

## THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** January 15, 2017

**SUBJECT: GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Jacob (2 of 5)**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 27:41-46; 28:1-22

**AIM:** To show the children that God cares for us and calls us to have a firsthand, personal relationship with Him.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Genesis 28:15 (And, behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will cause you to return to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.); 2 Corinthians 6:16c (...I will be their God, and they will be My people.); Psalms 37:5 (Commit your way to Jehovah, And trust in Him; and He will act.); James 4:8a (Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.)

**SONG SUGGESTIONS:** 95 (Just Because He Loves Me); 1015 (And He Loved Us!); 10 (Inside Me); 141 (I am Longing to Know You); 31 (Surely He will Care for You); 3702 (J-A-C-O-B); 3701 (Jacob Shining Star); 52 (God is Always Near Me); 3703 (Jacob, God is with you now); 197 (Why Not I?); 3704 (Jacob's Jump for Joy)

### **CRAFT IDEAS:**

**Easy:** Glue straws, strips of construction paper or wooden popsicle sticks to form a ladder onto a piece of construction paper.

**Medium:** Make a paper climber (paper, string, straw, tape, a penny). Instructions can be found online by searching "paper climber craft."

**Difficult:** Make a "Jacob's ladder" toy. **Supplies needed:** cardstock, cardboard, foam core board or small wood planks. 2-3 colors of ¼" Ribbon. Tacky glue or Elmer's glue. **Directions:** 1) Cut 12 squares of 3" x 3" from cardboard. 2) Cut 3 pieces of ribbon, 42" each. 3) Glue the ribbon on one piece of cardboard, make a sandwich by placing a second piece of cardboard on top. 4) Repeat. 5) Trim ribbon edges. Let dry.

**BACKGROUND:** Jacob had not only taken Esau's birthright, but also stolen his father's blessing from Esau by lying and deceiving their father, Isaac. Esau hated Jacob for stealing his blessing. Esau planned to kill Jacob after his father died. He said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will slay my brother Jacob." (Gen. 27:41) The words of Esau were heard by someone who told Rebekah what Esau planned to do. To protect Jacob from Esau, their mother Rebekah wanted Jacob to flee to her brother Laban in Haran and stay with him for a while. He should stay there until Esau's fury went away and he would hopefully forget what Jacob had done. Rebekah persuaded her husband Isaac to send Jacob away so that he would not take a wife from among the daughters of Canaan. Isaac called Jacob and charged him to go to Haran, to Laban's house and take a wife from there. Isaac then blessed Jacob and sent him away.

### **CONTENT:**

**Jacob flees from Esau and leaves home.** Jacob obeyed his father and mother and left home to go to his uncle Laban's house. On his way, Jacob came to a certain place and stayed there all night because the sun had set. Jacob took one of the stones in the place to use for his pillow and he went to sleep.

**Jacob's dream.** While Jacob slept he had a dream: There was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. Jehovah was standing above it and said, "I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed. And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with you and will

keep you wherever you go and will cause you to return to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it.” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Gen. 28:13-17)

**Jacob’s vow to God.** Jacob rose up early in the morning and took the stone that he had put under his head, and he set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. Jacob marked this place to remember his dream that he received from God and the wonderful promise from God. He called the name of that place Bethel. The name Bethel means the house of God. Then Jacob vowed a vow. A vow is a solemn promise. Jacob vowed, “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me bread to eat and garments to put on, so that I return to my father’s house in peace, then Jehovah will be my God, and this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God’s house; and of all that You give me I will surely give one tenth to You.” (Gen. 28:20-22)

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not feel obligated to cover all the suggested applications.*

- **When God calls us He wants to be our personal God and get to know Him firsthand.** God arranged Jacob’s circumstances so that he might know Him in a personal way. He was Abraham’s God and He was Isaac’s God, but He also wanted to be Jacob’s God. Like Jacob, God arranges our circumstances in order for us to know Him in a personal way. For example, God decided when we would be born, what family we would be born into and where we would be born. God arranged which teachers we would have at school. He knows what is best for us and wants us to draw near to Him (James 4:8a). He is always watching over us, caring for all of our needs and leading us to know Him.
- **God is always with us, including in difficult situations.** Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents (Gen. 25:27). He was very close to his mother Rebekah and was accustomed to being at home. This was a very difficult time for Jacob. He was probably scared and lonely as he travelled. In this situation God came to him in a dream which reassured Jacob. Whenever we are in a difficult situation, God is waiting to come to us to help us and encourage us. No matter what may happen, He is always with us. God cares for us and will take care of our needs. Our parents also care for us and take care of us, but sometimes we are at school or other places without our parents, but our omnipresent and omniscient God is always with us.
- **For older children: Our choices have consequences.** We should be careful and thoughtful when we make choices. Choices have a result, a consequence. What are some choices that Esau and Jacob made, and what consequences did they have? In the prior lesson, we learned that Esau made a choice to give up his birthright in exchange for some lentil stew and bread. Esau despised his birthright (Gen. 25:34). The consequence was that he lost his precious birthright. Jacob also made some choices. He valued the birthright and the father’s blessing, but he acquired it by way of deceit. The consequence was that he had to run for his life and flee from his brother. We are faced with many choices every day. We can consider and strive to make good choices every day. We can choose to honor and obey our parents. We can choose to pay attention in school and listen to our teachers. We can choose to be with good friends and not participate in bad things that others around us are doing. We can choose to be thankful for what we have instead of complaining. When we do make mistakes, however, the Lord still loves us and wants us to come back to Him. We can repent and confess our sins.

Adapted from the Church in New York City’s Children’s Meeting lessons: 1/30/94; 1/23/00; 1/15/06; 1/22/2012