



Jacob's Flight and Vision

Genesis 27:42–28:5,10-22; 29:1

Looking Back at Lesson 9

Jacob Deceives Isaac

Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-41

Aim: How did Jacob and Rebekah sin against God?

Truth: Jacob and Rebekah trusted in themselves instead of trusting in God.

Application: God wants us to trust in him rather than in ourselves.

Response: With God's help, we trust in his plans for us.

Lesson Summary: God had commanded that the younger of Isaac's twin sons should receive the birthright. When Isaac planned to give it to Esau in spite of God's command, Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac to get it for Jacob. A furious Esau vowed to kill his brother.

Memory Treasures: *1 Peter 5:7; *1 John 1:7b; *The Eighth Commandment (with explanation)



How did God reassure Jacob?



God gave Jacob the special blessing and promised to be with him.

Application: God assures us that Jesus is our Savior and that he will always be with us.

Response: We trust that Jesus has saved us and is with us always.

Lesson Summary: To escape his vengeful brother, Jacob left home to go to his uncle Laban's house. Along the way, God gave Jacob a vision of angels on a stairway to heaven. At the top stood the Lord, who renewed his promise of the Savior and promised to be with Jacob. Jacob dedicated the place to God and named it Bethel.



Hebrews 13:5b

*** 1 Peter 5:7**

*** The Eighth Commandment**

(with explanation)

Hymn 587:3



dedicate—to set aside as special

vow—a sacred promise



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: Old Testament*, pages 150–155; The People's Bible: Jeske, *Genesis*, pages 230–238.

Locate Hebron, Haran (sometimes spelled *Harran*), and Bethel on a map.



Dear Lord, I don't know, as you do, what my students will face in their lives. Please use this lesson to strengthen their faith and prepare them for their futures. Reassure them that you are always with them. Amen.



Sing: Sing “Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep” (hymn 436:1,2,4) as a reminder that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is watching over us.

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for taking care of us, your sheep! Help us always trust in you. Remind us that you love us and will take care of all our needs. Amen.



Before class, write the 1 Peter 5:7 memory treasure on the board. You will also need a **bedsheet** onto which you have taped the word *God*, plus a sheet of **paper** and **pencil** for each child. Spread the bedsheet out on the floor.

Ask the children to name times when they felt afraid or worried. [During a bad storm, when lost in a store, after an accident, when Mom was late coming home from work, etc.] Have each child write on a sheet of paper one example of a time when he or she felt afraid or worried. Direct the children’s attention to the passage on the board, and read it aloud together. Ask what God tells us to do with our cares and anxieties (worries). [Cast (throw) all our worries on him.] Direct the children to crumple their papers into balls. Tell them that the sheet represents God. Let them take turns gently “casting their worries on God.” Gather up the corners of the sheet with the papers inside, and set it aside. Tell the children that God promises to take care of all our troubles. He wants us to trust in him and not to worry.



At the beginning of today’s lesson, Jacob learns that his brother, Esau, wants to kill him. Imagine how afraid Jacob must have been! He needed help to stop worrying and to cast his troubles on God instead. In today’s lesson, we’ll learn **how God reassured Jacob (took away his fear)**.



Note: Remember there are To Do at Home activity options in a separate file on the Teacher’s Guide CD.

Alternate Lesson Plan



Sing: Sing “Create in me . . .” (hymnal, page 20). With this song we ask God to wash us

clean from our sins and to send his Holy Spirit to be with us.

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be punished for our sins. Send your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and guide us. We praise your holy name! Amen.



Write the word “reassure” on the board and its

definition: to make confident again, or to take away fear.

Read with the children the word *reassure* and its definition. Then role-play being a child in the two situations that follow. Ask a volunteer to pretend to reassure you.

- You’re upset because you lost a special coin somewhere in the house.
- Your mom is very late picking you up from school. You’re afraid she forgot about picking you up or was in an accident.



In today’s story, Jacob must leave his home because his brother, Esau, wants to kill him. Jacob is frightened and alone. Today we’ll answer the question, **How did God reassure Jacob?**

Note: You'll need to use the story in the adjacent column.



Display a **map** showing Hebron, Bethel, and Haran, such as **Copy Master 15**. Refer

to the map at appropriate points in the story. Also display a **map** of your country (or your state or region). To help the students put into perspective the length of Jacob's journey, point out your location and the location of a city 500 miles away. Discuss how long it would take to travel there by car. Have the children imagine and describe what it would be like to travel there on foot.



Tell the lesson as if you were Jacob. (Optional: Dress in a **robe** as a Jacob costume.)

For example, you might begin by saying, "My mother and I had tricked my father, Isaac, into giving the special blessing to me instead of to my brother, Esau. When Esau found out, he was so angry that he planned to kill me. So my mother told me to leave home and go to her brother Laban's house in Haran. She told me that when Esau was no longer angry at me, she would send for me, and then I could come back home. . . ."



As you tell the story, sketch it in stick figures on the board. When you tell about Jacob's dream, draw the sleeping Jacob with his head on a rock. Above him, draw the stairway. Draw angels ascending and descending. Draw God (as a small cloud emitting beams of light) at the very top. Erase the dream elements when Jacob wakes up. Draw Jacob standing, and draw the stone set on end to mark the spot Jacob named Bethel.

God had given **Isaac and Rebekah twin sons** named Esau and Jacob. When the boys were grown, **Isaac planned** to give a **special blessing to Esau**. But **God had said** the blessing should go to **Jacob**. **Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac** into **giving Jacob** the blessing. When **Esau** found out, he was so **angry** that he **planned to kill Jacob**.

Rebekah heard what Esau was planning to do. So she **sent for Jacob** and **told** him, "Esau wants to kill you. You must **leave here** at once and **go to** my brother **Laban's** house in **Haran**. Stay there **until Esau** gets over his anger and **has forgotten** what you did to him. Then, **when it's safe** for you to return home, I will **send for you**."

Rebekah wanted to get **Isaac's permission** for Jacob to go to Haran, but she **didn't want** to **tell** Isaac the **real reason** for the journey. So while she was talking to him one day, she **told him** that she **didn't want Jacob to marry** an **unbelieving woman** from the land of **Canaan**, but to **go** where he could **find a God-fearing wife** instead.

Rebekah's **plan worked**. **Isaac** called for **Jacob** and said to him, "**Do not marry** a **Canaanite** woman. **Go to** the country of your **uncle Laban** and find a **wife there**. May **God bless you** and **make your family** into a **great nation**. And may he **give** you and your **descendants** the land of **Canaan** as your home, just **as he promised** to **Abraham**."

Jacob started out on the long, 500-mile **trip to Haran**. After he had traveled **several days**, he came to a certain place **about 70 miles from home**. Since the sun had gone down, he **stopped** and **spent the night** there in the field. He took **one** of the **smooth stones** he found lying there, put it **under his head** as a pillow, and lay down to **sleep**.

That night **God sent Jacob** a special **dream**. In this dream Jacob **saw a stairway** that reached from the **earth** all the way up **to heaven**. God's **angels** were **going up and down** it. And **God himself** was standing at **the very top!** "**I am the Lord,**" he said, "the God of Abraham and Isaac. I will **give the land** you're now **lying on** to you and **your descendants**. They will be **as many as the dust of the earth**, and

they will **spread out** from here **in every direction**. **All people** on earth will be **blessed through you**, for from **your descendants** will come the **Savior of the world!** And I **promise** to be **with you** and **watch over you** wherever you go. Even though you will wander far and wide, I will **bring you back safely** to this very land.”

When **Jacob woke up**, he said, “Surely the **Lord is here**, and I didn’t know it.” A feeling of **fear and awe** came over him, and he cried out, “How **awesome** this **place** is! This is nothing less than the **house of God!** This is the **gate to heaven!**”

Then he took the **stone** that he had placed under his head and **set it up** on end to **mark the place** where God had appeared to him. He **poured olive oil** on the **stone** to **dedicate it to God**, and he **called the place Bethel**, which means “**house of God.**”

Jacob also **made** this **vow** (sacred promise): “If **God** will be **with me** and **bring me back** safely to my father’s house, I will **serve him with all my heart**. This **stone** will **mark** the place of **God’s house**, and I will **worship him here.**”

Then, **believing** that **God loved him** and would **watch over him**, Jacob **continued** on his way **to Haran**.



discuss

You will need a **hymnal** or **student lesson** for each child.

Say Jacob and Rebekah’s sin of deceiving Isaac was having sad results.

Ask How was their family being split apart? [*Esau wanted to kill his own twin, and Rebekah had to send her son away from home.*]

Say Rebekah told Isaac that she wanted Jacob to go to Haran to find a God-fearing wife.

Ask What was the real reason Jacob left home? [*So that Esau wouldn’t kill him.*]

Say Jacob had to leave home because of what he had done. His sin of tricking his father had caused troubles for him.

Do Draw a line down the middle of the board. Label one side “SINS.” Label the other side “TROUBLES.” Remind the children that we are all sinners. Ask the children to give examples of sins we commit. Write their answers in the first column. Point out that our sins might cause earthly troubles for us. Ask the children to give examples of troubles each sin might cause. Write their answers in the second column. Examples:



You will need **student lessons** and **duplicates of Copy Master 1**.

Say Jacob and Rebekah sinned when they tricked Isaac into giving the special blessing to Jacob instead of to Esau.

Ask What sort of trouble came to Jacob as a result of this sin? [*Esau, his own twin, hated him and wanted to kill him.*] How was Rebekah punished as well? [*She had to send her favorite son away.*]

Say One night on Jacob’s journey, God sent him a special dream. Jacob saw a stairway from earth to heaven, angels going up and down, and God himself standing at the top.

Do Divide the class into small groups, and give each group a student lesson and a duplicate of the copy master. Have each group work together to complete the copy master. [*Answers: 1. Savior, 2. spread out, 3. bring you back, 4. descendants, 5. every direction, 6. land, 7. you, 8. be with, 9. dust, 10. earth, 11. watch over, 12. wander*] When all groups have finished, tell this story:

Jonah watched television on Thursday night when he should have been studying for his spelling test. Then during the spelling test on Friday, Jonah

looked at Ashley's paper and copied her answers. When Mrs. Becker handed back the tests, Jonah got an A+.

Ask Did Jonah deserve the grade he got? [*No. He cheated.*]

Say Look at the list of blessings God promised Jacob. Put an X in front of every blessing that Jacob deserved. [*There should be none.*]

Ask Why didn't Jacob deserve God's blessings? [*He was a sinner.*] Do any of us deserve God's blessings? [*No. We are sinners too.*]

Say God blessed Jacob in spite of his sins, and he also blesses us in spite of our sins.

Do Ask the children to open their Bibles to Romans 5:8. Ask a volunteer to read the passage aloud.

Ask According to this passage, how did God show his great love for us? [*He sent his Son to die for our sins.*]

Do Ask the children to read or recite together the Hebrews 13:5b memory treasure.

Say Since God has already shown his great love for us by sending Jesus to die for us, we

SINS	TROUBLES
Cheating	Losing friends
Touching things I shouldn't	Getting hurt
Stealing	Receiving punishment

Say God's punishment is the worst trouble that can come to us because of sin.

Ask What punishment does God say our sins deserve? [*Eternal punishment in hell.*]

Why don't we need to fear God's punishment? [*Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. God has forgiven our sins for Jesus' sake.*]

Say A few days into his journey, Jacob had a special dream sent by God.

Ask What did Jacob see in the dream? [*A stairway from earth to heaven, angels going up and down, and God himself standing at the top.*]

Say In the dream, God repeated to Jacob the promise he had given to Abraham.

Ask How would all people be blessed through Jacob's descendants? [*The Savior of the world would come from Jacob's family.*]

Say Jacob had tricked his father to get the special blessing, but God was showing that he wanted Jacob to have this blessing in spite of his sin.

Ask What did God also promise to do for Jacob? [*To be with him and watch over him wherever he went and to bring him back safely.*]

Do Have the children stand in a place where they can take a few steps forward. Tell them that you are going to read some sentences, and they are going to pretend to take steps on stairs like those in Jacob's dream. For each true sentence they should take a small step forward. For each false sentence, they should take a small step backward. Sentences to read:

Jacob lied to his father, so he didn't deserve to get God's blessing. [*Step forward.*]

God forgave Jacob and blessed him in spite of his sins. [*Step forward.*]

We deserve God's blessings. [*Step backward.*]

God forgives our sins because Jesus died for us. *[Step forward.]*

The Savior who came from Jacob's family is also our Savior. *[Step forward.]*

Just as God promised to be with Jacob, he promises to be with us also. *[Step forward.]*

Say Jacob dedicated the place where he had had the dream to God and called it Bethel, which means "house of God."

Ask What vow, or sacred promise, did Jacob make? *[To serve God with all his heart and to someday worship God in that place.]*

Say Jacob was not trying to make a deal with God. God had already promised to be with Jacob. Now Jacob was promising to serve God. Later Jacob did return to Bethel and worship God there.

Ask How, then, did Jacob respond to God's promises? *[Jacob believed God's promises.]*

Say We also can believe God's promises to be with us and take care of us.

Do Have the children find hymn 587:3 in their hymnals or on their student lessons. Ask them to locate phrases which show that we trust in God's love and care. *["Since you love me," "shield me from alarm," "Your mercy will not fail me," and "your protecting arm."]* Point out that singing a hymn stanza such as this can remind us that God has saved us and is always caring for us.

CLOSE To prepare two paper stairways, accordion-fold two large sheets of light-colored **construction paper**. Write words on each according to the diagrams.

Ask What worries did Jacob have? *[His brother wanted to kill him. He had to leave his home. He was alone on a 500-mile journey.]*

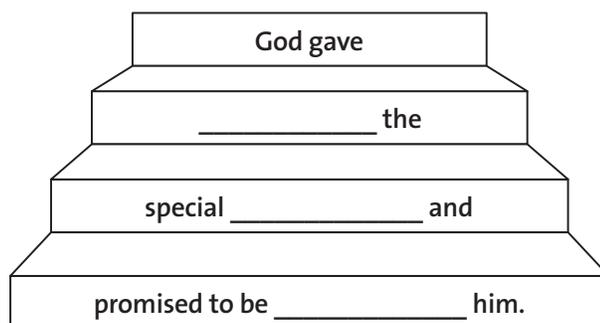


Diagram 1

can be sure that he will also keep his promise to be with us always.



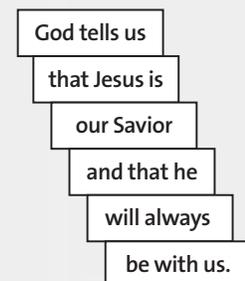
Before class, write the lesson truth and application on strips of paper (six strips each—see diagrams). Have tape available.

Do To answer each of the questions that follow, have volunteers put the strips of paper for that answer in order. Help them tape the strips to a wall to make a stairway, as shown.

Ask In today's lesson, how did God reassure Jacob? *[God gave Jacob the special blessing and promised to be with him.]*



How does God reassure us in his Word? *[God tells us that Jesus is our Savior and that he will always be with us.]*



Say We trust that Jesus is our Savior and is with us always.

Do Close by singing the hymn 587:3 memory treasure.

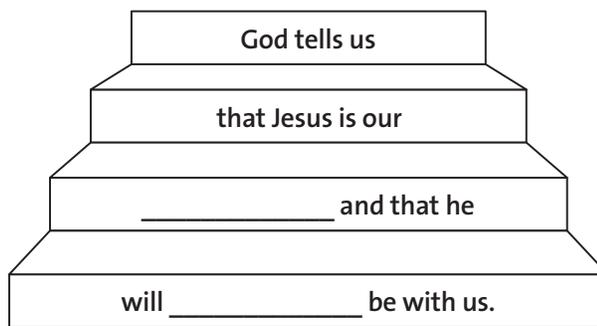


Diagram 2

Do Show the prepared paper stairways. Ask the children to answer each of the following questions by writing the missing words on the stairway.

Ask How did God reassure Jacob? God gave [Jacob] the special [blessing] and promised to be [with] him. (Diagram 1)

How does God reassure us in his Word? God tells us that Jesus is our [Savior] and that he will [always] be with us. (Diagram 2)

Say We trust that Jesus has saved us and is with us always.

Do *Pray:* Dear God, thank you for the assurance that you are with me always. Amen.



Memory Treasure Choices

Hebrews 13:5b

*** 1 Peter 5:7**

his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

Jacob had to leave home as a result of deceiving his father. God wants us to be truthful and loving in our dealings with others.

Hymn 587:3

Lord Jesus, since you love me,
Oh, spread your wings above me
And shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would assail me,
Your mercy will not fail me;
I rest in your protecting arm.

This is a wonderful hymn with which to close the day. It reminds us of our Savior's love and care even as we sleep. Even though Satan assails (attacks) us, we know that Jesus is watching over us.

*** The Eighth Commandment**

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take

Although a sample is not ready at this time, our plan is to make the memory treasure sections for each lesson available in a format that can be duplicated for the students and for the teacher's reference. You would be able to choose your preferred Bible translation.

OPTIONAL
mid-
week
Lesson

- Begin by singing “Cast All Your Anxiety on Him”  (**Copy Master 2**).
- Close with the following prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to suffer the punishment our sins deserve. We trust in your promise to always be with us and to take care of our every need. Please help us as we remind others to trust in you above all things. Amen.
- Use one of the activities in **Activity 1** under **Lesson Activities** to review the lesson.
- Use **Activity 2** to remind the children that Jesus is their Savior and that God cares for them.

Lesson Activities

1. Review

In Jacob’s Words

Purpose: To review the lesson by acting the part of Jacob.

Procedure: Have volunteers take turns wearing the Jacob costume from the alternate **Learn** (Option 2), if you had one, and retelling the lesson events in their own words.

Story Illustration

Purpose: To review the facts of the story by drawing a picture of Jacob’s dream.

Procedure: Have the children draw a picture of Jacob’s dream. Encourage them to add a caption, such as the words of one of the memory treasure passages.

2. Application

Acrostic Poems

Purpose: To write acrostic poems thanking God for sending Jesus to be our Savior or thanking God for his care.

Procedure: Have the children write a word such as “THANKS,” “JESUS,” or “SAVIOR” down the

side of a page. Each letter of the word will begin a line of the poem. The lines do not need to rhyme. Example:

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus.

He came to die for my sins—

A bridge between you and me.

Now I can go to heaven.

Kids everywhere must know their

Savior.

3. Music

“Cast All Your Anxiety on Him”

Purpose: To have fun singing a song that reminds us to place our troubles in God’s hands.

Procedure: Sing “Cast All Your Anxiety on Him”  (**Copy Master 2**).

4. Art

Jesus Cutouts

Purpose: To have the children create artwork to remind them that Jesus is always with them.

Procedure: Give each child two 4" x 9" pieces of construction paper of contrasting colors. Have the children construct cutouts of the name Jesus as follows:

- Select one piece of construction paper. Fold it in half lengthwise, and then lay it out flat. Place on it stencils (about 2 inches high) spelling the name JESUS, and trace them (or draw block letters). Make sure that each letter is half above the fold and half below it. Do the middle letter first to help center the name.
- Cut that piece of paper in half down the fold. From the top half, cut out the letter parts and discard them, leaving the background part whole. From the bottom half, cut out the letter parts and keep them. Discard the background piece.
- Lay the uncut piece of construction paper flat on the desk. Glue the background piece from the other paper to the top of this piece. (See diagram.)
- Then glue each letter part to the bottom half of the uncut piece, matching the parts with the background section above.

Encourage the children to display their projects at home as reminders that Jesus is always with them.



5. Review and Apply

Jacob's Vision

Purpose: To review the lesson events and remind the children of God's care.

Procedure: Have each child complete **Copy Master 3**. The answers are as follows:

Part One: 1. ~~Esau~~, Jacob; 2. ~~servant~~, wife; 3. ~~friend~~, dream; 4. ~~mountain~~, stairway; 5. ~~Abraham~~, God; 6. ~~enemies~~, descendants; 7. ~~face~~, house; 8. ~~Jerusalem~~, Haran

Part Two: GOD CARES FOR YOU

Trust in God's Care (Challenge)

Purpose: To read passages that remind us to trust God, to create a bumper sticker using one passage, and to personalize the meaning of that passage.

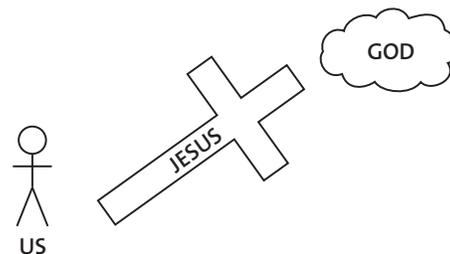
Procedure: Have each child complete **Copy Master 4**. Choices and responses will vary.

6. Other Ideas

Jesus and the Stairway

Purpose: To have the children learn how Jesus is like the stairway in Jacob's dream.

Procedure: Have the children read John 1:51. Point out that here Jesus (the Son of Man) is comparing himself to the stairway in Jacob's dream. *[Jesus is like a stairway or bridge between God and us. God came to us when Jesus came to be our Savior. And now we can go to God because Jesus has forgiven all our sins.]* To illustrate the concept, draw the following diagram on the board:



Bible Study

Copy Master 5 contains an age-appropriate Bible study.

The Bible studies are from the original Christ-Light (©1998) and use the 1984 edition of the New International Version Bible translation.