

Jacob's Dream

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- craft sticks
- angel pattern (2 angels per student)
- paint and paint brushes
- markers
- yarn
- tape
- glue



Scriptures

Gen 27:30-45; 28:10-22

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God protects His chosen people, especially when we trust and rely on Him

Behavioral Objective(s)

To know that God protects us no matter where we are; to pray to God for His guidance and protection

Memory Verse

"The Lord is your keeper." (Ps 121:5)



Bible Knowledge

Bethel (Luz)

Bethel, originally called Luz, was about ten miles north of Jerusalem and sixty miles north of Beersheba, where Jacob left his family. Bethel is where Abraham made one of his first sacrifices to God when he entered the land. Later Bethel became a center of idol worship, and the prophet Hosea condemned its evil practices.

Jacob traveled nearly fifty miles on the first day he fled to the town of Luz. That night he lay down to sleep in a field, using a stone for a pillow. Jacob's dream of a stairway to heaven is one of the most famous dreams in the Bible.

In the dream, God promised to watch over Jacob and give him the land he was lying upon. God also

promised to give Jacob many descendants, and He renewed the promise He had made to Abraham and Isaac, that one day all nations would be blessed through their family (Gen 26:1-5; 28:14).

Jacob awoke with thankfulness. He took the stone that he had used as a pillow and anointed it with oil to make a monument to God. Then he renamed the place "Bethel," which means "house of God." These actions indicate progress in Jacob's spiritual life.

Jacob's Trip to Haran

With his mother's help Jacob had gotten the birthright from his brother. After deceiving Isaac and Esau, Jacob ran for his life, traveling more than four hundred miles to Haran where an uncle, Laban, lived.



Understanding Your Students

It is still very difficult for students at this age to really know and feel that God is there for them. It is equally hard for them to truly experience God through prayer. Therefore, it is important for teachers to help them see that God is with them no matter where they are or what they are doing.

We can talk about God when there is rain. We

can talk about God when there is sunshine. We can point out the flowers, trees and fruits. These are all different ways God loves us and protects us. More concretely, we can talk about how God can make people better when they are sick. A good way for the children to understand this is to share a testimony, especially when it is about someone they know. God will become more real to them.

We can also talk about what to do when they do need God's help. For example, if they are sick,

how can God help them? Or if they are lost, how can God help them? If they turn to God for help at those times, in the end, they will realize that God really is a friend who is constantly by their side. In turn, they can encourage others around them to pray to God for help. Many young children innocently ask their parents to just kneel down and pray to God when they are sick or need help at school. These are all good starting points for them

to experience God.

Until the students can comprehend the abstract, we must help them know God from a concrete perspective. That means we need to talk about God whenever we can so students can see that everything around them is related to God and His presence in our lives.



Vocabulary

Pretend

to act like something or someone that you are really not

Dream

what happens in your mind when you are asleep

Ladder

something that you use to climb higher

Heaven

a place where we go after we die

Angel

an angel is a heavenly messenger sent by God



Before You Teach

It seems to be easy to turn to God when there is something we can't overcome on our own. This is because we don't have other options. God is, in essence, the last resort. In other words, it is easy to find God in the big stuff. But what about the little things in life? Shouldn't God be there too? How often do we find God when we wake up in the morning and breathe in that fresh air? What about when we have a safe drive home from work every evening?

Today's lesson talks about finding God even when it doesn't seem like God is there. Jacob probably thought God was very far away from him. He

had, after all, just tricked his father and Esau out of some important blessings. Yet, God revealed to him that He will always be with him.

This is exactly what God wants us to know. He will always be there for us, no matter what the situation. Even if there is nothing significant going on in our lives, God is telling us, He is still there. He will not go away. The more we appreciate God in the small things in life, the more we will feel Him in our lives. And when that happens, we will naturally become joyous people, constantly praising God and smiling. We can't help but do that because God is with us. So instead of waiting for the big things to happen and then finding God, let's take a quiet moment and find God now, in the little things. He has promised us He will be there if we look for Him.



Bible Story

Jacob Tricks Isaac

In the last lesson, we learned Esau lost his blessings. Do you know how he lost them? When Isaac was getting old, he wanted to bless his oldest son, Esau. When Jacob found out, he wanted the blessings because Esau had already given him the birthright. Jacob thought he was supposed to be the older brother now. That was what Esau promised him for the bowl of red stew. Jacob wanted

the blessings but he didn't know how to get it without letting his father know.

Jacob knew that Isaac could not see well and so his mother, Rebekah, came up with a plan. He would pretend to be Esau by wearing his brother's clothes. That way when Isaac smelled him, he would smell like Esau because he was wearing his clothes. But there was one more problem. Esau was hairy but Jacob was not. So Jacob put some goat skin on his hands and neck. That way, if Isaac touched him, he would feel hairy, just like his brother. Jacob thought this plan would work since his father could not see well to know who he really was. This was tricky but Jacob wanted the bless-

ings so much, he did not care that he was doing something wrong.

Isaac Blesses Jacob

When Jacob went to see his father, he pretended to be his brother. He brought him some food to eat and then he asked Isaac for the blessings. Isaac came close to him and smelled Jacob and touched Jacob.

"Are you sure you are Esau?" asked Isaac.

"Yes, I am your oldest son, Esau," lied Jacob. So Isaac ate some of the food Jacob had brought and he blessed Jacob, thinking he was Esau. Isaac did this because he could not see well anymore. He was tricked.

Esau is Angry at Jacob

When Esau found out that his own brother had tricked him and his father, he cried and was very upset. He begged his father to give him some blessings too but Isaac said it was too late. He had given all the blessings away to Jacob. When Esau heard this, he was very angry. He did not like his brother anymore for taking his blessings away. He was so angry, he wanted to hurt his brother. When their mother, Rebekah, saw how angry Esau was with Jacob, she told Jacob to leave the house and go somewhere far away until Esau felt better and was not so angry at him.

"Why don't you go to your uncle's house in Haran and stay there for awhile?" said Rebekah to Jacob. "When your brother is not angry with you anymore, I will send someone to come and get you and then you can come back home."

Jacob knew that his brother Esau was mad at him and he thought his mother's idea was good. So he packed up his things and he left his father's house and headed for Haran.

Jacob Sleeps in the Field

Jacob's uncle lived far, far away. It would take many many days to get to Haran. On the first day, he walked for miles and miles. He was tired and it was scary to be all by himself. He did not have any family with him anymore. It also made Jacob sad that his brother was mad at him, so mad that he had to leave the house. After walking for a long, long time, Jacob knew he could not walk any more because the sun was going down and he would not be able to see well at night. So Jacob found a place

to lie down and rest. There were no houses near by so Jacob just slept in the open field. Jacob didn't have a pillow with him, so he laid his head on a rock and fell asleep because he was tired from walking all day.

God Appears to Him in a Dream

While Jacob was sleeping, he had a dream. We all have dreams sometimes when we sleep. But this dream was a special dream. In the dream, Jacob saw a long ladder reaching high up into the sky. The ladder reached so high it went right up into heaven! And when Jacob looked closer in his dream, he could see angels climbing up and down the ladder. This was such a special sight to see.

Then Jacob heard God speaking to him.

God said, "I am the God of Abraham and Isaac, your father. I will always be with you wherever you go. I will protect you and your family, just like I promised your father and grandfather. You will have many children, so many that it will be hard to count them all."

God was making some great promises to Jacob.

God also said, "I will give you the land that you are lying on."

Jacob Worships God

Then Jacob woke up. He said, "This is a very special place. I know God will be with me wherever I go and I know that God is here because He spoke to me in my dream. I want to worship God right here, right now."

So Jacob took the stone he used for a pillow and made it a special place to worship God. He poured oil over it. Jacob thanked God for looking after him so that he was not harmed on his way to his uncle's house.

Jacob remembered the dream about the ladder and the angels as he traveled. He also remembered that God had promised to be with him wherever he went. Now he did not feel as lonely or as scared. After traveling for many days, Jacob finally arrived at his uncle's house in Haran.

God is Always With Us

When Jacob had to leave his house and travel by himself to a far away place, it was a sad and scary time for him. Even though he received the blessings, he had to leave his family and be by himself. And his brother was mad at him. But he

learned in a dream that God would always be with him. Then he knew that no matter where he was or what he was doing, God would protect him. He was thankful for that.



Check For Understanding

- 1. Why did Jacob decide to leave his house?** (He took Esau's blessings and Esau was angry with him.)
- 2. Where was Jacob planning to go?** (To his uncle's house in Haran which was far away.)
- 3. After walking for a long time, Jacob was ready to lie down and rest. What happened while he was resting?** (He had a dream.)
- 4. What was in his dream?** (He saw a ladder that reached all the way to heaven; angels were climbing up and down it.)

- 5. What did God say to him in the dream?** (He would be with him wherever Jacob went; He would keep him and his family safe; He would have many descendants; He would have all the land he could see.)
- 6. When Jacob woke up, what did he do with the stone he used as a pillow?** (He made a place to worship God.)
- 7. Why was Jacob happy when he started on his trip again?** (God was with him.)
- 8. Even though Jacob had tricked his father and brother, God still loved him. How does God love you?** (Let students answer.)



Life Application Story

Lost

The Hayes family decided to go on a camping trip. They were very excited, especially the two little girls, Cathy and Rachel. The girls were especially antsy in the car on the way there.

"Are we there yet?" Cathy asked for the tenth time that hour.

"No!" both Mr. and Mrs. Hayes said together. Rachel giggled.

"If you're so bored, why don't we listen to some songs?" said Mrs. Hayes, as she slipped in a CD. They sang along, and had lots of fun, laughing and teaching each other the lyrics. And before they knew it, they had arrived at Dandelion Mountain, the place they were going to set up camp.

Cathy and Rachel stretched their legs as they got out of the car. Their parents took things out of the trunk and they brought all their camping gear to a beautiful clearing which was just a five minute walk up the mountain. They set all their things up,

and were finally prepared for a week of nature.

When Mr. and Mrs. Hayes were inside the tent trying to set up the big air-mattress, Rachel noticed a squirrel by the path heading towards the forest. She got excited because she rarely saw squirrels near her house. She walked towards it, but it ran away. She began chasing it, as it moved through the forest, weaving and turning around bushes and plants. Soon, the squirrel scampered up a tree.

"Oh well," Rachel thought as she turned around to head back. Wait ... there were a few paths. She couldn't remember where she'd come from. She tried one of them, but that only made her more lost. She started to feel scared.

She called out, "Mom!! Dad!!" but no one answered. She cried out a few more times but she heard only the wind blowing through the trees. She sat down by a tree, and began to cry.

Rachel was tired, alone, and scared. Then suddenly, she remembered what her mom had told her. Her mom said that God is always there for you, and whenever you are afraid or alone, you can just pray to Him. So Rachel got down on her knees, and prayed to God. She asked Him to please help her find her parents, and keep her safe.

After her prayer, she felt a little bit better. But she still didn't dare to move because she was afraid she might become more lost. After sitting for a while, she was feeling scared again. This time, she sang hymns to keep her spirits up. She had only sung a few words when she heard someone calling.

"Rachel! Rachel!" It sounded like her mom! She stood up and yelled, "Mom! Mom! I'm over here!"

Soon, Rachel could see her mother running towards her. She ran to her and they gave each other a big hug.

"I was so worried!" said her mom.

"I was scared!" said Rachel, holding onto her mother tightly.

After getting back to the campsite, Rachel told everyone how she prayed to God and sang hymns to keep from feeling scared. After she warmed up and felt better, they toasted marshmallows. The family had lots of fun for the rest of the week. But

most importantly, they all learned that you can always count on God!

Questions to Think About

1. **Where was the family going?** (Camping)
2. **Why did Rachel get lost?** (She ran after a squirrel and lost her way.)
3. **What did she do to not feel scared?** (Prayed and sang hymns.)
4. **What did Rachel learn when she was lost?** (God will always protect her no matter where she is or what she is doing.)
5. **What can we do when we are scared?** (Let students respond.)
6. **How does God protect us?** (Let students answer.)



Activity 1

Jacob's Dream

Look at the picture. In his dream, what did Jacob see? He saw a ladder reaching up into _____ (heaven) with angels climbing up and down it.



Activity 2

God Protects Us

Look at the pictures. How can God look after us and protect us, no matter what we are doing? What do we always need to do? (pray to God for His guidance and help; He will always protect us.)



Activity 3

Jacob's Ladder

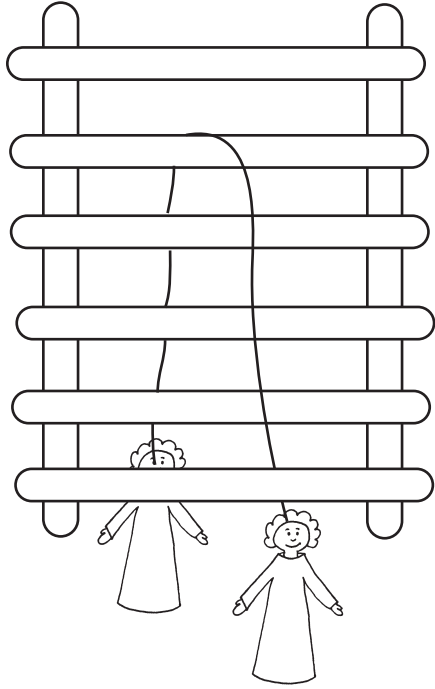
Materials:

1. craft sticks
2. angel pattern
3. paint and paint brushes

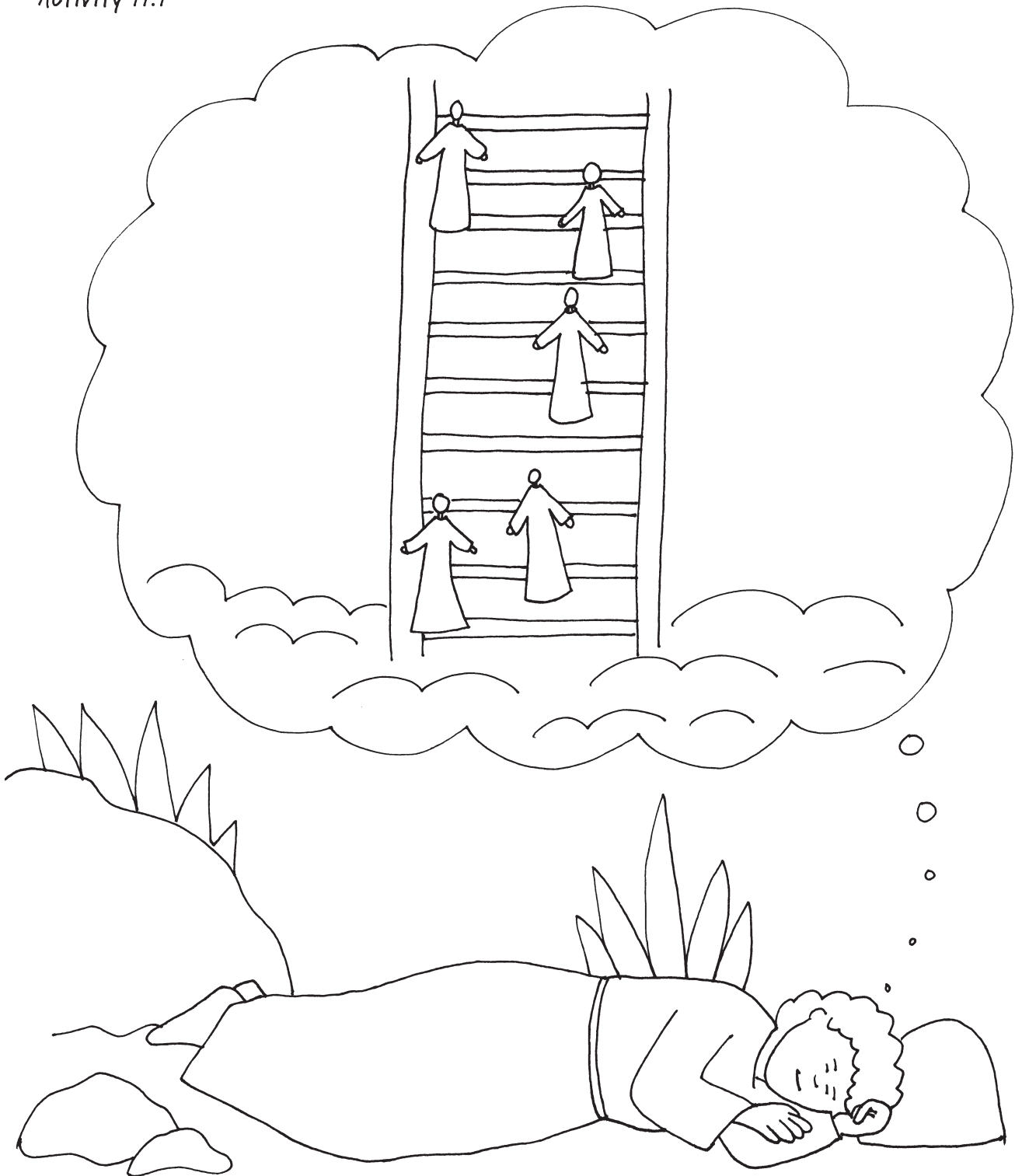
4. markers
5. yarn
6. tape
7. glue

Directions:

1. Create the ladder by helping students glue the craft sticks together (see below). If the sticks are plain wood color, students can be given paint to paint the stick various colors. Allow paint and glue to dry.
2. Provide each student with two angel patterns. They can use markers to color the angels in.
3. Tape the two angels to the ends of one piece of yarn.
4. Hang the angels by threading the yarn through one of the steps on the ladder.
5. Remind the students of Jacob's dream and what God told him to comfort him as the angels "climb" the ladder.

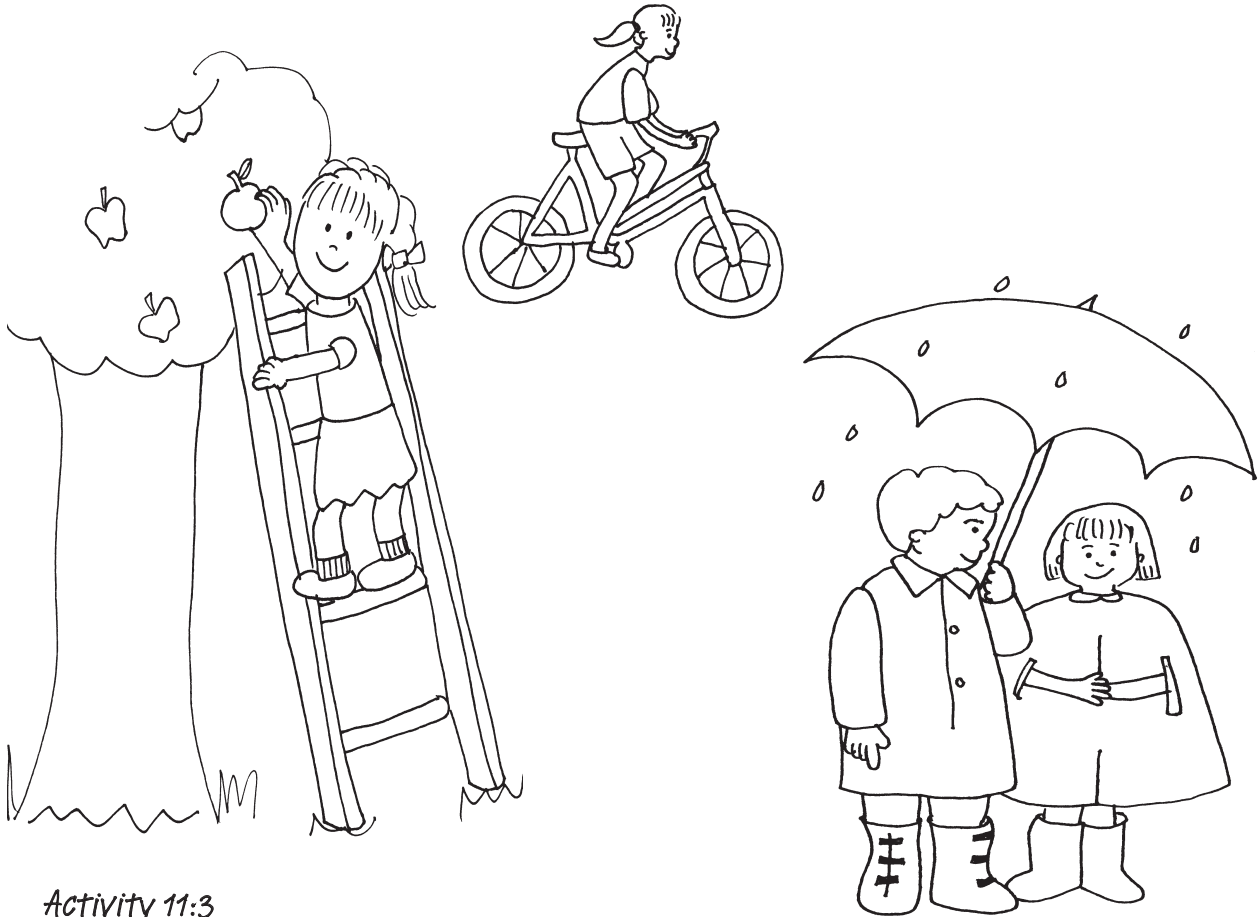


Activity 11:1



In his dream, Jacob saw a ladder reaching up into _____ with angels climbing up and down it.

Activity 11:2 Look at the three pictures. How can God look after us and protect us, no matter what we are doing? What do we need to always do?



Activity 11:3

Angel Pattern

