

Alley SG—September 18th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Fall Asleep (Jacob's Dream) • *Genesis 28:10-22 (supporting: Genesis 25:19-34; 27)*

Today's Key Question: Why are plans important?

Today's Bottom Line: You can trust that God has a plan.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Floor Tape, "Ladder Verse Cards" (4 sets per Group, numbered 1-6), markers, dice (4 per Group), Bibles

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Look up and read the memory verse, Proverbs 3:5. Challenge kids to recite the verse from memory.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Create a ladder on the floor.
 - Using floor tape, create two parallel lines about six inches apart from each other; each line should be about six feet long.
 - Use the "Ladder Cards" to create the rungs of the ladder.
 - Make stacks of "like" cards. (i.e., make a stack of all of the first cards, a stack of all of the second cards, etc.)
 - Place the stacks (rungs) about one foot apart, in order of the verse.
- Establish a starting point across the room from the ladder.
- Group kids into teams of two or three.
- Challenge teams to race to collect all of the "Ladder Cards" and put them in the correct order of the memory verse.
 - Give each team a die.
 - One kid from each team will race to the ladder, roll the die and select the "Ladder Card" that corresponds to the number they rolled.
 - If a kid rolls a number and they already have the card with that number, they run back to the starting point empty handed.
 - Remind kids to plan so they know what cards they need before running to the ladder.
 - If a kid returns to the starting point with a card they already have, they must return it to the proper rung of the ladder and try again.
 - The team to collect all six cards and to put them in the correct order wins.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Large piece of paper (1 per group per service), markers

What You Do:

- Gather kids around a large piece of paper.
- Set out the markers.
- Ask: Imagine you are going camping with a friend for a weekend. What plans do you need to make?

- Tell kids to write their answers on the paper.
 - Examples could include: What will be your shelter? What will you eat? What will you do for fun?
- Review the answers.
- Ask:
 - What if you didn't make any plans for the camping trip? What could happen?
 - We can make plans, but sometimes things don't go according to our plans, do they? Can you think of an example of something that could happen on our camping trip we didn't plan for?
 - Why are plans important?

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: "Story Cards" (1 set per Group), large paper (1 per group per service), markers, Bibles

What You Do:

- Shuffle the "Story Cards" and hand them out.
- Instruct the group to stand in a line so the "Story Cards" are in the correct order. The catch is they cannot talk while figuring out the order.
- Once kids think they have the correct order, read the cards out loud.
- Allow kids to change spots to make corrections to the story line if necessary.
- Correct order:
 1. God's amazing world was broken by sin.
 2. God made a promise to Abraham.
 3. Abraham had a son Isaac.
 4. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for some of Jacob's stew.
 5. Jacob tricked Isaac into giving Jacob a special blessing instead of giving it to Esau.
 6. Esau was mad and plotted revenge against Jacob, so Jacob ran away.
 7. Jacob had a dream about God and God made a promise to Jacob.
 8. Jesus, who was part of Abraham's and Jacob's family line, was born and gave His life to pay for the sins of the whole world.
- After reviewing the story, gather kids around a large piece of paper. Draw a line from one end to the middle of the paper.
- Write "Jacob" at the end of the line in the middle of the paper. (*Consider drawing a stick figure with the head resting on a rock*)
- Ask: What was Jacob's vision? What plan did God share with Jacob? (*Refer to Genesis 28:12-15*) Write kids' responses under Jacob's name.
- Write "Abraham & Isaac" at the end of the line by the end of the paper. (*Consider drawing a star around their names*)
- Ask: Who was Abraham? What plan did God give to Abraham? How is the plan for Abraham and Jacob similar? (*Refer to Genesis 12:1-4*)
- Continue the line to the other end of the paper, creating a heart somewhere along the line.
- Write "Jesus" in the heart. Explain that a long, long time after Jacob's vision, Jesus was born and is part of Abraham's family line. How is Jesus part of God's promise to Abraham? (*Jesus is part of Abraham's family line, and it is through Jesus' death and resurrection that God blesses all nations. Jesus is the way that everyone can be with God now and forever.*)
- Encourage kids to write their names on the line (or draw themselves). Remind kids that we are all part of God's plan. God loves the world and God loves each one of them. Jesus was God's plan when God spoke to Abraham; Jesus was God's plan in Jacob's vision. The plan was always for Jesus to be the way we can have a relationship with God now and forever.
- Use the following to lead kids in a wrap-up conversation about today's story:
 - Jacob knew God was with him. Encourage kids to share about times when they knew God was with them. Maybe they moved and God brought great friends into their life, or they were able to encourage and support a friend going through a hard time.

[Make it Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story of a time you knew God was with you. Maybe you were struggling, and a verse popped in your head. Or God guided you to show someone who was struggling that they matter.)

- Does knowing God was with Jacob, even though Jacob didn't make great choices, help you to trust God no matter what? Why or why not?

4. Discussion Questions

- Would Jacob be someone you would trust all the time? Why or why not?
 - And yet Jacob *is* part of God's plan. How does that encourage you to trust God, knowing that even when we mess up, God still has a plan to love us and to make things right in the end?
- Abraham and Jacob were part of God's plan—part of the story. What is our part of God's story? How are we part of God's plan?
- What if you ask God to help resolve a situation a certain way, but things don't work out the way you asked. Why can you still trust God in that moment?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Markers, pens, large piece of paper

What You Do:

- Remind kids that God created the world and everything in it and made a plan, a plan so we can be with God now and forever. We are part of God's story.
- Challenge them to fill the paper with thanks to God.
- If necessary, give them a prompt such as:
 - Think of people you are thankful God put into your life
 - Think about the gifts God gave you to use to show God's love to others
 - Think of the times God provided comfort or encouragement for you
 - Think about what Jesus means to you and thank God for Him
 - Think of a specific story in the Bible you are thankful for
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, we know You will do what You say! You kept Your promise to Abraham. You kept Your promise to Jacob. You will make everything right in the end. Thank You (*fill in with some of the things kids wrote on the paper*). Amen!"