

Jacob Wrestles with God

Card 4

3 Storytelling

Pass out Card 4. Share the story.

- Isaac (Abraham's son) and his wife, Rebekah, had twin boys. They were called Jacob and Esau.
- Esau and Jacob got into a very big fight, and so Jacob fled to his uncle in a place called Haran. Jacob got married and started his own family.
- The Lord came to Jacob after 20 years and told him to return home to Canaan.
- When Jacob arrived in Canaan, he sent gifts to his brother Esau so he wouldn't be angry anymore. Jacob heard that Esau was coming to meet him with a big army. Jacob was very afraid so he prayed to God. Praying is talking to God.
- He remembered that God was always loving and kind to him, and then he said, "O Lord, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children."
- That night, Jacob was alone, and a man came and wrestled with him until the sun came up. The man put Jacob's hip out of its socket.
- Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!" But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."
- "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." (Jacob means "deceiver.") "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on, you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won." Then the man blessed Israel. (Israel means "God rules.") When someone gives a blessing, he hopes that God does very good things for you.
- The man that wrestled Jacob was God. Jacob asked God to bless him, and God did.
- When the man left, Jacob looked up and there was Esau running to meet him; Jacob embraced Esau, and they cried.
- God heard Jacob's prayers and helped him with his brother, Esau. Many years after Jacob lived, God sent his perfect Son, Jesus, to die for us so that we can have a relationship with God. He wants you to pray to him just like Jacob did.

2 Read Aloud

Genesis 32:22-29

1 Review Activity

4 Discussion Questions

1. What did Jacob pray? (that God would rescue him from Esau)
2. What new name did God give to Jacob? (Israel)
3. Why can we pray to God like Jacob did? (Jesus)

5 Memory Verse

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

6 Activity: Quiet Time

Lead the children in an opening prayer, thanking God for the lesson of Jacob and asking him to speak to the group. Then ask the children to be quiet and ask the Lord to speak to them. End the time by praying a blessing over the children and reading Philippians 1:3-6. "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Teacher Background

Review Card Set

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-32 and Genesis 35:10-15

Theme: prayer

7 Learning Point

Jacob prayed that God would help him when he was afraid of Esau. He was determined to find God's blessing in the midst of a hard time. Sometimes we are like Jacob; we are afraid and need forgiveness. But if we pray to God, he will hear our prayers and come to help us. Psalm 18:6 says, "I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears." Is there something you need to be forgiven for? Do you need help because you are afraid? Pray to God. First thank him for everything he has already done for you. Then ask him for his blessing.

8 Review Card Set

