



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Weighed Down

Jacob and Esau's Reconciliation  
Genesis 31:3; 32:3-32; 33:1-17

### HOST SUPPLIES

- Host
- Three Small Group Leaders
- Cube shelf, ideally with six openings
- Butcher or craft paper
- Permanent marker
- Table (optional)
- Three great group prizes (bag of non-chocolate, nut-free candy; bag of party favor toys; bag of gift cards to an ice cream shop—just make sure there's enough for each kid in the winning group)
- Three random or silly items (pack of toilet paper, paperclip, deodorant, baby food, socks, etc.)
- Week 4 Timeline Image, printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

### STORY SUPPLIES

- Storyteller
- Bible

### 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 ("I Trust in You" from *Every Beat* and "Over and Over" from *Everything to Me*)  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

**Bible Story Review:** Back Together Again (K-1st grade), Guess Who (2nd-3rd grade)  
**Application Activity:** Worry Blasters (K-1st grade), Water Worry (2nd-3rd grade)  
**Memory Verse Activity:** Balancing Buddy (K-1st grade), Verse Bowling (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



**PRELUDE**

**SOCIAL**

**STORY**

**WORSHIP**

**GROUPS**

**HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Weighed Down**

Jacob and Esau's Reconciliation  
Genesis 31:3; 32:3-32; 33:1-17

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

You can trust God even  
when you're worried.

**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:** "Hey, hey, hey, everybody! Here we are, together again . . . under the big top . . . walking the high wire. All month long, we're finding out what it means to 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

"If we dare to trust, that means we choose to count on someone and believe that they'll be there for us, no matter what. It's important that we learn to trust others. And it's important that we show others that they can trust US. But one thing's for sure—we can ALWAYS put our trust in God. We know that God is with us through any situation we might face in life.  
**[Basic Truth] We can trust God no matter what!**



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
SEPTEMBER 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

"I've got another fun carnival game to kick off our time today. We'll need three leaders to come play.

*Bring three Small Group Leaders on stage. Have them stand next to the Prize Punch Wall.*

*(to the leaders)* "Thanks for playing, friends. As you can see, we have this amazing Prize Punch Wall for you. Each of you will have a chance to choose between two prize options by punching the paper to reveal the prize.

"Now, I'll warn you. Some of the prizes are really great . . . but some just aren't. So you'll have to choose wisely. And your friends are here to help. *(Reference the audience.)* You can listen to them and find out which one THEY want you to punch. Then you can decide if you want to trust their choice or not.

*(to audience)* Is everyone ready? *(to leaders)* Contestants, are YOU ready? *(Pause.)* Okay [leader #1's name], you're up first.

**AUDIO: CIRCUS MUSIC**

*(to audience)* "What do you think? Should [he/she] punch box number one or two?

*Get the kids to shout out which number they think the leader should punch.*

*(to leader #1)* "All right, [leader's name], it seems like most of them want you to pick [number]. You can make your choice—and punch! *(to audience)* Drum roll, please.

*Get the kids to do a drum roll on the floor or their knees. Then cue leader #1 to punch. Comment on the prize he/she got. Act like it's the most amazing thing in the world, even if it's not.*

*Do this same process for leader #2 (choosing between boxes #3 and #4) and leader #3 (choosing between boxes #5 and #6). When leader #3 is choosing, say "Trust me—you want this one," and point him/her toward the box with the good prize.*

"That was so fun! And [leader #3's name], I bet you're glad you chose to trust me, right?

*Dismiss the leaders to their seats.*

"Okay everyone, let's all stand up and get ready to sing with our worship team. God is always trustworthy and always good.



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25 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Storyteller enters*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** Hello, everyone! If you've been here at all the past couple of months, you know that we've been making our way through God's Big Story in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*

"In the beginning, God made the world, and it was very good! But then Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sin entered the world. Still, God had a plan to make things right. God had a plan to bless the whole world through one family.

"God chose a man named Abraham, who had a son named Isaac, who had twin sons named Jacob and Esau. Do you remember what happened in our story last week? Jacob tricked his big brother Esau out of his rights and blessing as the oldest son.

"Now tell me, was Esau happy about that or angry? *(Pause for response.)* He was angry—SO angry that Jacob ran away. In fact, Jacob STAYED away for more than 20 years!

"To tell you what happened next, I thought we could play one of my favorite games, 'What Happened Next?'"

**SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?"**

**AUDIO: GAME SHOW MUSIC**

### RETURNING TO CANAAN

**STORYTELLER:** "This whole time, Jacob had been living with his uncle, Laban. Jacob now had a big family of his own.

"One day, God spoke to Jacob and told him to do something. What DID God say? What happened next?

"Option One: did God tell Jacob to go back to his father's land?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #1A (JACOB AND FAMILY TRAVELING)**

"Or Option Two: did God tell Jacob to open a new fast food restaurant?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #1B (JACOB AND FAMILY/FAST FOOD RESTAURANT)**

"Hold up your fingers to show me what you think the answer is, one or two. *(Pause for response.)*

"Right. God told Jacob to go back to his father's land.

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #1A (JACOB AND FAMILY TRAVELING)**

"God said to Jacob . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 31:3 (NirV) and read.*



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"Go back to your father's land and to your relatives. I will be with you.

"So Jacob set out with his whole family.

**SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?"**

"When Jacob got close to home, he played it safe by sending a message to Esau. He told Esau that he had been staying with Laban, that he had lots of animals now, and he said to Esau, 'I hope I can please you.' (Genesis 32:5, NIV) Jacob wanted to make things right with Esau, even though he figured Esau was still mad.

"The messengers went to Esau, then came back. (Reference the screen.) And what happened next? What did the messengers say when they came back?

"Option One: did the messengers tell Jacob to run and hide?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #2A (JACOB HIDING)**

"Or Option Two: did the messengers tell Jacob that Esau was coming with 400 men?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #2B (ESAU COMING)**

(Pause for response.) "If you said Option Two, you're right. The messengers returned to Jacob and said that Esau was coming to meet him . . . with 400 men! That doesn't sound good, does it?"

**SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?"**

## GIFTS FOR ESAU

**STORYTELLER:** "Jacob separated his family and his herds into two groups so that if Esau attacked one group, the other group could escape.

(Reference the screen.) "What happened next? What did Jacob do?

"Option One: did Jacob stop to pray?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #3A (JACOB PRAYING)**

"Or Option Two: did Jacob learn to ride a unicycle?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #3B (JACOB RIDING A UNICYCLE)**

(Pause for response.) "That's right! Jacob prayed to God.

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #3A (JACOB PRAYING)**

"Jacob asked God to protect him from his brother. He reminded God that God had promised to make his children as many as the grains of sand on the seashore.





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**SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?"**

"Jacob then decided to send gifts ahead to Esau to show that he came in peace.

(Reference the screen.) What happened next? What gift did Jacob send to Esau?

"Option One: did he send animals?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #4A (JACOB AND ANIMALS WITH BOWS ON THEM)**

"Or Option Two: did Jacob bake a delicious blueberry pie?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #4B (JACOB WITH A BLUEBERRY PIE)**

(Pause for response.) "You're so smart! Jacob sent animals—goats, sheep, camels, cows, and donkeys.

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #4A (JACOB AND ANIMALS WITH BOWS ON THEM)**

(Look at the screen.) "I don't think the animals had bows on them, but you get the idea.

"Jacob told his servants to tell Esau that the animals were a gift from his brother, and that Jacob was coming behind them. Jacob hoped that Esau would be so happy about the gifts that he might be willing to forgive him."

**SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?"**

## **BROTHERS REUNITED**

**STORYTELLER:** "Jacob sent his whole family ahead, across the river, figuring that Esau wouldn't hurt them. In the morning, Jacob saw Esau coming with his 400 men! Jacob went ahead of his family and bowed down seven times before Esau.

(Reference the screen.) "What happened next? What did Esau do when he saw Jacob?

"Option One: did Esau try to fight Jacob and get revenge?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #5A (JACOB AND ESAU BOXING)**

"Or Option Two: did Esau hug his brother?

**SLIDE: BIBLE STORY IMAGE #5B (ESAU HUGGING JACOB)**

(Pause for response.) "Exactly! Can you believe it? Esau RAN to Jacob and gave him a huge hug. The brothers cried with joy. Jacob then introduced Esau to his family.

"Listen to the conversation they had.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 33:8-10 (NIRV) and read.*



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*"Esau asked, 'Why did you send all those herds I saw?'  
'I hoped I could do something to please you,' Jacob replied.  
But Esau said, 'I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself.'  
'No, please!' said Jacob. 'If I've pleased you, accept this gift from me. Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God. You have welcomed me so kindly.'*

"Esau went back to his home, and Jacob camped with his family in Canaan.

"That was fun, everyone! Thanks for playing, 'What Happened Next?'"

**SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?"**

**AUDIO: GAME SHOW MUSIC**

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "It makes sense that Jacob was worried about what Esau might do to him. Jacob knew that Esau was angry about losing his birthright and his father's blessing. A lot of time had passed, but Jacob figured Esau still wanted to get back at him. I'm sure Jacob was really scared when he saw Esau coming toward him with 400 men!

"But the thing Jacob was afraid of never actually happened. Esau WASN'T coming to get him. Esau was just happy to SEE him!

"There are things in our lives that make us feel worried, too. When that happens, we need to remember that we can still put our trust in God."

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"You can trust God even when you're worried."**

"After all, God is with you through it all—when things are going great and also when you're worried, nervous, or afraid. Don't forget, you can always talk to God. You can tell God how you're feeling. Let's pray now and ask God to help us live with trust instead of worry."

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

### PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, thank You for knowing and understanding the things we worry about. Thank You for always being there to take care of us! Jacob must have felt really worried when he saw Esau coming in the distance. But You were with Jacob that day. And you're with us when WE feel worried, too. Help us always remember that we can trust You, no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** “Wow! Can you imagine how scared Jacob must have been to see Esau again? I mean, he hadn’t seen his brother in years. And he definitely remembered how angry Esau had been when he left. Jacob could have run away in fear, but he knew that God had told him to go back to his father’s land. He trusted God to take care of him.

“Sure enough, God did take care of Jacob. Esau welcomed Jacob and forgave him.

**SLIDE: GOD’S BIG STORY TIMELINE**

**SLIDE: WEEK 4 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.*

“All of us worry about things from time to time. But I hope you’ll remember from this story that **you can trust God even when you’re worried.**

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

“Let’s say that together.”

**HOST AND KIDS: “You can trust God even when you’re worried.”**

**HOST:** “Great job! You can talk to God when you’re feeling worried or anxious about something that’s going on in your life—like if there’s a big storm outside with thunder and lightning or starting a new sport or activity . . . or maybe if there are people in your family who aren’t getting along. There are lots of things in life that can make us feel worried. But it helps if you remember that you are never alone. God is always with you. And you can talk to your family members, friends, teachers, and church leaders, too. They can help you talk about what’s going on, and they can help you through it.

“Did you know that Jesus felt worried when He was about to go to the cross? It’s true. But Jesus talked to God about it. He knew that the cross was part of God’s plan. He trusted that God was with Him, even as He had to face what was ahead of Him.

“Before we go to Small Group, let’s say our memory verse together. It’s Proverbs 3:5.

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5, NIV)”*

“That’s so good! Have fun in Small Group, and share some ideas with your friends about how you can trust God. I’ll see you next time!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**