



WEEK 4 7/31/24

LESSON

Staycation!

BIG IDEA

We always belong in God's family.

BIBLE

Jacob's Dream: Genesis 28:10-19a;
Psalm 139:1-12

It's week four of our *Staycation!* We will continue to learn more about Jacob's story today and read about a very vivid dream that he had. **Have any of you ever had a very unexpected, adventurous dream?**

Icebreaker Question | Who feels like "family?"

What person in your life feels like "family?" They don't necessarily have to be related. What makes them feel like family to you?

We were all born into a family but who are the people who make us feel like a sense of belonging?

Lesson | Genesis 28:10-19a (Jacob's Dream)

Last week we talked about Jacob tricked his brother. He ran away, feeling, feeling pretty crummy about his choices, but God showed up to meet him when he felt most alone. *[Show video.]*

INSTRUCTIONS: Show [this video](#) from phone/ipad or tell story the video refers to then continue teaching the story from Genesis 28:10-19a.

Youtube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxBulcHFBTg>

I'm going to need everyone's help as I tell this story again! I want you to act out what I am saying, as though you are Jacob! Imagine what it must have been like to be him as he wandered through the wilderness.

As Jacob was all alone in the middle of nowhere, he laid down to sleep. He found a stone to put his head down on. So, let's lie down or lean on the back of our chairs to pretend to sleep – but don't really fall asleep! Jacob had a dream – but this was not just an ordinary dream.

Jacob dreamed that he saw a ladder reaching from earth all the up to heaven, with angels going up and down the rungs. **How would you feel if you had a dream like this? Surprised? Scared? Excited?** Act it out! God made a promise to Jacob. The first promise that God made was that Jacob and his children would someday own the land where he was sleeping. God promised that Jacob would have many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. God told him that there would be as many people in Jacob's family as there is dust in the ground. That's a lot!

God had shared this promise with Jacob's grandfather, Abraham, too! God also promised to be with

Jacob wherever he went.

When Jacob woke up from his dream (act it out!), he realized that he didn't just have a regular dream, but that God spoke to him.

Jacob wanted to thank God for these promises. So, he took the stone he rested his head on the night before and set it up like a pillar for God. Let's pretend to do the same. Every time he saw it, it would remind him of God's words. He wanted to remember the promises that God had spoken to him. Even after he had wronged his brother, and when he felt totally alone in the wilderness, God reminded him that he was included in God's family.

BIG IDEA | We always belong in God's family.

MEMORY VERSE | Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

DISCUSSION

What did Jacob see in his dream?

What promise did God make to Jacob?

Why did Jacob build a pillar out of stone?

Have you ever felt like an outsider in a group of people? How did that make you feel?

What are some things people do to help you feel like you belong?

Every family member has a job to do around the house. What is something you can do as a member of God's family?

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for giving us our families and people who love us and may not even be related to us.

Sometimes, there may be days when we feel like we don't belong, but you remind us that we always belong in God's family. Thank you for loving us and making us feel at home. Amen

IF Extra Time...

1. Work on books of the bible

2. SCRIPTURE | Psalm 139:1-12

INSTRUCTIONS: Read Psalm 139:1-12.

It means a lot to us when our friends and family know things about us. When people see and know us, it makes us feel loved. This passage is a reminder that God loves and cherishes us. God knows every detail about us – including our most shining moments and the moments we may not be so proud of. But God doesn't want us to hide away. In fact, there's no way we can. God gave us Jesus so that we can always be connected to God and know that we belong no matter what we've done. **We always belong in God's family.**

Read Psalm 139:1-3. Think of a time you felt all alone. Did it help (or would it have helped) to know that God was with you? Why or why not?