

A PROMISING DREAM

Jacob
Genesis 28:10–22
1930 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God is with us.

BIBLE VERSE

I am with you and will keep you wherever you go. Genesis 28:15

LEARNER GOAL

I know God is with me.

LAW & GOSPEL

We think God does not care or has left us alone.

God promises in His Word never to leave us. His gracious love for us, revealed through His Son, Jesus, moves our hearts to worship and praise Him.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Jacob undeservedly receives his father's blessing—he and his offspring will dwell in the land of Canaan. As the days of Isaac's life approach their end, Jacob rightly fears for his life. Following the urging of Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob sets out for the house of his uncle Laban. Along the way, Jacob dreams of a staircase reaching to heaven, with the Lord Himself standing at the top. The preincarnate Christ repeats God's promise to give this land to Jacob and his descendants.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Genesis 28:10–22 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read “Family Life in Israel” on pages 54–55 of *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

IN DEPTH For more on angels, read Questions 126–30 in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Interlocking blocks, such as Lego building blocks
- Transportation toys & paper
- Lunch bags, bell or rattle & smelly item
- Glow-in-the-dark stars & flashlight
- Sandpaper
- Stick pretzels & cheese cubes
- Craft sticks & shoelaces or yarn

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

BLOCKS Set out interlocking blocks for children to make ladders. Ask, **What do you use a ladder for? Today we'll hear about a special ladder and how God was with a man named Jacob.**

TRANSPORTATION TOYS Cover a table with large-size paper and set out toy people and vehicles. Invite the children to draw roads and houses and use the figures to move around their play town. Ask, **Where are the people going? How will they get there? Today you will hear how God is with us, no matter where we go.**

JESUS TIME

SING “We Are in God’s House Today” (digital resource center) or “God’s Care” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 24)

SAY **Have you ever gone on a trip to visit someone faraway?** Let children say how they went and who they saw. **Today you’ll hear about a man who went to see his uncle far away.**

PRAY **Dear God,* help us use our ears* to listen* and to learn* that You are with us always* as You promise in the Bible.* Thank You for Jesus,* our friend and Savior.* Amen.***

*At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Put a bell or rattle inside a paper lunch bag. Put something with a strong smell (a piece of onion or peppermint oil on a cotton ball) in another lunch bag. Close the tops so the children can’t see inside.

Shake the bag with the bell or rattle. Ask, **Can you hear something? Can you see it?** Let them smell the bag with the onion or peppermint. Ask, **Can you smell something? Can you see it? How do you know something is in these bags? Sometimes we can hear or smell something and know it’s there, even when we do not see it. In our Bible story today, a man named Jacob is running away from home. He is going to his uncle’s house in a different country. He can’t see God. He doesn’t know God is with him until God tells him He is. Let’s find out how God did that.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Show your Bible, and tell the children that all the stories in God’s Word are true. Using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide, tell or act out the Bible story with the children (see below). Use the questions on the leaflet to review.

Option: Put glow-in-the-dark stars on your ceiling ahead of class. Have the children pretend to be Jacob walking to his uncle’s. Lead them around the room or walk in place. Turn off the lights in your room when you talk about Jacob going to sleep. Have the children lie on the ground, using carpet squares for their pillows or pretending to sleep with a stone pillow. Shine a flashlight on the stars to talk about the night. And so on.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from Genesis 28:15 in your Bible. Divide the children into two groups. Have the first group say “I am with you” and the second group say “and will keep you wherever you go.” Switch parts.



LEADER NOTE

Greet children and get them started in an activity that builds a foundation for what they will learn in class today, or start with Jesus Time.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use the “Bible Verse Activity” to learn words.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with the children. Hand out the second page of the leaflets, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Review the story. Cut rocks from sandpaper for the children to glue to the scene for Jacob's pillow, or have them color the rock. Have them add star stickers to the sky.

SIDE 2 Talk about places God is with us and how He watches over us. For each picture, ask what the child is doing and read the words. Then say, **God sends His angels to watch over you when . . .**, and repeat the descriptions of when God is with the children. Have children color an angel for each picture as you talk about it. They can draw lines to connect an angel to each picture. Ask, **Where are other places God is with you?** Have children connect the dots to make a cross. Say, **We know God is with us and watches over us because He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus loves us. He talks to us in the Bible. He promises to be with us too.**

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Reinforce the Learner Goal with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Review the story by singing.

□ SNACK

Use stick pretzels and cheese cubes to make ladders.

□ CREATE

Make a picture of the Bible story using craft sticks, shoelaces or yarn, and angel stickers.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

When things go wrong, we think God does not care about us or has left us alone. Children can feel this way too. But God promises in His Word never to leave us. He is with us always. Check for understanding by asking children what their favorite part of the story is. Can they verbalize that God is with them? Remind them, **God loves you so much He sent Jesus to be your Savior. He sends His angels to watch over you.**

LEAVE

SING "God Has Sent His Angels Down" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 26) or "Angels Are There" (digital resource center)

SAY Today we learned God is with us! Sometimes things go wrong or we're feeling sad. We might think God doesn't love us or has left us alone. But God promises in His Word never to leave us. He watches over us. He loves us so much He sent Jesus to be our Savior. He sends His angels to watch over us. Let's thank Him for His love.

PRAY Dear God, help us remember that Your love for us reaches all the way down to earth and back up to the heavens. Thank You for sending angels to watch over us. Thank You most of all for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Amen.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God promises in His Word to be with us always. We know He is with us and watches over us because He sent Jesus to be our Savior.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make an "Angel Picture."



BONUS ACTIVITY

Take a "Virtual Trip" to talk about ways God promises to be with us.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

Sing and do the actions to “Jacob’s Ladder.” Look online for examples and audio. *Option:* Sing and do actions to “Chatter with the Angels” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 20). Vary words and actions (march with the angels, dance with the angels, clap with the angels, tiptoe with the angels).

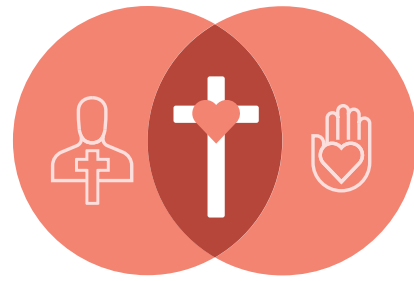
□ SNACK

Make ladders using stick pretzels and cheese cubes. Review the story.

□ CREATE

Make a picture of the Bible story using angel stickers and craft sticks. Give each child a dark blue piece of construction paper. Have children glue two large craft sticks about 3 inches apart in vertical rows on the page. These will be the sides of a ladder. Give children short craft sticks to glue between the vertical sticks to make the rungs of the ladder. Hand out stickers of angels to put on the ladder and stars to put around it. Review Jacob’s dream and God’s promise to be with Jacob always.

Option: Use shoelaces or yarn instead of short craft sticks to make the rungs. Punch 5 holes along each of the long sides of the ladder. Give children 30-inch shoelaces or pieces of yarn with taped ends to make a needle. Use tape to secure one end of the lace or yarn to the back of the paper. Show the children how to lace the shoelace or yarn back and forth to make rungs. When done, tape the end piece to the back too. Then add the angel and star stickers.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God calls me His precious possession; He is near to me even when I feel that He is far away.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I worship God and always remember that He is with me and cares for me.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can identify multiple ways God is with us, His human creatures and redeemed children.

YOUTH

I can express confidence that God is with me.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God is with me all the time.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God is with me.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

BIBLE VERSE ACTIVITY

10 minutes

Make up actions to describe where God is with us. Have children say the Bible Verse with you. Say,

God is with me, and God is with you. He says, “I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.”
When we ride in our cars,
when we splash in the rain,
when we sleep under the twinkling stars,
when we fly through the air in a big shiny plane,
God is with me, and God is with you. He says, “I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.”

ANGEL PICTURE

10 minutes

Show children how to draw an angel using a large triangle for a body, two small triangles for wings, and a circle for a head. Decorate. Encourage children to give their angel to a friend or neighbor and tell them about Jacob’s dream and how God promises to be with us.

VIRTUAL TRIP

20 minutes

Take pictures of things we see in church that show God is with us (e.g., crosses, Bibles, banners, font, altar, Communion). Ask, **How do these show God loves us and is with us?** Talk about how God speaks to us in the Bible. He promises He is with us in His Word, Baptism, and Holy Communion. He loves us so much He sent Jesus to be our Savior.

Teach children to make the sign of the cross and thank God for making them His children through His Word and Baptism. Talk about how God is with them and sends His angels to watch over them.