Preschool–Grade 6

Jacob's Ladder

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God is with me everywhere.
Bible passage: Genesis 28:10–22. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I am with thee" *Genesis 28:15 (KJV)*. The old word **thee** means you.
You need: a Bible, a soft pillow, a smooth rock, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Genesis 28.

1. Opening game: Night-Night (5 minutes)

Show the soft pillow and the rock. Ask: "Which one is soft? Which one would you sleep on?" Let each child touch both. Then everyone lies down on the floor and pretends to sleep. Say, "Shh, it's night." Then call, "Good morning!" and everyone jumps up. Play it two or three times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a man who slept on stones, and what God told him in the night."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 28. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jacob had to go far away from home (Genesis 28:10). *(Walk in place.)*
The sun went down. It was night (28:11). *(Bring your arms down slowly.)*
Jacob had no bed. He put stones for his pillows (28:11). *(Lay your head on your hands.)*
Jacob went to sleep and had a dream (28:11–12). *(Close your eyes.)*
He saw a ladder. It went up, up, up to heaven (28:12). *(Climb with your hands, up high.)*
Angels went up and down on it (28:12). *(Point up, then down.)*
God said, "I am with thee" (28:15). *(Hug yourself.)*
Say it with me: "God is with me!"
God said, "I will not leave thee" (28:15). *(Shake your head no.)*
Jacob woke up (28:16). *(Open your eyes and stretch.)*
He said, "Surely the LORD is in this place" (28:16)! *(Hands open wide.)*
In the morning he stood his stone up tall (28:18). *(Stand up tall.)*
He poured oil on top of it (28:18). *(Pretend to pour.)*
Say it with me: "God is with me everywhere!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Jacob use for his pillows? *(Stones, Genesis 28:11)*
2. What did Jacob see in his dream? *(A ladder that went up to heaven, 28:12)*
3. What did God say to Jacob? *("I am with thee," 28:15)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God said, 'I am with thee.' Thee means you." Teach the motion: point up for **I**, hug yourself for **am with thee**. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Genesis 28:15" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Ladder to Heaven (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a tall ladder: two long lines and short lines across, like steps. They can draw Jacob asleep at the bottom and stars in the night sky. While they color, ask: "Who is with you at night? Who is with you everywhere?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for being with me
everywhere I go, even at night. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, climb the ladder with your hands again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is afraid at night: say, "God told Jacob, 'I am with thee,' and He is with you too, even in the dark." Pray with them.

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