

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 6
Jacob's Dream (Genesis 28:10-22)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord and His angels are constantly caring for us and leading us toward heaven.
- B. The Lord spoke to Jacob in a special dream, but He speaks to us in His Word.
- C. We shouldn't be so distracted or worried by our daily activities that we don't have time to think about the Lord and hear His Word.
- D. Every place mentioned in the Word has a special meaning. Bethel literally means "house of God" and signifies knowledge of celestial things.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. Last time we talked about Jacob and Esau, the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah.
 - a. Isaac and Rebekah wanted children very much, and they were delighted when the Lord gave them two sons.
 - b. But the boys were different from each other, and they didn't get along well.
- 2. Do you remember what Jacob did to Esau that made Esau very angry? (He stole the special blessing meant for the eldest son by tricking his father Isaac into thinking he was Esau. So Isaac blessed Jacob instead.)
 - a. Esau was so angry, he wanted to kill Jacob.
 - b. So Isaac and Rebekah told Jacob to leave home and go back to Haran where Rebekah had come from. She had family there that Jacob could stay with.
- 3. There was another reason Isaac and Rebekah wanted Jacob to go back to Haran. They did not want him to marry one of the Canaanite women who lived nearby. (Remember, the Canaanites worshiped idols.) They wanted him to marry one of his mother's relatives instead, a woman who worshiped the Lord like Jacob did.
- 4. Jacob must have been sad to leave his home and family. But the Lord gave him a special dream to comfort him. Let's read about it.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read Genesis 28:10-22

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Who was Jacob's father? (Isaac)
2. Who was Isaac's father? (Abraham)
3. Where did they live? (In the Holy Land, Canaan)
4. Why was Jacob going to Haran? (To find a wife and to flee from his angry brother)
5. One night, Jacob had a wonderful dream. What did he see in his dream? (A ladder with the Lord at the top and angels going up and down the ladder)
6. Did the Lord talk to Jacob in the dream? (Yes)
7. What did the Lord promise Jacob? (That He would be with Jacob, protecting and helping him; that He would bring Jacob back to the Holy Land; and that Jacob's many descendants would live there.)
8. When Jacob woke up, he realized that he was in a special place. He named it Bethel, which means "house of God." What else did he do when he woke up? (He set up the stone he had used as a pillow to be a pillar to mark this special place, and he poured oil on the stone.)
9. Jacob made the Lord a promise at Bethel. What did he promise? (That he would worship the Lord and serve Him; and that he would give back to the Lord one-tenth of everything the Lord gave him.)

D. Further Ideas

1. How do you think Jacob felt on his journey to Haran? Perhaps he was sad about leaving his home. Maybe he wondered when he would ever be able to go back. And perhaps he was worried about how things would be when he got to Haran.
2. Jacob's dream comforted him - cheered him up - because he realized that the Lord was very near, watching over him and helping him. The Lord is nearer us all the time, too.
3. The Lord spoke to Jacob in the dream. But how does He speak to us? (In His Word)
 - a. We can feel that the Lord is near us when we read His Word.
 - b. The Word can encourage us and give us hope, just as Jacob's dream gave him hope.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "May we learn, O Lord of life," Hymnal #219 (serving the Lord)
2. "Father in heaven, watch o'er Thy children," Hymnal # 152 (the Lord is always watching over us)
3. "Heavenly Father, Thou art near," Hymnal #158

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B. Activities

1. (Optional) Map work: Identify the Holy Land, Beersheba, Bethel, and Haran.

C. Project

1. Picture of Jacob sleeping. Lord at top of ladder, angels going up and down
 - a. Use light and bright crayons or oil pastels on dark blue paper; or
 - b. Use oil pastels on white paper, then brush watery dark blue paint over all for a wax-resist picture; or
 - c. Draw on white paper using markers, crayon or oil pastels. Cut out dream and mount on dark blue or black paper. Children add Jacob at the bottom of the paper, sleeping with his head on a stone.
2. 3D Dream and Jacob
 - a. Fold dark blue or black 9 X 12 construction paper in thirds width-wise so it can stand as a nighttime backdrop.
 - b. Cut a ladder from yellow paper. Children can draw on rungs with markers
 - c. Attach ladder to top and bottom of backdrop with transparent tape (on back of backdrop).
 - d. Children draw pictures of Lord and perhaps 2 angels, cut out around them, and tape or glue them to the ladder.
 - e. Make Jacob from a couple of pipe cleaners, and cut a stone from gray construction paper for his pillow.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of Jacob's ladder.
- B. Map of Holy Land.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Volume I, Genesis 28.