



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#41 – Jacob Wrestles with God
Genesis 32:22-32

PICTURES NEEDED

41-1 Jacob and his sheep

REVIEW

- **Big Question:** What happens when we trust God completely?

God makes our paths straight.

- **Lesson Rhyme:** Review the lesson rhyme.

D—D

Dream

A stairway
to the sky

D—D—Dream

God spoke down
from high

Make sign of “D”

Put hands to side of head like sleeping

Move hand up like climbing stairs

Look up at hand lifted up really high

Same as above

Lift arms up above head

Tilt head down



D

LESSON CONTENT

- **Introduction:** Show visual (**picture 41-1**) What is this a picture of?

Even though Jacob was a sinner, God watched over him and took care of him.

After Jacob tricked his brother Esau, he went far away to his uncle's house to find a wife. At his uncle's house, Jacob came to have four wives and eventually had twelve sons by them. God cause him to grow very rich with lots of sheep.

Finally, God told Jacob to go back home. Jacob took all he had back to his home to live in the land God promised to give Abraham. Jacob was afraid that his brother Esau would still be mad at him for stealing his birthright and want to kill him. During the trip one night, Jacob wrestled with God asking God to bless him. God changed Jacob's name to Israel because he struggled with God and overcame.

When he got to the land, Jacob met his brother Esau who was glad to see him. Esau wasn't mad at him anymore. Jacob gave Esau flocks of sheep and other animals.

The big question for this week is: What happens when we trust God completely?

Listen as I read the lesson book and see if you can answer the question afterwards.

- **Lesson Book:** Read the book. Refer to the attached daily discussion questions.
Title: How did Jacob return home?

Page 1—Genesis 28:5

(picture of Jacob saying good-bye)
Jacob had to leave his home
because he had done wrong.
The birthright he had stolen,
which to Esau did belong.
Still God was always with him
as he traveled far away.
And it was to his uncle's house
that he did go to stay.

Page 2—Genesis 29:16-18

(picture of Jacob and Rachel)
His uncle had two daughters,
Leah ugly, Rachel fair.
Jacob asked to marry Rachel,
his love he did declare.
He had to labor seven years
to get Rachel for his wife.
He worked real hard so with her
he could spend his life.

Page 3—Genesis 29:25-27

(picture of Jacob and two wives)
His uncle was a trickster
and gave him Leah first.
Jacob was quite angry;
he thought his heart would burst.
Another seven years he worked
to get Rachel for his wife.
He'd find that having two wives
would cause his family strife

Page 4—Genesis 30:1-3

(picture of Jacob and twelve sons)
Then his wives made Jacob's life
more complicated still.
They gave their servants to him,
the role of wife to fill.
From Jacob's wives and twelve sons,
Israel would come to be.
They were children of the promise
God to Abraham did decree.

Page 5—Genesis 30:25-26
(picture of Jacob and animals)
The time then came for Jacob
to take his family home.
With four wives and many children
he was not alone.
God had blessed his labor,
lots of animals he now had.
Still he wondered in returning home
if Esau would be mad.

Page 6—Genesis 32:11-13
(picture of Jacob greeting Esau)
He prayed God'd give him favor
when his brother he did meet.
And Esau with forgiveness
his brother soon did greet.
From Jacob's life we can learn
God is faithful to his promise.
Though Jacob was a sinner
who was tricky and dishonest.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Day 1: Why did Jacob have to leave his home? Where did he go to stay?

Day 2: Who did Jacob want to marry? What did he have to do to marry her?

Day 3: How did Jacob's uncle trick him? What did Jacob have to do to get Rachel for his second wife? What is strife? Why would having more than one wife cause strife in a family?

Day 4: How many wives did Jacob end up having? How many sons did Jacob have? Who would come from Jacob's sons?

Day 5: What had happened to Jacob when the time came for him to go back home? What did Jacob wonder about? Why would Esau be mad at Jacob?

Day 6: What did Jacob pray? How did God answer his prayer? What can we learn from Jacob's life?

Review: Select a couple questions from above to ask the students again.

- Prayer: Thank God that he is good and faithful and watches over and takes care of us even though we sin and do what is wrong. Thank him for forgiving you when you do some thing wrong.
- The Big Question: **What enables us to live and flourish?**
God sustains and takes care of his people.

ACTIVITIES

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the club time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes handout sheet.

★ **Lesson Rhyme:** Practice the lesson rhyme with movements.

R—R	Make sign of "R"
Return	Move R index finger in a horizontal circle
A large family	Wiggle all ten fingers
Jacob had	
R—R—Return	Same as above
Would Esau	
still be mad?	Make mad face & move hands in twisting motion



R

★ **Coloring:** Color in the lesson picture.

★ **Activity:** Drawing

Draw Jacob with four wives and twelve sons.

★ **Letter/Sound Recognition:** Say the sound of and trace over each letter in the boxes.
With which sound does return begin?

★ **Song:** Father Abraham
Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord.

Right arm!

Right arm: Clench fist, bend and extend arm upward repeatedly throughout song

Right arm, left arm!

Left arm: Add left arm in same motion as right

Right arm, left arm, right foot!

Right foot: Add right foot stepping up and down

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot!

Left foot: Add left foot stepping up and down

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up!

Chin up: Add head nodding up and down

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up, turn around!

Turn around: Add turning in place while continuing other motions

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up, turn around, sit down!

- **Craft:** Sheep paper chain

As a reminder that God blessed Abraham with children and possessions, make a sheep paper chain.

Materials: legal size white or cream-colored paper, scissors, colored pencils

Preparation: Run off craft 41 on legal size paper. Cut lengthwise into strips. Each child should have a strip.

Instructions: Fold the strip of paper accordion style with the sheep on front. Cut along outline of the sheep to folded edges. Open the strip up and color in the face of each sheep.

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.