Preschool–Grade 5

Jacob's Ladder Craft

I am with thee · Genesis 28:10–22 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



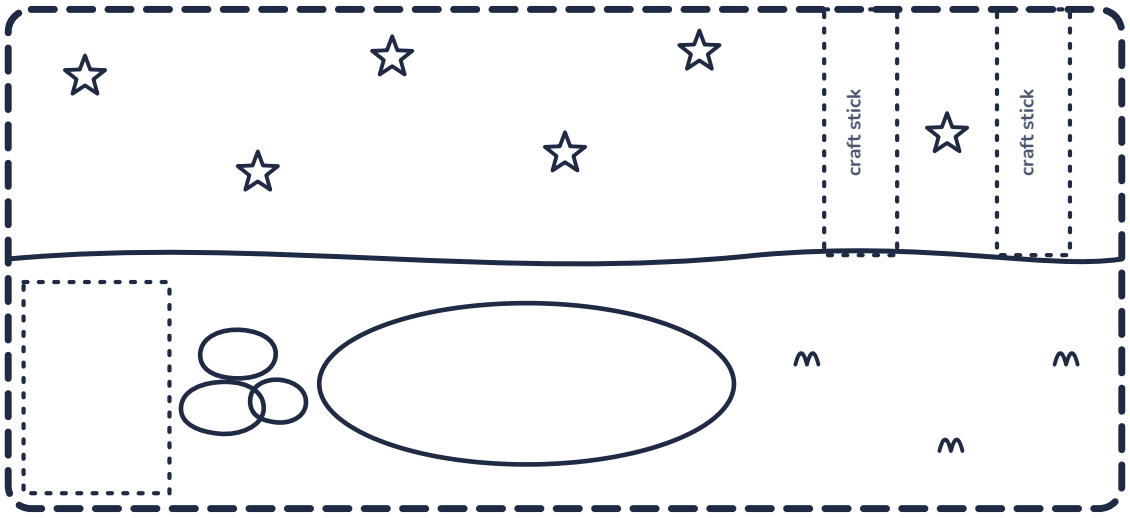
Harder

Both levels are a night card: a dark blue sky with yellow stars, brown ground and gray stones, with Jacob drawn asleep in the oval, where he "took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows" (Genesis 28:11). Two craft sticks with six brown paper rungs make "a ladder set up on the earth," and its top reaches up to a yellow light, because "the top of it reached to heaven" (28:12). Medium (left): the card and the ladder. Harder (right): the same, with a stone pillar standing on the card with oil on its top, because Jacob "set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it" (28:18).

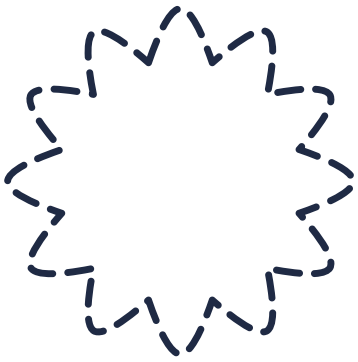
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Name: _____

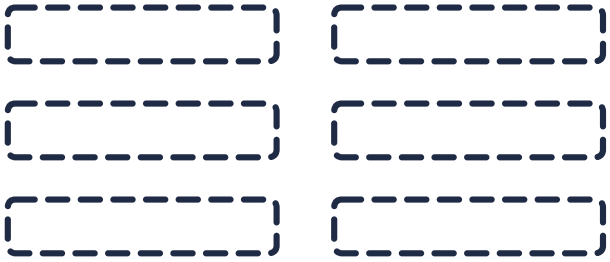
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sky dark blue, stars yellow, ground brown, stones gray. Draw Jacob asleep in the oval. Glue a craft stick on each dotted strip. (The dotted box is for the harder level.)



light: color it yellow



6 ladder rungs: color them brown

And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

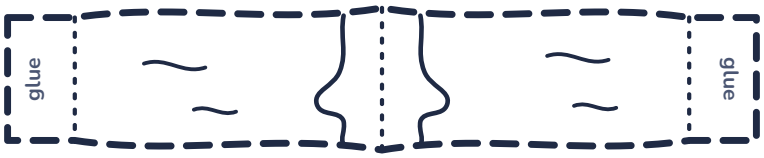
Genesis 28:15 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Stone pillar (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines. Fold on the 3 dotted lines.



pillar: color the stone gray and the oil on the top (the middle band) yellow

How to add the stone pillar

1. Make the card and the ladder from page 2 first. Color the dotted box at the left end of the card brown, like the ground.
2. Color the pillar: the stone gray on both halves, and the oil band in the middle yellow.
3. Cut out the pillar on the dashed lines. Fold it in half on the middle dotted line, so the two stone halves meet at the top like a little tent, with the oil on the top.
4. Fold the two end tabs outward on their dotted lines. Put glue under the tabs and press them on the dotted box at the left end of the card, so the pillar stands up by the stones.
5. Tell it: Jacob slept with stones for his pillows (Genesis 28:11). In the morning he "took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it" (28:18), and he called the place Bethel (28:19).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/jacobs-ladder-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), 2 craft sticks per child, dark blue, yellow, brown and gray crayons or markers, crayons for drawing Jacob, scissors, a glue stick, and white school glue for the craft sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the rungs, the light and the verse strip, and glue the craft sticks on the card yourself. White glue needs a few minutes to dry, so let the sticks dry while the kids color.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue on the craft sticks. Kids color, draw Jacob asleep, and glue the rungs across the sticks with your help. You glue on the light.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut and build the ladder themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the craft like the medium level. Then fold the stone pillar from page 3 and stand it on the card by the stones, with oil on its top (Genesis 28:18). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the card:** the sky dark blue, the stars yellow, the ground brown (the dotted box too) and the stones gray.
2. **Draw:** in the white oval, draw Jacob lying asleep with his head by the stones (Genesis 28:11).
3. **Color** the six ladder rungs brown and the light yellow.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the six rungs, the light and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Sticks:** glue the two craft sticks with white glue on the two dotted strips of the card, so their bottom ends touch the ground line and the rest reaches up above the card.
6. **Rungs:** glue the six rungs across the two sticks with white glue, from just above the ground line to the top, evenly spaced, to make a ladder.
7. **Light:** glue the light behind the top ends of the two sticks, so it shines above the top of the ladder.
8. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card. Read it together.
9. **Tell it:** the ladder was set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven (28:12). Run a finger up and down the rungs for the angels of God ascending and descending, and say God's promise: "I am with thee" (28:15).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the card. Where was Jacob going, and why did he stop there? *(Toward Haran; he stayed all night because the sun was set, Genesis 28:10–11)*
- Point to the stones. What did Jacob use for his pillows? *(Stones of that place, 28:11)*
- Point to the ladder. Where was it set up, and where did the top reach? *(On the earth; the top reached to heaven, 28:12)*
- Who was going up and down on it? *(The angels of God, ascending and descending, 28:12)*
- Point to the light. Who stood above the ladder? *(The LORD, 28:13)*
- What did God promise Jacob? *("I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest," 28:15)*
- What did Jacob say when he woke up? *("Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not," 28:16)*
- What did Jacob call the place? *(Bethel, 28:19)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: tarried** means stayed; **ascending** means going up; **descending** means coming down; **behold** means look; **thee** means you; **keep thee** means take care of you; **whither thou goest** means wherever you go; **pillar** means a standing stone; **Bethel** was the new name of the place, which Jacob called "the house of God" (28:17, 28:19).
- **What the Bible says:** Genesis does not say how many stones Jacob used, what the ladder was made of or what the angels looked like. The craft sticks, the paper rungs, the light and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story.
- **No one is drawn on the template:** each child draws Jacob in the oval. The angels are not drawn, and the LORD is never pictured: the light only reminds us that "the LORD stood above it" (28:13).
- **Glue:** glue sticks hold paper to paper, but use white school glue for the craft sticks and rungs, and let it dry flat for a few minutes before kids pick the craft up.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Jacob's Ladder lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/jacobs-ladder.

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