

GRADES
K-6

JACOB'S LADDER

Printable Lesson Kit



M **GHTY MESSAGES**

THANK YOU

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JACOB'S LADDER

LESSON OVERVIEW



JACOB'S LADDER MIGHTY MESSAGES

This Lesson on Jacob's dream of the ladder, with angels rising and descending between earth and heaven, will give students a great idea of how God can promise great things to those willing to go out of their way for him! Jacob was escaping the wrath of his brother Esau. Jacob and his mother had conspired to steal the birthright of this less gifted older brother and bestow it on the promised younger brother. Jacob had to flee for his life from Esau, but ran into God, angels, a great dream, and a promise along the way.



How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Printable Craft
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Big bag of Legos, such as those belonging to your kids at home (game)
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

JACOB'S LADDER

SCRIPTURE & LESSON

PASSAGE FROM GENESIS 28:6-22

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



EXCERPTS FROM GENESIS 28:6-22

Jacob was running for his life, having been threatened by his older brother Esau. Their father Isaac had blessed Jacob, whereas Esau, the oldest, was the likely one to get the family blessing. Jacob and his mother conspired so Jacob could get it

⁶ Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him to Paddan Aram to take a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he commanded him, “Do not marry a Canaanite woman,” ⁷ and that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had gone to Paddan Aram. ⁸ Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac; ⁹ so he went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had.

Jacob’s Dream at Bethel

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said: “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the Lord will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

Questions for Children about Jacob's Ladder

1. Esau married a woman he knew his father would despise. Why did he do it? **Revenge. To get even for giving Jacob his blessing and birthright.** Have you ever felt like you wanted to get even with someone? What happened? What is a better idea? **Letting God give out his own version of justice in the right time.**

2. What happened in this wonderful dream we now call Jacob's Ladder? **Jacob saw angels and a portal of heaven. He got to hear God's voice with a great promise.** What was the promise that God made to Jacob? (see verses 13-15) **Jacob would inherit this land and he would be the father of a great nation that would bless the whole earth. Jacob's descendants not only formed Israel, but they have blessed many in their individual lives, successes, and business practices to this day.**

3. What did Jacob do when he woke up? Did he just say, "Huh, that was a weird dream and move on?" **No, he acted like he truly believed it was from God and acted very gratefully.** If you had a dream you thought might be from God—telling you want to do or just that he was watching out for you—how would you respond?



TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

Jacob conspired with his mother to take a blessing that rightfully belonged to his older brother. Generally, the oldest boy got the birthright in families back then. It meant they would get a double portion of their father's wealth. It also meant they would exercise considerable authority over the other members of the family. The blessing that the oldest son received would also place him in a special covenant relationship with the Lord.

But sometimes problems arise when people are given things based on fixed qualifications like birth order, gender, race, or family name. Fixed qualifications have nothing to do with someone's character. God knew that the oldest would not always be the wisest, nor would the oldest always have the most character or be the most deserving.

Going along with fixed credentials is good at times. When someone is put in charge because they are oldest or tallest or lightest or darkest, and we have to listen to what they tell us to do, it is humbling. We may feel smarter. But submitting to authority, even not-quite-bright authority, will teach us to submit our wills to God.

However, in this case, the birthright was super-important. Jacob was declared by God to be the future father of a nation. And Jacob's older brother was not a deep-thinking guy. He had already given up his birthright to Jacob over a bowl of stew—because he was hungry! He traded his birthright—if Jacob would take away his hunger.

Most of the time in our lives, we have to follow authority and do what is expected of us. But someday something will arise where you have to defend Christ, go against the crowd or even go against tradition. Anything you do in the name of the Lord will be rewarded by him.

Sometimes we get off to confusing starts like Jacob did. But the things we do, if we do them for Jesus, will bring about the best outcomes.



JACOB'S LADDER

PRINTABLE CRAFT



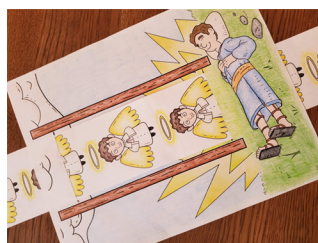
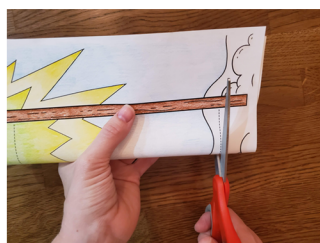
MATERIALS:

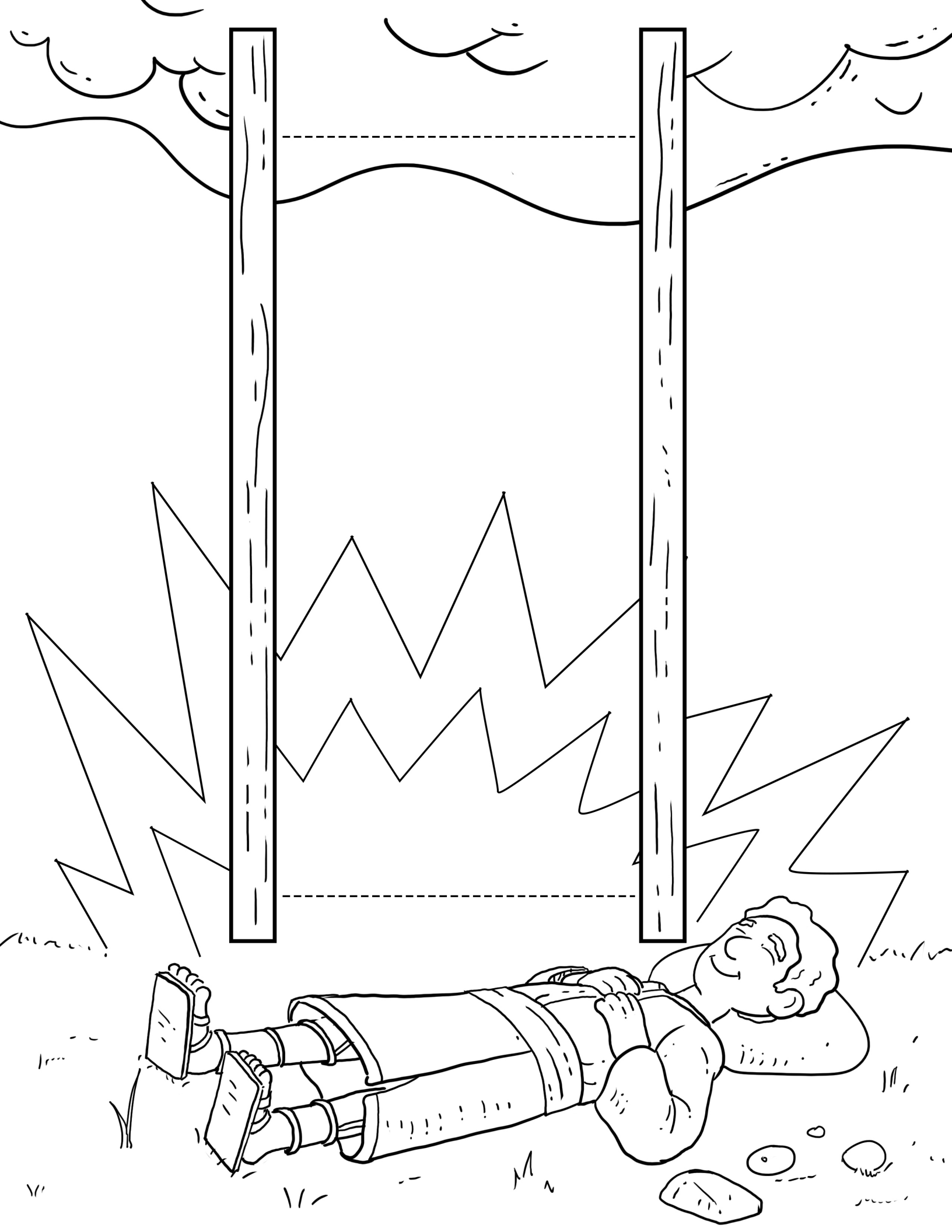
- White paper or card stock
- Coloring utensils
- Scissors
- Glue Stick



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Each child will need the two-page craft template sheets.
2. Color as desired.
3. Cut out the two columns of angels and glue the strips together to make one long column.
4. Fold the ladder template in half and cut along the dashed lines to make two slits.
5. Thread the angel column through the slits as shown.
6. Kids can pull on the angel column to make the angels travel up the ladder.







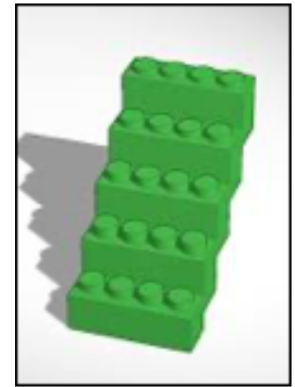
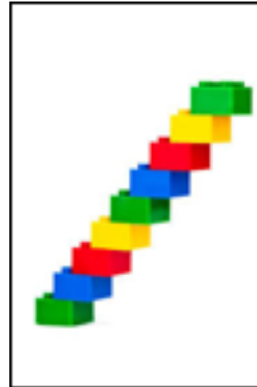
JACOB'S LADDER WITH LEGOS

Sometimes the best way to get kids' hearts into a story is to let them imagine it and build it. Dump out a bunch of Lego blocks and let the fun begin!



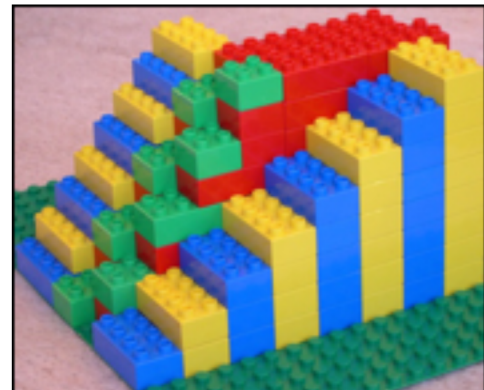
MATERIALS:

Big bag of Lego blocks, such as those belonging to your kids at home



PREPARATION:

None



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Dump the bag and read the scripture again from the lesson where Jacob has his dream.
2. Ask children how they would feel if God came to them in a dream. What would they want it to be about? How would they respond?
3. Let them build Jacob's Ladder any way they choose. Show them the pictures above or some online that create ladders or stairs.
4. Make sure they put in the characters! Angels can be white Lego blocks or something more dramatic. Jacob should have his head on a rock.
5. When they are finished building, have them take turns reciting the story and the way Jacob responded.

Color by Numbers!

1 = Light blue

3 = Dark green

5 = Blue

7 = Red

9 = Gray

2 = Yellow

4 = Brown

6 = Skin tone

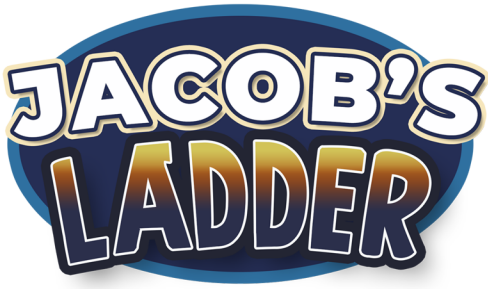
8 = Purple

10 = Black



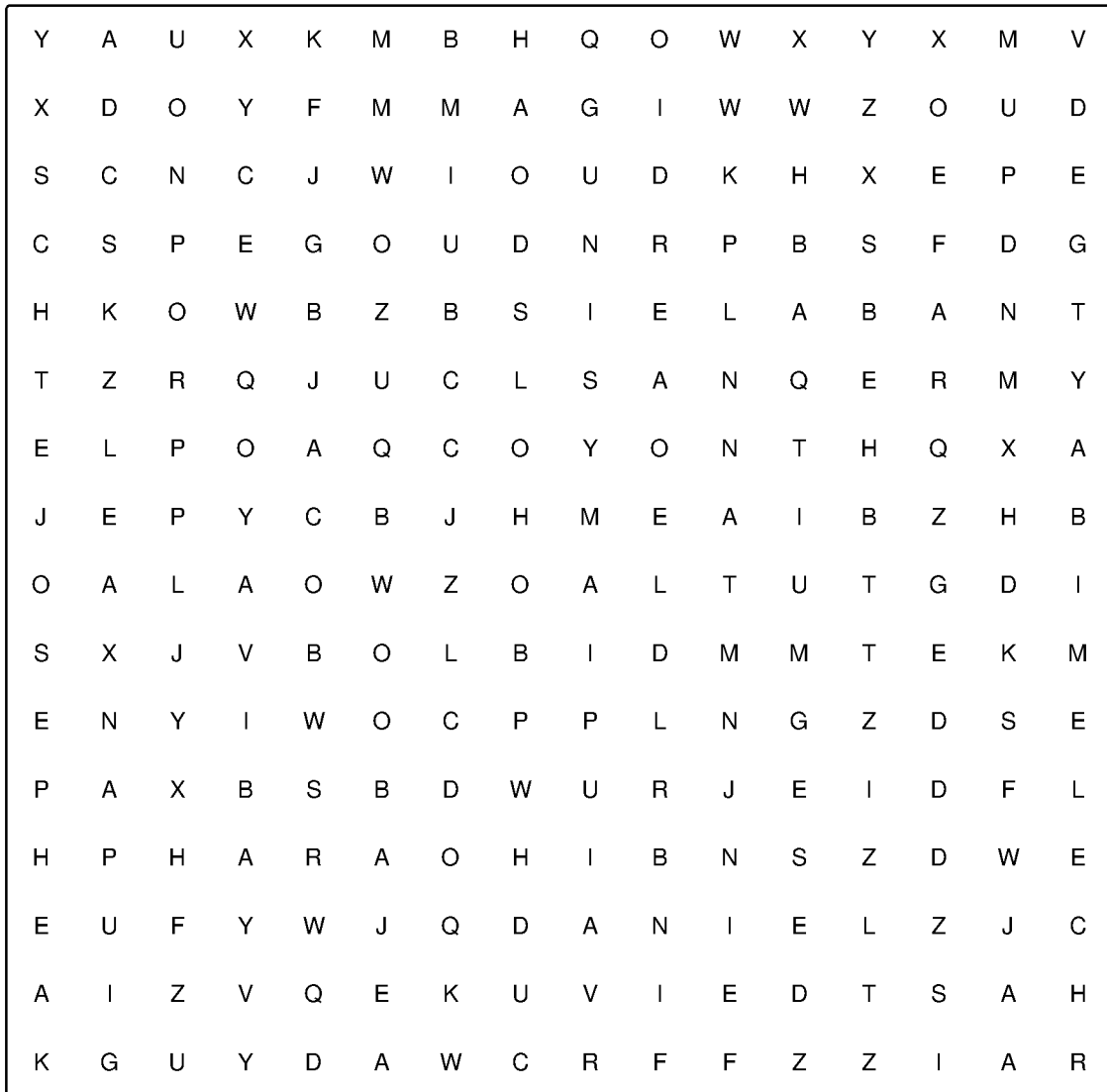
Jacob's ladder reached to heaven.

Genesis 28



WORD SEARCH

In the Bible, God sometimes used dreams to show what was going to happen. It may have been a warning, judgment, or blessing showing up in the dream. Below are 12 people or groups in the Bible who got messages from God via dreams. Find them all in the puzzle!



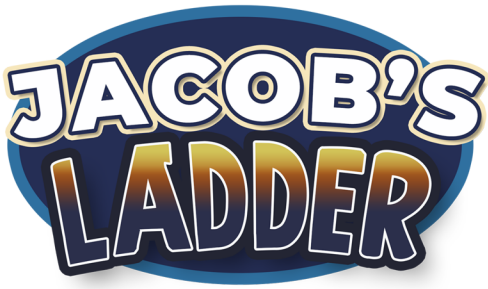
Words to Find:

ABIMELECH
JACOB
LABAN

JOSEPH
PHARAOH
MIDIANITES

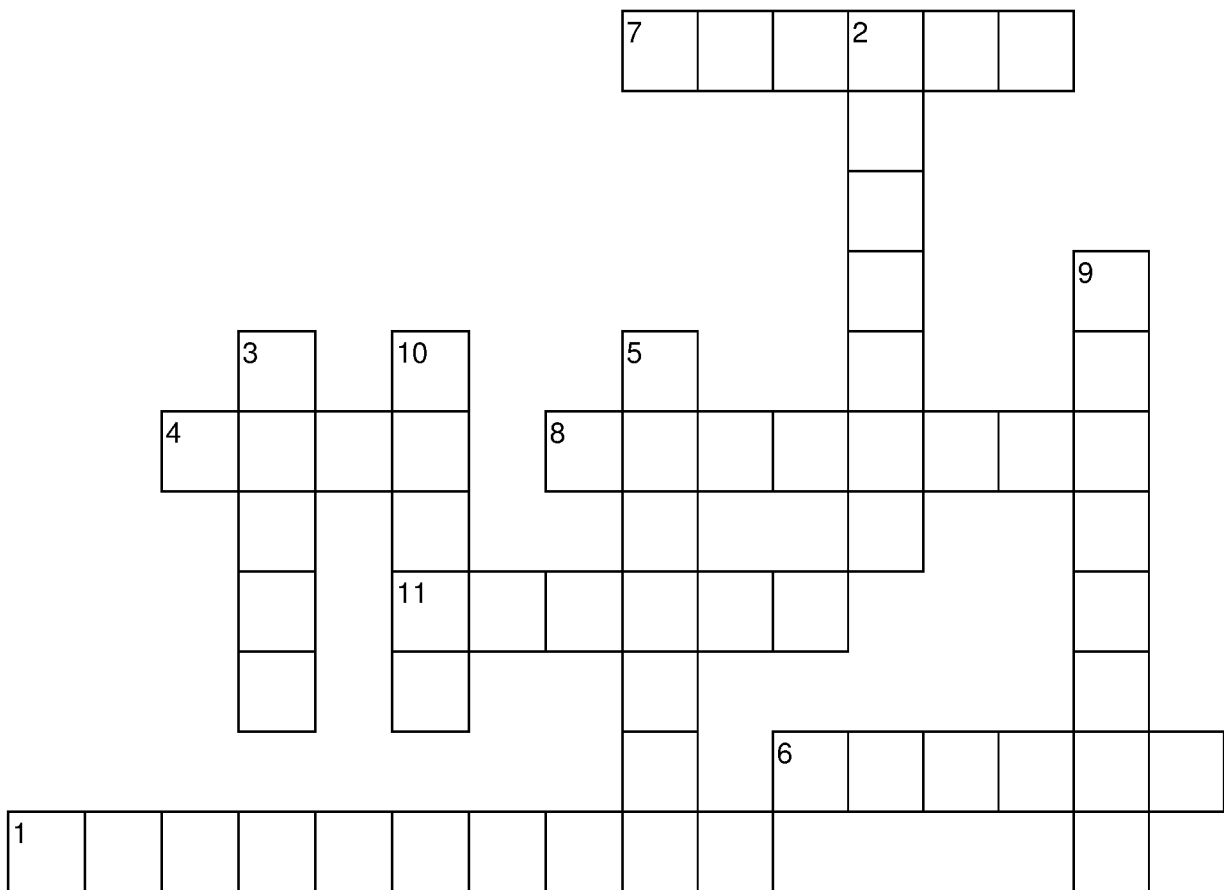
SOLOMON
NEBUCHADNEZZAR
DANIEL

JOSEPH
MAGI
PILATE



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use your Jacob's Ladder At-A-Glance Sheet (page 15) to fill in the puzzle below and learn more about this famous Father of Israel.

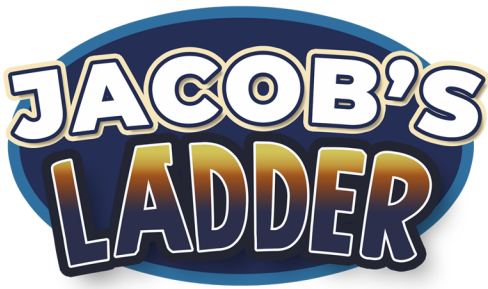


Across

- 1. Jacob was the third and last of these
- 4. Jacob's brother
- 6. Jacob's oldest son
- 7. Jacob's new name given by God
- 8. Jacob's youngest son
- 11. Jacob wrestled with one of these

Down

- 2. Jacob's grandfather
- 3. Jacob's father
- 5. Jacob's mother
- 9. Jacob's grandsons by Joseph were Ephraim and this man
- 10. Tribe Jesus descended from



PARENT HANDOUT



Scriptures to Read: Genesis 28:10-22



This Week We Learned About ...

...Jacob's dream of the ladder, with angels rising and descending between earth and heaven. It gave the students a great idea of how God can promise great things to those willing to go out of their way for him! Jacob was escaping the wrath of his brother Esau. Jacob and his mother had conspired to steal the birthright of this less-gifted older brother and bestow it on the promised younger brother. Jacob had to flee for his life from Esau but ran into God, angels, a great dream, and a promise along the way.



✓ Questions for Kids:

1. What creatures were ascending and descending the stairway?
A. Angels.
2. What big promise did God make to Jacob?
A. To give him the land and lots of descendants.
3. What did Jacob promise God?
A. To worship him and give him a tenth of everything God gives him

✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

God promises to bless his children. What are some of your favorite blessings you've received from God?

We don't always realize how nice it feels to do things just to serve the Lord, because he is good. Think about some things you can do that serve God. These can be by helping other people, volunteer work, sharing the gospel, giving money to the church or a charity, and so on. What are your favorite ways to serve? Why do you like them and how do they make you feel?

Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still.
Exodus 14:14



But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.
2 Thessalonians 3:3



May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.
Psalms 20:1

Jacob, who had the dream of the ladder, was no ordinary guy! He can teach us a lot about believing God when your life is confusing. But he is also part of a special family. Here are the facts:

1

Jacob was born in the **Time of the Patriarchs**. This is around 2200 BC to 1500 BC. Jacob was a patriarch. So were his father and grandfather. There are no other patriarchs

2

Jacob's **grandfather was Abraham**, who was born around 2100 BC. Abraham was told by God that his descendants would be a great nation, God's chosen nation.

3

Jacob's **father was Abraham's son Isaac**, who was born around 2066 BC..

4

Jacob was born around **2000 BC**. He died around 1850 BC. He lived **150 years**.

5

Jacob had **12 sons who became the fathers of the 12 Tribes of Israel**. Their names were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, and Benjamin

6

Jacob's son Joseph became two tribes: They are named after Jacob's grandsons by Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh.

7

Jesus is a descendant of the tribe of **Judah**, which was prophesied in Genesis 49:10, more than 1,500 years before he was born.

8

Jacob was in a **whole series of Bible stories** during his adventures! They include:

- Esau sells Jacob his birthright for stew (Genesis 25:29-34)
- Jacob and his mother Rebekah deceive Isaac into giving Jacob the birthright (Genesis 27)
- Jacob dreams of the ladder to and from heaven (Genesis 28)
- Jacob has to marry the sister of the girl he loved (Genesis 29)
- Jacob wrestles with God (Genesis 32)
- God renames Jacob Israel (Genesis 35)

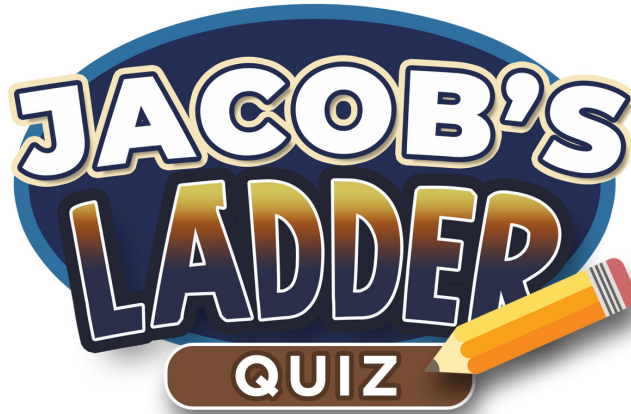


Lookup: Hebrews 8:9-10 and write it down.

Lookup: Matthew 12:46-49. Write down verse 49.

Question: The first verse makes an awfully big deal out of bloodlines and families that God loved. What does the second verse, spoken by Jesus, tell us about God's family today?

Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Ask God to help you see the greatness of your family in Christ and for it to make you strong, using your own words:



Instructions: Use the lesson text of Genesis 28:6-32 to fill in the blanks below and help commit to memory this story about Jacob's dream.

Fill IN YOUR ANSWER

1. Jacob slept with his head on this: _____
2. In his dream, Jacob saw this standing between heaven and earth:

3. God's first promise was to give Jacob this: _____
4. God promised that Jacob's descendants would be as many as this of the earth:

5. God promised he would never to do this to Jacob: _____
6. The next morning, Jacob poured this on the stone: _____
7. Jacob renamed the city of Luz, giving it this name: _____
8. Jacob promised to give God this much of all he was blessed with:

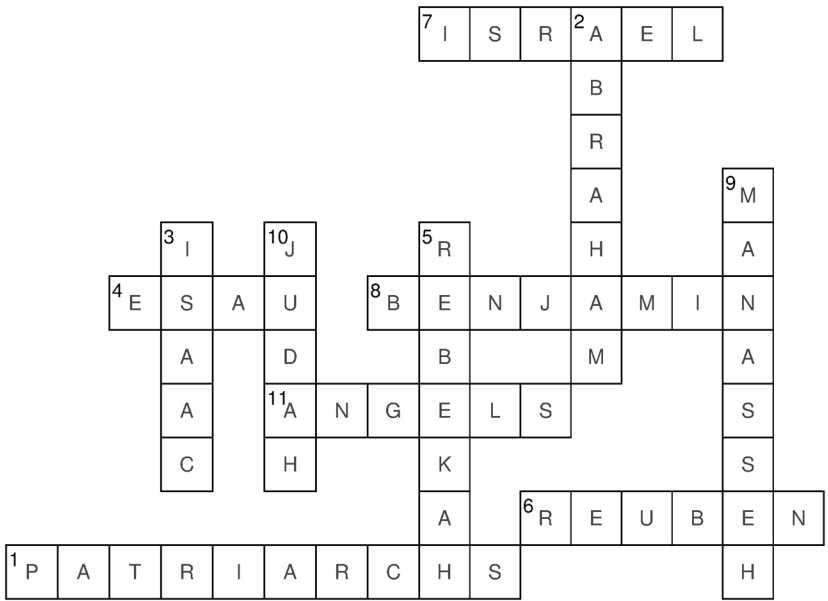
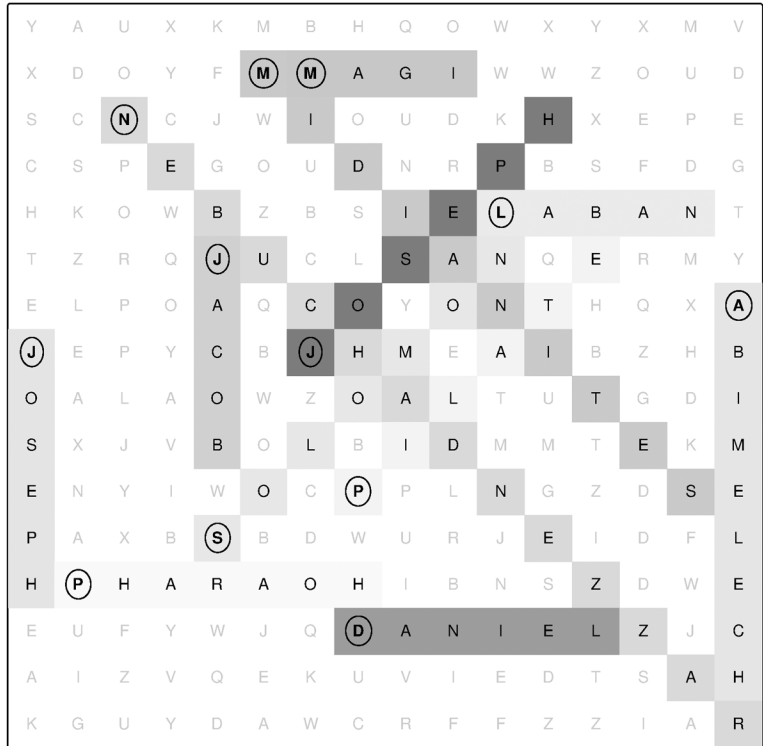
Choose from:

Bethel
Dust
Land
Leave

Oil
Staircase
Stone
Tenth



ANSWER KEY



JACOB'S LADDER

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

NAME:

DATE:

