



## God Keeps His Promises – Jacob Wrestles With God

Genesis 32-33

### God Statement: God Is Omniscient (all-knowing)

**KEY VERSE:** “God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure.”  
(2 Samuel 22:33, NIRV)

## CHECK-IN

*Classroom Teacher*

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.*

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(15 minutes)**

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### **DISCUSS: God is Omniscient – God Keeps His Promises**

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God is omniscient!

**SAY:**

Who remembers that new big word we learned last week? *Pause for kids to respond – prompt them with the motion – touch forehead for knowledge.* God is omniscient! Let’s say that together – God is omniscient!

Does anyone remember who we've been learning about? *Let kids respond.* We learned about Jacob & Esau last week. Remember, Jacob did something unkind and selfish when he stole his brother's blessing. Well, this week, we are going to see what happened next with Jacob.

I have a question for you... Have you ever had to do something really hard that you didn't want to do? *Let kids respond.* Well, today we will hear about something hard that Jacob didn't want to do and the very interested way that God showed Jacob He would be with Jacob even through the challenging thing.

**PLAY:**

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

**REVIEW - Old Testament Books of the Bible Card Race**

**Supplies:** 2 bags of Old Testament books of the Bible cards and mat

**Say:** *Before we hear more about what's going on with Jacob, we're going to do a little review game! Does anyone remember the two sections of the Bible? The Old and the New Testament! We learned all the names of the books in the Old Testament a while ago. Let's test our knowledge and see how much we remember.*

**Directions:** Split the class into two teams. Have an LIT or helper sit in each group. Give each helper a bag with Old Testament matching cards and a number mat. Have the helper flip over the cards face down and shuffle them around. Allow the children to flip over one card at a time and match them to the corresponding number on the chart. The LIT or helper can then read the cards in order. The first team to finish wins.

## LARGE GROUP

**(25 minutes)**

*Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.*

### WORSHIP & CHLOE'S RULES

*Worship Leader & Host*

#### WORSHIP

*While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!*

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

**CHLOE'S RULES**

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe's Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

*\*\*\* After Worship & Chloe's Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.\*\*\**

**MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER**

*Host*

**MAIL TIME!**

*Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.*

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

*Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.*

**"God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure."  
(2 Samuel 22:33, NIRV)**

**WARDROBE OF WONDER**

*The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the "What's It" is inside the wardrobe each week.*

Choose one child to "spy" on the What's It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What's It in the host's ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

**What's It: FIGHTING GLOVE**

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What's It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

**ASK:**

Wow, this is a super interesting item today. Do you know what you use this for? It's a **fighting/boxing glove**! Hmm... I wonder why this glove is in our wardrobe today. Do you think someone is going to fight someone today? Let's find out more. Do you know what time it is? It's time for us to dive into God's Word together!

*\*\*\* After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.\*\*\**

## BIBLE STORY

### *Lesson Video*

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

### ***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Keeps His Promises – Jacob Wrestles with God***

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

*\*\*\*After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.\*\*\**

## WORSHIP RESPONSE

### *Host*

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through this time.

***Supplies:*** chalk board stations, chalk, verse cards

***Prepare Ahead:*** Write "God Keeps His Promises" on the top of the chalkboard

That was a pretty crazy story today... Jacob wrestled with God?! God showed Jacob that he didn't need to be afraid to go to Esau because God would be with him. Did you know that God is always with us too? Even when things feel really scary or God asks us to do something we aren't sure how to do, God is with us! God promises us throughout the Bible that He will be with us, like in Isaiah 41:10 when God says:

***"So do not be afraid. I am with you. Do not be terrified. I am your God. I will make you strong and help you. I will hold you safe in my hands. I always do what is right."***

Wow, God promises to be with us and give us strength for whatever He asks us to do. That sounds a lot like our Remember Verse right now! Let's all stand up and say our Remember Verse together with the motions. ***Invite kids to stand up and lead them in the Remember Verse and motions.***

***“God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure.” 2 Samuel 22:33***

***Have kids sit back down, and setup chalkboard activity for them.***

***CHALKBOARD RESPONSE ACTIVITY:***

Think for a moment about your own life. Is there something you need to ask God for help with? Do you need God’s strength to do something scary or hard? Maybe you need to tell someone sorry for something you did. Maybe you need to try something new that’s kind of scary. Maybe you need to listen to your parent/grownup.

***Prompt kids to think for a few moments, then invite them to draw/write what they need to ask God for help with on the chalkboards around the room.***

***As kids walk up to the chalkboards, have a leader hand a verse card to each kid when they finish. Leaders can say, “God is your strength” to each child as they hand them a card.***

***Once everyone has participated, say:*** God always keeps His promises and He promised to be with us and help us whenever we ask. God loves us!

***Close time in prayer.***

***\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.\*\*\****

## **COMPASSION & OFFERING**

### ***Host***

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus’ Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child’s life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

***Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.***

***\*\*\*After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.\*\*\****

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ACTS Thanksgiving Baskets**

### ***Host***

***Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.***

**Say:** What holiday do we celebrate in November? Thanksgiving, that's right! What are your favorite foods to eat at Thanksgiving? *Let kids respond and share.* Mmmm, those all sound so yummy. My favorite Thanksgiving food is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Say:** Did you know that there are families in our church, neighborhoods, and schools who might not get to eat some of those really yummy foods this Thanksgiving? They can't just go to the store and buy those items because they don't have enough money. Right now, our missions focus is ACTS Thanksgiving Baskets. Remember all those yummy foods you mentioned earlier? Well, you can share those yummy foods with people who need them this Thanksgiving by shopping for food items and bringing them on the weekends to our Feeding Families bin. We will be collecting items until November 13!

**Say:** Let's take a moment to pray for our missions focus. Let's pray that God would provide the food needed to give a Thanksgiving Basket to everyone who needs one. Pray that God's love will show through those delivering Thanksgiving Baskets.

***Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who will receive food through ACTS Thanksgiving Baskets.***

***\*\*\*After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.\*\*\****

## BLESSING

### *Host*

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

***May you trust that God keeps His promises. May you know that He is with you and will give you strength to do hard things.***

## SMALL GROUP

### *Classroom Teachers*

**(10 minutes)**

### **Younger Kids:**

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Genesis 32-33**

- a. **Who was coming after Jacob?** (His brother Esau.)
  - b. **How did Jacob feel about this? Why?** (Afraid. Because he took his brothers blessing!)
  - c. **What happened to Jacob in the middle of the night?** (He began to fight with someone!)
  - d. **Who was Jacob wrestling with?** (God!)
3. **Jacob was scared to go to Esau. He was afraid God wouldn't be with him! But He was with him, and Jacob had to wrestle with God to remember this. We can always remember that God is with us. No matter where we go. He keeps His promise that He will always be with us! Have you ever felt afraid to go somewhere? How does it feel knowing God is always with you?**

Close small group in prayer.

## RESPOND ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

(10 minutes)

### DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

### MAKE: Jacob Stick Puppet

**Supplies:** one Jacob template with leg per child, crayons/markers, one popsicle stick per child, one brad per child, glue sticks

**Directions:** Pass out the Jacob cut out with matching leg. Have children color their cut outs. Pass out one popsicle stick and brad per child. Help them to attach the leg to the Jacob cut out using the brad. Have children glue the Jacob cut out to the popsicle stick to make a puppet.



**Say:** *Today we learned about how Jacob wrestled with God! Do you remember what happened? God touched his hip and it popped! We get to make a special puppet to remember this story and how God will always keep His promises, even when we might not see it and we might try to fight with God, because we think we know best. God always knows what's best for us, just like He knew what was best for Jacob! God is omniscient!*

## CHECK-OUT

*Classroom Teacher*

**(end of service)**

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.*