



Jacob Wrestles 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

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...*(most of the time)*

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 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 (All-Knowing)

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jacob wrestled God!

Say: Did you know there is wrestling in the Bible? Have you ever wrestled anyone before – maybe just for fun?

Say: Do you remember the man named Jacob we learned about last week? Jacob had some problems. He was afraid. He prayed to God to help him. It might seem a little strange but God wrestled with him! We'll hear more about it in our Bible story time. Let's play a game together to get us thinking about our story!

PLAY: Thumb Wrestling!

Supplies: none

Directions: Take a few minutes to teach thumb-wrestling, and let kids thumb wrestle with you and each other.

- *Shake hands with your partner.*
- *Slide your fingers back so your fingers are curled around the other person's.*
- *Begin the war by saying: 1, 2, 3, 4, I declare a thumb war. Cross your thumbs over each other on each syllable.*
- *Swish your thumbs over each other until one thumb is pinned.*
- *The person who pinned the thumb is the winner.*
- *Repeat.*



While you are working with each child:

- Thumb wrestling is fun!
- Do you ever wrestle at home?
- I wonder why God wrestled with Jacob. What do you think?

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time. .

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *God is So Good*
- *My God is So Big!*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

This week, read our Bible story right from your lesson plan.

BIG IDEA:
God knows everything. Even when we mess up, God loves us and helps us.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jacob Wrestles God

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a pencil.

Say: Hey Hamilton, what are you doing with that pencil? ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** Oh you're starting a new school? ***Hamilton nods sadly. He is afraid.*** Are you a little afraid to start your new school? ***Hamilton nods sadly.*** Well, let's pray for you. Kids, let's pray for Hamilton. ***"Dear God, help Hamilton at his new school. Help him to be brave and make new friends. Amen."***

Say: Hamilton, God is omniscient. He knows everything. He knows that there are people at school who will love you and be your friend. God knew Jacob and how to help him. Let's hear about it in our story today.

Read the Lesson: Remember last week we talked about how Jacob tricked Esau? Here is a picture of them. ***Show picture from your lesson folder.***

Now Jacob was afraid that Esau was going to get back at him. Esau was coming to meet him and Jacob was afraid. Jacob prayed to God to help him.

A man came and wrestled with Jacob all night. He touched Jacob's hip and made it so Jacob's hip hurt. He couldn't walk very well.

He found out that the man was GOD! God is omnipotent and omniscient. God can do anything and God knows everything.

God had a plan for His people and nothing can stop God's plan.

Jacob wasn't afraid any longer. He knew God. God gave him a blessing. Jacob went to meet his brother and they were happy to see each other. God is omnipotent and omniscient. God can do anything and God knows everything.

Say: Hamilton, do you see that Jacob was afraid? He prayed and God helped him. I believe God will help you, too. ***Hamilton nods enthusiastically.*** Thanks for listening with us today, and we can't wait to hear about your new school next week. We'll see you next time, Hamilton. Bye bye. ***Put Hamilton back in his house.***

Say: Friends, God helped Jacob. He will help you too. Remember to pray to Him.

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that God is Omniscient. (ahm-ni'-schent) (slide your hand across your forehead in a sliding salute everytime you say "omniscient.") He knows everything.

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

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 the time.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure. Make a muscle when you say STRENGTH. Give yourself a hug when you say SECURE. Let's say it together.
God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure.

Say: When you are afraid, you can pray and talk to God. He hears you and will help you. Let's tell Him thank you. THANK YOU, GOD!!

BLESSING (1 minute)

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.

Say: Let's say our verse once again: "God gives me strength for the battle. He keeps my way secure." Make a muscle when you say STRENGTH. Give yourself a hug when you say SECURE.

Friends, may you always remember that God loves you and He is with you, even when things are scary.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: Hedgehog Coloring Page

Supplies: coloring sheet and crayons

Directions: Encourage the kids to use the crayons to color their pages as bright and colorful as they can. Make sure to send the paper home if they don't have time to color, so that parents can see what they learned from the day.

Say: Let's color this picture to help us remember how God knows everything!

While you are working with each child, ask:

- Who do you think this looks like?
- What color should we color him?
- Remember how God knows everything?
- Do you think Hamilton will like his new school?
- God knows everything and God knows YOU!

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"