

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 us 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.

- Explore how families of faith keep promises to one another and to God.
- Help children gain understanding of the many promises God made to God's people.
- Ask the children to reflect on which one of God's promises had the most impact and how it shapes their faith.

SUPPLIES

scissors

construction paper

gule sticks

stapler

newspaper

sticky notes

crayons

interlocking blocks

timer

colored pencils

four plastic hoops

paper

marker

*TV and DVD player or
streaming device*

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Keeps
God's Promises

Jacob's Pillow
(Craft)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 7–12
Leader Guide • Fall 2024

FUN WITH FAITH

Build a Staircase
(Science)

Every Direction Maze
(Puzzle)

Across the World
(Game)

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: Today, we're going to learn about God's promise to Jacob.

Faith Focus—God Keeps God's Promises

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19).

- Show children the Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "God keeps God's promises." God promises always to be with us. No matter what is happening in our lives, God is with us.

ASK: Have you ever felt like God was with you or felt close to God? What did that feel like? How did you know God was with you?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

Jacob's Pillow

Supplies: Activity Sheets, scissors, construction paper, stapler, newspaper

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Jacob's Pillow" (Session 9 Activity Sheet) for each child.

SAY: In today's story, Jacob, the son of Isaac, has a dream. We are going to make our own pillows to help us remember his dream and God's promise.

- Invite the children to follow the instructions to make their pillows.

SAY: When you get home, put this pillow somewhere that you feel close to God. It can remind you that God is near you.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read Genesis 28:10–22 in a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: What did God promise Jacob? How did Jacob respond?

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.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, in small groups, or all together.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

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

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13), Unit 2 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 6 & 19), and Unit 2 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17) 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: God promised Jacob that his children would be a great nation. That promise is pretty cool. But God also promised to always be with Jacob. We know that God wants to be with us. Sometimes life can feel tough. God wants us to know that God is with us no matter what is happening. We go to church, read our Bibles, sing songs, pray, and care for all of creation to remind us that God is near us.

ASK: How can you feel close to God this week?

- Place the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

ASK: What do you see on our poster?

SAY: Each picture on our poster is a symbol of God's promises. Today, we will look at the symbol for Jacob's story, the ladder.

- Instruct each child to write on his or her sticky note one thing he or she can do to feel close to God this week. Have the children put the notes on the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Build a Staircase

Supplies: interlocking blocks, timer, objects from around the room

SAY: Jacob’s dream included a giant ladder or staircase. Today, we will race to see which team can build the highest and sturdiest staircase.

- Have the children divide into small groups.
- Invite the children to use interlocking blocks to build a staircase in each group within a five-to-ten minute limit, depending on the group’s ability and attention to the building activities. The group with the tallest and strongest staircase wins.
- Have the children test the strength of the staircase by adding objects from around the room to the staircase.

Every Direction Maze

Supplies: colored pencils

Prepare Ahead: Make copies of the reproducible “Every Direction Maze”:
(*Leader Guide—p. 64*).

SAY: God promised Jacob that his descendants would spread to every direction across the earth. Let’s do an activity that reminds us of how Jacob’s descendants spread in every direction.

- Give each child a copy of the “Every Direction Maze” reproducible.
- Encourage the children to follow the instructions to complete the maze.

Across the World

Supplies: four plastic hoops, paper, marker

Prepare Ahead: On separate sheets of paper, mark the cardinal directions with N, S, E, W. Place four plastic hoops around the room with one of the cardinal directions in each hoop. If possible, label the hoops with the corresponding directions around the room—for example, the hoop on the north side of the room should be marked with the N. Clear space in the room so the children can run to each hoop without obstacles.

SAY: Jacob was promised that his family would spread all over the world. Let's play a game to remember how far God promised his family would spread out.

- Have the children walk around to see each plastic hoop.
- Invite the children to run to the hoop in the direction you call. Have the children help each other fit within the hoop. Continue calling out the directions more quickly until the group is finished playing.

SAY: God kept God's promise to Jacob. Jacob's family spread out throughout the ancient world. God stayed close to Jacob and his family.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Photocopy the Unit 2 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 93–94) if needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: God promised to be close to Jacob and his family. God also promises to be close to us. We know God is nearby when we pray, sing, read our Bibles, and serve others. Our favorite Bible stories can help us feel close to God. When we remember the stories of people like Jacob, we can remember that God keeps God's promises. When we trust God, we grow our faith in God.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Invite each child to share his or her favorite Bible story.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for your Word. Thank you for the stories that help us feel close to you. Help us to remember that you are always close to us. Amen.

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

Every Direction Maze

God promised Jacob that his descendants would spread in every direction across the earth. Follow the arrows to get from start to finish. You can go to any connecting square to get to the end of the maze.

