

THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT
FOR PRETEENS®

IN THE
BEGINNING

VOLUME 1 • LEARNER GUIDE





Unit 1, Session 1

God Created the World

Genesis 1

Story Point: God created everything, and everything He created was good.

In the beginning, nothing existed except for God. God created the heavens and the earth. God spoke: “Let there be light!” What God said happened. God saw that the light was good. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the first day.

God spoke again: “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate them.” What God said happened.

God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.” What God said happened. God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth make plants and trees with fruits and seeds.” What God said happened, and God saw that it was good.

Next, God placed lights in the sky. God created the sun to shine during the day and

the moon and stars to shine at night. God saw that it was good. Evening came, and then morning came. That was the fourth day.

Next, God made creatures that move and swim in the water. He made birds to soar across the sky. God saw that it was good. Then God made more animals—livestock, creatures that crawl, and wildlife—to live on the earth. When God said it, it happened. And God saw that all of it was good.

Christ Connection: Jesus is Lord over all of creation. The Son has always existed. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. All of creation exists to bring God glory.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- List some of the things God created on each day of creation:

- Day 1 _____
- Day 2 _____
- Day 3 _____
- Day 4 _____
- Day 5 _____
- Day 6 _____

- What does this story teach us about God?

- What was special about everything God created?

CHRIST CONNECTION

The Bible says in John 1 that the Word was with God in the beginning, and the Word was God. All things were created through Him. “The Word” is God the Son. When God spoke things into existence, the Son was there. Jesus is Lord over all creation. He is God the Son, and God the Son has always existed. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together.



APPLY the Story

- When God spoke, things happened. What does this tell you about His power?
- What makes something good? Who decides what is good?
- What are some parts of creation you enjoy? If you could ask God anything about what He made, what would you ask?

CHRIST CONNECTION

The Bible says in John 1 that the Word was with God in the beginning, and the Word was God. All things were created through Him. “The Word” is God the Son. When God spoke things into existence, the Son was there. Jesus is Lord over all creation. He is God the Son, and God the Son has always existed. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together.



APPLY the Story

- Find Colossians 1:16-17 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him what you think about everything He has created.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:3	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 12:7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 4:11	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 33:6-9
<input type="checkbox"/> John 1:1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 45:18



Unit 1, Session 2

God Created People

Genesis 1–2

Story Point: God created people in His own image, and He loves us.

On the sixth day of creation, God made people. God said, “Let us make man in our image. They will rule over the whole earth and all the creatures on the earth.” God took dust from the ground and made a body. God breathed into the man, and the man became alive. God planted a garden in the land of Eden and put the man there. God told the man to work in the garden and take care of it.

God said, “You may eat from any of the trees in the garden, except for one.” God warned the man, “If you eat from that tree, you will die.”

Then God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” So God decided to make a helper for the man.

God made the man fall fast asleep. He took one of the man’s ribs and created a woman. The woman was a perfect helper for the man;

she was his wife. The man’s name was Adam, and his wife’s name was Eve.

God gave Adam and Eve good things. He put them in charge of the animals and provided everything they needed. God looked at everything He had made, and it was very good. So on the seventh day of creation, God rested from His work.

Christ Connection: God created people in His own image and provides for everything He made. People are special because God made people to live forever in a relationship with Him. Through His Son, Jesus, we can have eternal life with God just as He planned.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- **Fill in the blanks.**

God created people in His own _____ . (Genesis 1:27)

God created people on the _____ day. (Genesis 1:27)

God put the man in the garden to _____ it. (Genesis 2:15)

God said it was not good for the man to be _____. (Genesis 2:18)

God made a _____ for the man. (Genesis 2:18)

God formed the man's rib into a _____. (Genesis 2:22)

- **What does this story teach us about ourselves?**

- **Why did God make people?**

CHRIST CONNECTION

God created people in His own image and provides for everything He made. People are special because God made people to live forever in a relationship with Him. Through His Son, Jesus, we can have eternal life with God just as He planned.



APPLY the Story

- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
- How does being created in God's image affect how we treat one another?
- God created us to know and love Him. How can we get to know God if we cannot see Him?



APPLY the Story

- Find Colossians 1:16-17 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him what you think about the special way He created people.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 15:49	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:2
<input type="checkbox"/> John 1:12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 6:19
<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 3:26	<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 5:1



Unit 1, Session 3

Sin Entered the World

Genesis 3

Story Point: Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.

God gave the first two people, Adam and Eve, a beautiful garden to call home. He gave them everything they needed, and He gave them one command: "You may eat from any of the trees in the garden, except for one." God warned Adam, "If you eat from that tree, you will die."

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals. One day, the serpent went to Eve. "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'" he asked.

Eve answered, "God told us not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. He said if we eat it or touch it, we will die."

"No! You will not die," the serpent lied. The serpent told Eve that she and Adam would be like God, knowing good and evil.

Eve took some of the fruit and ate it. Eve also gave some of the fruit to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked.

That evening, Adam and Eve heard God

walking in the garden. They hid among the trees. God called out to Adam, "Where are you?" Adam said, "I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." God asked Adam, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I told you not to eat from?" Adam blamed Eve. "She gave me some fruit, and I ate it," he said. Eve blamed the serpent. "He tricked me," she said.

God said that bad things would happen. Life would be hard and painful, all because of sin.

Everything changed after Adam and Eve sinned. They were not close to God like before. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God. God made them clothes out of animal skins and then sent them out of the garden.

Christ Connection: Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been sinners. Our sin separates us from God, but God still loves us. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve's family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Cross out the statements that are false.

God told Eve, “You may eat from every tree in the garden.”

Nothing changed after Adam and Eve sinned.

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been sinners.

- What does this story teach us about God?

- How does sin affect the world?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been sinners. Our sin separates us from God, but God still loves us. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve's family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.



APPLY the Story

- What are some rules your parents have for you? Why do you think they give you rules?
- Why do you think people sin against God?
- How does sin affect our relationship with God? How does it affect our relationships with one another?



APPLY the Story

- Find Colossians 1:16-17 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him how you feel about sin and its effects.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16-17	<input type="checkbox"/> James 4:7,17
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1:8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:13
<input type="checkbox"/> James 1:13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5:12



Unit 1, Session 4

Noah and the Ark

Genesis 6–9

Story Point: God punished sin but chose to rescue Noah and his family.

Adam and Eve had many children and grandchildren. One day, God looked at all the people on earth and saw that they were choosing to sin. Every person's thoughts were evil, and God was sad that He made people. God decided to send a flood to clean up the world.

God showed favor to a man named Noah. He told Noah to make an ark to save himself, his family, and all kinds of animals. God told Noah exactly how to make the ark. God said that He would make a covenant, or agreement, with Noah and his family. Noah did everything that God commanded.

When the ark was finished, Noah went inside with his family and the animals, and God shut the door. Rain came for 40 days and 40 nights, and water rose from the ground.

The water rose higher and higher until all of the mountains were covered. Every living

thing on the earth died; only Noah and those with him survived.

Finally, the rain stopped and the water started to go down. Noah waited inside the ark until the ground was dry. Then God told Noah to bring all the people and animals out of the ark. So Noah did. God promised Noah that He would never completely flood the earth again.

God told Noah and his family to spread out over the earth and fill it with people. God placed a rainbow in the sky as a special sign of the covenant He made with Noah.

Christ Connection: God rescued Noah and his family from the flood. The story of Noah points ahead to a greater rescue. God's Son, Jesus—the only perfectly righteous One—came to take the punishment for our sin. By trusting in Him, we are saved from the punishment our sin deserves.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Draw a picture of something that happened in the Bible story.
- What does this story teach us about God?
- Why did God rescue Noah and his family?

CHRIST CONNECTION

God rescued Noah and his family from the flood. The story of Noah points ahead to a greater rescue. God's Son, Jesus—the only perfectly righteous One—came to take the punishment for our sin. By trusting in Him, we are saved from the punishment our sin deserves.



APPLY the Story

- Why do you think God punished sin?
- What was God's greater plan to deal with sin?
- Where do you see God's mercy in this Bible story? Where do you see God's mercy today?



APPLY the Story

- Find Colossians 1:16-17 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him how you feel about His plan to rescue sinners through Jesus.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:7	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:23
<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 37:39	<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 1:3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter 3:9	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 18:10



Unit 1, Session 5

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11

Story Point: People tried to build a tower to glorify themselves instead of God.

After the great flood, God told Noah and his sons to grow their families and fill the earth. Noah's sons and their wives had children. The people started to travel through the land.

One day, the people traveled through a valley, and they decided to stay. "We don't want to be scattered all over the earth," they said. "Let's build a city and a tower so big that it touches the sky. The tower will make us famous!"

The people were not doing what God had told them to do. They were saying "Look how great we are," instead of "Look how great God is." But God is greater than anyone. God created people to give glory to Him alone. The people used stones to start building the tower.

God came down to look at the tower. God

said, "They will keep thinking up more bad things to do." So God mixed up the people's words. Everyone spoke different languages.

When people tried to make plans, they could not understand what other people were saying.

The people had to stop building the city. Families had to move away from each other to live with people they could understand. The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel.

Christ Connection: People chose to give glory to themselves instead of God. They ignored God's plan, so God confused their language and scattered the people all over the earth. One day, Jesus will gather together all of God's people—people from every tribe and people who speak all kinds of languages—and they will worship Him together. (Revelation 7:9-10)



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- What do you want everyone to know about you? Write words or draw pictures in the space below.

- Why did people build a tall tower?

- How did God keep the people from stopping His plan?

CHRIST CONNECTION

People chose to give glory to themselves instead of God. They ignored God's plan, so God confused their language and scattered the people all over the earth. One day, Jesus will gather together all of God's people—people from every tribe and people who speak all kinds of languages—and they will worship Him together. (Revelation 7:9-10)



APPLY the Story

- Why did God stop the people from building the tower?
- What are some ways people today might try to make a name for themselves? Is there anything wrong with wanting to be famous?
- Why does God deserve all glory and honor?



APPLY the Story

- Find Colossians 1:16-17 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, asking Him any questions you have about how He defends His own glory..

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 2:3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> John 14:15
<input type="checkbox"/> John 3:30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 5:6
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 10:31	<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 6:14



Unit 1, Session 6

The Suffering of Job

Job

Story Point: Job learned that god is good, even in suffering.

Job was a wealthy man who loved God and wanted to follow God's plan.

One day, Satan came to God. "Job only follows You because You protect him and bless him," Satan said. "If You take away everything Job has, he will not follow You anymore."

So God gave Satan permission to take away everything Job had, but Satan was not allowed to hurt Job. In one day, Job lost everything. Job was sad, but he still followed God.

Satan came to God again. He said, "If Job gets sick, he will not praise You anymore." So God gave Satan permission to make Job sick, but God did not let Satan kill Job.

Three of Job's friends visited Job. They said, "Job, if you do what is right and stop sinning, God will give you back everything you lost."

"I haven't done anything wrong," Job said. Job did not understand why he was suffering.

Finally, a man named Elihu came to Job. "God is greater than man," Elihu explained. "God always does what is right."

Then God spoke to Job through a whirlwind. Job could not completely understand God's plans, but he could trust God. Job was sorry for doubting God. God gave back to Job everything he had lost—and so much more.

Christ Connection: Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Match each word with its correct definition: *all-powerful, sovereign, good.*

- _____ A. able to control all things and accomplish whatever one pleases
- _____ B. having complete or unlimited power
- _____ C. pleasing, kind, and gracious

- What did Job learn from his suffering?

- What should we remember when we face suffering?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.



APPLY the Story

- What did Job learn about God and about himself?
- How is God near to us in our suffering?
- How have friends encouraged you in a hard time? How can you encourage others?



APPLY the Story

- Find Colossians 1:16-17 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him about a time they felt comforted in a time of suffering.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5:3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 4:8-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 5:10	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 43:2
<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:18	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 1:3-4



Unit 2, Session 1

God's Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 12; 15; 17

Story Point: God made a covenant to bless all the world through Abraham.

God chose Abram and told him to move to a place he had never been. God promised Abram three things: a large family, land for his family, and blessing. This was a good promise. But Abram was sad because he didn't have any children to inherit his blessing.

God took Abram outside to remind him of His promise. "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you can," God said. "Your family will be that numerous." Abram believed God, and God was pleased.

God said, "I will give this land to your descendants." Abram asked, "How can I be sure?" So God confirmed His covenant with Abram.

God told Abram to bring five animal. Abram obeyed God. Then, when the sun was setting, a deep sleep came over Abram.

While Abram slept, God told him what would happen in the future. When it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch representing God passed between the animals. This showed that God would be responsible for keeping His promise.

God was so serious about His promise that He changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "Father of Many."

God said, "I will bless Sarah. She will have a son, and you will name him Isaac." God promised to keep His covenant through Isaac and his future family.

Christ Connection: Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. God provided a ram instead. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Unscramble the words to find the definition of the word *covenant*.

A covenant is a _____ (PORESIM) _____ (BNEWETE)
two _____ (LEPOEP) or _____ (NEEWTEB)
a _____ (NOSREP) and _____ (GDO). One person
promises to _____ (LBESS) or _____ (SVREEV)
another _____ (PSRENO) in a specific _____ (WYA).

- How do you think Abraham felt about moving?

- What was special about God's covenant with Abraham?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. God provided a ram instead. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him.



APPLY the Story

- Why do you think Abraham was willing to leave his home and obey God?
- Do you think it would be hard to obey God if He called you to do something you didn't completely understand? Why or why not?
- How do our actions affect our relationship with God? Can our sin cause God to stop loving us?



APPLY the Story

- Find Galatians 3:29 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him what kinds of things it is hard for you to trust Him about.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 8:10	<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:8-10
<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 4:13	<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 3:7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 3:29	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 145:13



Unit 2, Session 2

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 22

Story Point: Abraham trusted God even when he did not understand God's plan.

God kept His promise to give Abraham a son. Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old when their son, Isaac, was born. One day, God tested Abraham. God wanted to make sure that Abraham loved God most of all.

"Take your son Isaac to the mountain and give him to Me as a sacrifice," God said.

Abraham obeyed God. He got up early the next day and left with Isaac, two servants, and a donkey carrying supplies. Abraham asked his servants to stay with the donkey, and he and Isaac went up the mountain with the supplies for the sacrifice.

Isaac saw something was missing. "My father," he said, "where is the lamb for the offering?"

Abraham answered, "God Himself will provide the lamb."

When they got to the place God had directed them, Abraham built an altar. Just as Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, the angel of the LORD called out, "Abraham, Abraham!" Abraham stopped.

The angel of the LORD said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from Me."

Abraham looked up and saw a ram trapped by its horns in the bushes. He offered to God the ram instead of Isaac.

Christ Connection: Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. God provided a ram instead. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Write how each of the following words is related to the Bible story.

Abraham –

Isaac –

sacrifice –

ram –

- Why did God test Abraham?

- How did God provide for Abraham? How did He provide for us?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. God provided a ram instead. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him.



APPLY the Story

- How did Abraham show that he had faith in God?
- Why do you think God sometimes tests us or asks us to do hard things?
- God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac. How did God provide a substitute for us?



APPLY the Story

- Find Galatians 3:29 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, thanking Him for the ways in which He has provided for you..

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> James 2:21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:3
<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:17-19	<input type="checkbox"/> John 1:29
<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 4:28	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33



Unit 2, Session 3

Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 24

Story Point: God gave Isaac a wife to keep His covenant with Abraham.

When Abraham was old and his son Isaac was grown, Abraham wanted to find a wife for Isaac. He said to his servant, “Go to the land of my relatives and find a wife for my son.”

The servant agreed to go. When he got to the land, he went to a well.

The servant wanted to find the right wife for Isaac, so he prayed. “God, help me find a wife for Isaac. I will ask a girl for a drink of water. If she is the one Isaac should marry, let her also give water to my camels.” When the servant looked up, he saw Rebekah. The servant asked her for a drink of water.

“Drink,” she said. “I will also give water to your camels.”

The servant asked to stay at her father’s house. Then the servant praised God for providing a wife for Isaac.

Rebekah ran home and told her family what had happened. Rebekah’s brother Laban invited Abraham’s servant into their home. The servant told them about Abraham and Isaac and how God showed him that Rebekah should be Isaac’s wife.

The next day, Rebekah went with Abraham’s servant to the land of Canaan. The servant told Isaac everything that had happened. Isaac married Rebekah and loved her.

Christ Connection: God provided Rebekah as a wife for Isaac as part of His covenant to bless the whole world through Abraham’s family. One day, Jesus would be born into Abraham’s family as the promised Savior.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Circle the word that belongs in each sentence.

Abraham wanted to find a wife for his son (Isaac / Abel). Abraham's servant went to a (camp / well). He asked (a stranger / God) to help him find a wife for Isaac. The servant looked up and saw (Rebekah / Sarah). She gave water to the servant's (camels / friends), and the servant went to her home. The next day, Rebekah went to (Jerusalem / Canaan). She married (Isaac / Jacob) and he loved her.

- How did the servant go about finding Isaac's wife?

- How does this story show God working out His plan?

CHRIST CONNECTION

God provided Rebekah as a wife for Isaac as part of His covenant to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. One day, Jesus would be born into Abraham's family as the promised Savior.



APPLY the Story

- God provided a wife for Isaac. What does He provide for us?
- Does God care about the small details of our lives?
- How can knowing that God is powerful and in control help us to trust Him?



APPLY the Story

- Find Galatians 3:29 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him what you need. Trust Him to provide according to His wisdom.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5	<input type="checkbox"/> John 15:17
<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 37:5	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:26
<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:22-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 34:17



Unit 2, Session 4

God's Promise to Isaac

Genesis 25–26

Story Point: God's covenant with Abraham continued with Isaac's family.

Abraham's son Isaac was married to Rebekah. Isaac prayed and asked God for a child. God blessed Isaac and answered his prayer. Rebekah became pregnant with twins, but the two babies fought inside of her, and Rebekah was worried.

"Why is this happening?" Rebekah asked the Lord.

The Lord told Rebekah part of His plan. When Rebekah's babies were born, the first brother was named Esau. The younger brother was named Jacob.

When the boys grew up, Jacob was cooking a stew when Esau came in from the field. "Let me eat some of that," he said.

Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau did not care about his birthright, so he agreed to give it to Jacob.

Some time later, there was a famine in the land. The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Live in the land I will tell you about. I will be with you and bless you. I will keep the promise I made to your father Abraham."

God said He would give Isaac a large family—as numerous as the stars—and land for his family. "All the nations of the earth will be blessed because of your family," God said. "I will do this because Abraham listened to Me and kept My commands."

Christ Connection: God's covenant with Abraham continued to the next generation. Esau sold his birthright, giving Jacob the right to the wonderful blessings God promised to his father Abraham. Through Jacob's family, God would send the promised Savior to bring blessing and salvation to the world.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Read Genesis 26:1-5. Circle the promises God gave to Isaac.

I will give all these lands to you and your family.

I will take away your home and give you an island.

I will give you an easy life with no suffering.

I will make your family as numerous as the stars of the sky.

I will bring the Messiah in the next year.

All the nations of the earth will be blessed by your family.

- Why did Esau give up his birthright?

- How did God show that He was still in control?

CHRIST CONNECTION

God's covenant with Abraham continued to the next generation. Esau sold his birthright, giving Jacob the right to the wonderful blessings God promised to his father Abraham. Through Jacob's family, God would send the promised Savior to bring blessing and salvation to the world..



APPLY the Story

- What might cause someone to doubt God's promises?
- What happens when we fail to obey God? Does our disobedience ruin God's plan?
- How do you feel knowing that God uses imperfect and undeserving people to accomplish His plan?



APPLY the Story

- Find Galatians 3:29 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him how they feel knowing that God is in control of all things.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 105:8-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 135:6
<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 4:28	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 46:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 19:21	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 42:2



Unit 3, Session 1

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 27–28

Story Point: Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into blessing Jacob.

When Isaac was old and could not see, he called for his older son Esau. “Make a meal for me,” he said. “I want to bless you before I die.”

Rebekah made her own plan. Rebekah put Esau’s clothes on Jacob and covered his hands and neck with goat hair so that Isaac would think Jacob was Esau. Then Jacob took the meal to his father, and he ate. After the meal, Isaac offered him the blessing. Then Jacob left.

About this time, Esau came home. When he gave food to Isaac, his father told him that he had been tricked. Jacob had been given the blessing. Esau was angry, and he made a plan to kill Jacob. Isaac and Rebekah sent Jacob away.

Jacob had a dream of a stairway set on the ground with its top reaching the sky.

Angels were going up and down the stairs. Then God spoke to Jacob: “I am the God of your grandfather, Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. I will give you and your offspring this land.”

He gave Jacob the same covenant He made with Abraham. God said, “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.”

Christ Connection: The promises for Abraham and Isaac also became the promises for Jacob. At Bethel, God showed that His plan was to continue the covenant through Jacob’s family and eventually a whole nation, leading to the birth of Jesus—the promised Savior.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Fill in the missing vowels of the big picture question.

D _ _ s G _ d k _ _ p H _ s pr _ m _ s _ s?

G _ d _ lw _ ys k _ _ ps H _ s pr _ m _ s _ s

b _ c _ _ s _ H _ _ s f _ _ thf _ l.

- What was God's plan for Isaac's family?

- What promise did God make to Jacob?

CHRIST CONNECTION

The promises for Abraham and Isaac also became the promises for Jacob. At Bethel, God showed that His plan was to continue the covenant through Jacob's family and eventually a whole nation, leading to the birth of Jesus—the promised Savior.



APPLY the Story

- Why do you think God said the older son would serve the younger?
- In his dream, Jacob saw a stairway going up to heaven. What are some ways people try to get to heaven?
- How can we be part of God's mission to bless the whole world through Jesus?



APPLY the Story

- Find Genesis 28:15 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, asking Him to help you understand and follow His plan for your life.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:20	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 103:2-5
<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 12:22	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 133:1
<input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3:9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:20



Unit 3, Session 2

Jacob and Rachel

Genesis 29–31

Story Point: Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah and Rachel.

Jacob traveled from Bethel toward his uncle Laban's land. He came to a well where shepherds were watering their sheep. "Do you know a man named Laban?" Jacob asked. "Yes," they said. "Here comes his daughter Rachel with his sheep."

Jacob told Rachel that he was her relative. Rachel ran to tell her father Laban. Laban welcomed Jacob into his house. Jacob stayed with Laban and worked for him. Laban said, "What should I pay you for your work?"

Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will work for you seven years if you will let me marry Rachel." Laban agreed. Jacob worked for seven years. Then Laban had a feast, but instead of giving Rachel to Jacob, Laban gave his older daughter, Leah. Jacob was upset. "Why did you trick me?" he asked. Laban said, "I will give you Rachel too, but you must work another seven years." So a week

later, Jacob married Rachel. Then he worked for Laban seven more years.

Now Jacob had two wives, but he loved Rachel more than Leah. When God saw Leah was not loved, He gave her children. Rachel wanted children too. God heard her prayer, and in time, God gave her children too. In all, Jacob had twelve sons. God told Jacob to go home to the land of Canaan. So Jacob gathered his family and his possessions, and he headed home.

Christ Connection: Nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even though Jacob did not love Leah, God loved her and used her in His plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would show His love for the world by sending His Son to be the Savior He promised.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Use these word to fill in the blanks: *Jacob, Laban, love, world, promised, Rachel, Leah.*

_____ tricked _____ into marrying _____
instead of _____.

Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would show His
_____ for the _____ by sending His Son to be the Savior
He _____.

- Why did Laban and Jacob trick others?

- Why is trusting God better than trusting in ourselves?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even though Jacob did not love Leah, God loved her and used her in His plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would show His love for the world by sending His Son to be the Savior He promised.



APPLY the Story

- God's plan always happens. How does knowing this help you face difficult or unexpected events in your life?
- How much does God love you? How do you know?
- How can you show love to people who are lonely or misunderstood?



APPLY the Story

- Find Genesis 28:15 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him why you think you can trust Him.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 49:8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 1:27-29
<input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 5:5	<input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:16-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 2:4-5



Unit 3, Session 3

Jacob's New Name

Genesis 32–33

Story Point: God changed Jacob's name to Israel, the name of God's covenant people.

Jacob took his family and all his possessions, and headed home to Canaan. Jacob was afraid that Esau would still be angry with him for stealing his blessing.

Jacob made a plan. He divided his family into two groups. If Esau attacked one group, maybe the other group could escape. Then Jacob asked God to keep His promise.

Jacob prayed, "Please rescue me from my brother Esau." Jacob sent a large gift of animals to try to make Esau happy.

That night, a man appeared. (The man was actually God Himself!) The man wrestled with Jacob all night.

Jacob refused to give up, so the man injured Jacob's hip. But Jacob would not let Him go. "I will not let You go unless You bless me," Jacob said.

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," said the man. "Your name will be Israel because you wrestled with God and men, and you won." The man blessed Jacob.

Now Jacob went to meet Esau. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. He was not angry anymore. Esau returned to his home. Jacob and his family traveled on, and Jacob bought land for them to live on. He was finally home in the land God had promised him.

Christ Connection: God changed Jacob's life and gave him a new name, Israel. Jesus came so that we might have a changed life, forgiven of sin. Jesus' death and resurrection provided sinful people the way to be adopted into God's family. When we are adopted into the family of God we also receive a new name—children of God.



EXPERIENCE the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

- Number the events in the order they happened.

- _____ Jacob wrestled with God all night.
- _____ Jacob sent messengers to tell Esau he was coming home.
- _____ Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him, welcoming him home.
- _____ Jacob divided his family into two groups and sent Esau a gift.

- How did God change Jacob?

- What new name do we receive when we trust in Jesus?

CHRIST CONNECTION

God changed Jacob's life and gave him a new name, Israel. Jesus came so that we might have a changed life, forgiven of sin. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Jesus' death and resurrection provided sinful people the way to be adopted into God's family. When we are adopted into the family of God we also receive a new name—children of God. (John 1:12)



APPLY the Story

- How does God change us when we trust in Jesus?
- How can God use difficult circumstances for our good?
- What are some ways God has blessed you? How can you be a blessing to others?



APPLY the Story

- Find Genesis 28:15 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, telling Him how you feel about being part of His family.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chronicles 16:15-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 3:18
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 5:17	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 49:6
<input type="checkbox"/> John 1:10-13	<input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 21:3