

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



A TRICK IS PLAYED ON JACOB

📖 Genesis 29:1-27 Jacob arrives in northwest Mesopotamia

🎯 Aim: To see how Jacob felt when a trick was played on him

After tricking his own family members, Jacob gets a taste of his own medicine. In today's session we continue with Jacob as he escapes from his brother's anger. Things don't quite turn out as Jacob expects when he goes to stay with his Uncle Laban. Despite the way that others may trick us or let us down, our memory verse for this month reminds us that God can be trusted.

Each child will need:

- Props for a magic trick – see Start It section
- Bible verse wristband
- Pencils and possibly pens, poster paint, access to a tray for the paint, paper, facilities to clean their hands
- Trust Prayers handout

Start It

💬 Say: In today's story, Jacob is deeply disappointed when his father-in-law tricks him. For our starter today, we are going to learn a trick that will hopefully amaze people, rather than disappoint them.

The clip shows five simple magic tricks that the children could learn. These are about deceiving the eye of your crowd. Choose one or two tricks, depending on your group and resources, and see if your group can learn how to do the trick. They all have simple explanations. You do not necessarily need to show them the clip. You could learn how to perform your chosen tricks and teach them to the group.

Video

5 Magic Tricks Kids can do! by WhatsUpMoms (3 mins 29 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2tDK9wfcYs

Sing It

Memory verse

💬 Say: Our memory verse for this month reminds us that God can be trusted.

Give out the Bible verse wristbands and share the memory verse together.

**'Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.'**

— (Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

💬 Say: Our song for today will help us to remember our memory verse.

'Proverbs 3:5-6 (Trust in the Lord)' by The Rizers (3 mins 25 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUR1ufexry0&t=104s

Tell It

Say: In our *Explore It* sessions last month, we started to discover the story of Esau and Jacob, two brothers who struggled to get along.

Ask: What can you remember about their story?

Recap the main points of Esau and Jacob's story. Emphasise the moments where Jacob tricked both his brother and his father.

Say: Let's find out what happens next in the story.

Video

Jacob Works for Laban by My First Bible (3 mins 59 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDeKGUNd9cQ

Stop the clip at 2 mins 40 secs.

Discuss:

- How did Laban react when he saw Jacob?
- Why do you think he was so pleased to see him?
- How did Laban build trust with Jacob?
- What deal did Laban make with Jacob so that he could marry Rachel?
- How long did Jacob have to work for Laban?
- What do you think happened next?

Watch the rest of the clip.

Discuss

- Did you guess the next part of the story correctly? How did it surprise you?
- How do you think Jacob felt when he discovered he had been tricked? How would you have felt?
- Jacob went to complain to Laban. What happened?
- Why do you think Jacob decided to trust Laban again?
- Would you have trusted Laban when he had already tricked you once?
- What does it feel like when someone tricks you? Have you ever been in that situation?
- Have you ever tricked anyone else? How do you feel about it?

Say: Jacob had tricked others in his life and caused a great deal of upset and hurt.

Ask: How do you think his experience with Laban made him feel about the way he had tricked Isaac and Esau?

Say: Sometimes people can let us down by not doing what they said they were going to do.

Ask: How does our memory verse remind us that God doesn't act this way?

Action It

The children are going to create their own version of this month's memory verse. Before painting, ask them to lightly draw a large heart in the centre of their paper. Then they can creatively write the memory verse around the edge. Next, they use poster paint to fill in the heart with their fingerprints. (You may wish to pour a range of paint colours on to a paint tray for this.)

When the artwork is completed, remind the children that God calls us to trust him with our whole hearts. When we are tempted to trick others to get our own way, or seek revenge when we are tricked ourselves, we are to lean on God's understanding, just like Jacob did.

Pray It

💬 Say: In today's story, Jacob put his trust in someone who could not be trusted. Jacob finally understood what it felt like to be deceived.

Give each child a copy of the Trust Prayer handout. In a time of quiet prayer together, ask for volunteers to read each prayer aloud. After the children have shared together, then bring the time of prayer to a close. The children will need to take the Trust Prayer handout home for use as part of the *Explore It For Me* activity.

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.

JUNE
SESSION 01

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FOR ME



Pray

Using the Trust Prayer handout from your *Explore It* session, choose a prayer to focus on each day of this week.

TOGETHER



Explore

In this week's story, Laban tricked Jacob, leaving him feeling very disappointed.

In contrast, magicians trick people to amaze and surprise them. Watch the clip with your family at home and see if they can do any magic tricks. If not, you could learn one together.

Kids Meet a Magician! by HiHo Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbL9sN_QD7Q



Song for the week

'Proverbs 3:5-6 (Trust in the Lord)' by The Rizers

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUR1ufexry0&t=104s



Memory verse

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KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

