



WEEK FOUR – AUGUST 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Jacob's Dream* | Genesis 28:10-22 (suppt. Genesis 25:19-34; 27)

Conversation Starter: *What helps you remember that God is with you?*

Memory Verse: *“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.”- Hebrews 11:1 (NIRV)*

Insight: *Faith in God's Son – I believe in Jesus and will continue to trust Him even when life doesn't make sense*

Application: *Faith – Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see*

Series Overview: Every story has a beginning. As we explore Creation, the Fall and other pivotal moments in the origin of our faith, kids will discover that not only did God create everything, but even after people chose to go their own way, God had a plan to restore us. We can see how God faithfully began to fulfill that plan in Abram's call and in the lives of Jacob and Joseph—and we look forward to the fulfillment of that plan in Jesus. When kids see how God has worked in the past, they can grow in faith that our faithful God continues to work in and through each person who chooses to follow Jesus.

8:45 - 9:00 | 10:45 – 11:00 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

CONNECTION CENTERS

Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders

What You Need: Game Room, Card Games + Art Room

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - **Before kids arrive, pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Recall a time in your life when you experienced uncertainty, but you knew that God was with you. Ask God to give each child courage when they face uncertainty. Pray they will trust God even when they don't know what's next. Ask God to help the kids see that God is always working in their lives!**
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Interact with preteens in their respective spaces (Game Room/Art Room/Board Games, etc.)
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them:
 - ***“What's one memory from this summer that you think you'll remember for a long time? Why is it so memorable”***
 - ***“If you could invent a new app or video game, what would it be called and what would it do”***
 - ***“What's one skill you're hoping to learn or improve this school year, either at school or outside of it”***

- *“What’s one small thing that always makes you smile or brightens your day?”*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
 - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
 - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: Pillows; rocks; plastic bowls; wooden spoons;

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Mark a starting line and a finish line using floor tape.
- Divide the kids in groups of two.
 - It’s okay if you have a group of three.
- Give each group a plastic bowl.
- Explain and demonstrate the challenge:
 - Each pair is to stand back-to-back with one teammate facing the finish line.
 - Each pair must hold a plastic bowl between their backs.
 - If the bowl drops, they must stop, pick it up, and restart from where they are.
 - The first group to cross the finish line with the bowl between their backs wins.
- For each new round, add a new object for groups to try to keep between their backs.

- rocks
- wooden spoons
- a pillow
- By the last round, the groups should be attempting to balance all the items at once.
- Gather the kids to discuss.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Be mindful of pairing kids with someone they feel comfortable with or allow them to choose their partner.
- For any kids with limited mobility, allow groups to stay in one spot and work as a team to balance all of the items on their heads.

What You Say:

“All of these objects give us clues about today’s Bible Story! *[Transition]* We’ll hear about someone who made unwise choices. BUT God was with him and proved it by showing up in a very unexpected way. Let’s go find out more!”

9:15 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Abram, later Abraham, had a son named Isaac, who had twin boys named Jacob and Esau. Though Jacob was younger, he tricked his brother out of both a birthright and a blessing. Afraid that Esau would kill him, Jacob ran away from home. In the wilderness, God appeared to Jacob in a dream of angels ascending and descending a stairway to heaven. And even though Jacob was a deeply flawed man on the run, God renewed the promise that he had given to Abraham.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Markers; clipboards; paper

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle, putting some space between them and the kid next to them.
- Give each kid a clipboard, a marker, and a stack of paper that is equivalent to the number of kids in the group.
 - For example, if you have eight kids, each clipboard should have eight sheets of paper.
- On the first page, instruct kids to write about a situation in which it would be important to remember that God is with them.
 - If kids are stumped, share these examples: taking a big test, or moving to a new school
- After a minute or so, direct the kids to pass their clipboards to their left.
- On the second page, instruct the kids to draw a simple picture representing the words on the first page.
- Once they're finished, encourage the kids to move the first paper with the words on it to the back of the stack.
- Instruct the kids to pass the clipboards to the left again.
- Direct the kids with the clipboards to use the picture to write a short description of what they think the picture represents on the next page, then move the paper with the picture to the back of the stack.
- Keep passing, alternating between drawing and writing until each person has their original stack of paper back.
- Encourage the kids to read and share what they originally wrote and how their message changed.
- Discuss with your group:
 - Why is it a situation where you'd want to know God is with you?
 - How can you remind yourselves of God's presence in hard times?
 - Is it a sign of weakness or strength to rely on God?

- *[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you knew God was with you. How did God show up and remind you that He was there?)*

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Be patient with the kids and give them extra time to write or draw for each round if needed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- **Ask:**
 - What helps you remember that God is with you?
 - Would Jacob be someone you would trust all the time? Why or why not?
 - And yet Jacob *is* part of God’s plan. How does that encourage you to trust God, knowing that even when you mess up, God still loves you and is working toward His good plan?
 - Abraham and Jacob were part of God’s Big Story. What about us? How do we fit into God’s plan today? *(God invites us into a relationship with Him through Jesus! When we choose to follow Jesus and share His love with others, we are a part of God’s Story!)*
 - What does Jacob’s story tell us about God’s character and His love for us?

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Be sensitive to kids needing extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they’re ready.
- Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, “Can someone share in their own words what we’re talking about?”

MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[Pray To God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Notecards; Pencils

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Give each kid an index card and a pen (or pencil).
- Encourage the kids to write the first letter of their first name on one side and the first letter of their last name on the back.
- Using one of their initials, invite the kids to write a word that describes God.
 - For example, if their first initial is “T,” they might say “trustworthy!”
 - Or, if their first initial is “S,” they might say “strong!”
- Use the other initial to write a place they might go this week.
 - For example, if their last name begins with a “D,” they might say the doctor’s.
 - *NOTE: If kids can’t come up with words using their first and last names, suggest they use their middle name. Offer assistance as needed.*
- Challenge the kids to write a sentence that includes the two words that they wrote.
 - For example, “God is _____, and He is with me at _____.”
- Encourage the kids that wherever they go this week, God is with them.
- Encourage the kids to use what they wrote to create a prayer praising God for who He is and thanking Him for always being with them!
- Invite those who are willing to pray out loud.
- Close in prayer.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Let the kids draw their words instead of writing them if they feel more comfortable doing so.
- Ensure there isn’t any pressure to pray out loud! Allow kids to pray quietly and read their prayer card to themselves.

