



3RD - 5TH

3.2

Jacob Fled from Canaan



CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids: **Do you ever have dreams when you sleep? What is something you dreamed about that was amazing? Maybe you flew in the air or went to a fun place.**



THUMB WRESTLE

Start by 9:20/10:45

Form kids into pairs. Challenge pairs to thumb wrestle against one another. Tell kids the first to pin the thumb of their partner wins. Then form pairs from the winners of the first round. Repeat the challenge, forming new pairs from each round's winners, until there is one winner overall.

Thumb wrestling takes persistence until someone is the champion. Imagine being part of a wrestling match that lasted all night long! Today, we will learn how Jacob wrestled with a man all night and refused to give up. In the end, the man blessed Jacob and through this blessing, God promised to be with Jacob.

START BY
9:30/10:55

REVIEW **3** BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW



LARGE GROUP

SMALL GROUP



BIBLE REVIEW

Pass out Bibles and have kids open to Genesis 28:18-22. Ask for volunteers to read aloud one verse each.

Group the students into groups of two or three and pass out the prepared question-and-answer sheet. Have the groups work together to answer the questions using Genesis 28:18-22. **All the answers are right there in the Bible verses, so be sure to look carefully in your Bibles.** [answer key: 1) Jacob named it Bethel, which means "house of God."; 2) Bethel was special because Abraham, Jacob's grandfather, had visited that same place years before and built an altar to worship God there; 3) Jacob promised to follow God if God would be faithful to him and take care of him.]

Discuss these questions as a whole group:

- **How was God faithful to Jacob?** God stayed with Jacob, kept all of His promises to him.
- **How did God's biggest promise come true through Jacob's family?** Jesus was born from Jacob's family line. Through faith in Jesus, our very bodies become 'houses of God.' God's Spirit lives in us, changing us to be more like Jesus, and helping us live for Him.



DISCUSSION

Why do you think God came down the stairway to Jacob instead of telling Jacob to climb to the top? We cannot get to God in our own strength or works. God had to come down to us, as the person of Jesus, to save us from our sins. Jesus lived perfectly in our place, died for our sin, and rose again. (Read John 1:14)

Jacob wrestled against God. How do we 'wrestle' against God? How do we struggle against His ways? Answers will vary. Leaders, please share an example from your own life if you notice the kids are struggling with answers, as this may help them open up. Jacob was known as a trickster and tried to control his life by his plans. When we try to do things our way instead of listening to and trusting in God, we wrestle against Him. (Read Psalm 143:10)

God changed Jacob's name to Israel. How does God change us? Remember when we trust in Jesus, God's Spirit lives in us. God gives us new hearts with new desires. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God change us to become more like Jesus. (Read Galatians 2:20)



ALWAYS WITH US

On a large piece of paper, write the following Bible references: Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10; Deuteronomy 31:6; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Romans 8:38-39.

Form kids into groups of three or four and provide each group with a Bible. Assign a Bible reference or two to each group. Lead groups to look up their verse, read it together, and discuss the promise God makes. Then encourage groups to share the promises with everyone.

When God appeared to Jacob in his dream, God promised to be with Jacob. Jacob was running for his life and perhaps this promise brought him comfort. We do know that God's promise made such a difference that Jacob set up a marker. When we trust in Jesus, God has promised to always be with us. When we are afraid, lonely, or sad, we can know God is with us and will never leave us.



Big Picture Question: *Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.*



Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.



Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers.
Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.