**July 12, 2020: Pre-K to 2nd Sunday School lesson
FATHER OF NATIONS: Jacob, the heel grabber**

***God's promise is mentioned again to Jacob, confirming that the covenant God made to Abraham will stretch for many generations up to the present. In this lesson, children learn that God always keeps His promises and so should we.***

 **COLORING PAGE: WHO AM I? (Materials: 2 activity pdfs, crayons or markers)**

***(Connect-the-dots) Children must first connect the dots before they can tell which twin is Jacob and which is Esau.***

**PREPARATION:** Before class, print out one copy of each coloring activity for each child. Review the story of Jacob and Esau found in Genesis 25:24-28.

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Explain how Isaac and Rebekah were very old when the Lord finally gave them a child. In fact, God blessed them with twins. While working on their coloring activities, read Genesis 25:24-28 to the children. Discuss how Esau and Jacob were twins and how they fought even before they were born. Talk about how they were very different from each other, even as twins.

The children will first connect the dots of each picture, to discover how different the two twins were from each other. Then, they can trace around the names at the bottom to learn which one is Jacob and which one is Esau. Finally, give them time to color both pictures based on the descriptions read from the Bible passage.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Do you know any twins?
2. If Esau and Jacob were twins, why didn't they look alike?
3. Do twins always look alike?

**WORSHIP TIME & BIBLE VERSE**

**"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go." Genesis 28:15a NIV**Assign actions to the different words as shown below to help the children memorize this verse.

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| --- | --- |
| **When saying this word:**With you:Watch:Wherever:    Go: | **Perform this action:**Give yourself a hugPretend to be looking through binocularsPoint your finger all around the roomWalk in place |

Along with this new verse, review the verse the children learned during the past two weeks: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" Proverbs 3: 5a. See who can remember it. Then ask the following questions:

1. Who is with you wherever you go?*(The Lord.)*
2. Who will watch over you wherever you go? *(The Lord.)*
3. Who can we trust with all of our heart? *(The Lord.)*

**BIBLE STORY** Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After each introduction, read the below passages directly from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.
**Introduction:** Last week we learned about Isaac being born to Abraham and Sarah. Isaac grew with the same faith as Abraham and Jacob. He met Rebekah who later became his wife. Let’s see how God continued His promise to Abraham through Isaac’s son. We are going to read two stories, right from the Bible.

**Read Gen 25:21-28 (The birth of Jacob and Esau)**

**Discussion and Questions:**
1. Was Jacob the only son? *(No, he had a twin.)*
2. What was Jacob’s twin brother’s name? *(Esau.)*
3. Who was the hairy one? *(Esau.)*
4. Which twin was grabbing the heel of his brother when he was born? *(Jacob.)*

Do you remember how God told Abraham to move to a new place? When Jacob received his blessing from his father Isaac, he was also told to move to a different place. On his way, he had a dream.

**Read Gen 28:1-4, 10-15 (God's promise to Jacob)

Discussion Questions:**1. Who gave Jacob a blessing?*(His father Isaac.)*
2. What was in Jacob’s dream*(Ladder, angels.)*
3. Who was going to be with Jacob wherever he would go? *(God.)*
4. Did God bless Jacob also?*(Yes.)*

Remember, in our first lesson when God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many peoples on earth? Then, God gave Abraham a son when he was very old, named Isaac. Then God gave Isaac a son when he was very old, named Jacob. God always fulfills His promises, even when it seems impossible. Through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, there became many generations of God's people.

**SONG: FATHER ABRAHAM (REVISED) *A well known song but with a with a slight twist to get the kids counting for the Lord. Sung to the tune of “Father Abraham.”***

**SONG LYRICS**

Father Abraham, has many sons, Father Abraham, has many sons,
Many sons has Father Abraham. Many sons has Father Abraham.
I am one of them, and so are you, I am one of them, and so are you,
So let's shout to the Lord, So let's shout to the Lord,
ONE, TWO! ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT!

Father Abraham, has many sons, Father Abraham, has many sons,
Many sons has Father Abraham. Many sons has Father Abraham.
I am one of them, and so are you, I am one of them, and so are you,
So let's shout to the Lord, So let's shout to the Lord,
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR! ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN!

Father Abraham, has many sons,
Many sons has Father Abraham.
I am one of them, and so are you,
So let's shout to the Lord,
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX!

**PRAYER/SNACK** Start by thanking God for always being with us, wherever we go, and for always keeping His promises. While enjoying the treats, continue to have a casual discussion about promises by asking the following questions:
1. What does it mean when we make a promise?
2. Why is it important for all of us to keep our promises?
3. What happens when we don't keep our promises?
4. Who always keeps His promises? *(God.)*              .

**What We Learned:** Today, your child learned about Jacob. God kept His promise to Abraham by giving his son Isaac two sons of his own, named Jacob and Esau. However, only Jacob found favor in his father's eyes to receive the blessing that had been given to Abraham. God promised Abraham that he would have as many children as there were stars in the sky, and Isaac and Jacob were part of that promise. That also means we are part of that promise! How cool is that? Your child also learned that God always keeps His promises and so should we. (Scripture used: Genesis 25:21-28; 28:1-4, 10-15)

**Words to Remember:** (Bible versions used are selected to help young children learn and understand the meaning of scripture.) "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.” Genesis 28:15a NIV Practice this verse again with your child during the week. This will not only help your child to remember the verse, but also it will help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.

**Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** Read the story about Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25:21-28. Then talk about why one was chosen and why the other one wasn’t. Was there anything about Jacob that made him better? Was there anything about Esau that was good? Ask questions so that your child can understand a little better why one brother was chosen over the other. However, also remind your child that God made a promise that He kept. We should pay attention to the promises we make. Are we going to be able to keep our promises?

**Daily Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank You for Your promises. You are always trustworthy, even in the small things. Help us learn from the example of Abraham and his sons in how they trusted and obeyed You. Help us be a blessing to others as we remember that we are part of the promise You gave so long ago. Amen.