



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

HOST SUPPLIES

- Two Small Group Leaders
- Table
- Five to seven different items for the kids to try to guess; these could be containers filled with small items or items in the room (see "What You Do")
- Posters for the leaders to hold up with the two possible answers for each round (see "What You Do")
- Week 3 Timeline Image, printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

STORY SUPPLIES

- Two male Small Group Leaders
- Bible, marked at Genesis 28:12-15 and 28:20-21 for the "Jacob" leader to read (include a sticky note indicating that he should say "I" instead of "he" in verse 12)
- Table
- Prop box
- Hat with a large "J" on it
- Hat with a large "E" on it
- Wig and/or fake beard
- Portable electric razor
- Slingshot
- Frying pan
- Fake money bag (large pillowcase filled with something light, and a \$ on the outside of the bag written with a thick marker)
- Large can of stew
- Square of faux fur-looking fabric
- Large, flat stone

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Follow You" from *Can't Stop Won't Stop* and "How Amazing" from *Everything to Me*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Who Said That? (K-1st grade), Story Sequence (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: High Wire Critters (K-1st grade), Catapult (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Fiery Hoop Hopping (K-1st grade), You or Me (2nd-3rd grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



WEEK
THREE
SEPTEMBER 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Fall Asleep

Jacob's Dream
Genesis 28:10-22

(supporting: Genesis 25:19-34; 27)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can trust that God has a plan.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart. Do not depend on
your own understanding."**

Proverbs 3:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Trust—Putting your confidence
in someone you can depend on**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:

AUDIO:

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to the big top here at [your environment's name]. Today is a great day because we're all here together, and we're talking about trust!"

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Trust is putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

Walk heel-to-toe like you're walking a tightrope.

"If you're walking the high wire at the circus, you have to trust your training and your sense of balance so you don't fall."



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

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HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

"Trust is something we do every day, even if we don't realize it. We trust that our friends will be there for us. We trust our families, coaches, and teachers. But the most important trust is our trust in God! We can believe that God is with us and that God has a good plan for our lives—even when we can't always see it.

"I've got a fun trust game for us today, and ALL of you get to play. I'll hold up some kind of container, and you'll try to guess how many items are inside. You'll need to trust your gut—your instincts—and make your best guess. But don't worry, you won't have to guess alone! You'll have to choose to trust one of our two leaders up on stage. That means we need to GET two Small Group Leaders up here to help!

Choose two Small Group Leaders. Have them stand on opposite sides of the stage. Give each of them a stack of posters with the possible answers for the different rounds of the game.

"All right, let's start with a practice round: round number one.

AUDIO: CIRCUS MUSIC

Bring out the clear plastic container full of circus peanuts. Hold up one of the circus peanuts from the container.

"How many circus peanuts are in this container? Let's see what your choices are.

Cue the two leaders to hold up their round #1 signs.

"[Leader One's name] says there are 23 circus peanuts. According to [Leader Two's name], there are 44. What do you think? Which number are you going to trust?"

"If you agree with [Leader One's name], stand against that wall. (Point to the side of the room that matches leader one's side of the stage.) If you agree with [Leader Two's name], stand against THAT wall. (Point to the side of the room that matches leader two's side of the stage.) Ready? Go!

Allow time for kids to move to the wall of their choice.

"Okay, moment of truth. (Pick up the answer card.) There are 23 circus peanuts! (Take a bite of one.) Okay, now there are 22.5.

Set the container on the table.

"Do you want to guess another one? (Pause for response.) Great!



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10 MINUTES

Repeat the process with five to seven different containers or items in the room and have the kids guess the number of each item. Each time, make sure to call out the round number to make sure the leaders on stage hold up the correct posters.

You can use whatever items your church has available—but bonus if they're circus-themed! (Other ideas: guess the number of popcorn kernels, gumballs, circus animal cookies, monkeys in a "barrel of monkeys" toy, balloons in a bunch, pennant flags overhead, rubber duckies in a pond, etc.)

Try to make some challenges easy and some more difficult. No one gets eliminated. Just applaud the kids who are correct each time.

After the last round, dismiss the two leaders to their seats.

"Great job, friends! Some of those were pretty tough to guess, so it was good that you had help from [Leader One's name and Leader Two's name]."



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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! Today, we're continuing our journey through God's Big Story in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) So far, we've followed the story from the very beginning of the Bible: the book of Genesis.

If you have a timeline on the wall, use it here and reference the images.

"In Genesis, we can read how God created the world, including the first people, Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sin entered the world. But God had a plan to make things right again. God chose a man named Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, waited a long time, but eventually they had a baby boy named Isaac.

"When ISAAC grew up, he and his wife Rebekah had twin sons named Jacob and Esau.

"Let's see—I'll need two Small Group Leaders to play Jacob and Esau. Who should I pick?"

Bring up two male leaders and have them stand on opposite sides of the stage. (If possible, pick someone clean-shaven to play Jacob.) Give "Jacob" a hat with a "J" on it, and give "Esau" a hat with an "E" on it.

"There we go. Perfect. Jacob and Esau were twin brothers . . . but they didn't exactly get along."

THE BIRTHRIGHT

STORYTELLER: "In fact, Jacob and Esau wrestled while they were still babies growing inside their mom. (to the two leaders) Let's see you two wrestle. (*Pause while they do this.*) Good, good.

"Esau was born first, but Jacob was holding onto his heel!"

"Here's another interesting thing to know about Jacob and Esau. Esau was really hairy.

Give the wig and/or fake beard to Esau.

"Jacob, on the other hand, was smooth-skinned.

Hold up the electric razor and turn it on for a second. Then turn it off and hand it to Jacob.

"As these two young men grew up, Esau loved to hunt.

Give the slingshot to Esau.

"Jacob preferred to stay close to home.

Give the frying pan to Jacob.



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"As the older brother, Esau had special rights to money and property and leading the family one day.

Give the money bag to Esau.

"But Esau didn't always stop to think. One day, Esau came in from the open country. He was very hungry. Meanwhile, Jacob was cooking some red stew.

Give the can of stew to Jacob.

"What happened next was unbelievable! Here, let me read it to you from the Bible.

Open the Bible to Genesis 25:30-34 (NirV) and read. Stand behind each leader as you read their lines.

"[Esau] said to Jacob, 'Quick! I'm very hungry! Let me have some of that red stew!' Jacob replied, 'First sell me the rights that belong to you as the oldest son in the family.' 'Look, I'm dying of hunger,' Esau said. 'What good are those rights to me?' But Jacob said, 'First promise to sell me your rights.' So Esau promised to do it. He sold Jacob all the rights that belonged to him as the oldest son. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. Esau ate and drank. Then he got up and left.

"Whoa! Esau was so hungry that he traded away his rights as the oldest son.

Take the money bag from Esau and give it to Jacob.

"He gave those rights to Jacob . . . for some stew."

Take the can of stew from Jacob and give it to Esau.

THE BLESSING

STORYTELLER: "Things didn't get any better between Jacob and Esau. Their father Isaac was very old, and he wanted to pass on a special blessing to his oldest son, Esau.

"So Isaac sent Esau to hunt and prepare a tasty meal. (*Point to the slingshot.*) But Isaac's wife, Rebekah, overheard this plan . . . and she decided to get involved. Rebekah told Jacob to pretend to be Esau and take the blessing for himself!

"I know what you're thinking. How could THAT possibly work? Well, Isaac's eyesight was so bad that Rebekah figured he wouldn't know the difference between his two sons. Jacob brought up another good point, though. He said that his dad would be able to tell it was him instead of Esau because his skin wasn't hairy like Esau's skin.

"So Rebekah gave Jacob some of Esau's clothes to wear . . . and she covered Jacob's hands and neck with goat skins.

Hold up the square of "fur" fabric. Then shrug as you hand it to Jacob.

"Jacob did what Rebekah told him, and the plan worked! Isaac gave his blessing to Jacob instead of Esau.



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“When Esau showed up, Isaac realized what had happened. He told Esau that Jacob had taken the blessing that was supposed to be his.”

RUN, JACOB, RUN!

STORYTELLER: “Jacob had received the birthright of the oldest son, AND his father’s blessing. But he had also made an enemy of his brother Esau.

(to Esau) “Esau, just for a second, can we see how angry you are? Can we see you stomp your feet? *(Pause while Esau does this.)*

(to audience) “Yikes! He really IS angry! Rebekah wanted to keep Jacob safe from Esau, so she told him to run away to her brother, Laban, in a place called Harran. Jacob set off alone through the wilderness.

(to Jacob) “Sorry, Jacob, but you need to head off through the wilderness—that direction. *(Reference the far side of the room.)* You can leave your stuff here, though.

Take the props Jacob is holding and set them down on the table. Then cue him to start walking across the room.

(to Jacob) “Actually, wait, Jacob. You’ll need this.

Walk to Jacob and give him the flat stone.

“Jacob stopped for the night, and he set a stone under his head for a pillow. As Jacob slept, he saw a vision from God.

(to Jacob) “Jacob, could you maybe explain to us what you saw in your dream? *(to audience)* It’s pretty amazing; and it’s all right here in the Bible.”

Open the Bible to Genesis 28:12-15 (NirV) and give it to Jacob to read.

VOLUNTEER (AS JACOB): “In a dream [I] saw a stairway standing on the earth. Its top reached to heaven. The angels of God were going up and coming down on it. The Lord stood beside the stairway. He said, ‘I am the Lord. I am the God of your grandfather Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your children after you the land you are lying on . . . All nations on earth will be blessed because of you and your children after you. I am with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. And I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’” (NirV)

STORYTELLER: *(to Jacob)* “Wow, Jacob. Wow!

(to audience) “In this amazing dream, God reminded Jacob that HE was now part of the promise God had made to Abraham. This was all part of God’s plan to bless the whole world through Abraham’s family.

“When Jacob woke up, he took the stone he had used as a pillow and set it up as an altar to honor God.

“Then Jacob made a promise to God. *(to Jacob)* Here you go, Jacob.”



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Open the Bible to Genesis 28:20-21 (NirV) and give it to “Jacob” to read.

VOLUNTEER (AS JACOB): “May God be with me. May he watch over me on this journey I’m taking. May he give me food to eat and clothes to wear. May he do as he has promised so that I can return safely to my father’s home. Then you, Lord, will be my God.” (NirV)

STORYTELLER: “Then Jacob continued on his journey to Harran.

“Let’s give a big hand to our two actors, everyone. (to the two volunteers) Thank you both!”

Collect the props from both volunteers and set them on the table. Dismiss the volunteers to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “There are a lot of twists and turns in the story of Jacob and Esau. But it’s important to remember that none of it took God by surprise. Everything that happened was part of God’s plan to bless the whole world through Abraham’s family. And in the end, JACOB’S family was part of that plan, too. Many, many years later, Jesus was born into Jacob’s family line.

“God had a plan all along. That’s important for us to remember, too, when things happen in our lives that we don’t expect. God has a plan for OUR lives, too. And God’s plan is the very best plan.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“You can trust that God has a plan.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us remember that.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for helping us learn and understand that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** You had a good plan to bless the world through Abraham’s family—and that included Isaac and Jacob, too. You’ve always been in control. You’ve always known how You would send Jesus to be our Savior. When we go through tough times or things we don’t understand, help us remember that You always have a plan, and that Your plan is always good. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “It’s pretty wild to think about what Jacob did to his brother, Esau. He basically stole the things that were Esau’s right to have—the rights of the oldest son and his father’s blessing. But none of that changed God’s plan to bless the world. It turned out that God’s plan just went through Jacob instead of Esau.

“When Jacob had that incredible dream, about the stairway to heaven, God reminded Jacob that the promise to Abraham would also come through HIS family line.

SLIDE: GOD’S BIG STORY TIMELINE

SLIDE: WEEK 3 TIMELINE IMAGE

If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.

“One day, Jesus would come from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s family. God’s plan was to bless the whole world through Jesus. Because when we put our trust in Jesus as our Savior, ANYONE can have a relationship with God that will last forever. That includes you and me!

“It’s so good to remember that God has a plan. God has ALWAYS had a plan. So when things happen in life that take us by surprise, we can still choose to trust God. We can trust that God has a plan. That’s what we need to remember.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“You can trust that God has a plan.

“Maybe you’ve had a disagreement with a friend or someone in your family, and you’re not sure how to make it better. Maybe you got some bad news about someone you love. Those are tough things for anyone to go through. But even when things in life are really difficult or confusing, remember that God is with you. God always has a plan for you. You can trust that God has a plan to make everything right in the end.

“You can head to Small Group now and talk about that some more with your leader and your friends!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP