

WEEK 4

LESSON GUIDE

Staycation!

BIG IDEA

We always belong
in God's family.

BIBLE

Jacob's Dream:
Genesis 28:10-19a

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Worship in the House!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "All The Things" (Yancy & Little Praise Party)
 - "A Great Big House of Friends" (VeggieTales)
 - "God's Family" (Life Kids)
 - "Father Abraham" (CJ & Friends)
 - "We Are Family" (KidSpring Children's Ministry)

ACTIVITY | Up and Down the Ladder

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use masking tape to make a long ladder on the classroom floor. Have the kids pretend to hop on each rung of the ladder.
- Let's pretend to go up, up, up the ladder!
- Now let's turn around and go down, down, down the ladder.
- Today we are going to hear a story about a time when a man named Jacob had a dream about a big ladder that reached all the way to heaven. **Can you imagine a ladder that tall?**

ACTIVITY | Rock and Roll

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need to create a ramp out of cardboard. Prop up one end of the ramp and then place a blanket at the bottom of the ramp as a cushion. Have the kids take turns rolling a ball down the ramp.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Put pea gravel into a bottle and seal the top closed with hot glue. Have toddlers roll this bottle down the ramp instead of rocks.
- When you have a Staycation, it is fun to try new things in your own backyard.
- **What are some of your favorite activities to do at home with your family?**

STORY TIME

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up for the Bible story as though it's a slumber party! Wear pajamas (have kids come in PJs, too!), have kids sit on the floor with blankets, cushions, and pillows. Have kids sit on one side of the room to begin. When prompted, instruct kids to move around the room. Make large rocks by wadding up large sheets of butcher paper. Give one to each kid to "sleep" on while you tell the Bible story.
- Jacob was taking a trip to Haran. He walked and walked and walked. It was a long way. On his way, he stopped to sleep for the night. He used a rock for his pillow.
 - [Have kids put their hands together and place them under the side of their heads and pretend to sleep.]
- When Jacob was asleep he had a dream. God showed Jacob a ladder, and it went way up high. It started on the ground, and reached all the way to heaven. On the ladder were angels going up and coming down. Up and down, the angels went on the ladder.
 - [Have all the kids crouch down really low then jump up. Repeat a few times before continuing the story.]
- God was standing at the very top of the ladder and told Jacob, "I am the Lord." God even promised Jacob could build a family on the land where he was sleeping. God said, "I am with you," and that Jacob would have lots and lots of family.
 - [Have kids count to ten on their fingers with you.]
- When Jacob woke up, he might have been confused or wondered if what he saw was real or not. What a dream!
 - [Have kids stretch and pretend to rub their eyes like they just woke up.]
- What Jacob needed most was to remember that God was with him. He took the rock he had been sleeping on and stood it up. He wanted to remember where he was when God spoke to him. He named that place Bethel, which means, "house of God" because that is where Jacob was told he would always be in God's family!

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

- We've been finding some great things in this junk drawer all week. **Do you find things in your family's junk drawer? What do you usually find?**
- Let's see if we can find our Big Idea in here today!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare an empty "drawer" filled with odds and ends, like scraps of paper, rolls of tape, keys, pens, spoons – nothing sharp or pointy! Write one word of the Big Idea on a few of these items. Invite kids to rummage through the drawer with you to find all the words of the Big Idea. Once all the words are found, put the words in order and say the Big Idea aloud for the kids, then have them repeat the words after you along with the hand motions.
- Today's Big Idea is . . .
 - **We always** (Bring right hand to chest.)
 - **Belong in** (Bring left hand to chest on top of right hand.)
 - **God's family** (Put both hands in the air in the shape of a "V.")

VIDEO | Staycation!, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of Cali's World.

ACTIVITY | Sleeping Bag Bounce

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up four large sheets of bulletin paper or butcher paper (different colors) to be "sleeping bags." As you play some music, have the kids crawl or hop around the four sleeping bags. When the music stops, call out a color and everyone has to go stand on the color you call.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Play the "[Sleeping Bunny](#)" song during this activity. As the song starts get the kids to lay on the floor and pretend to sleep. When the music gives the cue, hop around the room like a bunny.

- **Who was sleeping in our Bible story today?**
- **What did Jacob see during his dream?**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for loving us. Even when we are not at our best, we always belong in your family. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Dream Cookies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a sugar cookie. Help each kid drizzle a bit of icing onto their cookie.
- In the Bible story, Jacob saw a ladder going all the way up into heaven. The ladder went higher than the clouds! This ladder reminded Jacob that he was always a part of God's family.
- You can help me make a cloud cookie.
- **Who was going up and down the ladder into the clouds?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a small step ladder on a surface. Have the kids go up the ladder, one at a time. Supervise them carefully.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use a baby slide instead and help the kids as they climb.

- Wow! This ladder is high. **Can you climb all the way up?**
- **Who was climbing up and down the ladder in our Bible story?**
- **Who was at the top of the ladder?**
- God told Jacob, "I am with you." That means God is also always with us.
- **We always belong in God's family.**

ACTIVITY | Angels on the Ladder

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids glue on two popsicle sticks parallel to each other on thick cardstock paper. Have them draw in the rungs with crayons or markers. Have them place 5-6 [angel stickers](#) anywhere they'd like on the ladder.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Put some foam angel stickers into a zip top bag with water and glitter for the toddlers to play with.

- Whenever you look at this picture, remember that just like God was with Jacob, God is with us, too. When you look around at the people in your family, remember you are also in God's family!
- **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.”
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach preschoolers a small part of the memory verse each week. This week, the section to learn is: “and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
- Let’s say the section of our memory verse today while we pretend to be asleep!
 - First, let’s lay our head on our hands and say, “**and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**”
 - Next, let’s pretend to sleepwalk. March in place and repeat the Memory Verse after me.
 - Lastly, let’s pretend to climb the ladder – just like the ladder in Jacob’s dream – as we say the Memory Verse together.

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today’s Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.

ACTIVITY | Play Dough Angels

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids some play dough and have them cut out angels with angel-shaped cookie cutters.

ACTIVITY | Rock Exploration

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill a large storage bin with sand and rounded rocks. Give the kids plastic shovels and have them search for rocks in the bin. **QUESTIONS**