.

Different Bible translations of *teraphim* include household gods (ESV, NIV), household idols (NKJV, NASB), or images (KJV). Teraphim are mentioned elsewhere in Scripture: Micah having household idols (Judges 17:5, 18:17), David's wife Michal using

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a household idol in a bed to look like her husband (1 Samuel 19:13), and King Josiah removing household gods from the land of Judah (2 Kings 23:24). Thus, teraphim appear to have been common enough that the author did not offer an explanation of them or their theft. Explanations for why Rachel stole them range from her trying to protect her father from idolatry to trying to protect Jacob from the teraphim, leading Laban to their location. More likely, Rachel believed the teraphim held some protective power and stole them out of a panicked desire to keep her family safe.

Whatever her motivation, Rachel was wrong to steal them from her father, which was his main complaint when he caught up to Jacob (Genesis 31:30). She was apparently the last suspect for the theft because Laban went into her tent last after Jacob's, Leah's, and the two maids' tents. Then Rachel deceived her father by using her monthly cycle as an excuse to remain seated on the camel's saddle, the location of the stolen idols. Although Jacob was unaware of her theft in this account, he would later command his family to put away foreign gods (Genesis 35:2). Jacob's family had to leave their old religion and traditions to follow the Lord.

The second challenging word to translate is Jacob's new name—*Israel*. The explanation in Genesis 32:28 is that Jacob had "striven with God and with men" and prevailed. *Israel* may mean "God fights," indicating how God had to fight against Jacob. But upon Jacob's submission, God would fight for him. Jacob's wrestling match with God was a fight Jacob lost. But he limped away with a blessing and an encounter he would never forget.

Related meanings of *Israel* include "he strives with God," "he struggles with God," and "he contends with God." These meanings correctly illustrate Jacob's battle with God. An important part of the fight was when God asked Jacob his name in Genesis 32:27. God was forcing Jacob to admit his character, which was that of a deceiver. Instead of seeking to deceive and supplant others to obtain a blessing, Jacob had to surrender to God and just *receive* the blessing. Many of us are like Jacob, striving in our own pride and power to do what only God can do. When we admit our sin and surrender to God, he is able to bless us in ways we can't imagine. Like Jacob, we can have a new beginning!

Memory Verses For Children's Church (Oct 2026 - Dec 2026)
*Verses are in ESV Translation

Date	3's-PreK	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade
Oct 18	Jeremiah 10:10 **The LORD is the true God**; He is the living God and the everlasting King. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Psalm 118:1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good…	Jeremiah 32:27 Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for Me?	John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word [Jesus Christ], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He [Jesus Christ] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.
Oct 25	Psalm 31:14 **But I trust in You, O LORD**; I say, "You are my God. *(Short version is in bold.)*	1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.	Proverbs 20:11 Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.	Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Nov 1	Matthew 4:10 **Worship the Lord your God** and Him only shall you serve. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.	Psalm 23:1-3 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.	Deuteronomy 31:8 It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.
Nov 8	John 10:27 **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them,** and they follow Me. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:31 And God everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good…	Psalm 23:4-5 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.	Psalm 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
Nov 15	Psalm 100:4 **Enter His gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts with praise… *(Short version is in bold.)*	Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.	Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.	Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
Nov 22	Psalm 100:4 **Enter His gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts with praise… *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.	Psalm 23 *For today's memory verse, select one of the above three sections from Psalm 23.*	Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
Nov 29	Isaiah 53:6 **All we like sheep have gone astray**; we have turned — every one — to his own way. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.	Psalm 23 *For today's memory verse, select one of the above three sections from Psalm 23.*	Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Dec 6	Psalm 23:4 … **I will fear no evil, for You are with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."	1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

	(Short version is in bold.)			
Dec 13	Luke 1:49 "**For He** who is mighty **has done great things for me**, and holy is His name. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me."	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Romans 5:8 But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Dec 20	Luke 1:49 "**For He** who is mighty **has done great things for me**, and holy is His name. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me."	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Romans 5:8 But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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Review Questions

K–1st Review Questions

1. What does reconcile mean? *To forgive and be friends again after a fight or argument.*
2. Laban wanted Jacob to stay and keep working for him. So what did Jacob and his family have to do when they left? *Sneak away.*
3. When Laban chased after Jacob and his family, who told Laban in a dream not to hurt Jacob? *God.*
4. Where were Jacob and his family going? *Home to Canaan.*
5. Who was Jacob afraid of? *Esau.*
6. Why was Jacob afraid of Esau? *He didn't know if Esau was still angry.*
7. Who did Jacob wrestle with all night? *God. A man.*
8. What did God do when Jacob understood he was a sinner? *Changed Jacob. Cleaned his heart. Forgave his sins. Changed his name.*
9. What was the new name God gave to Jacob? *Israel.*
10. Who is the only one who can change our hearts and forgive our sins? *Jesus. God.*
11. What did Jacob do when he came to Esau to show that he was really sorry? *He bowed before Esau.*
12. What did Esau do when he met up with Jacob? *He forgave Jacob and hugged him.*
13. What does it mean when we say God is faithful? *He always keeps his promises.*
14. Can we trust God only sometimes or all the time? *All the time.*
15. What word means God knows and sees everything we do? *Omniscient.*
16. What does our memory verse say God will do when we acknowledge him? *He will make our paths straight.*

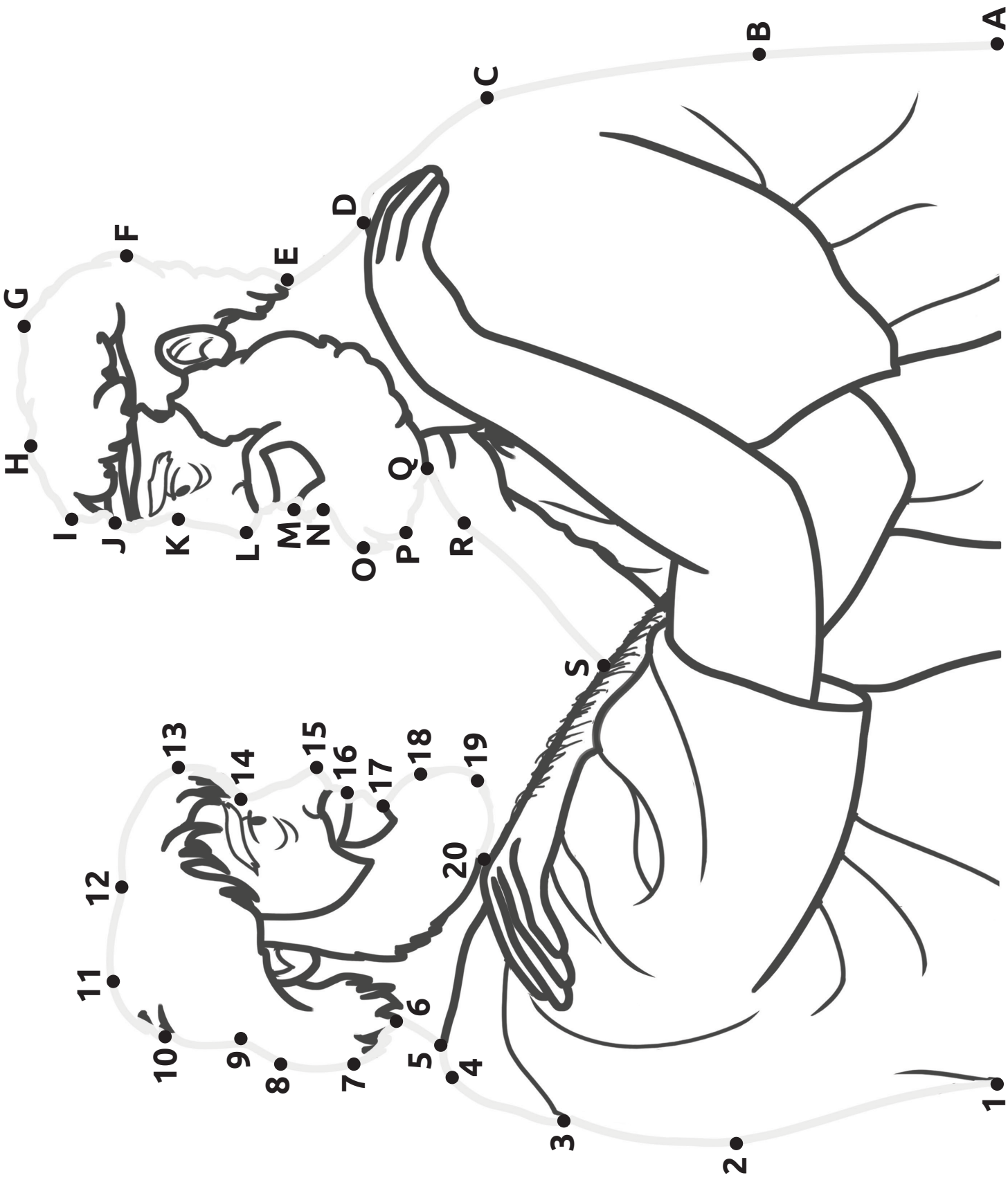
Pre-K Review Questions

1. What was the name of Jacob's uncle who wanted him to keep working for him? *Laban.*
2. When Laban chased after Jacob and his family, who told Laban in a dream not to hurt Jacob? *God.*
3. What word means to forgive and be friends again after a fight or argument? *Reconcile.*
4. Who was Jacob afraid of? *Esau.*
5. Why was Jacob afraid of Esau? *He didn't know if Esau was still angry.*
6. Who did Jacob wrestle with all night? *God. A man.*
7. What was the new name God gave to Jacob? *Israel.*
8. What did Esau do when he met up with Jacob? *He forgave Jacob and hugged him.*
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11. Can we trust God only sometimes or all the time? *All the time.*
12. What word means God knows and sees everything we do? *Omniscient.*
13. What does our memory verse say God will do to our paths when we acknowledge him? *He will make our paths straight.*

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