

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



GOD CAN STILL USE JACOB

📖 Genesis 27:42-44; 28:10-15 Jacob's dream at Bethel

🎯 Aim: To learn that God uses people who are not perfect

Throughout May we have followed the family drama of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Esau and Jacob. They all played an important part in God's story but each one was far from perfect. Today we will think about the way that God wants all of us to be part of his story, even though we're not perfect.

Each child will need:

- Resources to make a paper ladder – see Action It section
- Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- Snakes and Ladders board game

Start It

Start off today's session by playing a game of Snakes and Ladders. If you have a giant version of the game, then this would be ideal.

💬 Say: Our session today reminds us that God is with us always – when things are going well and we're climbing up a ladder, and also when we make mistakes and feel like we are right back where we started. No matter where we are, God wants us to be part of his story.

Sing It

💬 Say: Today we are going to sing a much livelier version of the song from our last session. You should be familiar with the song now and can join in with the dance moves.

'Who you Say I am' (dance cover version with lyrics) by CJ and Friends (3 mins 24 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cS_nCfMVVHO

Tell It

Ask: In our last session we retold the story of Esau and Jacob. Can you remember what happened? Share it with the group.

💬 Say: We're going to watch a clip that recaps last week's story and helps us to find out what happened next.

Video

God's Story: Jacob and Esau by Crossroads Kids' Club (4 mins 18 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGsIWfRKIoM

Ask: Think about each of the characters in this story: Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob. What mistakes did they make?

Say: Each of the characters acted in ways that did not please God. They were angry, jealous, and tricked their closest family members. We all have fall-outs in our family, but this was so bad that Jacob's Mum (Rebekah) had to help him run away. Esau was so angry that he wanted to kill his brother! Let's read Genesis 28:10-15 to find out what happened next.

Read:

'Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. He came to a place and spent the night there because the sun had set. He found a stone there and laid his head on it to go to sleep. Jacob dreamed that there was a ladder resting on the earth and reaching up into heaven. And he saw angels of God going up and coming down the ladder. And then Jacob saw the Lord standing above the ladder. The Lord said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham, your grandfather. And I am the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are now sleeping. Your descendants will be as many as the dust of the earth. They will spread west and east, north and south. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. I am with you, and I will protect you everywhere you go. And I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

— (Genesis 28:10-15 ICB)

Say: God reminds Jacob that he is the same God that loved and made promises to his Dad and his Grandad. Despite the mistakes that Jacob made, God still promised to bless him and his descendants.

Discuss:

- What does this story tell us about God's character and how much he loves us?
- What kind of people does God want to be part of his story?
- Do you think God wants you to be part of his story? If so, why?

Say: All the characters in this story made mistakes, but God still wanted to use them for his glory. He feels the same way about us, and he's not finished with us yet. Let's share this month's memory verse together to remind us that God knows we are a work in progress and still loves us all the same.

Memory verse

'And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.'

— (Philippians 1:6 ESV)

Action It

The aim of today's activity is for the children to make a paper ladder, then write on it, or attach with stickers, the words of Genesis 28:15.

'I am with you, and I will protect you everywhere you go.'

— (Genesis 28:15 ICB)

A number of options for creating the ladder are provided below, depending on the ability of your group and the resources you have available. Once the children have completed the ladder, remind them that, just like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, God promises to be with each one of us.

Options

- *How to Make a Paper Ladder from a Single Paper Without any Glue* by ayan mazid craft www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFOLxqqOEKQ
- *How to Make a Paper Ladder* by BTB Paper www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDxAfCpZka4
- *Origami Ladder* by Magic Folds www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKUBgyYKhck

→ *DIY Jacob's Ladder Tutorial – Origami & Ribbons* by Paper Kawaii (this one is challenging)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnbGsosqVoQ

Pray It

💬 **Say:** For our prayer time today, we are going to use the board game to play 'Prayer Snakes and Ladders'.

Each time the children climb up a ladder, ask them to pray a short prayer thanking God for a moment he has been with them or a blessing in their life. Each time the children slide down a snake, they can share a worry with God or say sorry for a mistake they have made. Once the game is finished, then pray with the whole group.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

MAY
SESSION 04

GOD CAN STILL USE JACOB

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FOR ME



Write

Today we discovered that God uses for his glory people who are not perfect. Create your own story that shares the same message.

TOGETHER



Play

Try playing 'Prayer Snakes and Ladders' with the people at home. Each time you climb up a ladder, pray a short prayer thanking God for a moment he has been with you or has blessed your family. Each time you slide down a snake, share a worry with God or say sorry for a mistake you have made.



Song for the week

'Who you Say I am' (dance cover version with lyrics) by CJ and Friends

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cS_nCfMvVH0



Memory verse

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