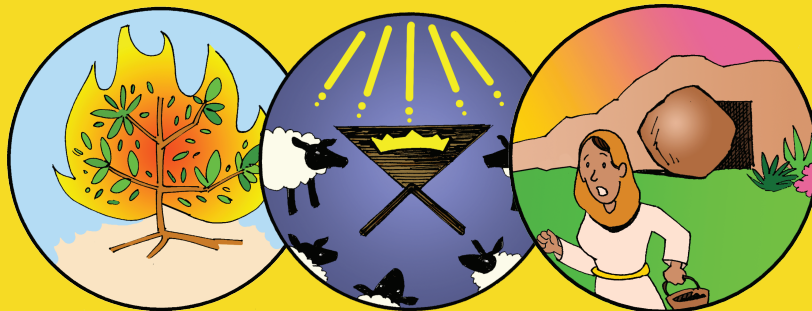


**KIDS (3RD-6TH) LESSON
#2-3**

**SAMPLE
DISPLAY COPY**

LIVING THE WORD

Narrative Lectionary



**Teaching Kids God's Story
KIDS (3RD-6TH)**

Teacher's Guide

Contributors

Publisher

Gregory Rawn

Editors

Kari Osmek
Cynthia Fairman Paulson
Elaine Seekon

Writers

Kari Osmek
Rena Boehmer
Victoria Hoppes
Rev. Anna Shirey
Anne Tews Schwab

Graphic Designers

Nicholas McDougal
Benjamin Borter

Layout

Nance Keyes

Illustrators

Amanda Wolfe
Rev. Tom Pairan
Michael Mittermeier

Copyrights

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story, 3rd-6th (Narrative Lectionary, Year 2)
Text and illustrations copyright © 2014-2019 by Spirit and Truth Publishing

All rights reserved. No part of this curriculum may be used or reproduced in any other manner whatsoever without written permission. For information, contact Spirit and Truth Publishing at www.SpiritAndTruthPublishing.com.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is quoted from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Lesson #2-3

Jacob Wrestles

Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30

3rd -6th

Key Verse:

Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.”

Genesis 32:28

The Point:

God changes us.

Making Connections:

God Creates Family

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Israel’s Origin Stories

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Into the Story

What's in a Name?

Every name has a meaning.

10 min.

- † Internet-connected devices
- † Optional: baby name book

Bible Nuts & Bolts

Israel's Story

The beginning of a story.

10 min.

- † Bibles
- † Whiteboard or mural paper
- † Marker

Learning the Story

Jacob Wrestles with God

Tell the story by creating a art project.

15 min.

- † Activity Sheet #2-3.A
- † Mural paper
- † Crayons or markers

Living the Story

Blessings

Learn different blessings.

15 min.

- † Activity Sheet #2-3.B
- † Activity Sheet #2-3.C
- † Scissors

Additional Activities

Tug of War

Test your strength.

10 min.

- † Thick, strong rope
- † Objects to mark boundaries

Activities a la Carte

God in the World

How is God active in our world?

- 15 min.*
- † Paper
 - † Magazines
 - † Scissors
 - † Glue sticks

Bless our Food

Share a table blessing.

- 10 min.*
- † Snack
 - † Napkins

Bible Book

Optional ongoing activity.

- 5 min.*
- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
 - † Cardstock or plain paper
 - † Pens
 - † Markers or crayons
 - † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Sending the Story

- 5 min.*
- † None

Background for Teachers

Making Connections

Today we will continue our journey through the book of Genesis by hearing a story about Jacob. Last week, we heard the story of the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham and Sarah through the birth of their son, Isaac. Jacob, the central character in today's story, is the son of Isaac and his wife, Rebekah. Today we will hear about another promise God makes to Jacob after a strange meeting.

Story Summary:

Jacob Wrestles

This is a very strange story. While traveling with his family, Jacob is met by a stranger while he is alone. The stranger wrestles with Jacob through the night, striking Jacob's hip and causing it to become disjointed. However, Jacob does not stop fighting.

At dawn, Jacob is asked by this stranger to stop wrestling. Jacob refuses to stop unless he receives a blessing. So the stranger reveals them self as God and changes Jacob's name to Israel, or "one who prevails with God," because Jacob wrestled with God and prevailed. This blessing changes Jacob, and he gives the place where he wrestled God the name "Peniel" (pronounced PHEN-ih-ehl), stating that he has seen God's face and has still lived.

The Point

God changes us.

We receive blessings from God that change us, too. Just as God gave Jacob a special blessing, we also receive special blessings from God. God provides us with the things we need to survive and live. God heals us when we are sick. God reveals God's self to us through people and experiences. These blessings change us and help us see the face of God in our lives, just as Jacob saw the face of God.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Israel's Origin Stories

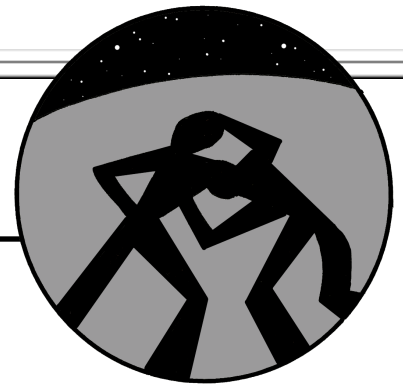
Origin stories are a type of stories that explain how something came about. Sometimes the stories show how God is interacting with the world. Stories like today's reading tell the Israelite people who they are as a nation and where they came from. Genesis is an origin story. It begins with the origin of the world. Then it addresses the origin of the people of Israel. It focuses on four generations, beginning with the call of Abram (Abraham) and ending with his great-grandson Joseph and the move to Egypt. Today's story is also an origin story as it tells the origin of the name "Israel."

Spiritual Practice: Prayer

This week will explore a blessing as a type of prayer. Blessings are often defined as special gifts from God. In today's Living the Story activity, students will ask God to bestow special gifts on them and the world around them by praying different prayers of blessing.



Lesson Plan



Into the Story (10 minutes)

What's in a Name?

Every name has a meaning.

You will need:

- † Internet-connected devices
- † Optional: baby name book

Before class:

1. If necessary, access your building's wireless password so students can work online.
2. Choose an online resource, such as <http://www.behindthename.com>.
3. If Internet access is not an option, bring in a baby name book for this activity.

During class:

1. **Welcome back! Today we are going to continue our journey through the Bible by hearing another story from the book of Genesis. Does anyone remember what stories from Genesis we have already heard? [Creation, Abraham and Sarah's promise of a son.]**
2. **Today's story is about a man named Jacob. In today's story, Jacob is given a name with a special meaning. We all have names with special meanings, too. Does anyone know what their name means? Do you know the story of why you were given your name?** Allow students to share what they know about their names. You might want to start the conversation by sharing your own stories.
3. **There are special books and dictionaries on the Internet that can help us understand what our first names mean. We are going to look online (use this book) to find out what all of our names mean. Let's look up everyone's name and see what we can find!**
4. Use the web site or dictionary to look up the meanings of everyone's name.
5. **Sometimes names can tell us something special about someone. In today's story, we learn something special about the main character through a special name he is given.**

Bible Nuts & Bolts (10 minutes)

Israel's Story

The beginning of a story.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † White board or mural paper
- † Marker

During class:

1. **What is one of your favorite stories? We are going to play a game: you will have 30 seconds to tell us only how your favorite story begins, but do not tell us the title. Just from hearing the beginning of the story, we are going to try and guess what which story you are referring to.**
2. Allow students time to share the beginnings of their favorite stories. Keep track of time so they do not speak too long.
3. Hold up a Bible. **The Bible also tells a story. It actually uses many different books and stories to tell one story: the story of God's people. What is the name of the first book of the Bible?** [*Genesis.*]
4. **Genesis is the first book in the Bible. Let's find where the book of Genesis is in our Bibles.**
5. Invite students to open their Bibles and find the book of Genesis.
6. **The word "Genesis" means "beginning." Genesis, the first book of the Bible, is the beginning of the story of the people of God.**
7. **For the past few weeks, we have heard stories from the book of Genesis. Do you remember these stories? Let's make a list. What stories have we heard so far?** [*Creation, Abraham and Sarah.*] Write these stories on the whiteboard or large sheet of paper. Add Jacob to the list.
8. **Each of these stories that we have heard are stories that are beginnings. How is each of the stories we have already heard like beginnings?** [*Creation: God created the world and God created humans; Abraham and Sarah: God gave Abraham and Sarah a son, who would be one of the first people in a new nation.*] Write down these ideas on the whiteboard or paper. Leave the section next to Jacob blank.
9. **The story we will hear today, about Jacob, is also a story of beginnings. It is the story of the beginning of a group of people called the Israelites, or the people of Israel. Let's hear the story and think about how this story is about their beginnings. Then, we will add them to our list.**

Learning the Story (15 minutes)

Jacob Wrestles with God

Tell the story by creating an art project.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #2-3.A
- † Mural paper
- † Crayons or markers

Before class:

1. Print and read through the story script on Activity Sheet #2-3.A.
2. Cut a large banner of paper and place it on a long table or on the floor of your classroom .

During class:

1. **Today we are going to hear a story about a man named Jacob. Last week, we heard how Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac. Jacob is Isaac's son and Abraham's grandson.**
2. Invite students to gather around the banner of paper. Hand out crayons or markers.
3. **Today's story sounds a little strange when you read it from the Bible. Sometimes we read or hear Bible stories, and it is hard to understand what they mean. That is okay! I am going to tell you the story, and while I tell the story, you are going to illustrate it on this banner of paper.**
4. **The story of Jacob comes from Genesis, chapter 32.** Show students where the story is found in the Bible.
5. Read the script on Activity Sheet #2-3.A, asking students questions and pausing to allow drawing.
6. After concluding the activity, use the following questions to discuss the story:
 - **What were some strange things that happened during this story? Accept all answers. Sometimes we do not understand everything that we read in the Bible, and the stories seem strange. What matters is that we learn something new about God and about ourselves by reading these stories.**
 - **In the story, what does Jacob ask God to do? *[To bless him.]* Does God do this? *[Yes.]* How do you think Jacob felt after God blessed him? *[Surprised, happy, loved, etc.]***
 - **Do our encounters with God change us? *[Yes!]***

7. **Jacob met God through a strange experience, but that encounter changed him! Not only did his name change, but he knew that God would be with him and that God would always keep God's promises. When we meet God, we are changed too, even if our meeting seems strange or unexpected.**

Living the Story (15 minutes)

Blessings

Learn different blessings.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #2-3.B
- † Activity Sheet #2-3.C
- † Scissors

Before class:

1. Make copies of Activity Sheet #2-3.B for every two to three students on cardstock, if possible. Cut apart sets of Blessing Scramble Cards.
2. Make a copy of Activity Sheet #2-3.C for each student.

During class:

1. Divide the class into groups of 2 or 3.
2. **In today's story, Jacob asks God for a blessing. When we ask God for a blessing, we ask God to look on us with favor and kindness. A blessing is a form of prayer.**
3. Hand each group of students one set of the Blessing Scramble Cards. **Each set of cards I am handing out is a different blessing that people might use when they pray. Some of these may sound familiar, and some may be new. Your job is to work with your partners to put these words in the right order and discover the blessing.**
4. Give groups time to work. Once each group is finished, use the answer key on Activity Sheet #2-3.C to check answers. Invite groups to read the blessings aloud.
5. **What are some of the things for which people might pray a blessing?** *[Food, family, homes, friends, people who are sick, etc.]*
6. **There are many different blessings that people use, and the ones we read today are only a few of them. Here is a collection of blessings for you to take home and use. Let's pick one of these and say it together.**
7. Hand out a copy of Activity Sheet #2-3 to each student. As a class, pick one of the blessings to pray together as a group.

Additional Activities

Tug of War (10 minutes)

Test your strength.

You will need:

- † Thick, strong rope
- † Objects to mark boundaries

Note: This activity is best done in a large, open area, preferably outside. Be sure to check the area for this activity prior to the start of class for any hazards that might compromise the safety of your class.

Before class:

1. Find a large, strong rope that is long enough for tug-of-war. Also gather objects to mark boundaries (cones, spot markers, or another long length of rope work well for this purpose).
2. Set up your playing space. Lay out the rope for tug-of-war. Use the objects to mark a center line, dividing the rope for two teams, one on either end.

During class:

1. **In today's story, Jacob's strength was tested when he wrestled with God. Let's play a game of tug-of-war to test our strength!**
2. Divide the class into two teams. Assign each team one side of the rope.
3. **In a moment, I am going to give you several commands. When I say, "pick up the rope," everyone should pick up the rope. When I say, "go," each team should work together to pull the rope, trying to pull the other team to their side. If you pull the opposite team across the line, then your team earns a point.**
4. When you are ready, give students your commands. When one round is finished, have teams re-set the game and play another round. Continue playing rounds as time allows.
5. After you are finished playing, have teams drop the rope and gather around you. **All of you are very strong, just like Jacob! In our story, Jacob "wrestles" with God. Do you think that people like us could wrestle with God? What might that mean?** Accept all answers.

God in the World (15 minutes)

How is God active in the world?

You will need:

- † Paper
- † Magazines
- † Scissors
- † Glue sticks

During class:

1. Read Genesis 32:30. **In this verse, what does Jacob say that he saw?** [*The face of God.*] **What do you think it means to “see the face of God?”** Accept all answers.
2. **When we say that we “see the face of God,” that does not always mean that we actually see God’s face. Instead, it might mean that we see God in other ways and in many places in the world.**
3. Hand each student a sheet of paper. **Today we are going to take some time to think about the different places that we might see God. We might see God in the beauty of nature, or in another person, or in a kind word or deed. Use these magazines to make a collage of how you might see the face of God in the world. Cut out pictures and paste them to your paper.**
4. Give students time to work. As students finish, invite them to share their creations with the rest of the class. **What are some ways that you might see God in the world? If you would like, share your ideas with the class.**

Bless Our Food (10 minutes)

How is God active in the world?

You will need:

- † Snack
- † Napkins

Before class:

1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

During class:

1. **How many of you say a prayer before you eat at home or at a family member's house? What prayer do you say?** Allow students to share.
2. **Today we are going to share a snack together. Before we eat our snack, we will say a table blessing to thank God for providing this food for us.**
3. If students know a simple prayer, use that or ask one of the students to help the class learn it. If not, use a simple prayer such as **“Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blest. Amen.”**
4. Distribute the snack. While students eat, talk about other things for which they are thankful.

Bible Book (5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class:

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**
[Answers will vary.]
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of the important things you've learned. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

Sending the Story (10 minutes)

Review and Prayer

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Dear God,

You came to Jacob and gave him a blessing. We know that you come to us and bless us, too. Help us see you in the world. Help us recognize the changes in us when we see you. In your name we pray. Amen.

Job Wrestles with God

Tell the story by creating an art project.

Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac. Isaac had two sons, one whose name was Jacob. Jacob and his family were travelling through the land of Canaan when Jacob had a strange encounter with God.

Jacob sent his family and everything ahead of him on the journey. His family crossed the stream. While he was alone, a man came and wrestled with him all night long.

What do you think the man looked like?

What do you think the landscape looked like where Jacob was waiting?

How do you think Jacob wrestled with God?

Give students a few minutes to share their answers, and then have students draw them on the banner.

As the sun was coming up, the man realized that Jacob was not going to give up this fight. So, he struck Jacob on his hip, and his hip came out of its joint. But Jacob did not stop wrestling.

How do you think Jacob reacted to his injury? Draw that scene on the paper.

Give students a few minutes to share their answers, and then have students draw them on the banner.

The man said to Jacob, "The sun is coming up. Let me go." Jacob replied to the man, "I will not let go until you bless me." The man said, "What is your name?" Jacob told him his name. Then the man said, "From now on, your name will not be Jacob. Instead, people will call you Israel because you have wrestled with God and survived."

How do you think Jacob reacted when he realized he had been wrestling with God, and when God changed his name? Draw that scene on the paper.

Give students a few minutes to share their answers, and then have students draw them on the banner.

Jacob asked the man to say his name. The man asked him why Jacob wanted to know his name, and then the man blessed him. The man blessed Jacob! Jacob realized that he really had encountered God that night. He named this place Peniel (pronounced PHEN-ih-ehl), which means that he saw God's face at that place and lived to tell people about the experience.

Jacob continued his journey, travelling with his family. Today, Jacob is known by the name Israel, and his children helped start a nation with a new group of people, the Israelites.

Blessings

Learn different blessings.

Blessing #1:

May	the	Lord	bless
you and	keep	you	always.

Blessing #2:

Come	Lord Jesus,	be	our
guest,	and let	these	gifts
to	us	be	blessed.

Blessing #3:

God,	bless	this	house
and	everyone	and	everything
that	is	in	it.

Blessings

Learn different blessings.

Blessing #4:

May	the	love	of
God	enfold	you	always.

Blessing #5:

Bless	the,	sick	today
so	that	they	may
be	restored	to	health.

Blessing #6:

The	Lord	will	bless
your	going out	and	your
coming in	from	this	time
forth	and	forever	more.

Blessings

Learn different blessings.

Answers:

Blessing #1:

May the Lord bless you and keep you always.

Blessing #2:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blessing #3:

God, bless this house and everyone and everything that is in it.

Blessing #4:

May the love of God enfold you always.

Blessing #5:

Bless the sick today so that they may be restored to health.

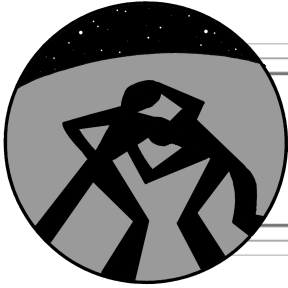
Blessing #6:

The Lord will bless your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever more.

Jacob Wrestles

Genesis 32:22-30

I Learned:



The Story @ Home

3rd - 6th

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2019-2020)

Lesson #2-3

Genesis 32:22-30

Last Week

Last week continued the theme of God's relationship with humanity as God promised a child to Sarah and Abraham (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7).

This Week

This week, the story follows Isaac's grandson, Jacob, as he wrestles and gains God's blessing. This story shows the unfolding of God's promise to Abraham that through his descendants a new nation will be born (Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30).

Story Summary

This is a very strange story. While traveling with his family, Jacob is met by a stranger. The stranger wrestles with Jacob through the night, striking Jacob's hip and causing it to become disjointed. However, Jacob does not stop fighting. At dawn, Jacob is asked by this stranger to stop wrestling. Jacob refuses to stop unless he receives a blessing. So the stranger reveals them self as God and changes Jacob's name to Israel, or "one who prevails with God," because Jacob wrestled with God and prevailed. This blessing changes Jacob.

Practice: Prayer

This week explores a blessing as a type of prayer. Blessings are often defined as special gifts from God. Students asked God to bestow special gifts on them and the world around them by praying different prayers of blessing. Create a simple, one-sentence blessing that you can say to each other before bed each night.

The Point

God changes us.

Bible Nuts & Bolts

Israel's Origin Stories

Origin stories are a type of stories that explain how something came about. Sometimes the stories show how God is interacting with the world. Stories like today's reading tell the Israelite people who they are as a nation and where they came from. Genesis is an origin story. It begins with the origin of the world. Then it addresses the origin of the people of Israel. It focuses on four generations, beginning with the call of Abram (Abraham) and ending with his great-grandson Joseph and the move to Egypt. Today's story is also an origin story as it tells the origin of the name "Israel."

Next Week

Next week, the story picks up 400 years later as the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the Israelites—are enslaved in Egypt. God comes to Moses in the form of a burning bush and sends Moses to deliver God's people from slavery. (Exodus 1:8-14 [15—2:10]; 3:1-15)

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text teach about the theme, God Creates Family?
- ✚ What does this scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30

Jacob wrestles.

What is your origin story? Tell the story of your family as far back as you are able. Share pictures if you have them.

Monday—Read Genesis 33:1-11

Jacob and Esau are reconciled.

How did Esau greet Jacob? Greet one another in the same way.

Tuesday—Read Genesis 30:22-24; 41:1-16

Pharaoh's dream.

Draw pictures of Pharaoh's dream.

Wednesday—Read Genesis 41:25-36

Joseph to the rescue.

Share the strangest dream that you have ever had. What do you think it meant?

Thursday—Read Genesis 41:37-45

Joseph is exalted.

If you had done something great for a king, how would you want to be honored or recognized?

Friday—Read Exodus 1:8-14

Enslaved in Egypt.

The new king felt threatened by the Israelites and made life hard for them. How can their knowledge of who (and whose) they are help them during difficult times? How can your knowledge of who (and whose) you are help you during difficult times?

Saturday—Read Exodus 1:15-2:10

Defiant and dauntless women.

Sometimes you are challenged to do something that you know is wrong. What are some ways that you can be brave and do what is right?