

WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE

Staycation!

BIG IDEA

We always belong
in God's family.

BIBLE

Jacob's Dream:
Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12

LARGE GROUP TIME

It's week four of our *Staycation!* We will continue to learn more about Jacob's story today and read about a very vivid dream that he had. **Have any of you ever had a very unexpected, adventurous dream?**

[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 "[We Are Family](#)" (Sister Sledge).]

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 | Sticky Popcorn

- What's a *Staycation!* without popcorn?! For this game you are the popcorn!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have everyone space out throughout the room. Upon hearing the word, "Go" everyone will start jumping or "popping" around the room. There is one person who is the first piece of "sticky popcorn." They begin trying to "pop" into others. When they tag another person, they link arms and try to tag others together to add to their "popcorn cluster." At the end, there will be a giant popcorn cluster with everyone connected.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** For preteens, replace the bouncing with another activity – one that has to do with belonging – like a Conga line.

- No matter if you were the first person or the last person to get clumped together with a friend, you all ended up a part of the big popcorn cluster. You were all separate at the beginning, but now you all belong together!

ACTIVITY | Household Hustle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide kids up into groups of four or five. Give each kid a copy of the printable and something to write with. They must complete as many question prompts as they can, with words that start with the letter of your choice, in two minutes! After the two minutes of brainstorming, the kids read their answers aloud to their group. For every unique answer that no one else has listed, they get a point. The person with the most points wins! Play again with a different letter of the alphabet (This is very similar to the game, Scattergories).

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** You can simplify this game by not limiting the answer choices to something that begins with a specific letter of the alphabet. Or you can provide picture books or magazines that they can flip through to find an image each time you call out a category.

- **Can you think of a word that begins with the letter “S” for . . .**
 - A common household chore?
 - A name for a pet?
 - An activity that families do together?
 - A meal that families may eat together?
 - Something you borrow from a family member?
 - A household appliance?
 - Something you find in a junk drawer?
 - Something you’d find in the garage?
 - Something you’d find in the yard?
 - A type of clothing in your closet?

QUESTION | Who feels like “family?”

- What person in your life feels like “family?” They don’t necessarily have to be related. What makes them feel like family to you?
- We were all born into a family but who are the people who make us feel like a sense of belonging?

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

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 28:10-19a (Jacob’s Dream)

- Last week we talked about Jacob tricked his brother. He ran away, feeling, feeling pretty crummy about his choices, but God showed up to meet him when he felt most alone. [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 28:10-19a.
- I’m going to need everyone’s help as I tell this story again! I want you to act out what I am saying, as though you are Jacob! Imagine what it must have been like to be him as he wandered through the wilderness.
- As Jacob was all alone in the middle of nowhere, he laid down to sleep. He found a stone to put his head down on. So, let’s lie down or lean on the back of our chairs to pretend to sleep – but don’t really fall asleep! Jacob had a dream – but this was not just an ordinary dream.

- Jacob dreamed that he saw a ladder reaching from earth all the way up to heaven, with angels going up and down the rungs. **How would you feel if you had a dream like this? Surprised? Scared? Excited?** Act it out!
- God made a promise to Jacob. The first promise that God made was that Jacob and his children would someday own the land where he was sleeping. God promised that Jacob would have many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. God told him that there would be as many people in Jacob's family as there is dust in the ground. That's a lot!
- God had shared this promise with Jacob's grandfather, Abraham, too! God also promised to be with Jacob wherever he went.
- When Jacob woke up from his dream (act it out!), he realized that he didn't just have a regular dream, but that God spoke to him.
- Jacob wanted to thank God for these promises. So, he took the stone he rested his head on the night before and set it up like a pillar for God. Let's pretend to do the same. Every time he saw it, it would remind him of God's words. He wanted to remember the promises that God had spoken to him. Even after he had wronged his brother, and when he felt totally alone in the wilderness, God reminded him that he was included in God's family.

BIG IDEA | We always belong in God's family.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare an empty drawer filled with odds and ends, but write the Big Idea on a stick of gum. 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.
- I just ate some delicious pepperoni pizza, but I need some gum! But where is it?
- Act like you are hunting through the junk drawer. Take different items out one at a time. Finally, pull out the pack of gum, and pull out a stick of gum with the Big Idea written on it. Here it is! Look, it also has our Big Idea for today. **We always belong in God's family!**

STORY | Family Traits

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a character trait that you observed in a family member and how that trait has become important in your own life. For example, it could be that you saw a family member showing kindness to others in the community, so now you are inspired to do the same.
- **What have you learned from your family members?**
- **What character traits do you have because you watched a family member display those characteristics in their lives?**

ACTIVITY | Paper House

- Even though all of our families look different, **we always belong in God's family!** Today we're going to make a house to represent our family and to remind us that even though all of our homes and all of our families are different, we always belong in God's family.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, give each of the kids a piece of white printer paper and markers. Follow the directions in [this tutorial](#) to create a house.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens pair up and ask icebreaker-type questions about each other's family. Remind them that they don't have to share if they don't feel uncomfortable and provide general questions kids can ask such as, "How many siblings do you have?", "Do you have any family members that live in a different city or country?", and "What is a rule in your house?"
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Prepare a few completed versions to show kids or to have them use. You may also want to provide cutout images or stickers for some kids to place rather than draw.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 139:1-12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 139:1-12.
- It means a lot to us when our friends and family know things about us. When people see and know us, it makes us feel loved. This passage is a reminder that God loves and cherishes us. God knows every detail about us — including our most shining moments and the moments we may not be so proud of. But God doesn't want us to hide away. In fact, there's no way we can. God gave us Jesus so that we can always be connected to God and know that we belong no matter what we've done. **We always belong in God's family.**

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

ACTIVITY | Family Dinner

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set the room up to look like a dinner party. If possible, set up enough large, banquet tables which will seat many kids together. Serve a "family dinner" of a simple snack. While at "dinner," ask kids to share their highs and lows of the week.
- Getting to know each other over a family meal is a great way to show each other that we care. Even though we may not be actually related, sharing the highlights and the hard times from the past week, remind us that we aren't alone. **We always belong in God's family.**

ACTIVITY | Family Tree

- We are always part of God's family. Today we are going to make a family tree using our fingerprints!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need a "tree stump" and "branches" created out of craft paper. Have each kid press a finger on the ink pad and place their fingerprint on one of the tree branches. Have them sign their name next to their fingerprint. Here is an [example](#) of the finished product.
- Did you know that your fingerprints are completely unique? No one in the world has fingerprints like you. Each of us are different, but **we always belong in God's family.**

MEMORY VERSE | Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

- **"Let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You will use your memory verse cards and fan out four of them in sequence order to show the kids. Have the kids yell out what word comes next in the memory verse. Repeat the process again with four new cards from the deck. **(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, thank you for giving us our families and people who love us and may not even be related to us. Sometimes, there may be days when we feel like we don't belong, but you remind us that we always belong in God's family. Thank you for loving us and making us feel at home. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did Jacob see in his dream?
- What promise did God make to Jacob?
- Why did Jacob build a pillar out of stone?

- Read Psalm 139:1-3. Think of a time you felt all alone. Did it help (or would it have helped) to know that God was with you? Why or why not?
- Have you ever felt like an outsider in a group of people? How did that make you feel?
- What are some things people do to help you feel like you belong?
- Every family member has a job to do around the house. What is something you can do as a member of God's family?

ACTIVITY | Blessing in a Bag

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, give each kid the paper bag they have been decorating during Staycation! and have them decorate it with [tissue paper squares](#) and glue sticks. Finish your time by praying together as a group.*
- We've been creating a Blessing in a Bag and today we are going to add to the decoration with tissue paper. At the end of our *Staycation!* we will be giving these bags to help someone in need.
- After you are done decorating, place the new socks that you brought, into the bag. There are many people who need clean, dry socks. We get to remind them that they are a part of God's family by giving them this gift.
- Take some time to pray with your group for the people who will receive these bags. Ask God to help them know that they **always belong in God's family.**
- Next week will be the last week for the Blessing Bag item collection. Please bring a small new bar of soap and a washcloth.