



## Session 6

# BROTHERS MEET AGAIN

FOR THE  
LEADER

**Genesis 32:1-11; 33:1-20**

Having lived for many years with Laban, Jacob, led by God, packed up to return home and make peace with Esau. Jacob had many struggles while living with Laban, but God had blessed Jacob with an enormous number of cattle, flocks, and material possessions which, in the ancient world, would have meant wealth. Jacob was extremely wealthy and God told Jacob to return home. Jacob packed up his belongings, gathered his family, and started his trip back to Canaan.

In preparation for meeting his brother, Jacob separated his family into different groups. Jacob sent an advance team to scout out Esau and perhaps determine Esau's state of mind before the brothers saw one another again. Jacob asked the messengers to give a report on Jacob's time with Laban and to present Esau with a gift of cattle. When the servants returned after meeting Esau, they reported only that Esau was on his way with 400 men. Unsure of what was to come, Jacob vigilantly continued his travels.

In his uncertainty, Jacob turned to God in prayer. Jacob admitted his need and his dependence on God to provide safety for him and his family. Jacob recognized that God's promise to Jacob of continued descendants would be fulfilled, but he likely in this moment of uncertainty wavered to understand how God would fulfill this promise. Jacob sent his family across the river and spent the night in solitude.

That night Jacob was met by a man with whom he wrestled. This epic struggle lasted all night long. Jacob, refusing to release his opponent, asked for and received a blessing. Not only was Jacob blessed, but his name was changed to Israel. This new name would identify Jacob further with the promise God had planned for Jacob's descendants. This second blessing, coming from God alone, was much stronger and more important than any blessing Jacob may have received earlier from Isaac. God's eternal promise to Abraham had been reaffirmed.

# SESSION FOCUS

## TEXT TRUTH

God told Jacob to return home.

## BIBLE STORY

Genesis 32:1-11; 33:1-20

## BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 107:1

## CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

## BIBLE SKILLS: Preschoolers will . . .

- Remember the names of familiar Bible people.
- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to their life.



## CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Provide these weekly resources to help families explore the Bible together.

- Explore the Bible at Home (Printable: Music & Print Extras)
- Preschool Activity Page
- Preschool Family Card

## MISSIONS ACTIVITY: GO ON A THANKFUL WALK



*Tools: Bible, notepad, pen*

- Take three or four preschoolers at a time outdoors or to another location in the church building.
- Look for things for which children can be thankful. Tell the preschoolers you will write a list of the things they name while you walk.
- When you return to the classroom, gather the children and talk about their list. Say: “Let’s talk to God right now and thank Him.”
- Lead children to voice thank-yous to God. Remember to include a thank-you to God for the Bible. Thank Him for missionaries who go to other places to tell the good news of Jesus. Thank God for the leaders in your church who help people know about Jesus.

## LEADER TIP!

Include this special missions-focused activity in addition to preschoolers’ Bible Explorations.

# JACOB WENT TO SEE HIS BROTHER

**TEXT TRUTH**

God told Jacob to return home.

**BIBLE STORY**

Jacob Went to See His Brother  
Genesis 32:1-11; 33:1-20

**BIBLE VERSE**

Give thanks to God, for He is good.  
Psalm 107:1

**Genesis 32:1-11; 33:1-20**

*Jacob had not seen his brother, Esau, for a long time. Jacob wanted to return to his homeland and see his brother.*

*Jacob prayed to God. Jacob asked God to keep him safe when he went to see Esau.*

*Jacob began the journey to his brother's home. On the way, many things happened to Jacob, but God always took care of Jacob. Each time Jacob thanked God.*

*One day Jacob saw his brother, Esau, coming down the road. Jacob saw Esau running to him. Then Esau threw his arms around Jacob, hugged him, and kissed him!*

*Jacob was so surprised. He did not think his brother would be happy to see him. When Jacob had left home long ago, Esau was very angry with him. But Jacob was wrong. Esau was glad his brother, Jacob, returned home.*

*Jacob introduced his family to Esau and gave special gifts to his brother. Jacob said, "God has been good to me and I have everything I need."*

*Later after Jacob settled his family in their home, God told Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar. So Jacob took his family with him and he built the altar. Jacob praised God and thanked Him for loving him and taking care of him so many times.*

**LEADER TIP!**

Explain that an altar is a special place to worship God.

**LEADER TIP**

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the session Bible verse you want to use with your group.

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love is forever. Psalm 107:1*

Paraphrase:

*Give thanks to God, for He is good. Psalm 107:1*

# CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

## GATHER

- Give the children a 5-minute warning to finish their activities. Play music and go to each Exploration Station, inviting children to walk with you.
- Lead children to the Circle Time area while the music plays. Hop with the music, then direct preschoolers to be seated.
- Explain: “You walked with me all around the room. Today our Bible story is about a man who went on a long journey to his family home. Let’s hear this true story from the Bible to find out what happened.”

## HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Genesis 32. Show children the Bible Book Card for Genesis. Remark that this Bible book tells about Jacob and his family.
- Hold the Bible open while you tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Give each child a turn to hold the Story Picture and look at it for a few seconds.
- Use the Question Cards to help preschoolers think about the story. Suggest answers as needed.
- Ask: “Why did Jacob return home? God told Jacob to return home, and Jacob obeyed God!”

## PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show children the Old Testament Sign. Say: “We are studying the Book of Genesis. Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament.”
- Provide each child with a Bible. Ask teachers in the circle to assist boys and girls in opening their Bibles to Genesis.
- Turn to the marked verse, Psalm 107:1, and say it. Lead preschoolers to repeat the verse with you, clapping on each word and the reference. Repeat several times.

## PRAY

- Call on volunteers to pray briefly. Thank children for participating.
- Close the prayer time by thanking God for His goodness.

## TOOLS

- several Bibles
- Music & Print Extras

## PACK ITEMS

- 6 Story Picture: Jacob Went to See His Brother
- 24 Question Cards
- 28 Testament Signs
- 29 Bible Book Cards
- 30 October Verse Markers

## LEADER TIP!

Encourage preschoolers who brought Bibles to church to use them to find the Book of Genesis.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS

## EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

### TEXT TRUTH

God told Jacob to return home.

### BIBLE STORY

Jacob Went to See His Brother  
Genesis 32:1-11; 33:1-20

### BIBLE VERSE

Give thanks to God, for He is good.  
Psalm 107:1

### PACK ITEMS

6 Story Picture: Jacob Went to See His Brother  
21 Spell a Book Gameboard  
22 Game Pieces  
23 Number Cube  
27 Jacob & Esau Figures  
30 October Verse Markers

### PRINTABLES

Allergy Sign

### PLAY OUT THE BIBLE STORY

Tools: Bible, October Verse Markers, Jacob & Esau Figures, plastic farm animals, wooden blocks, tape, 2 cardboard tubes (opt.)

- Mark Psalm 107:1 in the Bible. Attach each Bible figure to a block or cardboard tube.
- Show a figure to a child. Say: “Let’s pretend the figure is Jacob and he is preparing to visit his brother.”
- Lead the child and a friend to play out the events of the Bible story. Mention that Jacob traveled with animals, such as sheep, donkeys, and camels.
- Find the marker in the Bible. Say: “God helped Jacob and protected him on his journey to see Esau. Jacob gave thanks to God.”
- Say the verse together.

### PLAY A BOARD GAME

Tools: Bible, Spell a Book Gameboard, Game Pieces, Number Cube, small gift bag

- Use the *Genesis* strip and letters for the game. Put the letters in the bag.
- Invite a few children to play the game. Point to the word in the center of the gameboard and say: “This says *Genesis*. We are learning from the Book of *Genesis*. It is the first book of the Old Testament.”
- When the children finish spelling the word, suggest they open the Bible to the Book of *Genesis*.
- Remark that *Genesis* is the story of the beginning of the world and God’s people.

### PACK A BAG

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, small suitcase or travel bag, a few dress-up clothes, small empty toiletry bottles*

- Use the Activity Page to mark Genesis 32. Display the travel items with the Bible.
- Ask preschoolers about trips they have made. Remark that Jacob moved his family and all his belongings back to his homeland.
- Ask a child to open the Bible to the Activity Page and show the picture to other children. Point to Jacob and the people behind him.
- Suggest that a child pack the suitcase as if she were going on a trip to visit a family member. Talk about the anticipation of seeing the family member. Relate the feeling to that of Jacob's experience.
- Lead children to take turns packing the suitcase.

### PAINT ANIMAL TRACKS

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Jacob Went to See His Brother, paper, marker, washable paint, shallow containers, paper towels, newspaper, 2 plastic animals, smock*

- Cover a table with the newspaper. Pour paint over a damp paper towel placed in each container. Print the Text Truth at the top of a paper for each child.
- Invite a preschooler to make animal tracks by dipping an animal's feet in the paint then pressing the animal's feet on the paper.
- Read the Text Truth written on the child's paper. Remark that Jacob took animals with him on the journey to see Esau.
- Open the Bible to Psalm 107:1 and say the verse. Encourage the child to say the verse with you.
- Comment: "We give thanks to God, for He is good."

### PREPARE A TRAIL MIX

*Tools: Bible; trail mix ingredients (yogurt pieces, O-shaped cereal, raisins, mini marshmallows, pretzel sticks); small ziplock bags; several plastic bowls; Allergy Sign, permanent marker; Activity Page*

- Place ingredients in bowls. Lay the Activity Page near the food items.
- After children wash their hands, guide them to spoon some of each ingredient into their own ziplock bag. Write a child's name on his bag.
- While children prepare trail mix, show them the picture on the Activity Page. Comment: "Jacob went on a journey to see his brother. He probably took food for the people who traveled with him."
- Tell the Bible story, then thank God for taking care of Jacob and us.

### LEADER TIP!

Supervise children anytime they eat snacks. Tell them to eat only one item (or small bite) at a time and to swallow before eating another item. Remind children to stay seated at the table while eating.