



# CHILDREN'S CHURCH

## MUSIC FOR YEAR 1 - SUMMER QUARTER

LESSONS 1 - 4

**THEME:** Lessons from the Life of Abraham

### MEMORY VERSE SONG

Hebrews 11:11b "Abraham trusted God to do what He had promised."

### HYMN

*Trust and Obey*

### CHORUS

*Thou art Worthy*

### ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

*Books of the Bible*

*Faith, Trust, Hope*

*VBS songs (Use what will be, or was taught during the current Vacation Bible School.)*



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 1**

**Title:** God Calls Abraham and Makes a Covenant with him

**Text:** Genesis 12, 15

**Theme:** God makes and keeps promises to His people.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that God called Abraham and made promises to him that He kept.
2. Know that God makes promises to His people today.
3. Respond as Abraham did by trusting God's promises enough to obey Him.

**Memory Verse:** *Hebrews 11:11b Abraham trusted God to do what He had promised.*  
(New Children's Version)

**1. Teacher Direction**

All through the Old Testament, God makes it clear to the Israelites that there was nothing about *them* or their ancestors that caused Him to choose them as His special people. His choice to set His love upon them was based solely upon His grace alone. All through the New Testament, the apostles make it clear that it was nothing Abraham did that made him acceptable in the sight of God. He believed God's promises to do everything for him and it was "credited to him as righteousness," so that his standing before God was by faith alone. The New Testament describes Abraham as the father of all God's people, that is, the father of all who would believe, whether Jew or Gentile. The formal term for God's relationship with Abraham is that of "covenant." At this age level, we will focus on the concept in a simple way, by pointing out that God makes trustworthy promises to His people; promises which His people must trust enough that they will obey what God commands.

**2. Learning Readiness Activity**

Prepare children to understand what an altar was and what it was for. Have play-doh available for children and show them how to roll "stones" to pile up to make miniature altars. As they work, explain that, in Old Testament times, a lamb or a calf would be killed, then placed on the altar and burned as an offering to God. This was a part of how people worshiped God.

**3. Introduction**

Ask the children to imagine this: their family is going to leave their house and go live in a different house somewhere else. Ask them what kinds of things they would want to know about the new place where they are going. After listening to their ideas, ask them how their parents would know how to get to the new place. Explain that today's story is about a man who was told to take his family and travel to a new place to live---but he *wasn't* told how to get to the new place; he was not even told *what* that new place was or *where* it was.

**4. Bible Story**

**Abraham and Sarah were packing bags and boxes, folding up tents, selling things that would be hard to carry. Abraham and Sarah were getting ready to leave their home in Ur and travel to another country to live. It was a big job! They had many things to pack and they had many servants who would be going with them. They had been comfortable in Ur. They had a nice home and their relatives and family members lived nearby. They did not know what the new place to which they were going would be like. They did not even know what the new place *was* or *where* it was. Why would Abraham and Sarah leave their comfortable home and friends and family? They were leaving because God had told Abraham to leave. They did not know where they were going**

because God had not told them.

God wanted people who would be His own special people. Out of all the people in the world, He wanted some who would be especially His. These people would love and trust and obey Him. These people would not be like all the other people in the world, praying to pretend gods. God would be their God. He would give them special blessings other people would not have. This was God's plan, and God had chosen Abraham to be the first one of His special people.

So God came to Abraham and made him some wonderful promises. God promised Abraham that a whole nation of people would come from him. Abraham would have so many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren that they would fill up a whole country. All these people who would come from Abraham would need a place to live, so God promised to give them their own land. God would bless Abraham and He would bless these people. They would be His people and He would be their God. Many people, land for those people to live in, and blessing for them all--that is what God promised Abraham.

What do you think? If you were Abraham, would you have believed God's promises? God was telling Abraham that many children and grandchildren would come from him and Sarah, but Abraham was already seventy-five years old and they had never had any children. Do you think Abraham could trust God to give him children anyway? Lead the children in realizing that God always tells the truth and always keeps His promises so Abraham could trust Him.

Abraham had not seen the land God was promising him. God had not even told him where it was. God just told him, "Leave your country and your relatives and go to the land I will show you." Do you think it was a good idea for Abraham to leave his comfortable home and all the friends he had, without even knowing where he was going? Of course it was, because God, who never lies, had promised to show him where this place was. More than that, God had promised that He would give this land to all the people who would come from Abraham.

So Abraham and Sarah and all their camels, all their goats and cows and sheep, and all their servants set out on a long trip to--they didn't know where. As they traveled, they lived in tents. They could put up their tents, spend the night (or several days if they needed to) in the tents, then pack them up and be on their way again. They traveled many days and many nights. Finally they came to the land of Canaan. There, Abraham heard from God again. This time, God said to him, "This is the land I am going to give to your family. All your grandchildren and great-grandchildren will live here and this will be their country."

As Abraham looked around him, though, he could see many people who were already living here. This land belonged to them. Would the land really belong to the people who would come from him? What about the people who were already there? Could Abraham really believe God's promises to give his family the land? Of course he could, because God, who never lies, had promised. Abraham did not know all about how it would happen, but he knew he could believe God's promises.

Because Abraham believed God's promises, he wanted to worship him. There, where God had spoken to him, Abraham built an altar so he could offer sacrifices and worship God. He traveled a little farther into the land God had promised him and set up his tent so he and his family could stay awhile. He built an altar there to worship God, too. As long as Abraham lived, he never owned any of the land God had promised him. The other people who lived there owned the land. Abraham lived in a tent all the time he was there. He knew, though, that God had promised to give the land to the people who would come from him and he trusted God to do what He had promised.

## 5. Application

**God makes promises to His people. He promised Abraham that many people would come from him, that God would give those people land, and that He would bless them. We will see in later lessons how every one of God's promises to Abraham came true. Abraham did not need to do anything to make the promises come true. All he needed to do was to believe God would keep the promises he had made. He needed to believe the promises so much that he would obey God in whatever God said to do. God had told him to leave home and go to a land he did not even know yet. Because Abraham believed God's promise, he went.**

**God still makes--and keeps--promises to His people. He promised to send His Son Jesus and He sent Him. God tells us to believe in Jesus. God promises that those who believe in Jesus will be, not only God's people, but God's children. God promises to be a Father to all who believe in Jesus. Like Abraham, we must believe God's promises enough to do what He says. We must believe God's promises enough to obey Him by believing in Jesus, His Son.**

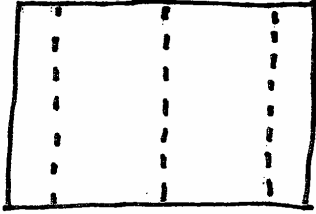
## 6. **Review questions**

- A. Who was getting ready to leave home to go live somewhere else? (Abraham)
- B. Why was Abraham leaving to go live somewhere else? (Because God had told him to.)
- C. Did Abraham know where he was going? (No.)
- D. If Abraham did not know where he was going, how would he know when he got there? (God would tell him.)
- E. How many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren did God promise Abraham? (Many; or, enough to fill a whole country.)
- F. Did Abraham have any children when God promised him that? (No.)
- G. Did Abraham believe God would give him many children? (Yes.)
- H. When Abraham got to the land God showed him, what did God promise him about the land? (It would belong to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.)
- I. Did any of the land ever belong to Abraham himself? (No.)
- J. What did Abraham live in, as long as he lived in the land? (A tent.)
- K. What did Abraham build when he wanted to worship God? (An altar.)
- L. Abraham needed to believe God's promises enough that he would do--what? (Obey God; or, do what God told him to do.)
- M. What is one promise God has made to us? (He will be our Father and we will be His children.)
- N. What does God tell us to do? (Believe in His Son Jesus.)

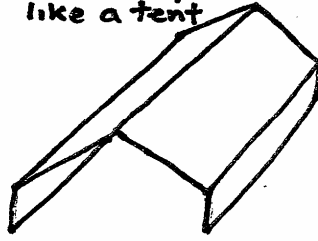
## 7. **Learning Reinforcement Activity**

Write the words of the memory verse on a piece of paper, then photocopy the verse on to pieces of white construction paper, one for each child. Fold the pieces of construction paper to make tents, as shown in the diagram below. (Be careful to keep the memory verse showing.) The children can use crayons or markers to decorate their tents. As they work, remind them why Abraham always lived in a tent--he never owned any of the land he lived in. Remind him that he still had faith in God's promise to give the land to the many people who would come after him.

Fold at center, then  
approx.  $\frac{1}{2}$ " at each end.



Next shape  
like a tent



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Hebrews 11:11b

Abraham trusted God to do  
what He had promised.

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**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS  
CURRICULUM, YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 2**

**Title:** Abraham and Lot Separate  
**Text:** Genesis 13  
**Theme:** Abraham could let Lot choose the best land because Abraham trusted God to give him everything he needed.

**Learning Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Remember God's promises of land and blessing to Abraham.
2. Realize that Abraham was free to let Lot choose the best land because of his confidence in God to keep His promises.
3. Choose to trust God's promises and so live to please God.

**Memory Verse:** *Hebrews 11:11b* Abraham trusted God to do what He had promised.  
(New Children's Version)

**1. Teacher Direction**

Abraham seems to have been a man of means. This story says of both Lot and Abraham that their possessions were great. When Abraham's servant seeks a wife for Isaac, he says of his master that God had blessed Abraham abundantly and that Abraham was wealthy. Nonetheless, throughout the stories about him, Abraham seems to display a certain indifference to money and possessions. In chapter 14, Abraham is offered the goods that he had rescued from marauding kings and he refuses them. In this story, Abraham freely offers Lot first choice of the land and Lot chooses the land that is obviously the best for sustaining livestock. Abraham does not seem to mind. Perhaps the reason for Abraham's casual attitude toward money and things is seen in God's words to him in the beginning of chapter 15: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." Abraham was the possessor of God and he understood this. Having God Himself, what else could he need? Having the promises of God, why be anxious for things? In today's story, Abraham could let Lot choose the best land because he knew God had promised *all* the land to Abraham and his descendants. Abraham knew God would keep His promise. He knew that when it was time for his descendants to possess the land, God would see to it that they would. This freed Abraham to let Lot have the best for now.

**2. Introduction**

Ask the children if it ever happens that they want to play with the same toy their brother or sister wants to play with. How do they decide who will play with it? Ask them what would happen if they both wanted a cookie and there were two cookies, but one was big and one was small. How would they decide who gets which cookie? **People usually want what is best for themselves. In today's story, there is someone who didn't care whether he got what was best or what was left over. See if you can hear who it was and why it didn't matter to him.**

**3. Bible Story**

**Abraham lived in a land far from his home. Do you remember why?** (God had told him to leave his home and his country and go to another land God would show him.) **God had made a promise about the land he was living in now. Do you remember what it was?** (God had said He would give the land to Abraham's grandchildren and great-grandchildren.)

**While Abraham lived in the land, he always lived in a tent. Do you remember why? (As long as Abraham lived in the land, he did not own any of the land.)**

**Abraham had brought many cows and sheep and goats with him when he had moved to this land. His nephew, Lot, who had come with him had also brought many animals. God had blessed them and made them even richer. Now there were so many cows and sheep and goats that they were in each other's way. There was not enough grass for so many animals. As Abraham's servants took care of Abraham's animals, they were always getting in fights with Lot's servants, who were taking care of Lot's animals. "Hey, we were here first," one of Abraham's servants might say. "Go somewhere else to feed your animals." Or, one of Lot's servants might say, "We're watering Lot's animals here. Don't bring Abraham's in here also; there are too many animals and the stream will get all trampled and muddy."**

**When Abraham heard about this, he knew this was not good. He did not want his servants to quarrel with Lot's servants. "We're in the same family," Abraham told Lot. "It is not good for our servants to quarrel with each other. Look, this is a big land. Let's separate. You decide which part of the land you want for your animals and servants, and you can have it, whatever you choose. I'll take whatever is left."**

**People don't usually solve their problems like this. Everyone wants to be the first to choose, so he can make sure he gets what is best. People want to be the first to choose, so they can be sure they don't get stuck with what other people don't want. Abraham was not like this. That is because Abraham remembered and believed God's promises. God had promised Abraham that He would bless him. Abraham believed God's promise and believed that it would be good to have God's blessings. He did not need to fight for the best for himself, because God would see to it that Abraham would have what was best. God had promised to give all the land to the people who would come from Abraham. Abraham did not have to worry if Lot used the best land right now. When God was ready, God would give *all* the land to Abraham's grandchildren and great-grandchildren. When we trust God and His promises, we are free to do what is good and not what is selfish.**

**Lot looked out over the land. He saw which land was the best. There was some flat land (not hilly and full of rocks like other parts of the land). This flat land was near the river, so it always got plenty of water. The grass grew green and thick, good for sheep and cows to eat. There was always water nearby, so servants would not need to dig deep wells to water the animals. Lot saw this land and saw how good it was. What do you think he did? Do you think he gave his Uncle Abraham the best land, or do you think he took it for himself? Lot chose the best land for himself. Abraham did not mind, though. He knew he had God's promises and he knew he had *God*..**

**After Lot had taken all his flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and all his servants and moved to the green, grassy, well-watered land he had chosen, God spoke to Abraham again. "Look in front of you and behind you," God told Abraham. "Look to this side of you and that side of you. Look as far as you can see. I will give all that to the people who will come from you. So many people will come from you that it will be impossible to count them all. And I will give them this land to live in. Go walking through all the land, as long and as wide as it is. Look at it all, for I am giving all of it to you."**

**Abraham did go through the land. He moved his tent to another place and built another altar there to worship God. Abraham believed God's promise and waited for Him to give him the land.**

#### 4. Application

One of the promises God has made to those who believe in Jesus is that His Holy Spirit will live inside us and give us what we need to obey Him, even when it is hard. Sometimes we may feel like taking what's best for ourselves. We may feel like being selfish. We should believe God's promise that He will help us do what is right. We should believe it enough to obey Him and *not* quarrel to get what is best for ourselves.

#### 5. Review questions

- A. What had God promised to give to the children and grandchildren who would come after Abraham? (The land he was living in.)
- B. Did the land belong to Abraham yet? (No.)
- C. Why did Abraham live in a tent? (Because the land did not belong to him.)
- D. Who was living with Abraham, and also had sheep and goats and cows? (Lot.)
- E. What were Abraham and Lot's servants quarreling about? (There were too many animals and not enough grass and land for them all.)
- F. What did Abraham say he and Lot should do? (Separate and live in different parts of the land.)
- G. How did Abraham say they should decide who got which land? (Lot could choose what he wanted and Abraham would take what was left over.)
- H. What did Lot choose? (The best land.)
- I. What was so good about the land Lot chose? (It had lots of water so it had good grass.)
- J. Did Abraham mind that Lot chose the best land? (No.)
- K. What did Abraham have that was better? (He had God; he had God's promise.)
- L. After Lot left, God spoke to Abraham again. What did He tell him? (All the land would be for the people who came from him and those people would be too many to count.)

#### 6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Cut out a number of simple paper sheep (a cloud shape with stick legs, ears, and a nose makes a fine sheep). Tape them together in a crowd on the wall. As a child answers a question, he can come up and remove one of the sheep, taping it to another area to represent Lot's animals being separated out from the overcrowding with Abraham's animals. Use the review questions (and maybe some review questions from last week's lesson, too) to play the game.
- B. Using a draped sheet or blanket from home, build a simple tent in your classroom. Let one volunteer at a time go into the tent. Then silently point at one child who will say the memory verse. The child in the tent is to guess whose voice it was.
- C. Provide each child with: 2 envelopes, 2 land scenes, 1 "Abraham" strip, "Lot" strip (use paper cutter to cut vertical strips of "Abraham & Lot" strips).

Have the children paste a land scene on each envelope. Have them cut straight across their strips on the dotted lines and put Abraham's items in the dry land envelope and Lot's items in the water/good land envelope. Check each child's to see if separated correctly. Encourage them to mix up the items at home to see if they can separate them into the proper envelopes.



**Abraham**



**Lot**



**Abraham**

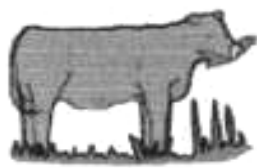


**Lot**

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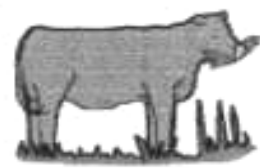
**Abraham's cattle**



**Lot's cattle**



**Abraham's cattle**



**Lot's cattle**

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**Abraham's tents**



**Lot's tents**



**Abraham's tents**



**Lot's tents**

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**Abraham's sheep**



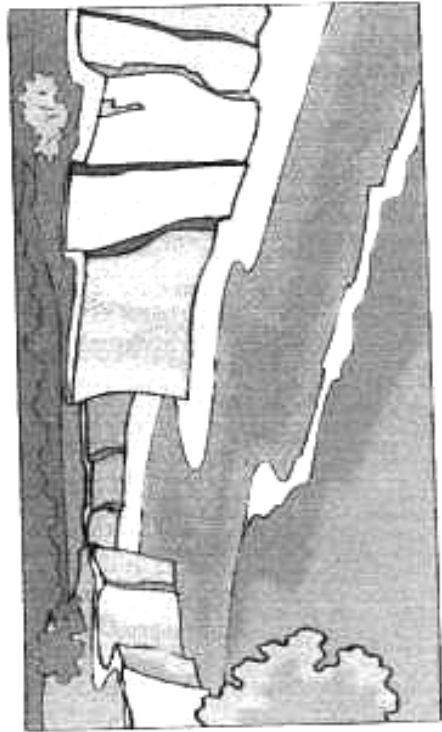
**Lot's sheep**



**Abraham's sheep**



**Lot's sheep**





**CHILDREN'S CHURCH, 4-6 YEAR OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 3**

**Title:** God Keeps His Promise to Abraham and Isaac is Born

**Text:** Genesis 15:1-6, 17:1-22, 18:1-15, 21:1-6.

**Theme:** Abraham believed God's promise to give him a son and God kept His promise.

**Learning Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Praise God for always keeping His promises.
2. Trust God's promise to forgive his sin and give him eternal life.

**Memory Verse:** *Hebrews 11:11b Abraham trusted God to do what He had promised.*  
New Children's Version.

**1. Learning Readiness Activity**

Bring magazine or newspaper pictures of babies from home. Make one big class collage of baby pictures or have each child make a small baby collage. Ask the children if any of them have a baby at home or if they know a baby. Let the children talk about their experiences with babies. Guide the discussion in the direction of how people look forward to having babies and how happy people are when babies are born.

**2. Bible Story**

**Having a baby is a happy thing. But it is especially happy if you have been waiting for a baby for a long time. Do you remember the name of the man we have been learning about? (Abraham) Abraham had been waiting for a baby for a long, long time. Many people want to have babies, but for Abraham, it was especially important. God had promised Abraham that he would have a very big family. He would have many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Abraham's family would be God's special people. But Abraham did not even have one little tiny baby yet. And he had been waiting a long, long time.**

**One night, Abraham complained to God about not having a child. God told Abraham to go outside and look at the stars. Have you ever been outside when it is very dark and looked up at the stars? How many stars do you think there are? Let children offer answers. No one can count all the stars. Not even the smartest scientists with the best telescopes know how many stars there are. God told Abraham, "Can you count the stars? That's how many people there will be in your family. That's how many grandchildren and great-grandchildren you will have. And they will all come from the one son you will have."**

**Abraham believed God's promise. More time went by. Still Abraham's wife did not have a baby. One day, Abraham was sitting out in front of his tent when he saw three men passing by.**

Abraham ran to meet them. "Wait," he said. "Before you go on, stop and have a meal with me." And so the three men stopped. What Abraham did not know was that these three men were really angels sent by God with a message for him.

Abraham ran to the tent. He called to his wife, "Quick, make some bread. We have guests for dinner." Abraham himself hurried to cook meat. When the food was ready, Abraham brought it to his guests and they ate it. Then one of them said to Abraham, "Where is your wife?" "She is in the tent," Abraham answered. "A year from now," Abraham was told, "your wife will have a baby boy."

A year went by. And what do you think happened? (Abraham's wife had a baby boy.) God always keeps His promises. Abraham had a son and named him Isaac, because that was the name God said to give him. Isaac grew up and had children and those children grew up and had children and soon there were too many people to count-- just like there are too many stars to count! Those people became God's special people, just like God had promised. Abraham believed God's promises and God kept His promises.

### 3. Application

God made another promise about a baby that He also kept. God promised to send a baby who would grow into the One who would save His people from their sin, so they could be His people. Has He kept that promise? (Yes) Who was that baby? (Jesus.) Now God calls you to believe His promises, like Abraham believed God's promises. God's promise is that if you believe in Jesus, the Savior He sent, He will forgive all your sins and give you His Spirit so that you can live with God and for God. You will be one of God's people.

### 4. Review questions

- A. What had God promised to give Abraham, that he had been waiting a long time for? (A child.)
- B. One night, God told Abraham to go outside and count something. What was it? (The stars.)
- C. Could Abraham count the stars? Why not? (No, there were too many.)
- D. What did God say Abraham would have as many of as stars in the sky? (Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren who would come from him.)
- E. How many men came to visit Abraham? (Three.)
- F. They weren't really men. What were they? (Angels.)
- G. What did the men tell Abraham would happen by the next year? (Sarah would have a baby.)
- H. Sure enough, a year later, Sarah had a baby boy. What did they name him? (Isaac.)
- I. What other, even more important, baby did God promise? (Jesus.)
- J. Did God keep the promise to send Jesus? (Yes.)
- K. If you believe God's promise and trust in His Son, Jesus, what does God promise to do about your sin? (Forgive it.)

### 5. Learning Reinforcement Activity: Role Play

Divide the class into groups of five to act out the story. In each story, there should be an Abraham, a Sarah, and the three men who came to them. The Abrahams sit in their tents. Talk about how Abraham was concerned that he had no child. God called him to go out and look at the stars. Encourage the Abrahams to do that. (You might shine flashlights on the ceiling to represent stars.) Then the Abrahams go back into their tents and lie down and go to sleep.

Time moves ahead to another day. The Sarahs sit inside their tents. The Abrahams sit outside the tents. Those playing the three men walk by. The Abrahams stop them, then run to tell the Sarahs to prepare food. The Abrahams serve the food to the men (perhaps you could serve at least a part of the refreshments at this time.) The men tell the Abrahams that Sarah will have a child. Move to a year later. The Sarahs can pretend to hold a baby and show it to people--God has kept His promise and Isaac has been born. (Baby dolls brought from home would enhance this part of the role play.)

**6. Learning Reinforcement Activity: Starry night craft**

A. For this activity, you should put newspapers or newsprint under the area where each child works. Tell the children they are going to make a starry night sky, like God showed to Abraham in order to show him how many people would come from him. Children can either color all over the paper with several different colors on a piece of white construction paper, or they can simply be given a piece of yellow construction paper. Give them black crayons and show them how to color firmly on top of their papers with black. Then give them toothpicks (or plastic knives) and show them how to scrape off parts of the black to let the colors show through. Encourage them to make their papers look like the night sky full of stars.

B. Provide each child with a copy of the attached picture (on light blue paper if available). Let the children make many stars on the paper using star stampers and glitter paint if available. Check the resource room to be sure the star stampers are also available. You could also use star shaped sponges if available. Paint should be drizzled onto paper plates and 2 children can share one plate. Alternatively, you could provide various star stickers, or simply show them how to make stars with paint using a paintbrush. Remind the children of God's promise to Abraham, and how God kept His promise.



**Memory verse:**

**Abraham trusted God to do what He had promised.**

**Hebrews**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 4**

**Title:** Abraham Offers Up Isaac

**Text:** Genesis 22:1-19

**Theme:** Abraham trusts God's promises enough to obey His commands; God provides a sacrifice.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Give thanks to God for providing Someone to die in our place.
2. Believe God's promise of eternal life enough to obey His command to trust in Christ.

**Memory Verse:** *Hebrews 11:11b* *Abraham trusted God to do what He had promised.*  
(New Children's Version)

**1. Teacher Direction**

Several times, the apostle Paul quotes Genesis 15:6 ("And Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness"), making of Abraham the Old Testament example of justification by faith alone. Although justification is by faith alone, true saving faith *always* results in obedience to God and good works. Therefore, James, insisting that faith without works is dead, can also use Abraham as his example. Abraham's faith was true saving faith that results in obedience. It is the story we are looking at today that James uses to make his point. Abraham believed God's promise of a posterity enough that he could obey God, even when the command was to put to death the only son from whom that posterity could come. God, of course, never intended that Abraham should offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Even as Abraham expected ("God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering"), God provided a substitute to die in Isaac's place. This is surely meant to be a picture of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice, since God was so specific about where Abraham was to offer Isaac. It was in this same locale of Mount Moriah that Solomon would build the temple where sacrifices would be offered perpetually until, eventually, the Lamb of God Himself would come and, in this same area, offer Himself as a sacrifice to take away the sin of the world.

**2. Introduction**

Ask the children if it would be hard for them to give you one piece of candy if they had a whole box filled with many pieces. What if they only had one piece of candy and you asked for it; would that be harder for them? Ask them how hard it would be if their best friend came over to play and, out of the all toys in their room, wanted to use just one of them. That would not be too hard; but what if they had one new, favorite toy and the friend wanted to keep it. Tell them that in today's story Abraham was asked to give up something he had only one of and something he really loved. Ask them to listen for what it was.

**3. Bible Story**

**How many children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren had God promised to give Abraham?** (So many they could not be counted, *or* as many as there were stars in the sky, *or* so many they would be a whole nation of people.) **Did Abraham have any children when**

God made that promise? (No.) Did Abraham believe God's promise? (Yes.) In last week's story, Abraham and Sarah finally had a baby boy. What did they name him? (Isaac) Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was finally born. Do you suppose he loved his little son? Of course he did, and not just because Isaac was his own son. Abraham also loved Isaac because Isaac was the beginning of God keeping His promise to give Abraham many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They would all come from Isaac.

Abraham was happy as Isaac grew. Then, one day, God asked Abraham to do something strange. Remember how Abraham built altars everywhere he went. Do you remember what the altars were for? (Abraham would kill a lamb, then burn it on the altar as a sacrifice to God. This was a way to worship.) One day God asked Abraham for a sacrifice. He did not ask for a lamb, though. God asked Abraham to offer his son Isaac on an altar as a sacrifice. God told Abraham to take Isaac and travel to Mount Moriah. When he got there, he was to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Now Abraham would not have wanted to offer his son as a sacrifice. He *loved* his son. Not only that, Isaac was Abraham's *only* son. If Abraham were to sacrifice Isaac, how would God's promise of many people come true?

Abraham would have wondered how God could ask for his only son, the one he had waited for so long. Abraham knew, though, that God does not lie. He had promised that he would give Abraham many grandchildren and great-grandchildren *and* He had promised that they would come through Isaac. Abraham believed God's promises. He trusted God. He trusted God so much that he was willing to obey Him, even though he did not like what God was asking him to do.

Early in the morning, Abraham gathered wood for the offering, took Isaac, and began the three day trip to Mount Moriah. Isaac knew they were on their way to offer a sacrifice to God. He *didn't* know that *he* was supposed to be the offering. Isaac asked his father, "The wood and fire are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham trusted God to give them what they needed. He answered Isaac, "God will give us the lamb for the offering, my son."

When they finally reached the place God had told Abraham about, Abraham built an altar. He laid the wood on it, then he lay Isaac on top of the wood. Just then, as he was about to offer his only son as an offering to God, the angel of the Lord called out to Abraham from heaven. "Abraham! Abraham!" he called.

"Here I am," Abraham answered.

"Don't do anything to the boy," said the Angel of the Lord. "Now I see how important God is to you and how much you trust His promises, because you were willing to give up even your only son." Then Abraham looked up and saw a sheep caught in the bushes by its horn. Abraham took the sheep and offered it on the altar as a burnt offering in place of his son, Isaac.

#### 4. Application

Abraham believed God's promises so much that he was willing to obey God. God has made promises for you, too. He wants you to believe His promises enough that you will obey Him and do what His word says to do. The Bible tells us that all of us are sinners and have done what is wrong. We deserve to die for our sin, but God has given His Son, Jesus, to die instead of us. Jesus is like the lamb God provided to die in Isaac's place. God promises to forgive our sins and give us life with Him forever. He tells us in His word to trust in Jesus as the One who died for us. Do you believe God's promise enough to obey Him and trust in Jesus?

## 5. Review questions

- A. What had God promised Abraham he would have many of? (Grandchildren and great-grandchildren.)
- B. How many children did Abraham have when God made that promise? (None.)
- C. When Abraham was 100 years old, he finally had a child. What did he name that child? (Isaac)
- D. How many other children did Abraham and Sarah have? (Only Isaac.)
- E. What was an altar for? (To offer sacrifices to God.)
- F. What did God ask Abraham to offer him as a sacrifice? (Isaac)
- G. Would Abraham have wanted to do that? (No.)
- H. If Isaac were gone, could Abraham have many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, like God had promised? (No.)
- I. Did Abraham believe God's promise? (Yes.)
- J. Was Abraham willing to obey God and give Isaac as an offering? (Yes.)
- K. Abraham did not really give Isaac as an offering after all. Why not? (The angel of the Lord stopped him and told him not to.)
- L. What *did* Abraham offer instead of his son? (A sheep he found caught in the bushes.)
- M. God gave the sheep to die instead of Isaac. What did God give to die instead of us? (His Son, Jesus.)

## 6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Cut one cross shape for each child out of cardboard. Or cut a number of cardboard crosses of varying sizes for children to share. Give each child a piece of plain white paper, with the words of the memory verse printed at the top. Bring a variety of old crayons, with the paper wrappings peeled off. Show the children how to hold the crayon sideways and rub it over the paper, with a cardboard cross under the paper, to make a rubbing. As they work, point out to the children that Jesus did not die on an altar, but on a cross. Still, He was offering Himself to God as a sacrifice to pay for the sins of His people.
- B. Cut out a number of paper tents and paper altars. On the white board, draw a simple landscape scene, intended to be the Promised Land where Abraham lived. Remind the children that Abraham traveled all over this land, living in a tent. He built altars to worship God in many different places. To review the Abraham stories, ask review questions, both from this lesson and from the last three lessons. Each time a child answers correctly, he may come get a tent or an altar to tape onto the landscape on the board.

## Additional Questions for the Review Game, from Past Lessons

- 1. Why did Abraham leave his home to go live somewhere else? (Because God had told him to.)
- 2. Did Abraham know where he was going? (No.)
- 3. If Abraham did not know where he was going, how did he know when he got there? (God told him.)
- 4. When Abraham got to the land God showed him, who did God promise that land would belong to? (His grandchildren and great-grandchildren.)
- 5. Did any of the land ever belong to Abraham himself? (No.)
- 6. What did Abraham live in, as long as he lived in the land? (A tent.)
- 7. What did Abraham build when he wanted to worship God? (An altar.)

8. Who lived with Abraham, and also had many sheep and goats and cows? (Lot.)
9. What did Abraham and Lot's servants quarrel about? (There were too many animals and not enough grass and land for them all.)
10. Abraham said he and Lot should separate and live in different parts of the land. How did Abraham say they should decide who got which land? (Lot could choose what he wanted and Abraham would take what was left over.)
11. What did Lot choose? (The best land.)
12. What was so good about the land Lot chose? (It had lots of water so it had good grass.)
13. Did Abraham mind that Lot chose the best land? (No.)
14. After Lot left, someone told Abraham that all the land would be for the people who came from Abraham. Who told Abraham that? (God.)
15. One night, God told Abraham to go outside and count something. What was it? (The stars.)
16. Could Abraham count the stars? Why not? (No, there were too many.)
17. What did God say Abraham would have as many of as stars in the sky? (Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren who would come from him.)
18. One time three men came to visit Abraham, but they weren't really men. What were they?  
(Angels.)
19. What did the men tell Abraham would happen by the next year? (Sarah would have a baby.)
20. Sure enough, a year later, Sarah had a baby boy. What did they name him? (Isaac.)
21. What other, even more important, baby did God promise? (Jesus.)
22. Did God keep the promise to send Jesus? (Yes.)

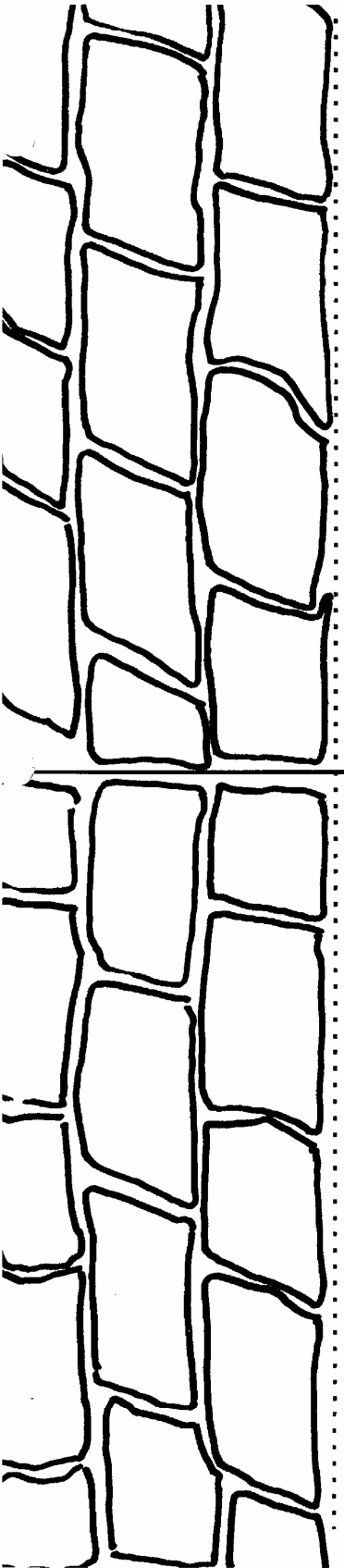
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## Hebrews 11:11b

Abraham trusted God to do  
what He had promised.

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Cut on solid line and fold on dotted lines for altars.





# CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 1 - SUMMER QUARTER

LESSONS 5 - 8

**THEME:** Lessons from the lives of Isaac and his two sons, Esau and Jacob

**MEMORY VERSE SONG**

Psalm 119: 162 "I am as happy over Your promises as if I had found a great treasure."

**HYMN**

*Trust and Obey*

**CHORUS**

*Thou art Worthy*

**ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)**

*Books of the Bible*

*Faith, Trust, Hope*

*VBS songs (Use what will be, or was taught during the current Vacation Bible School.)*

**ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)**

*Give Thanks*

*Can a Little Child Like Me*

*Do You Know What Time It Is?*



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 5**

**Title:** Isaac is Married to Rebekah

**Text:** Genesis 24

**Theme:** God orders all the details of everyday life to provide for His people.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that God works in the everyday circumstances of life to provide what is best for His people.
2. Thank God for His care and provision specifically for him/her.
3. Trust God enough to pray about the things that concern him/her.

**Memory Verse:** *Psalm 119:162 I am as happy over Your promises as if I had found a great treasure.* New Children's Version

**1. Teacher Direction**

Even non-Christians tend to give credit to God when spectacular, out-of-the-ordinary occurrences take place. Those of us who know Jesus Christ as the sovereign Lord of all see Him at work in the ordinary, everyday details of life. He orchestrates all things so that they result in His glory and in the good of His people. This characteristic of God's is called "providence." The Westminster Shorter Catechism answers the question "What is providence?" like this: "God's providence is His completely holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing every creature and every action." In this story of the search of a wife for Isaac, we see God's providence at work. An everyday task coupled with a simple courtesy to a stranger result in the union of Isaac and Rebekah, the union through which Abraham's line would continue and God's covenant would be fulfilled.

**2. Introduction**

Ask the children how many have ever seen a real camel. If possible, bring pictures, especially any that show a camel near something children are familiar with, so they have an idea of how large a camel is. Ask them if they know what the camel's hump is for and explain that he is able to go a long time without drinking because water can be stored in the hump. Ask how much water they think it might take to give a camel all the drink he wants.

Remind the children of what a well is and how water is drawn up from the well in a bucket. (This has been discussed in several past lessons from this year.) Explain how the water from the buckets would be poured into a trough so camels could drink. You may want to demonstrate this on a small scale.

**3. Bible Story**

**God made a promise to a man that many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren would come from him. Do you remember that man's name? (Abraham) Did Abraham have any children when God made that promise? (No) Did God give him a child? (Yes.) What did he name the child? (Isaac.) Like all children, Isaac grew up. Abraham knew that God would keep His promise and give children to Isaac and more children to Isaac's children until there was a great nation full of people. Now that Isaac was grown, he needed a wife so God could give him children as He had promised.**

**Abraham was too old to go looking for a wife for Isaac himself, so he called his servant to him. "Go to the country where I am from," Abraham said, "and find a girl from**

among my relatives who can be Isaac's wife."

The servant did not think that sounded so easy. Finding the right girl for a wife for Isaac would be hard enough. Then what if she did not want to leave home to marry Isaac? "What if the girl does not want to go with me?" the servant asked Abraham.

Abraham was not worried. "The Lord, the God of heaven, brought me here. He promised to give all this land to the children and grandchildren who would come from me. He will surely provide a wife for Isaac so He can keep the promise He made. God will go ahead of you so that you will be able to get a wife from there."

So the servant set out. He loaded ten camels with gifts from Abraham and traveled the long distance to Nahor, the town where Abraham's relatives lived. When he arrived at Nahor, it was evening, the time when women came to the well to get water for their families. Abraham's servant had learned from Abraham. Instead of worrying about which girl to choose or whether she would come with him, he prayed. Since God wanted Isaac to have a wife, God would surely provide the right girl. The servant prayed that God would show kindness to Abraham by helping him find a wife for Isaac. Then he prayed, "Since the girls are coming to draw water, I will ask one of them for a drink. If she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels also,' let that be the one You have chosen for Isaac to marry."

Before the servant had even finished praying, a girl named Rebekah came to the well to draw water. The servant said to her, "Please give me a little water from your jar." Rebekah quickly gave him the jar, and then said, "I'll draw water for your camels too," and she did--for all ten of them! The servant asked Rebekah who her father was and when she told him, he realized that she was from the family of one of Abraham's relatives. God had answered his prayer and led him to a girl from the right family! But now, would she come with him to marry Isaac, a man she had never met?

The servant and the ten camels went home with Rebekah to meet her family. The servant told his story, of how he had come all this way to find a wife for Abraham's son. He told about his prayer that the right girl would be the one who would offer to water all the camels. Then he asked if Rebekah could go with him to marry Isaac. Rebekah's parents said she could go, but added that he would also have to ask Rebekah herself. Rebekah said she would go, too, and the servant bowed down right then and there to praise God. God cared about him and about his master, Abraham, and Abraham's son, Isaac. Out of all the girls in the world, God had provided just the right one to be Isaac's wife. Rebekah got up on one of the ten camels she had watered and rode back to Abraham's home with the servant. When Isaac saw her, he loved her. They married and God gave them children, too, so His promise of many children from Abraham continued to be kept.

#### **4. Application**

Help the children to see that God knew Isaac needed a wife and so He worked out every detail for Abraham's servant to provide a wife for Isaac. In the same way, God knows the needs each of the children have or ever will have. He is able to work out everything for them so that they will have what they need. Encourage them to trust Him to provide them with all they need. Remind them that when there is something specific they know they need they can ask Him for that thing, as Abraham's servant did. See if there are any needs they would like to pray about now.

#### **5. Review Questions**

A. Once Isaac was grown, what did he need? (A wife.)

- B. If God were going to keep His promise to give many children and grandchildren to Abraham, what would Isaac need to have? (A wife.)
- C. Abraham was too old to go find a wife for Isaac himself. Whom did he ask to do this? (His servant.)
- D. What was the servant worried about? (That the girl would not want to come.)
- E. Did Abraham believe God would provide a wife for Isaac? (Yes.)
- F. What did the servant take with him when he went to find a wife for Isaac? (Ten camels.)
- G. When the servant came to the town where Abraham's relatives lived, what time of the day was it? (Evening, when the girls came to draw water from the well.)
- H. What did Abraham's servant pray? (That the girl who said, "I'll water your camels, too," when he asked for a drink was the right girl for Isaac's wife.)
- J. What was the name of the girl Abraham's servant asked for a drink? (Rebekah.)
- K. Did Rebekah offer to water the camels? (Yes.)
- L. Was Rebekah the one God had chosen to marry Isaac? (Yes.)
- M. Who provided a wife for Isaac? (God.)
- N. Who will provide what all of His children need? (God.)

## **6. Learning Reinforcement Activities**

### **A. Water the Camels Relay.**

Have two water containers, one full and one empty, and a small cup or dipper. Each time a child answers a review question correctly (or says the memory verse correctly), he or she can come up, dip out a cup of water from the "well" and empty it into the "trough."

**B. Decorate the Camel Craft.** Make enough copies of the attached camels for every child to have one. Have children decorate the camels with sequins, glitter, ribbon, etc., and trace around the letters of the Bible verse at the bottom. Tell the children that the words are from the Bible and they are words that Abraham's servant could have said. Read the verse to the children. Remind them that Abraham's servant asked the Lord for help in choosing the right wife for Isaac and the Lord answered him.



I asked the Lord for  
help and He  
answered me.  
Psalm 34:4a

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 6**

**Title:** The Twins, Jacob and Esau, are Born; Esau Despises his Birthright while Jacob values it.

**Text:** Genesis 25:19-34

**Theme:** God works in the hearts of his people to cause them to desire His blessings.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. See the contrast between Esau's concern for immediate physical blessings and Jacob's appreciation for true blessings from God.
2. Understand that God is the One who gave Jacob his desire for the true blessings.
3. Ask God to work in his/her heart to give a desire for God's best blessings.

**Memory Verse:** *Psalm 119:162 I am as happy over Your promises as if I had found a great treasure.* New Children's Version

**1. Teacher Direction:**

Before Jacob and Esau were born, God made it clear to Rebekah that He had chosen Jacob, her younger son, as the One through whom the covenant blessings would continue. Once the twins were grown, we see Jacob as the one who valued the birthright and the blessing (even though he chose unethical means to try to obtain them), while Esau despised the blessings of the birthright with their accompanying responsibilities. Did God look down through the future and see that Jacob would be the one with the more spiritual desires and that is why He chose him? Scripture makes it clear that there was nothing about Jacob that caused God to choose him rather than his brother. Instead, *because* God had chosen Jacob, God worked in Jacob's heart to cause him to desire the things that God would have him desire. One of the evidences that a person belongs to God is that he loves and values the things God loves and values, because God changes the hearts of His people to give them such desires.

**2. Introduction**

Ask the children if they know any twins. Ask them what twins are. Explain that, usually, a mother has one baby at a time. Sometimes, a mother may have two babies born at the same time. Two children who have the same mother and who are born at the same time are twins.

Ask any boys who are the oldest in their family to raise their hands. In Bible times, being the oldest son was important. The oldest son got the birthright. To have the birthright was to get special things for being the oldest son. Getting the birthright also meant you had special jobs. Even if there were twin boys born, one boy was born first. He was the one who would receive the birthright. Tell the children that today's Bible story is about twin boys. Have them listen to see which one was the oldest and which one got the birthright.

**3. Bible Story**

**To whom did God make the promise that he would have many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren? (Abraham) After a long wait, Abraham finally had his first child. What did he name him? (Isaac.) How did Isaac get a wife? (Abraham's servant went looking for one. He prayed that the girl who offered to get water for his camels when he asked for a drink would be the right wife for Isaac.) What was the name of the girl who drew water from the well for the camels and who married Isaac? (Rebekah.) Abraham grew old and died and God's promise of many children from him was passed on to Isaac. Isaac would have children, then those children would have children and, finally, God's promise to make a great nation of them would be kept.**

**Isaac and Rebekah realized that God was keeping His promise when Rebekah**

discovered that she was going to have a baby. Then God told her that she was not going to have just one baby; Rebekah was going to have twins. God told her that each of her two baby boys would be the beginning of a whole new nation of people. One nation would be stronger than the other nation.

At first, Rebekah probably thought that the stronger nation would come from her oldest son. After all, he would be the one to receive the birthright. The promises God had made to Abraham and Isaac would surely be passed on to the firstborn of her two twins. That's the way it always was. The oldest son, the firstborn, received the best.

God doesn't always do things the way people expect. God surprised Rebekah by telling her that her *older* son would serve her *younger* son. It was the *youngest* son to whom God's promises to Abraham and Isaac would be passed on. Rebekah may have wondered why God would choose her younger son to receive the blessing. What had he done to make God choose him? He hadn't even been born yet. The Bible tells us that when God chooses people to be His people, it is never because of anything they have done. He chooses them just because of His grace and nothing else.

At last, it was time for the twins to be born. The first baby to be born had a lot of hair. Do babies usually have much hair? This one did. Isaac and Rebekah named him Esau. The second son to be born came out holding on to the heel of his tiny brother. They named this second baby, Jacob.

Sometimes twins look so much alike that it is hard to tell them apart. Sometimes twins do not look alike at all. Jacob and Esau did not look alike, and they did not act alike either. Esau liked to be outside. He was a good hunter and he liked to roam out in the fields, hunting. Jacob liked to stay at home with his family. Another way in which these twins were different from each other was that Jacob understood how important God's promises were. Esau was not interested in God's promises. Jacob knew God had made promises to Abraham and to Isaac, and he thought it would be a wonderful thing to be the one to whom the promises would be passed down. He thought it would be a wonderful thing to be the one to receive the birthright.

These things were not nearly so important to Esau. One day, Esau came home from hunting. He had been outside for a long time and had not eaten. Esau was very hungry. When Esau arrived at his family's tent, he saw Jacob cooking some stew. "Oh, give me some, quick!" Esau said to Jacob. "I'm starving!"

"I'll trade you some for the birthright," Jacob said.

Esau didn't even stop to think about it. The birthright meant promises for *later*. He was hungry *now* and he wanted stew *now*. "I'm about to starve to death!" Esau said. "What good is a birthright?" And he reached for the stew.

"First, swear to me that I can have the birthright," Jacob insisted. Esau swore, selling his birthright--and along with it the blessing and promises of God which included his being cared for-- to Jacob for some bread and stew. The Bible tells us, "So Esau despised his birthright." To despise something is to think that it is completely unimportant, worth nothing at all. Esau despised his birthright, the blessings and promises of God. Jacob wanted the birthright. He wanted the blessings of God. He wanted to be the one the blessings were passed on to. Why was Jacob different in this way from his brother? Because God had made him different. God was the one who worked in Jacob's heart so that he would understand how good it would be to have God's blessings and promise. God had chosen Jacob to give these things to, and God worked in Jacob to make him want these things.

#### 4. Application

Most people are like Esau. We want things that look good to us now. We want tasty food or nice toys or fun times that we can enjoy now. Left to ourselves, we don't

**really want God's blessings. God has to change us on the inside to make us want the things that are really good--His blessings. We can ask God to change us and to make us want His blessings. We can ask God to keep us from being like Esau, despising God's good gifts.** Lead the children in praying that God would cause us to want the things God wants for us.

**5. Review questions**

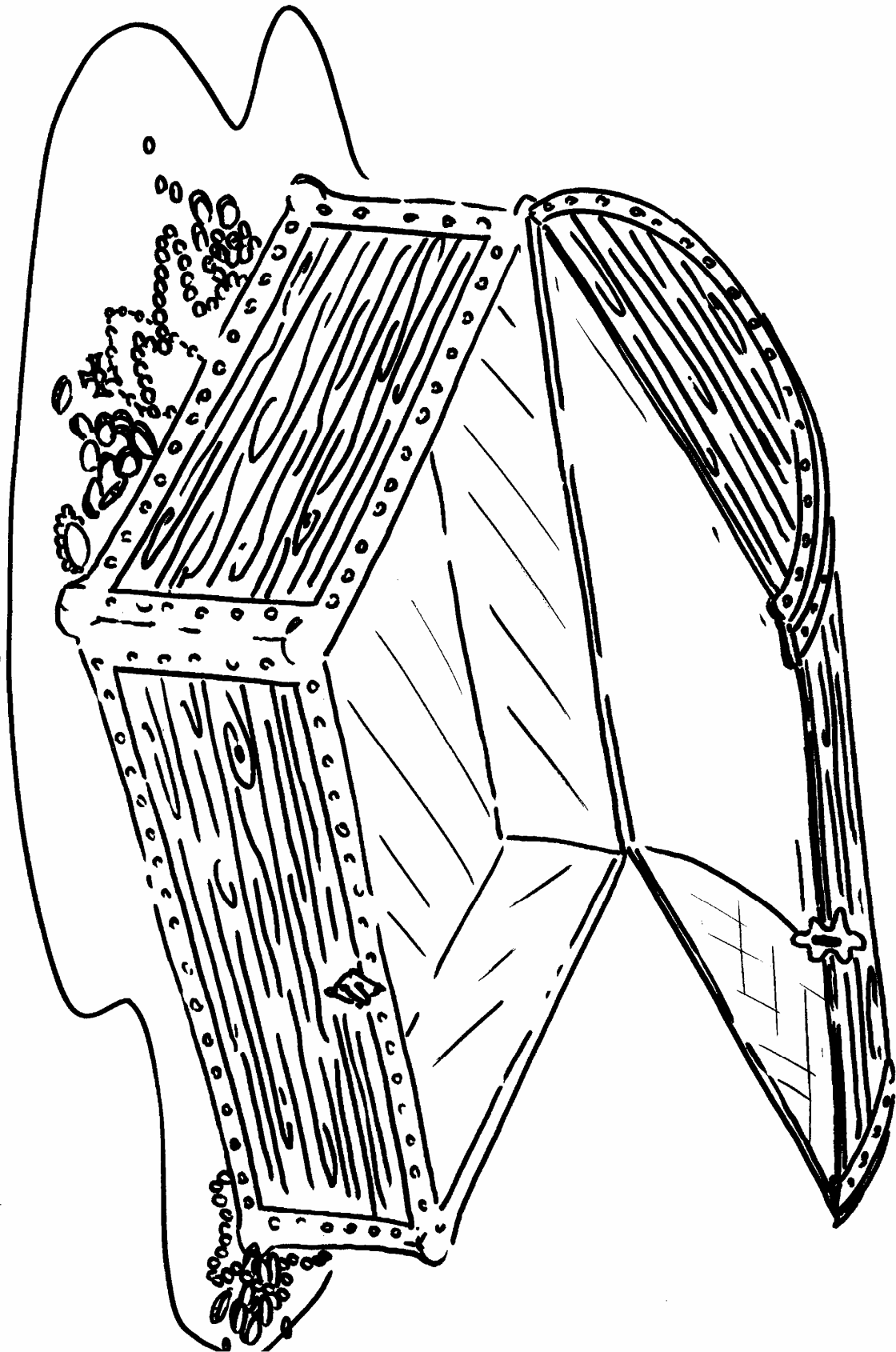
- A. What do we call two children from the same mother born at the same time? (Twins)
- B. In Bible times, a birthright meant special blessings and special jobs. Who in a family got the birthright? (The oldest son.)
- C. What was the name of Isaac and Rebekah's firstborn son? (Esau.)
- D. What was the name of the other son? (Jacob.)
- E. What did Esau look like when he was born? (He had a lot of hair.)
- F. What was Jacob doing when he was born? (He was holding his brother's foot.)
- G. Which son did God say would receive the blessing? (Jacob.)
- H. What did Esau like to do? (Hunt and be outside.)
- I. What did Jacob like to do? (Stay at home.)
- J. What did Jacob have that Esau wanted? (Stew.)
- K. What did Jacob say he wanted Esau to give him for some stew? (His birthright.)
- L. Who made Jacob want the birthright, with God's blessings and promises? (God.)
- M. Who changes people's hearts so they will want the things that are really good--God's blessings? (God does.)

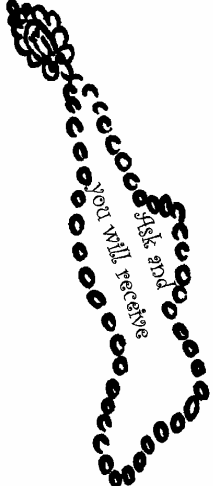
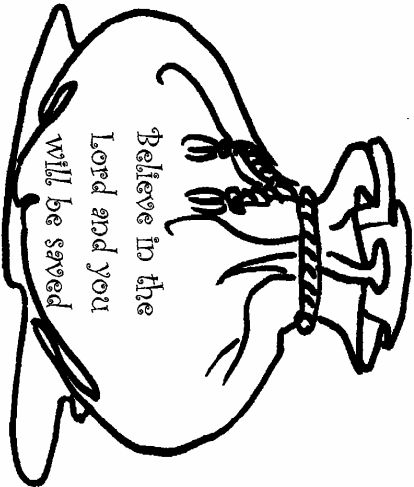
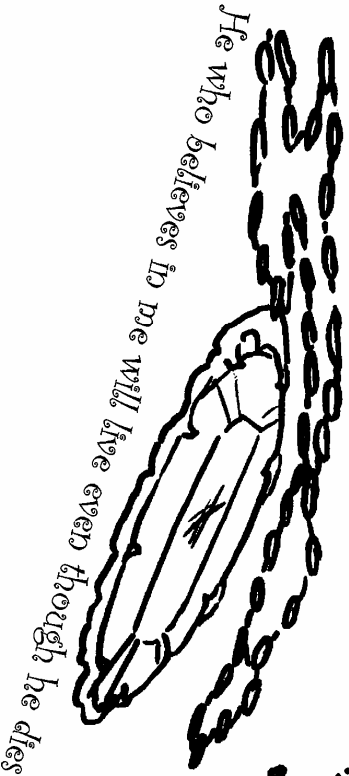
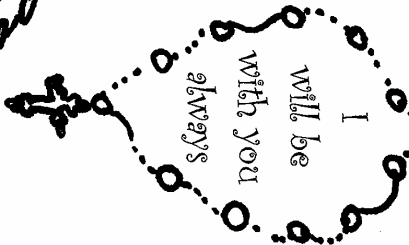
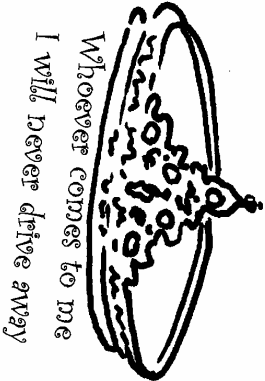
**6. Learning Reinforcement Activity**

A. Before class, make copies of the page with the treasure box. Also, make copies (on assorted colored paper, if possible) of the page of promises. Cut out the promises. Distribute the treasure box page to the children and ask what kind of box it is. Ask what kinds of things are usually in a box like this. Be sure the children understand the word "treasure." Ask the children how someone would feel if they found a box like this full of treasure. Would they keep it? Would they take it with them? Or would they think it was unimportant and just leave it where they found it? Read the lesson memory verse to the children. The man who wrote this verse in our Bibles understood that God's promises are a treasure. He was as happy about knowing God's promises as someone else might be over finding a box of treasure. Explain to the children that they will glue promises God has given us in the Bible into their treasure boxes, to show that God's promises are as wonderful as a great treasure. Pass out the promises and let them glue the promises inside their treasure boxes. If there is time, they could color the boxes.

B. Review Game.

Bring flannelgraph figures to illustrate today's story. As you ask the review questions, allow children who give a correct answer to come add something to the scene.







**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 7**

**Title:** Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing

**Text:** Genesis 27:1-40

**Theme:** God's choice of His people is based, not on how good they are, but on His grace.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Know the story of Jacob cheating Esau of his blessing and understand that this was the wrong thing to do.
2. Know that God's grace is God giving people good things that they don't deserve.
3. Give thanks to God for His grace.

**Memory Verse:** *Psalm 119:162 I am as happy over Your promises as if I had found a great treasure.* New Children's Version

**1. Teacher Direction:**

A constant theme of Scripture is the Reformation affirmation "Sola Gratia--" by grace alone. The salvation of God's people is all of grace, from start to finish. From God's first choice of His people before they are ever born to His bringing them safely through temptation to Heaven at the end, their salvation is all God's doing. Far from being *because* of what we do, God's choice and His salvation of us are *in spite of* what we do and entirely of grace. No Bible character illustrates this better than Jacob. Today's story catches him in a reprehensible act: deceiving his father to steal from his brother in hopes of getting something from God. Nor was this Jacob's only moral lapse. All through his story, we find him cheating, manipulating, complaining. Yet one of the most common names of God in the Old Testament is "the God of Jacob." Rather than being ashamed of having chosen such a one, God *broadcasts* that He chooses the undeserving, because this is how His grace is exalted.

**2. Learning Reinforcement/Readiness Activity**

Use flannelgraph figures and student participation to remind the children of these stories:

- Abraham's call from God to leave home and go to a place God would show him,
- Abraham's obedience,
- God's promise to give Abraham as many descendants as there were stars in the sky and to give those descendants the land on which Abraham lived,
- Abraham's habit of living in tents and building altars,
- the birth of Isaac,
- Abraham's confidence in God's promise that enabled him to let Lot take the best land and to be willing to sacrifice Isaac,
- God's provision of a wife for Isaac when Abraham's servant prayed that the girl who would offer to water his camels would be the right girl,
- the birth of the twins, Jacob and Esau, to Isaac and Rebekah with God's promise to pass the promises and blessings on to Jacob even though he was the youngest,
- Esau's despising the birthright while Jacob wanted it.

### 3. **Introduction**

Help children to understand what it means to “deserve” something. The runner in a race who runs the fastest *deserves* the first place ribbon; the child who is naughty *deserves* to get in trouble; the policeman who does something brave *deserves* a medal; the robber *deserves* to go to jail, etc. Unlike these examples God does *not* give His people what they deserve. We all sin against God and *deserve* to be punished for those sins, but as our memory verse says, “He (God) does not treat us as our sins deserve.” Instead of giving His people what their sins deserve, God gives His people forgiveness, life that lasts forever, His Holy Spirit, joy, peace, heaven, and many other good gifts besides. We call this “grace--” God giving His people good things they don’t deserve.

### 4. **Bible Story**

**Remember that God had promised Rebekah that Jacob would be the son to whom God’s promises and blessings would be passed on. God chose Jacob because of His grace. Jacob did not deserve God’s blessings and promises. Listen to see what Jacob did in this story that shows he did not deserve God’s good gifts.**

**Isaac was growing old. He grew weaker every day and he could no longer see. Isaac knew he would die soon and before he died he wanted to pass the blessing on to his son. Which son *usually* received the blessing from the father? (The oldest son.) Who was oldest, Esau or Jacob? (Esau.) So Isaac called Esau to him. “I’m getting old,” he told him. “I don’t know how much longer I might live. I want to give you your blessing.” But first, Isaac wanted Esau to do something for him. Do you remember what Esau liked to do? (Hunt) One of Isaac’s favorite foods was the meat Esau killed with his bow and brought home to cook. “Take your bow and arrow,” Isaac said now, “and go hunt. Prepare the kind of food I like, then bring it to me. After I eat it, I will give you the blessing.”**

**So Esau took his bow and arrow and went hunting. Rebekah, Jacob and Esau’s mother, heard what Isaac said to Esau. So she called Jacob. She said to him, “I just heard your father tell your brother to go hunting, bring something back to cook, and give it to him to eat. When he is done eating, your father says he will give Esau the blessing. Here is what you should do. Quickly kill a young goat from our flock of goats. Bring it to me and I will cook it for your father. I know just how he likes it. Then *you* take it to him and he will give *you* the blessing.”**

**If Jacob did this, why wouldn’t his father see that it wasn’t Esau? (He was too old to see well.) Was this a good thing for Rebekah to want to do? (No; it was lying.) Would it be right for Jacob to do this? (No, it would be lying.) Jacob did not seem to care that it was not the right thing to do; he was only afraid that he might get caught. He said to his mother, “My father can’t see. But what if he feels me to make sure I am Esau? Esau is very hairy and my skin is smooth.”**

**Rebekah promised she would take care of everything and Jacob ran off to the flock to kill a young goat. He brought the goat back to his mother, who cooked it just the way Isaac liked it. Then Rebekah dressed Jacob in Esau’s clothes. From the way the clothes felt and smelled, Isaac would think Esau was with him. But Jacob’s neck and part of his arms were not covered by the clothes. If Isaac felt him there, he would know it was not hairy Esau, but Jacob. So Rebekah took the hair from the goat she had killed and put that on Jacob’s arms and neck. Then she sent him to his father with the tasty food.**

Jacob went into Isaac's tent and said, "My father." "Who is it?" blind Isaac asked. "It's your oldest son, Esau. I have done what you asked. Please sit up and eat some of the meat I hunted for you so you may give me the blessing."

"How were you able to find and kill something so fast?" Isaac asked.

Here Jacob made things even worse. It was bad enough that he planned to steal the blessing from his brother. It was even worse that he was going to lie to his father. But now he brought God into it and lied about Him as well. "The Lord your God made me able to find and kill it quickly," he said.

Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not." Jacob went close to his father Isaac. Isaac touched him and felt the hair from the goats. He said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." Isaac asked one more time. "Are you really my son Esau?" and Jacob answered, "I am." Then Isaac ate the meat Jacob had brought him.

When Isaac had finished eating, he said, "Come here, my son." Jacob came close to Isaac and Isaac smelled the smell of Esau's clothing. Then Isaac was sure it was Esau with him, because he knew that smell of the fields and the outdoors. Esau always smelled like that. Then Isaac gave Jacob Esau's blessing. He told him he would have abundance from God and he said that the rest of the family would serve him.

As soon as Isaac had finished giving the blessing, Jacob left and Esau came in from hunting. He, too, prepared some meat for his father and took it to him. As he came in, he said, "My father, sit up and eat some of the meat I brought you, so that you may give me your blessing."

"Who are you?" Isaac asked. "I am Esau, your oldest son," Esau answered.

Isaac began to tremble. "Then who was it who brought me meat before? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him--and indeed he will be blessed."

When Esau heard this, he cried out, "Bless me, me too, my father."

But Isaac answered, "Your brother came and lied to get your blessing."

"He's cheated me twice," Esau said. "He took my birthright and now he has taken my blessing!" Then Esau cried loudly.

What did Jacob do that was wrong? (He lied to his father and stole from his brother.) Was this pleasing to God? (No.) Back when God told Rebekah that he had chosen Jacob to receive His blessings and promises, did God know Jacob would do this wicked thing? (Of course He did.) Then why did God choose Jacob to give His blessings and promises to? Because of His *grace*. God gives His people good things that they do not deserve. God knew Jacob would not deserve His blessings. God knew Jacob would even do things that deserved to be punished. But because of God's *grace*, He chose Jacob to receive good things He did not deserve instead of what he really did deserve.

## 5. Application

None of us deserve good things from God. All of us sin and do things that God calls wrong. We can be so thankful that God is a God of *grace*, who gives His people good things in spite of what they really deserve. Lead the children in praising God for His grace.

## 6. Learning Reinforcement

Since you began with a review, lead the children in a game using questions from all the past stories of Abraham and his family. A separate page of questions is attached.

A. Who was the man God called to go live somewhere else? (Abraham)

B. Did Abraham know where he was going? (No.)

- C. If Abraham did not know where he was going, how would he know when he got there? (God would tell him.)
- D. How many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren did God promise Abraham? (Many; or, enough to fill a whole country, or as many as there are stars in the sky.)
- E. Did Abraham have any children when God promised him that? (No.)
- F. Did Abraham believe God would give him many children? (Yes.)
- G. When Abraham got to the land God showed him, what did God promise him about the land? (It would belong to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.)
- H. Did any of the land ever belong to Abraham himself? (No.)
- I. What did Abraham live in, as long as he lived in the land? (A tent.)
- J. What did Abraham build when he wanted to worship God? (An altar.)
- K. Who was living with Abraham, and also had sheep and goats and cows? (Lot.)
- L. What did Abraham and Lot's servants quarrel about? (There were too many animals and not enough grass and land for them all.)
- M. What did Abraham say he and Lot should do? (Separate and live in different parts of the land.)
- N. How did Abraham say they should decide who got which land? (Lot could choose what he wanted and Abraham would take what was left over.)
- O. What did Lot choose? (The best land.)
- P. Did Abraham mind that Lot chose the best land? (No.)
- Q. One night, God told Abraham to go outside and count something. What was it? (The stars.)
- R. Could Abraham count the stars? Why not? (No, there were too many.)
- S. What did God say Abraham would have as many of as stars in the sky? (Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren who would come from him.)
- T. Three men came to visit Abraham, but they weren't really men. What were they? (Angels.)
- U. What did the men tell Abraham would happen by the next year? (Sarah would have a baby.)
- V. Sure enough, a year later, Sarah had a baby boy. What did they name him? (Isaac.)
- W. What other, even more important, baby did God promise? (Jesus.)
- X. Did God keep the promise to send Jesus? (Yes.)
- Y. If you believe God's promise and trust in His Son, Jesus, what does God promise to do about your sin? (Forgive it.)
- Z. What did God ask Abraham to offer him as a sacrifice? (Isaac)
- AA. Would Abraham have wanted to do that? (No.)
- BB. Was Abraham willing to obey God and give Isaac as an offering? (Yes.)
- CC. Abraham did not really give Isaac as an offering after all. Why not? (The angel of the Lord stopped him and told him not to.)
- DD. What *did* Abraham offer instead of his son? (A sheep he found caught in the bushes.)
- EE. God gave the sheep to die instead of Isaac. What did God give to die instead of us? (His Son, Jesus.)
- FF. What did Abraham send his servant to find for Isaac? (A wife.)
- GG. What did Abraham's servant pray? (That the girl who said, "I'll water your camels, too," when he asked for a drink was the right girl for Isaac's wife.)
- HH. What was the name of the girl Abraham's servant asked for a drink? (Rebekah.)
- II. Did Rebekah offer to water the camels? (Yes.)

- JJ. Who provided a wife for Isaac? (God.)
- KK. Who will provide what all of His children need? (God.)
- LL. What were the names of Isaac and Rebekah's twin sons? (Jacob and Esau.)
- MM. Which one was born first? (Esau)
- NN. Which son did God say would receive the blessing? (Jacob.)
- OO. What did Esau like to do? (Hunt and be outside.)
- PP. What did Esau trade his birthright to Jacob for? (Stew.)
- QQ. How did Jacob trick his father into giving him Esau's blessing? (By dressing like Esau, putting hair on his arms, and saying he was Esau.)
- RR. What do we call it when God gives people good things they don't deserve? (grace)



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 8**

**Title:** Jacob's Dream of a Ladder Reaching to Heaven  
**Text:** Genesis 28:10-32  
**Theme:** God is in all places at all times.

**Learning Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Name specific places he goes where God is present.
2. Give thanks to God for being in all places at all times and for always being with His people to care for them.

**Memory Verse:** *Psalm 119:162* *I am as happy over Your promises as if I had found a great treasure.* New Children's Version

**1. Teacher Direction**

One of the objectives of teaching Christian truth to children of this age should be that of acquainting them with the nature and the character of God. This story lends itself well to teaching the attribute of God's omnipresence, His ability to be in all places at the same time. This is a concept in which young children can find comfort, since being in new and unfamiliar places is sometimes unsettling for them.

Jacob knew God had made promises to his father and his grandfather. He knew that the blessing and the promises had been passed on to him. But people of Jacob's day thought that each geographic location had its own local deity. When you left one area to go to another, you moved out of the territory of the local god. Jacob may have wondered if the blessing and promise of God would go with him as he traveled far from home. So God renews the promise to him in a vision and promises that, no matter where Jacob was, God would be with him to bless him.

**2. Learning Readiness Activity**

Bring many magazine pictures showing a variety of different places. Tape a large piece of newsprint to the wall and allow the children to choose pictures of places to glue to it to create a large mural of places where God is. As they work, talk with them about the different places and help them to see that God is in every one of those places, all at the same time. He can keep the promises He has made to us no matter where we are.

A variation of this activity would be to have the children make individual collages on construction paper.

**3. Introduction**

**Think about your grandmother. Where do you think she is right now? Is God there with her? What about the friend you most like to play with--where is your friend right at this minute? Is God there with your friend? Where are your mother and father? Is God where they are? Is God here with us? One of the wonderful things about God that makes Him different from us is that He can be in every place, and all at the same time. God can be in every place, caring for and blessing every one of His people, all at once. In today's story, you're going to hear about someone who learned that God is in every place. Even when he felt most alone, God was there with him.**

#### 4. Bible Story

**We've been having stories about two brothers who were twins. Do you remember their names? (Jacob and Esau) In last week's story, Jacob did something that he should not have done. Do you remember what it was? (He lied to his blind father, saying he was Esau, in order to steal his brother's blessing.) Do you remember how Esau felt, when he learned that Jacob had stolen his blessing? (He cried loudly.)**

**The Bible tells us that Esau was so angry with Jacob that he refused to forgive him. Esau was determined to do something hurtful to Jacob as soon as he had the chance. In fact, what he said to himself was, "As soon as my old father dies, I will kill my brother Jacob."**

**Do you remember the name of Jacob and Esau's mother? (Rebekah) Someone told Rebekah that this was what Esau was planning. She was afraid for Jacob. So Rebekah called Jacob to her. She said, "Your brother Esau is planning to kill you. You must run away. Go to Haran, where I grew up, and stay with my brother, your uncle Laban. Stay there awhile and maybe Esau will get over his anger. If he does, I will let you know and you can come back home."**

**So Jacob left his home and set out, all alone, on the long journey to Haran. Since Jacob's father and mother were old He may have wondered if he would ever see them again. enough with him to kill him. Jacob also may have wondered if angry Esau would follow him and try to kill him, since he'd be alone in the desert. All of this must have been unsettling since, in addition, Jacob was on his way to a place he had never been-- what if he got lost?--to live with people he had never met.**

**Jacob traveled all day until the sun set. He stopped to sleep for the night, all alone in the desert. The sky grew darker and darker, until Jacob could no longer see. It was very quiet. The only sound would have been the occasional sound of an animal off in the distance. Jacob must have felt very lonely.**

**The only thing Jacob had to use for a pillow was a large rock he found. So he placed it under his head and tried to go to sleep. As Jacob slept, he dreamed. This was Jacob's dream. He dreamed that, right there beside him, was a tall, tall stairway. This stairway was so tall that it reached all the way up into heaven. On the stairway were angels. The angels were going up and down on the stairway. At the top of the stairway, stood the Lord.**

**Then Jacob heard God say, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and the children and grandchildren who come from you the land you are lying on. Many children and grandchildren will come from you, enough to fill a whole land. All the people on earth will be blessed through you and the children who come from you."**

**And then God made this promise to Jacob, which must have seemed so wonderful to someone who felt so alone. God said, "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you."**

**When Jacob awoke, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." Now he knew that no matter where he was, God was there too. No matter how alone he felt, God was with him and would always be with him. God could still bless him, even if he were far away from home, because God would be there as well. Jacob took the stone he had used for a pillow and set it up as a marker. He poured oil on it, then he named the place "Bethel," which means the house of God.**

**God was with Jacob while he was away from home, and He did bless him. Jacob found his Uncle Laban's house and worked for him for many years, where God made him rich. Jacob got married and God gave Jacob many children. A long time later, when**

**Jacob went back home, to the land God had promised to give to him and his children and grandchildren, he met his brother Esau again. Over the years, God had worked in Esau's heart so that he was no longer angry with Jacob, but was happy to see him again. God was with Jacob, just as He had promised. God is with each of us always. He can keep the promises he has made to His people wherever they are, because God is in all places at the same time.**

**5. Application**

Lead the children in praising God that He is able to be in all places at the same time. Encourage them to trust in Him as *their* God, able to care for them and bless them wherever they are.

**6. Review questions**

- A. Why did Jacob have to leave home? (Because Esau wanted to kill him.)
- B. Why was Esau so angry at Jacob? (Because Jacob had stolen his blessing.)
- C. Where was Jacob going? (To live with his uncle.)
- D. When Jacob stopped to sleep, what did he use for a pillow? (A stone.)
- E. What did Jacob see in his dream? (A stairway going up into heaven.)
- F. What was at the top of the stairway? (God.)
- G. What were going up and down on the stairs? (Angels.)
- H. What did God promise Jacob? (To be with him wherever he went. Also, to give him many children and grandchildren and the land where he was sleeping.)
- I. What did Jacob say when he woke up? ("Surely the Lord is in this place.")
- J. How many places can God be at the same time? (All places.)

**7. Learning Reinforcement Activity**

Name some different places (the grocery store, school, etc.) to get the children started, then let them volunteer some ideas of places they go. After each suggestion, say together what Jacob said in the story, like this: "When I am at the store, I can say, 'Surely the Lord is in this place;'" "When I am at school, I can say, 'Surely the Lord is in this place,'" etc.





# CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 1 - SUMMER QUARTER  
LESSONS 9 - 13

**THEME:** Lessons from the Life of Joseph

## MEMORY VERSE SONG

Romans 8:28 "In all things, God works for the good of those  
who love Him."

## HYMN

*Trust and Obey*

## CHORUS

*Thou art Worthy*

## ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

*Books of the Bible*

*Faith, Trust, Hope*

*VBS songs (Use what will be, or was taught during the  
current Vacation Bible School.)*

## ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

*Give Thanks*

*Can a Little Child Like Me*

*Do You Know What Time It Is?*



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 9**

**Title:** God Sends Joseph to Egypt

**Text:** Genesis 37

**Theme:** God so rules all things that every circumstance results in His glory and the good of His people.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Be able to recount the story of how Joseph went to Egypt.
2. Understand that, although this was unpleasant for Joseph at the time, God was working to accomplish His purpose.
3. Trust God to do what is best, even when circumstances are not what we might desire.

**Memory Verse:** ***Romans 8:28** In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him.*

**1. Teacher Direction**

We live in a fallen world, where sin and the results of sin continually mar the beauty of life as God created it. One of the most comforting truths of Scripture is that God is the absolute sovereign of the universe, even in its fallen state. Nowhere does a single maverick atom exist, acting independently of God's rule. Everything that touches the people of God, even sin and its effects, is subordinate to the hand of our loving God and is used by Him to accomplish His purpose of our good and His glory. The long, detailed account of Joseph and his (seeming) misfortunes illustrate this beautifully. The jealousy and hatred of his brothers, the marital infidelity of Potiphar's wife, the forgetfulness of Pharaoh's butler, and the disaster of famine were all tools in the hands of God. By means of these tools, God exalted Joseph to a position that enabled him to save the covenant people from extinction so that the promises could continue and the Messiah could come.

**2. Learning Readiness Activity**

Using the attached coat pattern, cut out coats from waxed paper, two coats for each child. Let children arrange pieces of crayon shavings on one waxed paper coat. Place the second coat on top. With newspapers underneath and on top of the project, press with a warm iron. Remove the coat from the newspapers. The top and bottom coats will have melted together, with the crayon shavings melted between, giving a stained glass effect. Tell the children that someone in today's story had a beautiful coat of different colors, but the coat caused trouble for him.

### 3. Introduction

Find out how many children have a brother or sister, two brothers or sisters, three, etc., until you know which child has the most siblings. Tell the children that the boy in today's story, Joseph, had eleven brothers (he had some sisters, as well). Say to the children: "Imagine that it is not your birthday, but your parents have just given you a special gift. Your parents didn't give the same gift to your brothers or sisters, only to you. How do you think your brothers or sisters would feel?"

### 4. Bible Story

**Joseph and his eleven brothers were all the sons of Jacob. Remember Jacob? What do you remember about him?** (Let children briefly review the facts about Jacob: he was a twin; God chose him for the blessing instead of his older brother, Esau; Jacob cheated Esau out of the blessing by lying to their father; he ran away from home because Esau wanted to kill him; he had a dream of a ladder going up into heaven and God promised to be with him and to bless him wherever he went. Point out that God *had* blessed Jacob, so that he had many sheep, cattle, and goats, as well as this very large family with twelve sons.) **Remember that God had promised many grandchildren and great-grandchildren to Abraham. Now, with Jacob's big family, we're beginning to see that promise being kept. God had also promised Abraham that all the people on earth would be blessed through him. That was because Jesus would someday come from Abraham's family.**

**God knew that something was about to happen that would put Jacob and his twelve sons and all their families in great danger. The danger was so great that all of them might die. If all the people in Abraham's family died, then God's promises would be broken and Jesus would never be born. The great danger was a famine.**

**A famine happens when there is not enough food. Maybe there isn't much rain, so the food doesn't grow in the first place. Maybe thousands of locusts or other insects come in and destroy all the food while it is still growing. When there is a famine, there is not enough food for everyone. When there is a very bad famine, people starve to death. A famine was coming to the land where Jacob and his family lived, and to all the lands around them. God began to work to make sure that His people, to whom He had made the promises, would have enough to eat and would not die in the famine. In the next few stories, we are going to see what God did to protect His people from the famine. God began His work in today's story, and He began it with a pretty coat.**

**Of all Jacob's twelve sons, Joseph was his favorite. Jacob made Joseph a beautiful coat to show everyone how much he loved him. Of course, Joseph loved his beautiful new coat, but how do you think his brothers felt about it? They were very angry. In fact, the Bible tells us that the brothers hated Joseph and could not say a kind word to him.**

**One day, Joseph's brothers were all out working in a field far from home, taking care of their sheep. Jacob called Joseph in and asked him to go find his brothers, see how they were doing, and come back to let him know. So Joseph set out, wearing his beautiful coat of many colors.**

**Joseph's brothers saw Joseph coming from far away and, right away, they began to plan what they could do to get rid of him. "Let's kill him," one of them said. "We'll throw his body in the pit and say that a wild animal ate him."**

**One brother, Reuben, was kinder than the others. "We won't kill him ourselves," he said. "Let's just throw him in this pit." Reuben's plan was to come get Joseph out of the pit later, and let him go home.**

**Imagine Joseph's surprise when he arrived. Instead of being glad to see him, his brothers grabbed him, tore his beautiful coat from him, and threw him into the pit. Then**

they sat down to eat lunch. Joseph could hear them eating and talking. Then he heard one of them say, "Look, here come some people." The people were men traveling to the land of Egypt with things to sell. "Let's sell Joseph to them," said one of the brothers. "They can take him to Egypt and sell him for a slave. That way, we can get rid of him *and* make some extra money too."

So Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the pit and sold him to the men passing by. Do you think Joseph wanted to go to Egypt, to be the slave of a stranger? Of course he didn't! He didn't want to leave his home and his loving father. But as the men led him away, he heard his brothers say that they would tell their father they had found Joseph's beautiful coat, but not Joseph. They would make their father believe Joseph had been eaten by a wild animal, so he would never come looking for him.

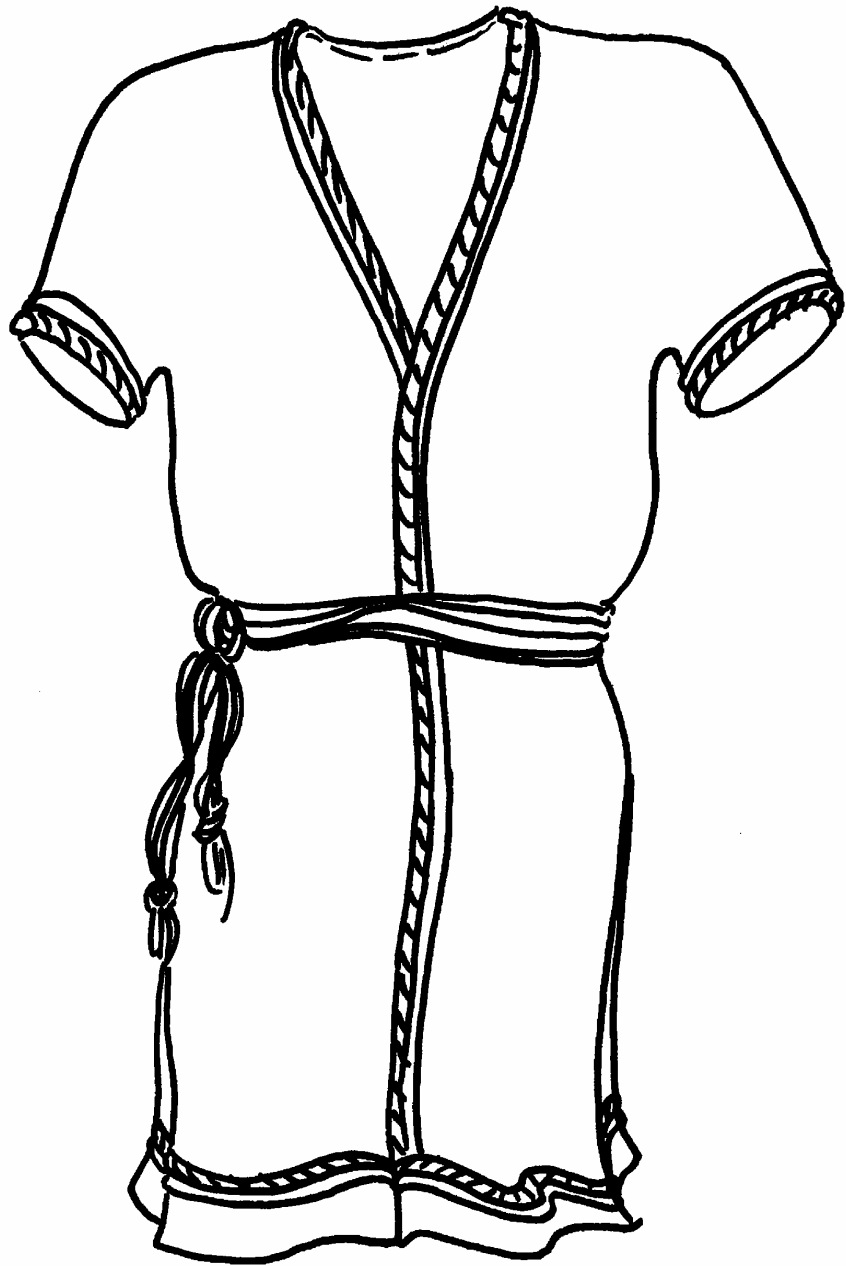
Joseph could not believe such horrible things were happening to him. His own brothers hated him and had sold him. He was being sent far from home to live with strangers. He might never see his father again. To Joseph, this all must have seemed terrible. But it was all part of God's plan to save Joseph and his family from the famine that was coming. It was God who wanted Joseph in Egypt, because, in Egypt, God would give Joseph a way to store up food. For now, things looked bad for Joseph. But God was using even these sad things that were happening to him to take care of him and all of God's people.

#### **5. Application**

Say the verse with the children. Ask them if God was working for Joseph's good when Joseph was given a beautiful coat. Was God working for Joseph's good when his brothers took his coat away and threw him in the pit? Was God working for Joseph's good when he was taken away into Egypt? Help the children to see that God is always at work for the good of His people, even when it doesn't look like it to us. Help them to see that, if they are God's children, they can know that God is always working for their good, even when things happen to them that they do not like. Lead the children in a prayer of trust in God to do what He knows is good for us, even in hard times.

#### **6. Learning Reinforcement Activity**

Tape a coat cut out of white newsprint to the wall. Have marking pens or crayons available for this review game. Say, "Tell me something about Joseph's coat." Any child who can give you one piece of correct information can come color a part of the coat. Then say, "Tell me *something else* about Joseph's coat," until children run out of facts to recite. Go on to something else: "Tell me about the Joseph's brothers," or "Tell me about the men traveling by," etc.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 10**

**Title:** God Cares for Joseph in Potiphar's House  
**Text:** Genesis 39  
**Theme:** God gives His people grace to resist temptation.  
In all things, God works to bring about His glory and the good of His people.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Give thanks to God for making His people able to do what is right.
2. Thank God for using even difficult circumstances to do what is best for His people.

**Memory Verse:** ***Romans 8:28** In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him*

**1. Teacher Direction**

This story is commonly presented to children with the focus on Joseph as an example to be imitated. Since God gave us the Scriptures to reveal *Himself* to us, a preferable presentation is to focus on what *God* does in the story. In this story, God gives Joseph the grace to resist great temptation. He also continues to move Joseph toward a position in which he will be able to do great good to the people of God in preserving them through the famine.

**2. Learning Readiness Activity (Review)**

Hold up flannelgraph pieces from last week's story (Joseph is sold into slavery), asking the children what they can tell you about each one. Example: This is Joseph's coat. What can you tell me about it? These are Joseph's brothers; what can you tell me about them? This is Joseph's father, Jacob; what can you tell me about Jacob? Help the children remember how Joseph went to Egypt. Remind them that God was sending Joseph to Egypt as part of His plan to keep His people from starving when the famine came.

**3. Introduction**

Ask the children when drivers are more likely to keep the speed limit, when they see a policeman or when they do not. Ask if a child is more likely to take a cookie he's not supposed to have, when his mother is in the room or when she is not. Help the children to see that it is often harder to do what is right when you know no one would know if you did what was wrong. Tell them that in today's story someone had a chance to do something wrong and that person knew no one would ever know it. Have them listen to see what that person did.

**4. Bible Story**

**Joseph did not want to leave his home and go to Egypt. However, Joseph quickly saw that God was with him and taking care of him, even so far away from home. A man named Potiphar bought Joseph to be his slave. Potiphar was the captain of the king's guard there in Egypt. He was an important man. As Joseph worked for him, God blessed everything Joseph did. Potiphar saw how God blessed everything Joseph did and Potiphar put Joseph in charge of all he had. Joseph was in charge of what happened in Potiphar's house. Joseph was in charge of what happened out in Potiphar's fields. Because of God's blessing, everything in Potiphar's house and everything in Potiphar's**

fields did well. Potiphar trusted Joseph to take care of everything for him. One day, Potiphar was not home. Potiphar's wife asked Joseph to do something that would not be right to do. "It's okay," she said. "Potiphar won't find out." Joseph knew Potiphar would not find out if he did what was wrong, but he knew that God would know. Joseph told Potiphar's wife he would not do the thing that was wrong, because it would be sinning against God.

Every day, when Potiphar was not home, Potiphar's wife talked to Joseph and tried to get him to do wrong with her. Every day, God made Joseph strong enough to tell her no. One day, *no one* was around, not even the other servants. Again Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to do what was wrong, even taking hold of his robe to try to make him stay there. Joseph slipped out of his robe and ran out of the house.

This made Potiphar's wife angry. When Potiphar came home, she showed him Joseph's robe. "That slave of yours was here in the house and I caught him about to do what was wrong. I tried to stop him and he ran away. But look, I still have his robe. He left it here when he ran."

Potiphar became angry and put Joseph in prison. This was very unfair. Joseph had done nothing wrong. Potiphar's wife had lied about him. Now Joseph was not only far from his home, he was also stuck in jail for something he had not done. Still, God was working to carry out His plans for Joseph and His people. There in prison, God would provide a way for Joseph to meet the king of Egypt and become one of the king's best helpers. That is how Joseph would be able to help God's people when the famine would come and there would not be enough food.

## 5. Application

Help the children to see that even though Joseph was in prison for something he had not done, God was still working for his good and for the good of the rest of His people. Help them to see that they can trust God when things that they do not like are happening to them, just as much as they can trust Him when good things happen. Help them to see that God is also the One they must trust to help them do what is right and say "no" to what is wrong.

## 6. Review questions

- A. Why was Joseph in Egypt? (His brothers had sold him for a slave.)
- B. What was the name of the man who bought Joseph? (Potiphar.)
- C. What happened to everything Potiphar had, in his house and in his field, when Joseph was working for him? (God blessed it.)
- D. What did Potiphar's wife want? (She wanted Joseph to do something wrong.)
- E. Would Potiphar know if Joseph did wrong? (No.)
- F. Would *anyone* know if Joseph did what was wrong? (Yes, God would.)
- G. Did Joseph do what Potiphar's wife wanted him to do? (No.)
- H. Who made Joseph strong enough not to do what was wrong? (God.)
- I. When Joseph ran away from Potiphar's wife, what did he leave behind? (His robe.)
- J. What did Potiphar's wife tell Potiphar? (That Joseph was doing what was wrong.)
- K. What did Potiphar do to Joseph? (Put him in prison.)
- L. Was God working for the good of Joseph when Joseph was sent to jail? (Yes.)

## 7. Learning Reinforcement Activity

On white construction paper, make copies of the memory verse (attached). Have the children trace around the letters, reminding them of what it says. Then let them use tempera paints or water colors to paint the letters. Remind the children of some of the "all things" in our

story so far: Joseph receiving a new coat, Joseph being hated and sold by his brothers, Joseph having to leave home to go live in Egypt, God's blessings on Potiphar's house because of Joseph, God keeping Joseph from sinning, Potiphar's wife lying about Joseph, and Joseph being put in jail. "In all things," God was working for Joseph's good.

**In all things,  
God works for  
the good of  
those who love  
Him. Romans 8:28**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 11**

**Title:** God Raises Up Joseph to Be a Ruler in Egypt

**Text:** Genesis 39:20-41:57

**Theme:** God is the highest ruler who raises up human rulers.  
In all things, God works to bring about His glory and the good of His people.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Praise God for being the highest ruler, who raises up all other rulers.
2. Thank God for ruling over everything that happens to them and for causing all those things to work out for His glory and the good of His people.

**Memory Verse:** ***Romans 8:28** In all things, God works for the good of all who love Him.*

**1. Teacher Direction**

We have been focusing on God and not Joseph as the main character of this set of stories. We have been looking to see what *God* is doing in each story. In the first two stories, we saw God using even man's sin (the hatred of the brothers and the unfaithfulness of Potiphar's wife) as tools to get Joseph where he needed to be to rise to leadership in Egypt. We saw that even when it does not look like it to us, God is at work in every circumstance His people face to accomplish His glory and their good. Today we see God at work in something so seemingly haphazard as dreams, using these dreams, too, as tools to move Joseph where He wanted him to be.

**2. Introduction**

Review with the children who Joseph was, how many brothers he had, how they felt about him and why, how Joseph got to Egypt, how God blessed him when he worked for Potiphar, Joseph's response when Potiphar's wife tried to get him to do wrong, what happened when the wife lied to Potiphar about him. Remind them that God was working through all these things to take care of His people and keep His promises to Abraham. God was preparing a way to see them safely through the famine that would soon come.

Ask a child to tell you what kind of pet he has at home. Draw it on the board. Ask who is in charge of the pet (probably the child) and draw him over the pet. Ask who is over the child; draw Mom or the parents. Ask who is the head of the family; draw Dad. Ask who is over Dad and write "God" at the top. Show them that countries have similar structures. Draw a crowd of stick people to represent citizens. Draw lawmakers and over them a king or president. At the top, write "God." Tell the children that even though many rulers do not honor God, God is the highest ruler of all. He is the One who decides who will be a ruler and works everything out so that person will become ruler. Today they will hear how God made even Joseph, a slave locked in prison, into a great ruler.

**3. Bible Story**

**Joseph did not want to be locked in a jail for something he had not done, but still he trusted God to take care of him and to do what was best for him. Just like when he was working in Potiphar's house, God blessed Joseph and made everything he did turn out well. God caused Potiphar to put Joseph in charge of everything at his house, and later even caused the man who took care of the prison to put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners.**

The king of Egypt was called Pharaoh. One day, Pharaoh became angry at two of his servants and put them in the same jail where Joseph was. One servant was Pharaoh's baker. The other servant was Pharaoh's cupbearer, the man who brought the king things to drink. Early one morning, after the baker and the cupbearer had been there in jail for some time, Joseph noticed that both of them looked troubled. "What is wrong?" he asked them.

"We both had dreams last night," the servants answered. "We are sure our dreams mean something, but we do not know what they mean and we do not know who to ask."

"God knows what your dreams mean," Joseph told them. "Tell me what your dreams were and maybe God will let me know what they mean."

The cupbearer told his dream first. "I saw grapes growing on a vine in my dream," he said. "The vine had three branches. I picked the grapes and squeezed the juice into Pharaoh's cup, then I gave the cup to Pharaoh."

"The three branches are three days," Joseph told the cupbearer. "In three days, Pharaoh will take you out of prison and give you your old job back. When he does," Joseph added, "please tell him about me. See if you can get me out of jail. I was carried away from my home and brought here and I have done nothing wrong, that I should be in jail."

So the cupbearer was happy. Since the cupbearer's dream had such a happy meaning, the baker hurried to tell Joseph his dream too. "In my dream," he said, "I was carrying three baskets on my head. The baskets held all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the baskets."

"The three baskets stand for three days," Joseph told the baker. "In three days, Pharaoh will have you put to death."

Three days later, Pharaoh took the baker out of jail and put him to death. He brought his cupbearer out of jail to work for him again, as Joseph said he would. Do you think the cupbearer was glad to get out of prison? Do you think he remembered Joseph and tried to get him out of jail? The Bible tells us the cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

That, too, was part of God's plan for Joseph. God was keeping him there until Pharaoh had a dream about the famine that would come. Two whole years went by, but finally Pharaoh had a dream--two dreams, really--that troubled him so much that he was in a bad mood the next day. He called in all his wise men and magicians desiring them to tell him what the dreams meant, but they could not. *Finally*, Pharaoh's cupbearer remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh about his dream and the baker's dream and how Joseph had explained what they both meant. He added that the dreams came true just as Joseph had said they would. So Pharaoh sent for Joseph.

When Joseph came in, Pharaoh told him his dreams. "In my first dream," he said, "I was standing by the river when seven fat, healthy cows came out of the river. After them, seven skinny, ugly cows came out of the river, too. The skinny cows ate the fat cows, but the skinny cows were just as skinny as they had been before. In my next dream, I saw seven grain plants, looking full and healthy with lots of grain to be picked and eaten. Then seven other grain plants grew up, but they were withered and thin, with nothing good to eat on them. The thin, withered plants swallowed up the full, healthy plants. What do these dreams mean?"

"Both dreams mean the same thing," Joseph said. "God is showing you what is going to happen. The seven fat, healthy cows and the seven full grain plants are seven

years when all the food will grow well and there will be plenty for everyone. But after those seven good years will come seven years of famine. That is what the seven skinny cows and the seven withered plants meant. The years of famine will be so bad that no one will even remember the seven good years--that is why the skinny cows ate the fat cows and the withered plants ate the full plants. The famine will be terrible and no one will have enough to eat."

Then Joseph went on to tell Pharaoh what he should do. "Since God has shown you that this is going to happen, you should get ready for the seven years when there won't be enough food. During the seven good years, save up extra food that you don't need. Choose a wise man whom you can trust to do good work and put him in charge of storing food so that when the seven years of famine come, there will be enough food for the people."

"What an excellent idea!" said Pharaoh. "What man could I find wiser and more trustworthy than you? I will put you in charge of storing up food for the famine."

So Joseph became the second ruler in the land. Only Pharaoh himself was a higher ruler than Joseph. Joseph was dressed in the finest robes and given a gold chain for his neck. He was given a fine chariot and servants and the king's own ring.

During the seven good years, Joseph commanded everyone to bring their extra grain and food. He had whole cities built for storing it. Joseph ended up with so much extra grain that he stopped trying to measure how much he had.

Finally, just as Joseph had said would happen, the seven good years came to an end and the famine began. Plants would not grow and no food could be produced. This was not only in Egypt, but in all the lands around--even back in Joseph's home land, where his eleven brothers and his old father, Jacob, still lived. In Egypt, though, there was plenty of food, because God had brought Joseph to Egypt and had raised him up as ruler to store food for the famine.

#### **4. Application**

Now that we've come to the "happy" part of the story, help the children to see how necessary all the "sad" parts of Joseph's life were to get him to this place. Help them to see that God always is at work in everything that happens to us, even when we cannot see how. Lead them in praising God for ruling over rulers and for choosing who will rule, as he chose Joseph to rule. Encourage them to ask God to help them to trust that He is doing His work in them and for them, even when things happen that they do not like.

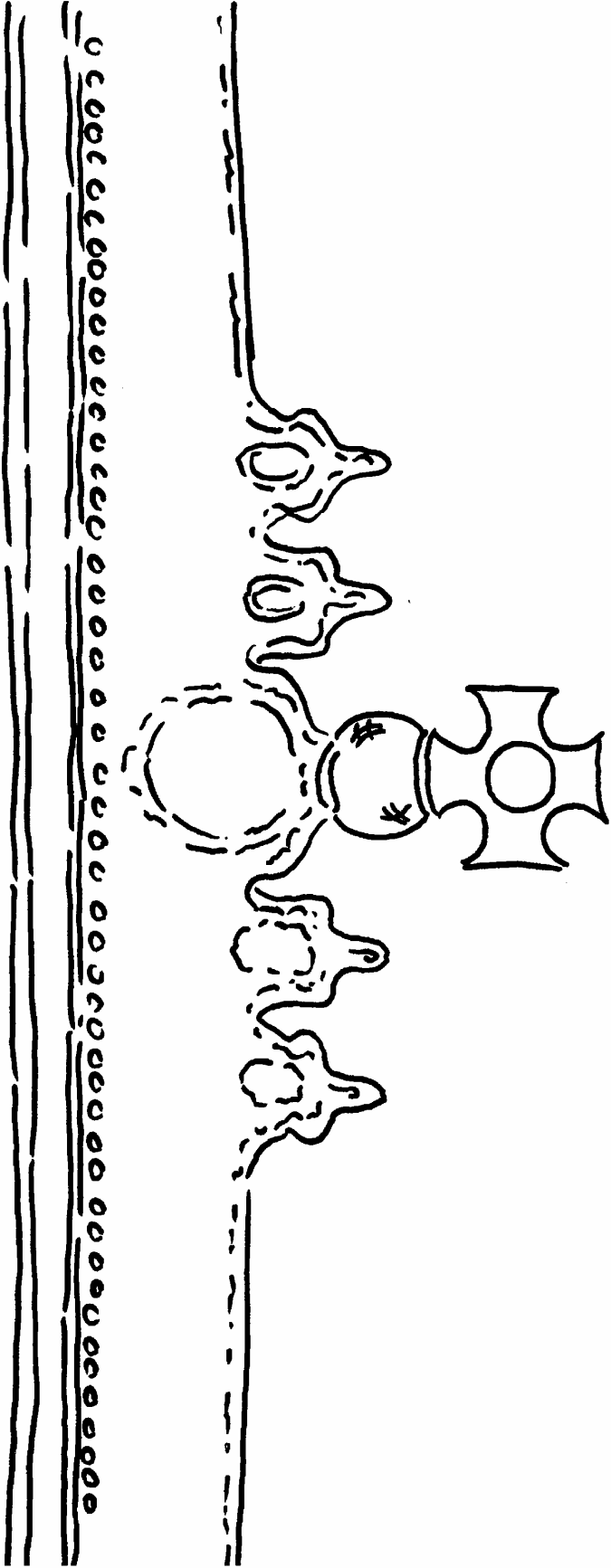
#### **5. Review Questions**

- A. How did Joseph get to Egypt? (His brothers sold him as a slave.)
- B. Why did Joseph's brothers sell him? (They were jealous of him or they hated him.)
- C. Who was Joseph's father? (Jacob)
- D. What had Jacob given to Joseph, without giving one to any of his brothers? (A coat of many colors.)
- E. Who was really sending Joseph to Egypt? (God)
- F. Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to do what would be wrong. Did Joseph do it? (No)
- G. Who made Joseph able to tell Potiphar's wife "no?" (God)
- H. Potiphar's wife lied to Potiphar and said Joseph had done something wrong. What happened to Joseph? (He was put in jail.)
- I. Who really wanted Joseph to be in jail at that time? (God did.) (Help the children to see that, in jail, Joseph would have the opportunity to interpret the two dreams, which would be how Pharaoh would come to hear of him and how Joseph would come to be ruler.)

- J. Who else was put in jail with Joseph? (Pharaoh's two servants or Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker.)
- K. What was troubling the two servants one day? (They had dreamed dreams and did not know what they meant.)
- L. Who told the two servants what the dreams meant? (Joseph.)
- M. How did Joseph know what the two dreams meant? (God made him know.)
- N. Did the dreams come true? (Yes.)
- O. Did the cupbearer remember Joseph and try to get him out of jail? (Not at first.)
- P. What were Pharaoh's dreams about? (Seven skinny cows who ate seven fat cows and seven withered grain plants that swallowed seven full grain plants.)
- Q. What did Joseph say the seven fat cows and the seven full plants meant? (There would be seven good years with plenty of food.)
- R. What did Joseph say the seven skinny cows and the seven withered plants meant? (There would be seven very bad years of famine, with no food.)
- S. Whom did Pharaoh put in charge of storing up food for the famine? (Joseph)
- T. Who really made Joseph a ruler in Egypt? (God.)

#### **6. Learning Reinforcement Activities**

- A. Bring grain or oats (Quaker Oats would do) from home. Have a small container to represent one of Joseph's storage areas for extra food. Tell the children they are trying to fill the storage container with food for the famine. Ask the review questions. Each time a child answers correctly, he can put a spoonful of oats into the storage container.
- B. On construction paper, make copies of the attached crown. Bring sequins, glitter, decorator jewels, etc. with which the children can decorate crowns. Remind them that, in the story, Joseph became a ruler. Remind them that God is the highest ruler, and He is the One who chooses what people will be rulers--as He did with Joseph.





**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 12**

**Title:** God Saves His Covenant People from the Famine

**Text:** Genesis 42-45

**Theme:** God works even through human sin to accomplish His purposes of blessing for His people.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. See how God was working through all Joseph's difficulties to save Joseph and his family in the famine.
2. Understand that Joseph could forgive the things his brothers had done to hurt him because he knew God was using these things to bring good results.
3. Ask God to help him trust God when bad things happen to him, instead of complaining or becoming angry.

**Memory Verse:** ***Romans 8:28** In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him.*

**1. Teacher Direction**

We have finally come to the happy conclusion of the story of Joseph and his brothers. Joseph's brothers realize their treatment of him was wrong. Joseph himself has overcome his circumstances and possesses the power to do good and preserve the lives of the people of God. The end of the story would not be so happy if Joseph were to continue to harbor a grudge against his brothers--a response that would certainly be understandable! However, he forgives them freely. His response to their anxious thoughts of potential revenge reveal to us *why* he could so freely forgive such grievous wrongdoing. "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Genesis 50:20) God gave Joseph the grace to see beyond human instruments to God Himself, the wise orchestrator of all that had touched him, the One who was accomplishing His purpose in all Joseph's suffering.

**2. Introduction**

Ask the children what it means to forgive someone. Help them to see that forgiveness includes refusing to do something hurtful to someone who has hurt you, doing good to that person, and treating him as though he had never hurt you at all. Ask the children for examples of times when it might be hard for them to forgive someone. Remind them of the stories of Joseph we have heard so far. Ask them who in the stories had done things that were hurtful to Joseph. (His brothers sold him; Potiphar's wife lied about him so he had to go to jail; Pharaoh's cupbearer forgot about him, instead of helping him get out of prison.) Ask them if they think it would have been hard for Joseph to forgive those people. Today's story tells how Joseph forgave his brothers. Tell the children to listen for *why* Joseph was able to forgive them.

**3. Bible Story**

**There was no food growing anywhere in Egypt. The famine had begun. There was no food growing in the countries around Egypt either. Everywhere, people were hungry--except in Egypt. Even though no new food was growing, there was plenty to eat in Egypt, because Joseph had wisely stored up a great supply of grain during the years when all the food plants were growing well. All the people of Egypt could come to**

Joseph's storehouses and get the grain they needed for food.

As the people in other countries became hungrier and hungrier, they heard that there was food to eat in Egypt. So people from other lands would take money and travel to Egypt to buy supplies of grain from Joseph. One of the people in another land who heard about the food in Egypt was Jacob, Joseph's old father. Jacob had watched as the food for his family, for his sons and their children, had run out. Jacob had become afraid that he and his family would die because they had no food. What would happen to God's promises then? But then he learned that people could buy grain in Egypt, so he sent all of Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy grain--*almost* all of Joseph's brothers. Jacob kept the youngest brother, Benjamin, home with him.

Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt and went to the man in charge of the grain. It was Joseph, of course, but they did not know it was Joseph. As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, *he* knew who *they* were, but he did not tell them who he was. He asked them if their father was still alive and if they had any other brothers at home. They said their father was old, but well, and that they still had a younger brother at home. Joseph told them that, if they ever came back to Egypt, they must bring the younger brother back with them. He said he would sell them no more grain if they did not bring Benjamin along. Then Joseph sold them the grain and sent them home. Before they left, though, when they were not looking, Joseph told his servants to put the money they had paid for the grain back in their bags. He was giving them the grain for free.

When the brothers arrived back at home, they told their father, Jacob, about everything. They told him that the ruler in Egypt wanted to see their youngest brother, Benjamin, and that he had said not to come back without him. "Never!" Jacob answered. "I will never let Benjamin go to Egypt with you. My other dear son, Joseph, was killed, and I couldn't stand it if something were to happen to Benjamin! No, Benjamin will never go with you to Egypt!"

Things were fine for awhile, but finally Jacob and his sons and their families had used up all the food they had bought in Egypt. The famine was just as bad as ever, and there was still no food growing. Something had to be done. "Go back to Egypt," Jacob told his sons. "Buy more food."

"We can't go to Egypt, unless we take Benjamin with us," the brothers answered. Then one brother, Judah, said to Jacob, "I promise / will be responsible for him. I promise you I won't let anything happen to Benjamin." So Jacob let Benjamin go with his brothers to Egypt to buy more grain.

The brothers traveled to Egypt and, once again, they went to Joseph to buy food. As soon as Joseph saw Benjamin, he was so happy to see him that he wanted to cry and he had to leave the room for a few minutes. Joseph invited all his brothers to eat with him at his own house, but he still did not tell them who he was. Once the brothers had bought their grain and were ready to leave, Joseph told a servant to put Joseph's special silver cup into Benjamin's sack when no one was looking.

Joseph's eleven brothers started out on their long trip home. Then Joseph sent his servant hurrying after them. "Someone stole the ruler's special silver cup!" the servant told the brothers. "He thinks it was one of you."

"We didn't take it!" the brothers answered. "Look in our sacks. If you find it in any of our sacks, the person to whom the sack belongs will stay here in Egypt and be a slave forever." Of course, the servant found Joseph's silver cup in Benjamin's sack, because Joseph had ordered his servant to put the cup there.

All the brothers went back to Joseph's house. Joseph said, "The cup was in Benjamin's sack. Benjamin must stay and be my slave forever."

Then Judah spoke up. “Please, sir, take me instead. I’ll stay here and be your slave forever, but please let Benjamin go back to our father. I promised him that I would take care of Benjamin and keep anything from happening to him. If Benjamin doesn’t go home, I can’t go home! And besides, if Benjamin doesn’t go home, our father will not be able to stand it. He will be so sad, he will die.”

When Joseph saw how much his brother Judah had changed since the days when he had thrown Joseph into a pit and then sold him, Joseph knew it was time to tell his brothers who he was. “I am Joseph!” he said. “Is my father really still alive and well?” Joseph’s brothers were afraid. They had been so mean to Joseph and now Joseph was almost a king. He could do anything to them. He could have them killed.

But Joseph told them not to worry. “You sold me into Egypt,” he said, “but it was God who was sending me here, so I could become a great ruler and save up food to keep us all alive in the famine. For this is only the beginning of the famine. There are five more years of it left. If you and your families stay where you are, you will have nothing to eat. But I am an important man here in Egypt and there is plenty of food for all of you. Come live with me until the famine is over.”

Joseph could forgive his brothers because he knew that God was working, even in his brothers’ mean actions, for the good of them all. So Joseph’s brothers hurried back to their father, Jacob, to bring him and all their families and all their animals to Egypt to live.

#### **4. Application**

Remind the children once again that God is in control of everything that happens to His people, even the bad things, and will use all our circumstances to accomplish His purposes. Lead them in a prayer, thanking God for this. Help them to see that when we really trust God to do good for us even in bad things, we are set free from having a bad attitude or complaining or being angry about what is happening. Like Joseph, we can see that God will use these bad things for our good. Lead the children in asking God to help them trust Him and not complain or get angry when things happen that they do not like.

#### **5. Review Questions**

- A. Why did people in many lands have no food? (There was a famine.)
- B. Why did people in Egypt have plenty of food? (Joseph had stored up extra food when there was plenty.)
- C. Why did Joseph’s brothers go to Egypt? (To buy food.)
- D. Whom did Joseph say they had to bring with them if they ever came back? (Their brother, Benjamin.)
- E. Did their father, Jacob, want to let Benjamin go to Egypt? (No.)
- F. What did Joseph have his servant put in Benjamin’s sack? (His special silver cup.)
- G. Joseph’s brothers said they did not have the cup. What did they say could happen to anyone who had the cup? (That person would be Joseph’s slave forever.)
- H. Who said he would be a slave forever, if Joseph would let Benjamin go home? (Judah)
- I. When Joseph let his brothers know who he was, why were they afraid? (They thought Joseph would do something to hurt them because they had sold him into slavery.)
- J. Joseph forgave his brothers. He could do this because he knew that “in all things, God works . . . (for the good of those who love Him.)”

## **6. Learning Reinforcement Activity**

A. Using an ink pad, help the children to make fingerprints on a piece of white construction paper. They should make one for Joseph and one for Benjamin (off by themselves), then ten for the other brothers. They can count with you as they make them. Once the fingerprints are there and are all dry, they can use pencils or pens to draw faces or other features on them. Ask them questions about Joseph, Benjamin, Judah, and the other brothers as they work.

B. Choose children to be Jacob, Benjamin, Judah, the other brothers, Joseph, and Joseph's servant. Let them act out the brothers' trip to Egypt without Benjamin, their next trip to Egypt with Benjamin, the start of their return home when the cup was found in Benjamin's sack, Judah's offer of himself instead of Benjamin, Joseph's revelation of himself to his brothers, and their return to get Jacob and their families.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS  
CURRICULUM YEAR 1, SUMMER**

**Lesson 13**

**Title:** God's Faithfulness to Jacob and Joseph  
**Text:** Genesis 46:1-47:31  
**Theme:** God is faithful to care for His covenant people and to keep all His promises to them.

**Teaching Objectives:** By God's grace, each child will:

1. Thank God for always keeping His promises and for caring for His people.
2. Desire to be one of God's people himself and trust in God's promises.

**Memory Verse:** **Romans 8:28** *In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him.*

**1. Teacher Direction**

Our last nine stories have focused on Jacob and Joseph, father and son, both recipients of the promises passed on from Abraham. Jacob endured some hardships, many of them caused by his own sinful actions. Joseph endured more hardship, as well as great exaltation. Both found God to be faithful in all of life's circumstances. As their lives ended, both of these men asked to be buried back in the land God had promised to their descendants, because both were convinced that God is true to His word and would establish His people in the land He had promised them.

**2. Bible Story**

**Do you ever spend the night at your grandmother's house or at your friend's house? That's fun to do, but it always feels good to go back home again to see your mother and father. Have you ever been away from your mom or dad for more than just one day?** If any children say they have been, ask them if they were glad to see their parents again. **When parents and children are separated, they are very glad to see each other again. Imagine what it was like for Jacob when his eleven sons came back home from Egypt and told him that he could go see his son Joseph, whom he had not seen for many, many years. It was such good news that, at first, Jacob did not believe it. When he saw the carts Joseph had sent to bring him and his whole family to Egypt, then he believed it and was so happy.**

**On the way to Egypt, Jacob stopped and offered sacrifices to God. There, God spoke to Jacob. God told Jacob not to be afraid to go to Egypt, for while they were there, God would keep His promise to make a great nation out of Abraham's family. God promised that He would be with Jacob in Egypt, just as He had been with him everywhere he had gone.**

When Jacob finally arrived in Egypt and saw Joseph again, you can imagine the hugging and kissing and laughing and crying that went on! Joseph settled Jacob and all the families of his brothers into their own place to live in Egypt. There they had all they needed while the famine continued for years. Jacob was an old man when he moved to Egypt. He lived to be even older, there in Egypt, but the time finally came when he knew he would not live much longer. So Jacob called Joseph to him. Jacob blessed Joseph and Joseph's sons. Jacob thought back over his whole long life. Sometimes

Jacob had behaved badly. He had gone through some hard times, but Jacob could see how God had always kept His promise to be with him and to take care of him. Jacob said, "Like a shepherd, God has led me all my life." Because Jacob believed that God keeps His promises, he wanted to be buried in the land God had promised to give him. He did not want his dead body to stay in Egypt. Jacob said to Joseph, "Promise me that when I die, you will not bury me here, but you will take me back to the land God has promised to give us and you will bury me there." Joseph promised.

**When Jacob died, Joseph kept his promise and took his father's body back to the Promised Land to be buried there. Later, Joseph himself also grew old and the time drew near when he would die. Joseph called his own children to him, and told them, "I know God will keep His promise and will take you out of this land back to the land He promised to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When you go, carry my bones with you and bury me there in the land God promised." Joseph's children promised to do as he asked.**

### **3. Application**

**Jacob and Joseph had both seen that God keeps His promises to His people. They trusted God and believed His promises. They knew He always cares for His people and they were glad they were His people. God makes promises to His people today, even better promises than making them into a great nation or giving them their own land. God has kept His promise to send a Savior, Jesus. God promises to forgive the sins of all who believe in Jesus and to be their God forever. God promises to always be with those who trust in Jesus and to finally take them safely to heaven to be with Him. If you believe God's promises and trust in Jesus, God will be your God. You will find, like Jacob did, that God is like a shepherd who will lead you all your life.**

### **4. Learning Reinforcement Activity**

A. Label one side of the room Egypt. Have the children stand side by side, making a line across the room. They are Jacob's big family on the way to Egypt. Each time someone answers a question correctly, the whole horizontal line of children take one step forward. They are to try to answer enough questions correctly to get them to Egypt so they can survive the famine. (Maybe refreshments could be ready for them when they get there.) Attached is a list of questions to choose from. The questions review this whole unit.

B. Relay Race.

Arrange children in small groups of four or five children. Have the children stand in specified locations around the room. Give one child something to serve as a baton and have him carry it to the next child on his team and pass it off to him. The second child carries it to a third child and passes it off to him. This continues until all the children on the team have received and passed on the baton, except for the last child who carries it to the specified goal. Explain that this is something like God's people passing on God's promises from father to son to grandson. God gave a promise to Abraham, who believed it all his life and passed it on to his son, Isaac. Isaac believed the promise and passed it on to his son, Jacob, who believed it and passed it on to Joseph. God's people kept believing God's promises until Jesus came, just as God promised. Now God's people believe in Jesus as the One in whom all God's promises are kept.

### Review Questions

1. What did God promise Abraham? (Land and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren)
2. When God told Abraham that all the people on earth would be blessed through him, He was talking about someone who would be born from Abraham's family. Who was it? (Jesus.)
3. What did Abraham live in all his life? (Tents.)
4. What did Abraham often make for worshiping God? (Altars)
5. When Abraham's shepherds were fighting with Lot's shepherds because there was not enough room for all the sheep, what did Abraham let Lot do? (Take the best land for himself.)
6. Abraham waited a long time for a son. What did he name his son when he was born? (Isaac.)
7. What did God ask Abraham to sacrifice? (His own son, Isaac.)
8. How did Abraham's servant choose a wife for Isaac? He prayed that the girl who did what would be the right girl? (The girl who offered to water all the camels.)
9. Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons. What were their names? (Jacob and Esau)
10. Which of the twins was born first, so he was the oldest? (Esau.)
11. Which one did God choose to receive the blessing? (Jacob)
12. How did Jacob steal from his brother Esau? (He lied to their father Isaac and pretended he was Esau so Isaac would give him Esau's blessing.)
13. Why did Jacob have to run away from home? (Because Esau wanted to kill him.)
14. On his journey away from home, what did Jacob see in a dream? (A ladder going up into heaven, with angels going up and down on it.)
15. What did God promise Jacob in that dream? (That He would be with Jacob wherever he went.)
16. How many sons did Jacob have? (Twelve.)
17. Which son was Jacob's favorite? (Joseph)
18. What did Jacob give to Joseph? (A coat of many colors.)
19. What did Joseph's jealous brothers do to Joseph? (Sold him to be a slave in Egypt.)
20. Joseph worked for Potiphar. When Potiphar's wife could not get Joseph to do what was wrong, she lied about him to her husband. What happened to Joseph? (He was put in jail.)
21. In jail, Joseph told two people what their dreams meant, then he told Pharaoh what Pharaoh's dreams meant. Pharaoh's dreams were about fat cows and skinny cows and withered plants and healthy plants. What did Pharaoh's dreams mean? (There would be seven good years followed by seven years of famine.)
22. Whom did Pharaoh put in charge of saving up grain in Egypt? (Joseph)
23. Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt? (To buy food because they did not have any.)
24. Did Joseph forgive his brothers for what they had done to him? (Yes.)
25. Joseph knew who had really sent him to Egypt. Who was it? (God.)
26. Why did God send Joseph to Egypt? (To make him a ruler who could save his family from the famine.)
27. Both Jacob and Joseph believed God's promises. Where did they both want to be buried? (In the land God had promised to give them.)