

## **Making The Choice To Follow God: Jacob Has A Special Dream**

### **Introduction**

**Scripture to read:** Genesis 28:10-22, Luke 9:23, John 8:12

**Key verse:** Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

**Make It Stick:** Have the children illustrate the key words in the verse and repeat the verse using the pictures as clues.

### **Bible Lesson**

**Lesson Goal:** Jacob had to have his own relationship with God. He could not depend on his father or grandfather. The children will understand that each of us has to make the choice to follow God, we can not depend on our family members.

**Hook:** Ask the children, “Who are some people in your family or your church family that you know have chosen to follow God?” “How do you know that these people have chosen to follow God?”

(You may want to bring in a family photo album and discuss people in your family.)

**Scripture to Read:** Genesis 28:10-22, Luke 9:23, John 8:12

You may want to have some of the older children help with the reading. It may also be helpful to read this passage from the New Living Translation. Be sure to let the children see you reading the Bible story from the Bible. It is important that they know that what you are teaching is from God’s word. Help the children follow along in their Bible as the passage is read.

#### **Key Principle:**

After reading the scripture passage, discuss and emphasize this key principle from Genesis 28:10-22 with the children.

The promise that was given to Isaac and Abraham was also given to Jacob, but Jacob had to choose to have a relationship with God.

#### **Application:**

The following questions are appropriate for older children.

1. What are descendants? (verses 13-14)
2. What did Jacob use as a pillow? (verse 11)
3. Who else did God make this promise to? (verses 13-15)
4. When Jacob woke up, what did he do with the pillow? (verses 18-19)

5. What did he name that place? (verse 19)
6. Jacob's father and grandfather had made the Lord their God, why did Jacob have to make the Lord his God? (verses 20-21)
7. How much of what God gave Jacob did Jacob vow to give back? (verse 22)

The following questions are appropriate for younger children.

1. What did Jacob dream? (verse 12-15)
2. What did Jacob name the place where he had the dream? (verse 19)
3. Did Jacob make the Lord his God? (verses 20-21)

### **Activity**

#### **Family Tree**

Have the children use a brown crayon to trace their hand and part of their arm on a white piece of paper. The arm will be the trunk and the hand/fingers will be the branches of the tree. Next, have the children write family members names on the branches and decorate with leaves drawn on the paper with a green crayon. Depending on the age of the children, you can use the family tree to discuss family members that they know have chosen to follow God and those family members that they need to pray for.

### **Wrap-up**

Go back and review the key principle, memory verse and pray.

(Older children may need to discuss; Jacob chose to follow God. Have you made the choice to follow God? How do we make the choice to follow God?)

**Extension:** Bring in a family photo album to discuss.

**Toddler time:** Draw a family picture. Bring in fabric scraps to make clothes.

#### **Supplies:**

White paper

Brown and green crayon

Pencil

Fabric scraps (toddler time)

Photo album (hook and extension)