

# Bible Discovery

**We can trust God!** (*Trust God!*) Hold up the Bible. Today our Bible story tells how God helped brothers Jacob and Esau become friends again when they weren't getting along.

**? Why do you think God wants brothers and sisters to be friends?**

- Invite a few responses from the whole group.

The Bible says Jacob had done something to hurt Esau. The two brothers didn't see each other for many years because of what had happened. It was such a long time that they'd grown up and now had families of their own. Before they met again, Jacob sent a kind message to Esau. He said, "Let's be friends again."

- Have Crews circle up and sit in knee-to-knee circles. Join one of the circles.
- Have each Crew Guide send the message "Let's be friends again" around each circle by whispering to the child next to you and having him or her pass the message, continuing until the message gets back to you.
- Let kids take turns sending a special message in this way.

Even after Jacob sent the message, he was still a little worried. He thought Esau wouldn't want to be friends. Let's read what happened.

 Read aloud Genesis 32:6-8.

So when Jacob heard Esau was coming to meet him, along with a whole bunch of people, he was scared.

- Show worried or scared faces.

**? When have you been worried about someone who was upset with you?**  
Invite Crew Guides to share first.

Jacob thought Esau would still be mad, so he divided his family and things into two groups. The two groups traveled toward Esau separately.

- Divide group into two smaller groups, and invite them to march in two separate lines across the room and back.
- **Jacob prayed for God's help. Listen to his prayer.**


 Read aloud Genesis 32:11-12.

That night Jacob was alone, and he wrestled with God. Whoa! Can you imagine wrestling with God?

## Supplies

- Bible
- "Jacob and Esau Make Peace" Bible Story poster

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

 Read the verse from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. Don't worry—we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.

After the wrestling match, God blessed Jacob. He reminded Jacob that he still loved him and that he had special plans for him and his family. And God helped Jacob know that he could be friends with Esau again. **We can trust God** (*Trust God!*) to help us. God wants us to talk to him about our troubles and trust him to take care of us.

**? What's a trouble you can talk to God about?** Invite Crew Guides to share first.


- Crew Guides lead kids in a prayer about the things they shared.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up after they've finished praying.

The next morning, Jacob saw Esau coming toward him. Let's find out what Esau did.

 Read aloud Genesis 33:4.

Esau came running to Jacob and gave him a hug and a kiss! Jacob didn't need to be afraid of Esau; God helped them be friends again! **We can trust God** (*Trust God!*) to help us make up with friends, too. Show the Bible Story poster.

- Give joyful hugs to as many friends as possible in 30 seconds.
- Shake hands to show how the families met one another.

 Read aloud Genesis 33:8-11.

- Jacob gave Esau a gift of animals. Let's baa like sheep and moo like cows.
- Make animal noises.

**We can trust God.** (*Trust God!*) He took care of Jacob when he was scared, and he helped Jacob and Esau make up after a big fight. God is with us all the time, too, helping us when we're scared and showing us how to be good friends to others!

Repeat, repeat! Feel free to do activities more than once. You'll give kids time to catch on and jump in.

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one or more that fit your time frame to support today's Bible discoveries before the closing Goodbye Circle.

