

Unit 2: Promise Builder

Faith Focus: God keeps God's promises.

The LORD carried out just what he had promised. (Genesis 21:1)

SESSION 9

GROW IN FAITH

God's Promise to Jacob—Genesis 28:10-22

The final Bible story of this unit tells about Jacob. Jacob was the son of Isaac and the grandson of Abraham, and God's promises extend to Jacob as well. As we encounter Jacob, he is on the run. Jacob has tricked his father, Isaac, into giving him the blessing meant for his older brother, Esau. Esau plans to kill him, so Jacob runs away. After fleeing, he stops to rest. While he is asleep, God appears to Jacob in his dream. God's message to Jacob is a promise. As God did for his grandfather, Abraham, God promises Jacob land, many descendants, and protection. Jacob is also promised God's presence, now and always. God keeps God's promises and is always there.

- Review similarities and differences in the unit's Bible stories.
- Ask what children have learned about promises.
- Make a small promise to God.

SUPPLIES

crayons

markers

scissors

glue

construction paper

sticky notes

pillowcases

soft felt, feathers, foam, blankets and other soft material

timer

basket

TV and DVD player or streaming devices

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Keeps God's Promises

Jacob's Dream (Storytelling)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 3–6
Leader Guide • Fall 2024

FUN WITH FAITH

A Pillow for Jacob (Game)

Build an Altar (Problem Solving)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the “Fall Sticker Page” (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the staircase sticker on the Session 9 space.

SAY: We are learning how God keeps God's promises. Even when we feel hopeless or like we don't deserve it, God is with us and God keeps loving us.

ASK: Can we see God? How do we know that God is with us? Where do you feel that God is with you?

Faith Focus—God Keeps God's Promises

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19). Photocopy “Dreaming of a Promise” (Leader Guide—p. 64) for each child.

- Show children the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is “God keeps God's promises.” Sometimes God reveals God's promises for us in different ways, even in dreams.

ASK: Do you dream? What do you dream about? How do your dreams make you feel?

SAY: There was a man named Jacob who got into a big fight with his brother. He was scared and sad, and so he ran away. While he was asleep one night, God told Jacob that God would bless Jacob and always be with him.

- Give each child a copy of “Dreaming of a Promise.”
- Encourage children to draw what they imagine Jacob's dream looked like.

Jacob's Dream

Supplies: Activity Sheets, CEB Kids' Bible, scissors, glue, construction paper

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Jacob's Dream" (Session 9 Activity Sheet) for each child. If desired, cut out the pieces for each child ahead of time.

- Give each child a set of the "Jacob's Dream" storytelling pieces.
- Slowly read Genesis 28:10–22 from a CEB Kids' Bible slowly. Have the children assemble the scene of Jacob's dream as you read the Scripture story.

ASK: How does Jacob know that God will keep God's promises? What else do you think Jacob dreamed about?

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of Jacob's dream from Genesis 28:10–22 in your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: How did Jacob feel at the beginning of the story? How did Jacob feel at the end of the story?

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 9 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

ASK: Have you ever had a dream like Jacob's?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) and Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) if you haven't already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Our story today showed us how God made a promise to Jacob to always be with him. We can trust God because we know that God keeps God's promises. We can build a relationship with God knowing that God will be with us and love us all the time.

ASK: How do you build trust in God? What promises do you know God will keep?

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Invite each child to write a dream or hope they have on a sticky note and put it on the poster near the ladder.

Tip: Depending on the size of your group, you may choose to keep or remove the sticky notes from previous sessions.

FUN WITH FAITH

A Pillow for Jacob

Supplies: pillowcases (one for every two children); soft materials like foam, felt, feathers, cloth, blankets, and socks); timer

Prepare Ahead: Make a pile of all the soft items.

SAY: In our Bible story today, Jacob used a rock for a pillow when he slept on the ground. That probably wasn't very comfortable!

ASK: What do you use to sleep?

- Divide the children into pairs. Give each pair a pillowcase.
- Time each pair as they stuff as much comfy stuff into their pillowcase as they can. Then, invite the pair to take turns using their pillow and rate how comfy it is.

ASK: What do you think makes a good pillow? What does NOT make a good pillow? How do you think Jacob was able to dream even if he didn't have a comfy pillow?

Build an Altar

Supplies: whatever materials you have available in your space

SAY: When Jacob woke up the morning after he dreamed about God, he built an altar with rocks to remember his miraculous dream.

ASK: Have you ever been in a situation when you had to use whatever was around you and you didn't have a lot of supplies? What did you do?

- Tell the children that they need to figure out how to build an altar that shows God keeps God's promises. They can use only what is in their class space.
- Help guide the children to use the available materials safely and to work together.
- Challenge the children to build an altar that is taller than the tallest child.

ASK: How did it feel to build an altar with only what we have here? What material would have been helpful to have? What would you do differently if you tried again?

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, scissors, crayons or markers, basket

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).

Make copies of the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 93–94) if needed.

Photocopy and cut out the "Promise Cards" (Leader Guide—p. 89).

SAY: Knowing that God will keep God's promises to us helps our faith in God grow.

SAY: God keeps promises to us, but we can also keep promises to God. God can help us learn, grow, and share love with others.

- Give each child a Promise Card.
- Encourage children to write or draw a promise to God they want to keep. Have children place their promises in a basket and repeat the phrase, "God keeps God's promises."
- Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Repeat after me: "Holy God, help me trust in you. Show me that you keep your promises to love and care for me. And help me love and care for your beautiful world. Amen."

- Send the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child who hasn't received them.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

Dreaming of a Promise

The Bible tells us Jacob dreamed about a staircase and angels. What else do you think Jacob dreamed of? Draw his dream.

