



UNIT 3 | SESSION 4

GOD CHANGED JACOB

GENESIS 25–33

CHRIST CONNECTION:

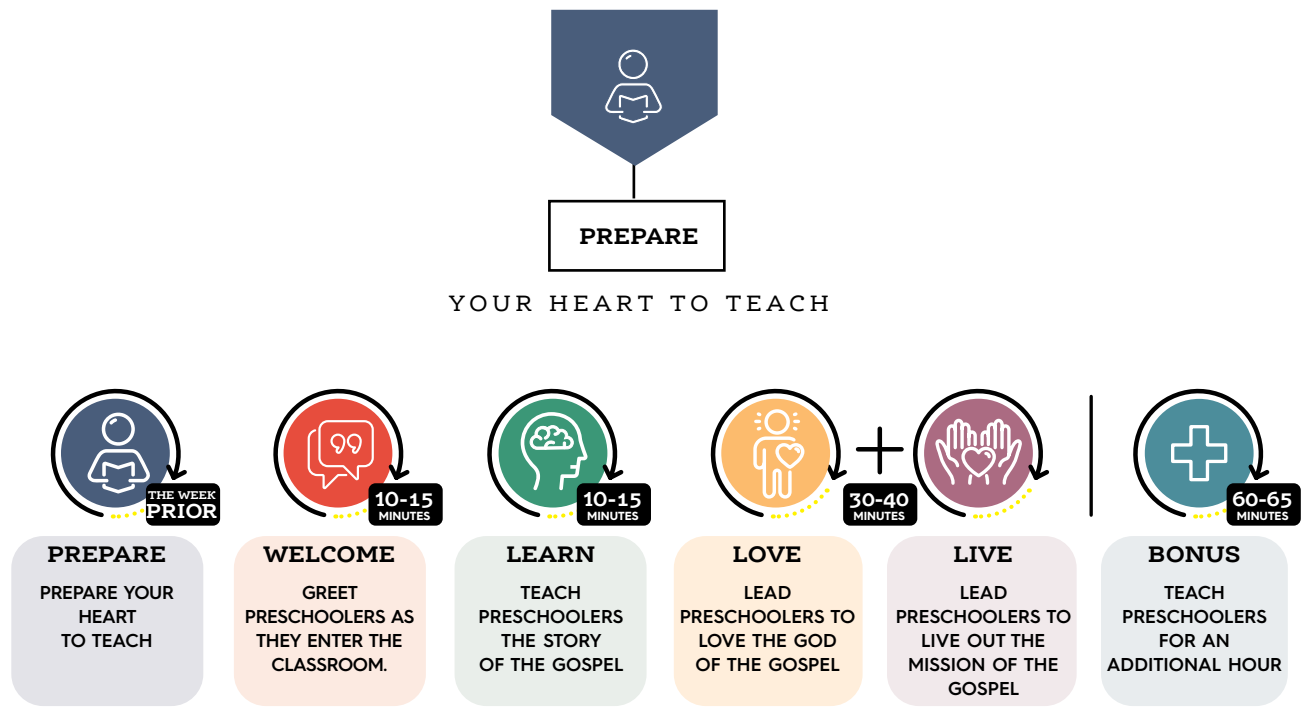
God gave Jacob a new name, Israel. When we follow Jesus, God calls us His children.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who makes everything happen? God makes everything happen.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

The Lord is great. Psalm 135:5



LEADER Bible Study

Jacob's journey in Genesis is one of unexpected and undeserved blessing after blessing. With a name that literally means "he cheats," Jacob was a surprising recipient of the privilege and opportunity God gave him.

Jacob was a cheater, a liar, and a deceiver. He was quiet and not strongly gifted. And he was gullible, too. We cannot miss that the deceiver was deceived at times too—easily convinced by his mother and tricked by his uncle. But God would work through Jacob when no circumstances or characteristics made it seem possible.

In Genesis 32:10, Jacob expressed his own bewilderment to the Lord. "I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. Indeed, I crossed over the Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two camps."

Jacob came to realize that nothing that he had accomplished or accumulated was the result of his own doing. He was not capable or competent enough to produce the many good things he had received, and especially not to be the recipient of the promise of God to make his family like the dust of the earth. Jacob was humbled by the reality that through him and his offspring, all of the families of the earth would be blessed.

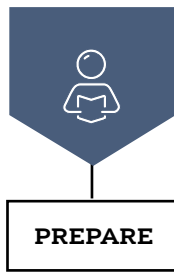
Have you ever had a moment of astonishment at the magnitude of what God has given you through Christ? Have you taken the time to recognize that all that you have is from God? Does it cause you to rejoice when you think about God's grace?

It's easy to look at Jacob and say he didn't deserve what God gave him. It's hard to feel that way about ourselves. But it's just as true.

Paul wrote in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Salvation should bring about this astonishment in us as well. It should remind us that we are not worthy, and it should lead us to rejoice in the undeserving gift of God's grace.

FACTS TO KNOW

Name changes in the Bible: Jacob was the third person to be renamed by God, after Abraham and Sarah. God usually gave a person a new name to indicate a new identity. Jacob's new name—*Israel*—became the name of God's people.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Open a gift

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ gift box or gift bag



LEARN

Match colors

- ☐ various colors of construction paper, 2 pieces of each color

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker
- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Poster



LOVE

Build homes

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ plastic interlocking blocks

Create wrapping paper

- ☐ white or light brown gift wrap paper



LIVE

Work family puzzles

- ☐ puzzles depicting families
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Host a Thanksgiving meal

- ☐ "Ecuador Thanksgiving Photo" printable
- ☐ tablecloth
- ☐ plastic plates, play pots and pans, and other Thanksgiving dinner items

Snack and transition

- ☐ snacks
- ☐ Activity Page, 1 per child



BONUS

Discover the matching pair

- ☐ gift bag
- ☐ 3 items, 2 matching, 1 different such as plastic interlocking blocks

Say the key passage phrase

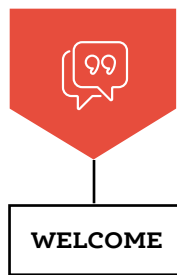
- ☐ gift bag
- ☐ index cards

Wrap a gift

- ☐ gift bags
- ☐ tissue paper
- ☐ gift wrap paper
- ☐ Items from classroom to be pretend gifts such as, books, plastic dishes and so on

Create with play dough

- ☐ people shaped cookie cutters
- ☐ play dough tools



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversation as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

OPEN A GIFT

Place the big picture question poster in a gift box or gift bag. Welcome each child at the classroom door. Invite the child to open the gift to see the poster. Talk about the big picture question and answer. Tell her about the different activities she will be able to do today in class. Place the poster back in the gift box for the next child to open when she arrives.

SAY “ I am glad you are here today. In our Bible story, we will learn about Jacob and Esau. They were brothers. Jacob sent Esau gifts. We will hear more in our Bible story about the brothers and how God gave Jacob a new name, Israel. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 MATCH COLORS

Gather two pieces of each color of construction paper. Lay a piece of paper for each child on the floor. Instruct the preschoolers to walk to group time and sit on a piece of paper. Ask them to identify the color of their papers. Explain you will say a color. If you say the color of the paper they are sitting on, they stand up. Say each color. Two children should stand each time.

SAY “Two of you stood when I said each color of paper. You had a friend with the same color of paper. Today we will hear about two brothers who were twins. Twins are two babies born on the same day from one mother. Let’s listen to hear more about these brothers in our Bible story.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Genesis 25 and tell the following Bible story.

GOD CHANGED JACOB

SAY “Abraham’s son Isaac grew up and had a family. His wife Rebekah had twins! Esau was born first, and then Jacob. When the boys grew up, Jacob took his brother’s blessing. Esau was very angry, so Jacob left home.

One night, God told Jacob, “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.”

Time passed, and Jacob had a family. Jacob wanted to take his family home to Canaan, but he was afraid of Esau. What if Esau was still angry? Jacob sent gifts to Esau to try to make him happy.

That night, a man appeared to Jacob. The man wrestled with Jacob. Jacob would not give up, so the man hurt Jacob’s hip.

Jacob said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me.”

The man said, “Your name will be Israel. You wrestled with God and with men, and you have won.” The man blessed Jacob.

Jacob went to meet Esau. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. Esau was not angry anymore! Jacob found a place for his family to live. He was finally home in the land God had promised to give him.”

Christ Connection: God gave Jacob a new name, Israel. When we follow Jesus, God calls us His children.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 SHOW FEELINGS

Ask preschoolers to show you a happy face and then a sad face. Instruct them to make a happy or sad face to answer the questions about the Bible story. Ask simple review questions the preschoolers can answer with a happy or sad face like: How do you think Isaac and Rebekah felt when they had twin baby boys? How do you think Esau felt when Jacob took his blessing? How do you think Jacob felt when he was away from his brother for a long time? How do you think Esau felt when he received the gifts Jacob sent? How do you think Jacob felt when God gave him a new name, Israel? How do you think the brothers felt when they hugged each other?

SAY “Many times we smile when we are happy. Sometimes we feel sad and we frown. Jacob took Esau’s blessing. The blessing was something very special that belonged to Esau. Esau was angry. Jacob was sad. Later, Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. Esau was not angry anymore! Jacob was happy. When we follow Jesus, God calls us His children. What happy news! It makes me want to smile.”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

“I know the Lord is great, I *clap my hands. (clap hands two times)
Yes, I know the Lord is great, I *clap my hands. (clap hands two times)
Yes, I know the Lord is great. Yes, I know the Lord is great.
Yes, I know the Lord is great, I *clap my hands. (clap hands two times)”

*Repeat with different motions such as stomp my feet, wave my hands, shout Amen.

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Psalm 135:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage phrase. Show the key passage phrase poster. Read aloud the key passage phrase pointing to each word. Lead the children to say the phrase when you say the color of the paper they are sitting on. Say each color, guiding the preschoolers to say the phrase with you.

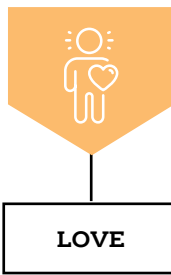
SAY “Today in our Bible story we learn that brothers were not kind to each other but God helped them change and they chose to be kind to each other again. The Lord is great to help us show kindness to each other.”

6 PRAY

Pray, asking God to help the children treat their brothers, sisters, and friends with kindness. Acknowledge He calls us His children when we follow Him.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 IDENTIFY LETTERS



Lay construction paper and washable markers on the table. Assist children in writing the first letter of their names or write it for them on the paper if needed. Instruct each child to hold his paper for others to see when you call the letter on his page. Say a letter on one of the child's papers. Affirm her when she raises her paper. Continue saying the first letters for each child's name.

SAY You have a name. Your name is made of letters. Do any of your friends' names start with the same letter as your name? In our Bible story today we learn about Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to Israel. When we follow Jesus, He calls us His children. How do you think Jacob felt when his name was changed to Israel?

2 BUILD HOMES

Place plastic interlocking blocks and the Bible story picture poster on the floor or table. Suggest the boys and girls each build a house using the provided blocks. Suggest they describe the houses as they build. As they build their houses, show the Bible story picture poster and tell the Bible story.

SAY You each built a house. They are all houses, but they are different. How are they different? How are they the same? Jacob and Esau were twin brothers. They were similar and different, too. How do you think they may have been alike? How do you think they were different?

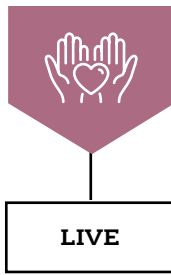
3 CREATE WRAPPING PAPER

Cut large squares or rectangles from a roll of white or light brown gift wrap paper for each child. Make sure washable markers or other writing utensils will show on the gift wrap paper finish. Tape each of the corners of the pieces of paper to the table to keep the ends from curling and make it easier for children to color. Guide preschoolers to use markers to color pictures on their paper. Encourage children to add stickers too. Ask preschoolers where they would like you to write the key passage phrase on their papers. Say each word of the phrase as you write it. Open the Bible to the key passage phrase and show preschoolers Psalm 135:5 in the Bible.

SAY You are creating a piece of gift wrap paper. We can wrap a gift in gift wrap paper. Tell me a time you received a gift that was wrapped. How did you feel when someone gave you a gift? You can use this paper to wrap a gift for someone. Jacob took his brother Esau's blessing. Esau was angry. Later, Jacob gave Esau gifts.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 WORK FAMILY PUZZLES

Gather several puzzles depicting families and put them on a table or the floor. Place the Bible story picture poster next to the puzzles. Invite the boys and girls to complete the puzzles. As children complete the puzzles, tell the Bible story and show the Bible story picture poster.

SAY “Do you have a brother or sister? We learned in our story about Isaac and Rebekah. They had two sons, Jacob and Esau. They were brothers. Jacob took his brother’s blessing. The blessing Jacob took was something very special that belonged to Esau. Have you ever taken something from your brother or sister or have they ever taken something from you? How did you feel?”

2 HOST A THANKSGIVING MEAL



Print the “Ecuador Thanksgiving Photo” printable. Gather items such as a tablecloth, plates, pots and pans, and other Thanksgiving dinner items. Place the printable and other items near the table. Consider adding additional chairs to provide extra seating to the table. Suggest the boys and girls set the table for a Thanksgiving meal using the provided supplies. Talk about the Thanksgiving holiday and how families might invite other family members or friends to their homes to eat a special meal. Ask the preschoolers what foods they may have during this special meal. Tell the preschoolers about one of your Thanksgiving experiences. Invite preschoolers to share about a time they have gone over to a friend’s or family member’s house to eat. Show the photo from the Caldwells’ Thanksgiving in Ecuador.

SAY “Thanksgiving is a holiday in the United States and Canada, but it is not celebrated in Ecuador. The Caldwells and the rest of the mission team brought a children’s book in Spanish that explained why we celebrate Thanksgiving. Then they cooked a meal like they would have on Thanksgiving to share with their new friends. They had the chance to tell the people how thankful they were to be there. Sharing a meal on holidays with new friends is a great way to get to know people and share Jesus’ love.”

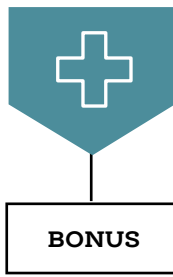
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “God gave Jacob a new name, Israel. When we follow Jesus, God calls us His children.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 DISCOVER THE MATCHING PAIR

Place three objects, two matching and one different, inside a gift bag. Invite a child to remove an item from the bag. Invite two other children to remove the other items. Talk about how the items are alike and different. Explain to the children that twin brothers are alike and different too.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Genesis 21. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

GOD CHANGED JACOB

- Abraham's son Isaac had a family. His wife Rebekah had twins! Esau was born first, and then Jacob.
- Jacob took his brother's blessing. Esau was angry, so Jacob left home.
- God was with Jacob. Jacob had a family and wanted to take them home to Canaan, but he was afraid of Esau. Jacob sent gifts to Esau to try to make him happy.
- That night, a man appeared to Jacob and wrestled with him.
- He said, "Your name will be Israel. You wrestled with God and with men, and you have won." The man blessed Jacob.
- Jacob went to meet Esau. Esau was not angry anymore! Jacob found a place for his family to live. He was finally home in the land God promised to give him.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

"I know the Lord is great, I *clap my hands. (clap hands two times)
Yes, I know the Lord is great, I *clap my hands. (clap hands two times)
Yes, I know the Lord is great. Yes, I know the Lord is great.
Yes, I know the Lord is great, I *clap my hands. (clap hands two times)"

*Repeat with different motions such as stomp my feet, wave my hands, shout Amen.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Write each word of the phrase on index cards. Place them in a gift bag. Lead children to select a card. Help them put the cards in order. Repeat the game, allowing each child a turn.

5 PRAY

Pray, acknowledging God's greatness.



BONUS

TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 PLAY A MATCHING GAME



Invite the children to play a matching game. Explain you will say a part of the body and the preschoolers are to find a friend by matching the named part together. Call out a body part, such as elbow, finger, foot, or knee, giving children time to match with a friend. For an extended activity, say two different body parts such as finger and elbow, leading the preschoolers to match by touching a finger to a friend's elbow. Talk about the Bible story.

SAY “ You matched with a friend. You and your friend are a group of two. We learned in our story today about Jacob and Esau. They were twin brothers. Twins are two people who are similar and also different. Do you have a brother or sister? How are you similar and how are you different? How are you similar and different from your friends? When we follow God, He calls us His children. ”

7 WRAP A GIFT

Place gift bags, tissue paper, gift wrap paper, and different items on a table for preschoolers to wrap as pretend gifts. Invite preschoolers to wrap a gift by placing it in a gift bag or by using the gift wrap paper. Talk about gifts children have received and gifts they have given. Remind preschoolers that we are wrapping pretend gifts.

SAY “ Jacob gave his brother Esau gifts. Jacob took Esau's blessing. Esau was angry, so Jacob left home. Jacob sent gifts to Esau to try to make him happy. God blessed Jacob. Jacob went to meet Esau, and Esau was not angry anymore. Jacob found a place for his family to live. He was finally home in the land God promised to give him. How do you think Esau felt when Jacob took his blessing? How do you think he felt when Jacob sent gifts? ”

8 CREATE WITH PLAY DOUGH

Lay play dough, people shaped cookie cutters, and other play dough tools on the table. Encourage the preschoolers to roll the play dough flat and use the people shaped cookie cutters to make a family. Talk about families, allowing each preschooler to talk about his family. Be sensitive to preschoolers' family situations.

SAY “ Jacob and Esau are people in today's Bible story. They were brothers. They were a family. Each of the people in your family have names. God gave Jacob a new name, Israel. When we follow Jesus, God calls us His children. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.