

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE

Staycation!

BIG IDEA

We can trust God when it's hard to trust each other.

BIBLE

Jacob and Esau:
Genesis 25:19-34; Romans 8:1-11

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome to week three of *Staycation!* We've already heard some pretty incredible stories about Abraham and people in his family. Today, we are going to talk about a family conflict that arises and how God is trustworthy even when other people may let us down.

[Consider contacting families and letting kids come to church in their pajamas this month! Give your space a cozy feel with blankets, beanbag chairs, stuffed animals, cushions, and rugs. Play a fun song with a family or house theme as kids arrive. This week, check out "[The Family Madrigal](#)" (From "Encanto").]

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Everyday I'm Blessed" (Crowder)
 - "Big House" (From "A Week Away")
 - "You and Me" (Grow Kids VBS)
 - "My Heart Your Home" (Maverick City Music)
 - "Boundary Line" (Elevation Church Kids)

ACTIVITY | House Party!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play some music and call out a common household action. Encourage kids to figure out how to make that action a dance move! Ask leaders to demonstrate a few to get things started.
- What's a *Staycation!* without a dance party? We want to see all of your best moves! Here's the catch, though. We'll be dancing through all of life's most ordinary moves. When I call out a common action you do every day, get creative and make it a dance move!

- Walk the dog
- Fold the laundry
- Wash the dishes
- Make your bed
- Tie your shoes
- Pack your lunch
- Watch TV
- Brush your teeth

ACTIVITY | Pinky Promise Link

- Sometimes we make pinky promises to show that we going to do our very best to do whatever it is we said we would. Making a promise connects you to someone else because you have to trust each other, much like the game we are going to play.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have groups of three students link up using only their pinky fingers. Set up a simple obstacle course using cones, pool noodles, and hula hoops. See which team can make it through the fastest without breaking the link!*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have preteens lock elbows or do a three-legged race instead of linking pinky fingers.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *For kids who may struggle with an obstacle course, you can have kids sit in a circle. Pass around a personal object (like a watch, a mug, or even your phone) and let every kid have a chance to hold it. Talk about how you allowed them to handle something important to you because you trust them. You can talk about different ways we can show our trust.*

QUESTION | If you had the opportunity to keep one thing in your life the same . . .

- The “stay” part of *Staycation!* indicates that even though we’re having fun together, we didn’t go anywhere new or exotic. Sometimes it is really nice to have a change of scenery, but other times, we love staying where we feel most comfortable.
- **If you had the opportunity to keep one thing in your life the same forever, what would it be? Why?**

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 25:19-34 (Jacob and Esau)

- Sometimes the best part of *Staycations!* is when we get to hear family stories. Let’s dive into another family story today. *[Show video.]*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up for the Bible story as though it’s a slumber party! Wear pajamas (have kids come in PJs, too!), and have kids sit on the floor on blankets, cushions, and pillows. Show [this video](#) then continue teaching the story from Genesis 25:19-34.*
- **How many of you have brothers or sisters? How many of you get along perfectly with your siblings all of the time? No one, right?** Even in the Bible, we see family members who struggled to get along.
- *[Read Genesis 25:19-34.]*
- Jacob and Esau were twin brothers who fought from the very beginning — even while in their mom Rebekah’s belly!
- Jacob and Esau were very different than each other and they liked different things. But the tension of their relationship escalated when Jacob tricked Esau into giving him something really valuable — his birthright.

- A birthright was a very special gift given to the firstborn child. It was an honor and gift that would have set him up for success for the rest of his life.
- Unfortunately, Esau let hunger get the best of him, and he traded this valuable gift for a bowl of soup.
- Jacob put his needs above his brother's needs. He saw Esau's moment of weakness and unfortunately, he used it for his own gain.
- Even though these brothers had some major issues, God didn't run away. Even though they had made mistakes, God remained with them and helped them.

BIG IDEA | We can trust God when it's hard to trust each other.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare an empty drawer filled with odds and ends, but write the Big Idea on the tape part of a tape measure. Pull out a bunch of items from the drawer until you find the right item. You could also invite a volunteer to come to the front and find it for you.
- So my aunt wants to give me one of her bookcases and before I can bring it home, I need to measure and make sure it will fit. I just need to find my tape measure. The problem is, it is in the messy junk drawer! Here we go again! I've got to sift through this mess in order to find it.
- [Act like you are hunting through the junk drawer. Take different items out one at a time. Finally, put out the tape measure. Pull out the measuring stick part of the tape measure to reveal the Big Idea.]
- Here it is! Look, it also has our Big Idea for today. **We can trust God when it's hard to trust each other.**

IMAGE | The Little House

- **How many of you like change?** Today, I want to read you a story about a house that went through lots of changes.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the "The Little House" [picture book](#) or project images from the book on your screen as you read the book aloud.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Form two teams. Place [tap lights](#) along the edge of a table, with one set of lights for each team. Each team sends one runner to the table to tap a light on your team's side on or tap another team's light off. The object is to get all of your team's lights on first. Talk with kids about how change can sometimes be frustrating and the kinds of changes preteens might have had to deal with.
- This little house started happy as can be in a beautiful field. As time went on, a lot changed. The once peaceful little home became surrounded by the hustle and bustle of buildings and noise.
 - **Have you ever experienced a big change like this?**
- For some people, these changes were wonderful! But for the little house and the family who cared for the house, the changes were disappointing.
- Even though everything in this world changes, there is one thing that remains unchanged: God's presence with us.
- God doesn't leave when things get hard. God doesn't leave when things change, and God doesn't run away when we make mistakes. **We can trust God when it's hard to trust each other.**

ACTIVITY | Switch It Up

- Today we heard a story about two brothers who had some issues with each other. One even switched things up on his brother and tricked him into giving him his birthright!
- I have a little game of trickery for you today. Let's see if you can figure out what has been switched up!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask two to four kids to come up to the front and face the group. Have them stand in front of the group in a frozen posture and tell the rest of the group to memorize how they are posed. Give them a five-second countdown. Then, ask the group to close their eyes and have the four people up front choose one thing each to switch about their stance or appearance. When ready, have the group open their eyes. Kids in the group can raise their hands and share if they notice what was switched up. If they guess right, they will trade places with a kid up front. Continue as long as you'd like.
- Even when things change around us, God's presence is with us.

SCRIPTURE | Romans 8:1-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Romans 8:1-11.
- Today we heard about two brothers who were at odds with each other. Jacob stole Esau's birthright because he thought his life and future were more important than Esau's.
- This passage in Romans tells us that Jesus came to set us free from the selfishness in the world. Selfishness drives us to try to fight to protect ourselves, but when we trust in Jesus, we realize that it is God who makes our future hopeful and secure.
- Even when there is conflict and tension around us, **we can trust God when it's hard to trust each other.**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | House of Cards

- Have you ever tried to make a house of cards? It is very tricky! Sometimes you'll get it pretty tall and then the tiniest movement knocks the whole thing over.
- Let's give it a try. We're all going to pair up and build. The catch is that each of you can only use one hand. You'll have to trust each other as you create. What you can't do alone, you'll see that you can accomplish together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids pair up and stack a house of cards.

ACTIVITY | Pillow Fights

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid two pieces of paper and have them write down their responses to the prompts. After they write their responses, have them shove their papers in their pillows, and have a pillow fight.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Instead of putting the crumpled papers into a pillowcase, have preteens shoot them into a wastebasket instead.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Instead of having kids write, prepare five to seven scenarios that are more specific to kids with special needs where they might need to trust someone. Let a kid choose one of the scenarios out of the bowl and talk it out together as a group.
- On one sheet of paper, write down a prayer of thanks to God for the fact that God is always with us. No matter what, God sticks with us.
- On another sheet of paper write down an area in which your trust was broken by someone. Maybe you were caught off guard when your sibling borrowed your favorite jacket without asking, or that your friend said something mean about you behind your back at school.
- As you write down your hurtful situation, think about the fact that God didn't leave. God was right there with you even though someone else let you down. Write it down as a way of remembering that **we can trust God even when it's hard to trust each other.** Crumple it up and put the pieces of paper in a pillow case. Then, let's have a pillow fight!

MEMORY VERSE | Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

- "Let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Beforehand, tape the memory verse cards underneath chairs in the room. When you are ready to do the memory verse, have the kids look under the chairs to find the memory verse words. They will then work together to put the memory verse in order. (Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Galatians6-10.)*

PRAYER

- Dear God, even when we mess up or when other people break our trust, thank you for sticking with us. Thank you that we can trust you when it's hard to trust each other. Thank you for your steady love toward us on the good days and the hard days. We can count on you. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What were the names of Isaac's children?
- How were Isaac's children different from each other?
- How did one of the brothers end up losing his birthright?
- Read Romans 8:5. What do you think it means to have your mind set on the flesh or the Spirit?
- Have you ever let down someone in your family? What did you do or what could you have done to make it right?
- What good or important gifts have we been given, like Esau's birthright, that we take for granted?
- What do you think is needed for two people to trust each other? How do we know we can trust God?

ACTIVITY | Blessing in a Bag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, give each kid the bag they have decorated in previous weeks. Have them add to their decoration this week with [pom-poms](#), and then have them fill the bags with the hygiene products. Finish your time by praying together as a group.*
- Let's add to the decoration today with pom-poms!
- Many of the people who will receive these bags have endured disappointment and heartache. Our small gift of a blessing bag will hopefully bring a smile to their face and remind them of God's love. As you fill your bags with the hygiene products you brought today, let's pray that the person who receives your bag will know that God is trustworthy.
- Next week, please bring in a pair of socks.