WEEK 3

Jacob Finds His Savior



Big Idea: God is with me. He forgives me when I say I'm sorry.

Memory Verse
***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins"* (1 John 1:9).**

Word of the Week
"Confident" - Being confident means feeling sure that something is true. You can be confident that God loves to forgive you when you make mistakes—it's certain and true.

This week's lesson
is based on **Genesis 28:10-22** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 183-188.

Sunday

Stumbling in the Dark

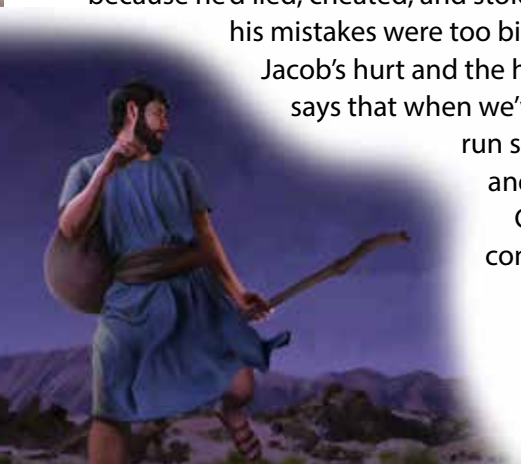
Jacob ran faster and faster. His feet pounded the ground, his sides hurt, and he was out of breath. But he couldn't stop. Darkness was coming, he must hurry—hurry away from home!

Spiky bushes and tree branches scratched his legs as he ran on. His body hurt but not as much as his heart. How he would miss his parents! If only he had been honest! He shouldn't have lied to his father and tricked him into giving him the birthright blessing. His lies had caused so much hurt and pain. And now his sin, and the things he'd done, felt horrible.

Jacob thought of angry Esau, shouting and waving his fist at him. His own brother hated him! He quickly looked at the path behind him. Feeling scared, he ran even faster.

As darkness fell Jacob felt afraid and alone. The wrong things he'd done felt like a heavy rock on his back. He wanted to get rid of it, but how? Read **Psalm 118:4.**

Jacob didn't think God wanted to be his helper or friend anymore because he'd lied, cheated, and stole his brother's blessing. He was sure his mistakes were too big for God to love him. But God saw Jacob's hurt and the horrible feelings in his heart. The Bible says that when we've done something wrong, we can run straight to God. "Come back to God, and He will forgive your sins" (Acts 3:19, ICB).



God's mercy lasts forever. He is such a good, kind, forgiving God. We can be confident of God's love for us. We don't ever need to feel alone.

I Wonder

» What would you have said to Jacob if you had met him while he was running away?

Prayer Idea
Thank God for His great big love.

Do
Take a coin and cover it with dirt. Is it still valuable? Yes. Even when you are dirty with sin, God still loves and values you too. Now wash the coin. God's forgiveness can clean our hearts.

Monday

A Long, Lonely Road

Jacob dragged his sore, tired feet down the lonely road. His family was far, far behind him now. But his Uncle Laban's tents, in Haran, were still a long way ahead.

As he walked, he felt worried. His father had given him the blessing from God, but did God still love him after everything he'd done? He'd lied straight to his father's face! God had seen it all. He had heard it all. *Surely, God wouldn't want me as His leader*, he thought.

Even though he was scared to talk to God, Jacob stopped to pray. He cried as he said he was sorry to God for all his lies. He asked God to forgive him for the wrong things he'd done.

The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9). That means if you are sorry for your mistakes and ask God to forgive you, He will!

As darkness fell, after a long day of walking, what did Jacob do? Read **Genesis 28:11**.

Imagine trying to sleep on *that* pillow! It wouldn't be very comfortable. But Jacob was so tired, he didn't care. Closing his eyes, he fell asleep.

God spoke to Jacob as he went to sleep on the cold, hard "pillow." God had watched over him every step of the way. He accepted Jacob's prayer for forgiveness. God loved him very much, just as God loves and forgives you! And God planned to show Jacob something very special to prove it—that very night!

I Wonder

» What good things about God can you think of when you are sad?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that we can always ask Him to forgive us—and He always will!

Do

Go outside with some chalk. On a rock draw a mark for every bad thing Jacob had done. Wash the rock with water or a damp cloth. Just as the rock is clean, God forgives us.

Memory Verse





Tuesday

A Ladder of Love

The cold stone pillow hurt Jacob's head, but he was so tired, he soon fell fast asleep.

Suddenly a bright shining light burst through the darkness of his sleep. God gave Jacob a special message in a dream!

Jacob saw a shiny ladder that stretched up, up, up, far into the sky. The ladder seemed to reach all the way from earth to heaven.

As Jacob looked at the ladder, he noticed angels everywhere. Some were busily walking up the ladder and others were busily walking down the ladder.

Who was standing above the ladder? Read the first part of **Genesis 28:13**.

God's strong and loving voice spoke. He told Jacob that He would bless him with many children, grandchildren, and great-great-great grandchildren. What a big family! Then God promised, "I am with you, and I will protect you everywhere you go" (Genesis 28:15, ICB). That ladder was a picture of what Jesus does for us—He connects us with heaven because He saves us.

Jacob woke up feeling peaceful and thankful. God had heard his prayers and had forgiven him. God was with him and would bless him with a good future. He didn't need to worry or fear because the broken connection with God was now fixed. He must have smiled as he thought about all those angels flying up and down the ladder from heaven to earth. What a good, kind, forgiving God!

God's love is so wonderful! It's bigger, higher, stronger, and better than anything we can want or imagine!

Challenge

How many steps can you count on the ladder in the picture? How many steps do you think a ladder would need to reach all the way to heaven?

I Wonder

» Why did God give Jacob this special dream?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for forgiving and loving us when we do the wrong thing.

Do

Sing "Jesus loves Me."

Mission Challenge

Ask God to help anyone who comes to your home to know and love Him. Pray about this with your family.

Memory Verse



Wednesday

Forget Me Not

As Jacob lay there in the quiet darkness, he smiled and thought about the glowing ladder and the shining angels. What an amazing dream! He didn't feel lonely anymore. God had said, "I am with you . . . I will not leave you . . ." (Genesis 28:15, ICB).

He looked at the dark, distant hills and the starry sky. Yes, this place where God talked to him was very special. He said, "Surely the Lord is in this place" (Genesis 28:16, ICB).

As the early morning sun began to creep across the land, Jacob got up. He couldn't sleep, he was too excited. He had been forgiven! God had promised him a wonderful new life. He had to do something to show God just how thankful he was. What did he do? Read **Genesis 28:18**.

This would be a special reminder rock. Whenever Jacob walked past this place, the rock would remind him of the dazzling dream and God's great love. He would stop in this special place and worship God.

It is so important to remember God and thank Him for the wonderful things He does for you. Remembering and praising God can help you to be confident in His love when you are sad or worried.

I Wonder

» Can you think of something wonderful that God has done for you?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you notice Him beside you every single day.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a story of when you really felt God's presence close or He showed His love to you in a special way.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Showing Thankfulness

As Jacob stood, looking at the reminder rock he had just set up, he felt so free! He didn't need to worry about his mistakes anymore. God had forgiven him! God's love for him was bigger than he could ever imagine!

Jacob looked back at the dusty road. It would soon be time to leave this special place. Surely there was something else he could do to show God how thankful he felt? His big smile grew bigger. He had a great idea—a way to show God his thanks wherever he went! What was it? Read **Genesis 28:22**.

Jacob promised to give God tithe. Every time he counted ten gifts from God, he would give one as an offering back to God.

If Jacob counted out ten shiny coins, he would give one to God. If he counted out ten fluffy sheep in his flock, he would give one to God. And if he would bring in ten baskets of yummy food from the garden, he would give one to God. Jacob wanted to give the best of everything back to God.

What a beautiful thank You! Jacob had found out that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father" (James 1:17).

I Wonder

» What might you give Jesus to show Him how important He is to you?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for the gifts He has given you, including his love and forgiveness.

Do

Count out 10 different objects then take one away as tithe. Try it with lots of different things: buttons, toys, rice, or pencils. You might like to turn an old jar into your own "tithe" jar for coins, if you have them. Count out 10, then place one in your jar to give to God. Remember that all good gifts come from God.

Memory Verse





Friday

Walking With Hope

Jacob began his big journey again, looking like a different man! His shoulders no longer sagged, they were straight and tall. He smiled instead of looking scared. His feet seemed to almost bounce with joy as he walked happily along.

Jacob felt new on the inside too. God had cleaned away his mistakes. Jacob had learned that, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).

Uncle Laban's tents were still a long way away, but Jacob didn't mind one bit. The long walk would give him time to talk to his friend God. Jacob now felt confident that he wasn't alone. God had promised him, "I am with you . . . I will not leave you . . ." (Genesis 28:15, ICB).

God had also promised to give him a big family and bless him. What a loving, kind God! Jacob just wanted to praise and thank Him. What might he have said as he walked along? Read **Psalm 145:1-3**.

It doesn't matter how big your messy mistakes are, God promises to forgive and bless you too! And that is something worth praising God for.

I Wonder

» Can you tell the story of Jacob's journey in your own words?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that His love and forgiveness changes us inside and out.

Do

Share with a friend how God has changed your life and made it more wonderful.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Can you think of anything you need to ask God to forgive you for? Say a prayer to God, asking Him for forgiveness. Draw a picture for God thanking Him for His love and forgiveness. Glue it into your family journal.

For You, Parents

"In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the highest sense of freedom" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 466).

Sabbath

White as Snow

Have you ever seen or touched snow? Close your eyes and imagine your hands are holding a ball of snow right now. What might it feel like?

Snow looks like a fluffy white powder, but if you could look really closely through a microscope, you would see that snow is actually made up of thousands and thousands of little snowflakes. Snowflakes are tiny drops of frozen water. Each snowflake is see-through and looks like a fancy-shaped glittering star.

Did you know that no two snowflakes are the same? God has made each one its own special shape.

You'll only find snow in places that get very cold. Way up high in the clouds, it gets even colder! And when it's freezing cold in the clouds, they make little ice crystals. These crystals get heavy and fall through the sky, down to the ground as snowflakes. Each snowflake takes a different trip from the cloud to the ground, and this gives each one its own amazing shape.

When snow covers the ground, everything looks different! Look how beautiful, white, and clean it looks in this picture, after the snow has fallen.

Fresh snow looks a lot like God's forgiveness. When we sin, it's as though we are messy with mistakes. God wants to make us beautiful and clean again, just like a white blanket of snow. He says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).

If you live in a place where it snows, look at the tiny detail in each different snowflake. Thank God for His blanket of snowy-white forgiveness that covers our sins and makes us beautiful again.

