

WEEK 6

The Dreamer

Big Idea: God is with me. He cares for me.

Memory Verse
***". . . casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:7).**

Word of the Week
"Care" - Care means to be really interested in something or someone. Care also means to look after. God cares about you. He thinks you're very important, and He's interested in everything you say, think, and do. He also cares for you—He looks after you with great love. He protects, comforts, and helps you every day.

This week's lesson
is based on **Genesis 35:7-21**; **37:1-11**; and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 204, 209, 210.

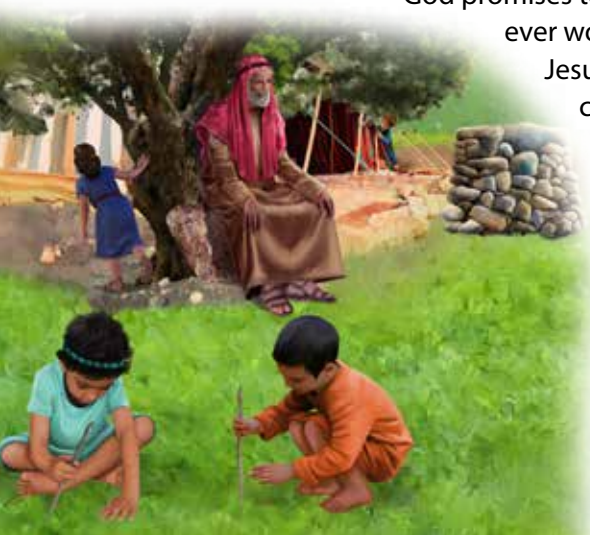
Sunday

A Promise Filled

Jacob grinned as he sat under the shade of the big old tree in his new home in Shechem. He loved watching his grandchildren play. Their giggles and chatter made him so happy. Some sat in the grass playing games with sticks and stones. Others whispered as they hid behind tents waiting for their cousins to find them. His family had grown over the years. God had definitely kept His promise to give him a big, big family!

What else had God promised him long ago, when Jacob had run away from his family home? Read **Genesis 28:15**.

God had done what He promised! Jacob was back in beautiful Canaan. God had cared for him all along the way. When he was scared of Esau, God was with him. When he was angry at unfair Uncle Laban, God helped him do his best. And when he was worried about meeting Esau again, God gave him peace.



God promises to look after you too. If you're ever worried or afraid, you can tell Jesus. He will take those worries, or cares, from you. The Bible says, ". . . casting all your care [or worries] upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Jacob was so thankful, he built an altar next to his tent, just like Abraham did. Here at the altar, in both the morning and the evening, Jacob called his family together to worship God. He had been so faithful. Jacob knew he—and his big, big family—could always trust Him.

I Wonder

» What stories might Jacob have told his grandchildren about God's care for him?

» What story would you have liked to hear the most?

Prayer Idea
Thank God for keeping His promises and caring for us.

Mission Challenge
With help, write a letter to someone who comes to your home or area (a helper, worker, or visitor). Let them know that they are special and how much Jesus cares for them.

Monday

Another Son

The camel knelt down on the dirt as Jacob packed the last of their treasures. Done! With a snort and a wobble, the camel stood up. It was time to go. The family was on the move again!

God asked Jacob to go to Bethel—the place where God had given him his loving ladder dream. God wanted to remind Jacob of the special thing that had happened there.

Jacob set off with Rachel, Leah, and his sons, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, and Joseph and his daughter, Dinah. All their families, servants, and animals came too.

In Bethel they built an altar and gave an offering to God. Then God spoke to Jacob again. What did He say? Read **Genesis 35:11**.

What a beautiful promise! God loved him. He would always care for him.

Later, as they left Bethel, Rachel gave birth to a baby boy. A new little brother had joined their family! He was named Benjamin. Baby Benjamin was the sweetest little thing. Now Jacob had 12 sons!

Sadly, after Benjamin was born, Rachel died. Jacob's heart hurt. He would miss her a lot. But Jacob knew God cared and would comfort him. In the Bible, God tells us, "Even when you are old, I will take care of you. Even when your hair has turned gray, I will take care of you. I made you and will take care of you" (Isaiah 46:4, ICB).

Parent Faith Talk

Tell a story about a time you were puzzled about something, but after a while, it all made sense and God showed you why it happened.

I Wonder

» When you are sad, what helps to make you feel happy again?

Prayer Idea

Pray for someone you know who is feeling sad.

Do

Draw a picture of the things you are sad or worried about. Tape it onto a ball and take it outside. Say a prayer, giving those things to Jesus. Then "cast" or throw that ball as far and hard as you can. Have an adult pull off and destroy the "paper worries" and then throw the ball back empty.

Memory Verse



Tuesday

Joseph's Amazing Colorful Coat

Baby Benjamin soon grew into big boy Benjamin. Father Jacob loved story time with Benjamin and bigger brother Joseph. The boys would lean in as Father Jacob told them stories about Adam and Eve, Noah's big floating boat, and great-grandfather Abraham.

As Jacob spoke he noticed Joseph listening extra closely. Joseph's heart was so pure, gentle, and caring. He really wanted to follow God's ways.

As Joseph grew bigger he was given a job with his brothers. What was it? Read the first part of **Genesis 37:2**.

Joseph worked with honesty. But he noticed his big brothers often doing and saying bad things. He tried to tell them to do the right thing but they wouldn't listen.

Father Jacob was thankful Joseph was a kind and honest son he could trust. One day Jacob decided to give Joseph a gift to show his love. Heading out into the field, Jacob brought in some sheep, clipped off their fluffy wool, and began twirling and whirling it into long threads. Then Jacob dipped the threads in little clay pots of colorful dye.

When the wool dried then the fun really began! Over and under, up and down, Jacob wove the wool. Slowly and carefully he wove a bright, beautiful coat for Joseph.

Finished! Proudly Jacob gave Joseph the special gift. Joseph's mouth opened wide in surprise! It was so beautiful. He couldn't believe it was his! He gave his father a big thank-you hug.

I Wonder

» What gift has someone given you to show they care for you?

» What gifts does God give you to show how much He loves you?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you remember that He cares for you.

Do

Cut strips of colorful paper. Make a paper weaving craft together to remind you of God's bright, beautiful love. (See template on the website.)

Memory Verse





Wednesday

A Strange Dream

Joseph wandered the fields wearing his new special coat. It was his favorite thing to wear. It had long sleeves and so many beautiful colors.

But his big brothers didn't like the coat at all. They whispered jealous words to each other. Their father hadn't made them a coat of beautiful colors! It made them angry. "So they hated their brother and could not speak to him politely" (Genesis 37:4, ICB). Poor Joseph!

One night tired Joseph took off his favorite coat, folded it carefully, and put it in a safe spot. Then lying down, he quickly fell fast asleep. As Joseph slept, God gave him a dream. It was a very strange dream. When he woke up, he kept thinking about it. It was so real! He wondered what it might mean. He wanted to talk to someone about it.

"Listen to the dream I had," he began to tell his big brothers (Genesis 37:6, ICB). What did he say next? Read **Genesis 37:7**.

The brothers were mad! Their wheat bundles bowed down to Joseph's wheat bundle? Never! "Do you really think you will be king over us?" they said to their little brother. How dare he try to be the boss! "His brothers hated him even more now" (Genesis 37:8, ICB).

It must have been hard and confusing for Joseph. But even though his brothers were mean and angry, he had a big Friend to care for him. The Bible says, ". . . casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

I Wonder

» Why were Joseph's brothers angry?

» Who can you talk to when others are angry or unkind?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He cares about everything we say.

Do

Go outside and collect some things from nature. Use these to make a thank-you card for someone who is always there to listen and care for you. With help you might like to write in it: "Thank you for always caring for me!"

Memory Verse

Thursday

Another Dream!

Joseph thought about his dream as he rolled up his bedroll. He worried about it as he fed the lambs and when he mended the fence. His dream was on his mind all the time!

Then, under the light of another silvery moon, Joseph had another dream. In the morning he got up even more confused. He decided to tell his brothers about it again.

"Listen," he told them, "I had another dream. I saw the sun, moon and 11 stars bowing down to me" (Genesis 37:9, ICB).

Joseph's brothers glared at him. Did he say 11 stars? Joseph had 11 brothers! Their faces turned so red they looked like a volcano ready to explode!

Joseph's brothers already thought that their father treated Joseph like he was the best. Now it sounded like Joseph thought he was the best too!

Feeling even more confused, Joseph also told his father about his dream. What did Jacob say to Joseph? Read **Genesis 37:10**.

But old Jacob couldn't help but wonder about this dream. He scratched his head and thought long and hard. God had given him a very special dream once, long ago. Maybe God was trying to tell Joseph something too.

When you are puzzled about something, don't let it upset you. Remember to give it to Jesus, ". . . casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

I Wonder

» Have you ever had an interesting or unusual dream?

» Did you tell someone about it? How did they respond?

» Why do you think God gave these dreams to Joseph?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you trust Him even when you don't understand what is happening.

Do

Put a puzzle together. Notice how one piece on its own doesn't often make sense, but once together, all the pieces make a big, beautiful picture. God cares for you and sees the big picture all the time!

Memory Verse





Friday

He Cares for Me!

Five-year-old Oliver had worries. Sometimes the worries started because of a bad dream or a windy thunderstorm. Other times, Oliver worried that he might get lost in the store or that his friends wouldn't choose him to be on their football team.

Can you think of some things that Jacob or Joseph may have worried about in this week's story?

Can you think about something that you sometimes worry about?

Our memory verse tells us to "cast" all our worries on God. It's an old word that tells us what fisherman do with their nets. They don't just drop them into the water or weakly let them go, they give a *really* big, strong throw, so the net spreads out and catches lots of fish.

Practice throwing a blanket over your bed. You'll have to give it a big throw to make sure it lands really flat and not crumpled. That's what God wants you to do with your worries—throw them to Him!

How many of your worries does God ask you to throw his way? Read **1 Peter 5:7**.

So the next time you are scared or worried, remember that your big, strong God loves and cares for you. Pray to Him and tell Him all about it. "Give your worries to the Lord. He will take care of you" (Psalm 55:22, ICB).

I Wonder

» What could you say to a friend next time they are worried about something?

Prayer Idea

Whisper a worry to Jesus. In a loud voice, thank Him for caring for you.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw a picture of something that reminds you that God cares for you. Maybe it is something He has done or something He has given you. Glue your picture in the family journal.

For You, Parents

"In the humble round of toil, the very weakest, the most obscure, may be workers together with God and may have the comfort of His presence and sustaining grace. They are not to weary themselves with busy anxieties and needless cares. Let them work from day to day, accomplishing faithfully the task that God's providence assigns, and He will care for them" (Ellen G. White, *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 116).

Joseph's Beautiful Coat

To do this, you'll need,
- a brown paper grocery bag
- scissors
- glue
- colored paper strips

Joseph was different from his brothers. He had a special friendship with God that made him kind, happy, and caring of others. He loved to choose God's way of doing things. He was respectful and thoughtful with his words.

Make a coat of many colors, then put it on, and act as Joseph would.

1. Cut out the bottom of the bag. On one of the wider sides, cut from the top to bottom to make the front opening. Cut a circle on each of the shorter sides for armholes.
2. Provide glue and colored strips of paper and invite your child to cover the surface with the colors.
3. Leave it to dry while you read the story of Joseph from your favorite lesson, the Bible, or a Bible story book.
4. Then invite your child to put on the coat and respond to questions or situations politely and with kindness, just as Joseph would have done.





You may like to use such questions/situation prompts as:
- What do you think of your coat, Joseph?
- Mother Leah is carrying a big pot of water. What will you do, Joseph?
- Supper is now finished. What will you do, Joseph?
- There are three little lambs without a mommy. They are thirsty and bleating. What can you do, Joseph?
- Benjamin has tripped on a stone and fallen down. How will you help, Joseph?