

TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

A GOOD BEGINNING

HOOK

VIDEO

Show video on creation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLHB_hNk42g

Chris Tomlin – Indescribable

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlKhw_o6kzE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FllchSJoOA>

INTRO

Let's start at the very beginning ... do you know what is the first book of the Bible? *Genesis*

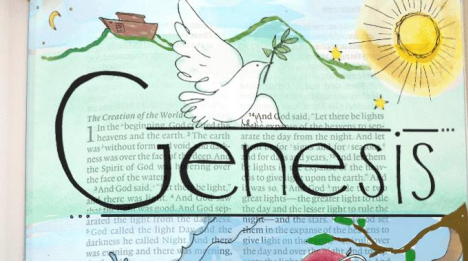
We'll be going through the book of Genesis in the next few weeks.

The word Genesis means "the beginning".

There are two types of beginnings in the book of Genesis:

- the beginning of the world, and
- the beginning of the Hebrew race (the people called Jews).

Today, we look at the beginning of the world.



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LESSON

GOD CREATED

Tell the story of creation from Genesis 1-2.

Talk about why each of God's creation was important.

E.g. Light, trees, sun, fish etc.

Idea to memorise the seven days of creation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nj-t6nyGJEE>

Emphasise at each point/day that everything God created was "GOOD".

IT WAS GOOD

God rested after his creation work was finished: He created the world in 6 days — the heavens, the earth and its inhabitants, including man — saw that it was "very good". Then on the 7th day, God rested. (Remember: God created in 6 days, and rested on the 7th)

WE ARE HIS MASTERPIECE

God created the world. God created you and me!

Of all the wonders in this world, we are God's best masterpiece because we are created in His image. We are the crowning glory of His whole creation, His favouritest part of all His work!

Jesus gives us rest after His work on the cross was finished: When Jesus died on the cross, He said, "It was finished." Jesus' work on the Cross was complete. Jesus was "very good", and His work was "very good". Because of that, we don't have to try to be "very good" on our own. No matter how good or bad we are, God always loves us. So we can just rest in His love and know that we can be God's children because of what Jesus did on the cross.

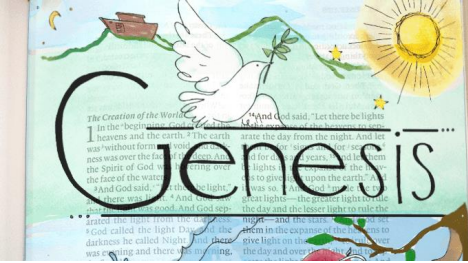
CONCLUSION

As we learnt in Romans 1 (v.20), God reveals Himself through His creation.

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

When we see the wonder and beauty of creation, we see God. When people see us, do they see Jesus? Like the moon reflects the light of the sun, let us reflect the Son in our lives.

Indescribable by Louie Giglio and Matt Redman <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rDcCeiyXTU>



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A GOOD BEGINNING

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

KEY VERSE

[think of how to help kids understand and memorise]

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

SONG

Seven Days of Creation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoehyq6X650>

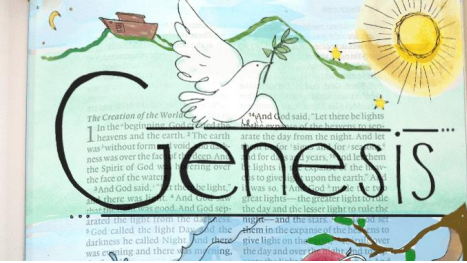
(Tune of “Are You Sleeping Brother John”; include appropriate actions)

ACTIVITY

Creation-related craft/activity

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to pray for one another.



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TWO TREES

INTRO

Last Sunday, we started our journey through the first book of the Bible. What is it called? *Genesis*
Genesis means “the beginning”, and we looked at the beginning of the world.

Can you remember the Days of Creation?

revise with actions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nj-t6nyGJEE>

Of all his wonderful creations, God had a great masterpiece, one crafted after His own self. What masterpiece was that? *Us/Man*

Who was the first man and woman God created? *Adam and Eve*

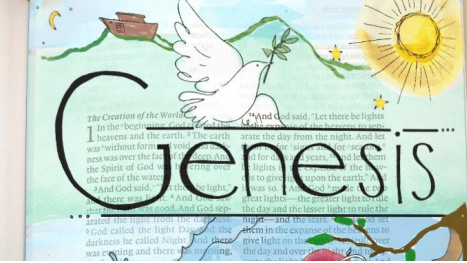
THE FALL

Review the story of the Fall from Genesis 2-3.

(We looked at it previously at end-Jan in our study of the First/Last Adams)

Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg2lkCxiMg8>

Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7TDvJrjz0>



LESSON

THE TWO TREES

Adam and Eve, created in God's image, lived in the beautiful Garden of Eden. It was filled with all kinds of trees that were *"pleasing to the eye and good for food"* (Genesis 2:9). Adam and Eve could eat the fruit from all these trees for their food and strength.

But in the middle of the garden were two very special trees.

- Tree of Life
- The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

TREE OF LIFE

Adam and Eve could have eaten from this tree, and they would have received God's life — they would have never died and never been separated from Him. It was not something they had to work for or earn — God planted the tree and made it grow; all they had to do was to eat from it.

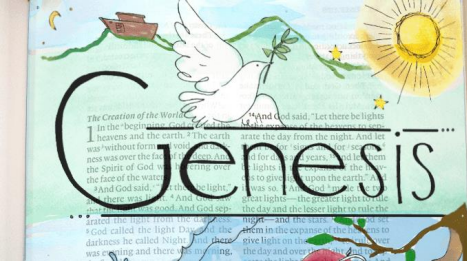
TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL

And then, there was the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God had told Adam: *"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."* (Genesis 2:16-17)

Adam and Eve choose to listen to the lies of the Snake (the devil) and doubt God's goodness/love/wisdom. They did not want to depend on God to know what is right or wrong. They wanted to be their own boss. They wanted to be like God. So they ate from the very tree God told them not to eat from, the fruit that was *"good for food and pleasing to the eye"*. (Genesis 3:6)

When Adam and Eve took the fruit, their eyes were open, and they realised their sin and nakedness. Hence, they became afraid of God and hid from Him! They tried to cover themselves with fig leaves.

As a result of their disobedience, the curse of sin came upon Adam and Eve (toil, sweat, painful labour), and they were driven out of Eden (death and separation from God). Because they had chosen to live their lives their own way, God could not let them take the fruit of the Tree of Life and live forever (Genesis 3:22).



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TWO TREES

THE TWO CHOICES

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil represents the Law:

- Us wanting to be like God through our own efforts
- Exposes our nakedness and shame
- Which we try to cover with fig leaves (human efforts to try to be good/righteous)

The Tree of Life: represents Grace:

- God's life and righteousness given freely to us
Sadly, Adam and Eve did not choose this tree, and the curse of the First Adam flowed down to mankind.

GOD'S REDEMPTION PLAN IN MOTION

However, God did not send Adam and Eve away just like that.

In that garden, God had already set His redemption plan in motion.

He had already warned the snake (devil) that its end was near:

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

(Genesis 3:15)

And instead of fig leaves (human efforts), God killed an animal and clothed Adam and Eve in its skin (blood was shed to cover their sin).

It was a picture and prophecy that one day, the Lamb of God would be killed and His blood shed to cleanse the world of sin and bring them back to Himself forever.

God already knew that Jesus would come to earth as the Tree of Life. All who eat of His fruit will have eternal life through Him. Isn't that amazing?

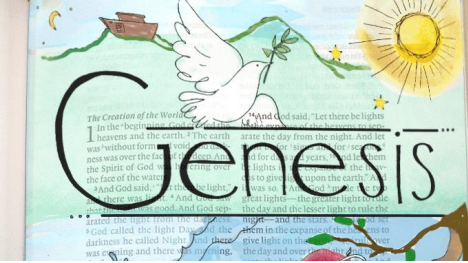
As Jesus told His disciples, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* **John 15:5**

So let us remain in Jesus, our Tree of Life, our True Vine, and bear much fruit.

BibleProject's Tree of Life <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJLan-pJzfQ>

This is a beautiful presentation of the gospel in the two trees.

(Might be better appreciated by older kids/teachers)



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TWO TREES

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

KEY VERSE

[think of how to help kids understand and memorise]

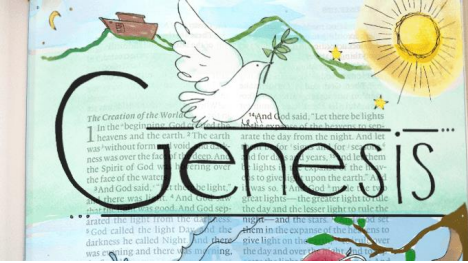
John 15:5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

ACTIVITY

Creation-related craft/activity

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to pray for one another.



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THE HEART OF THE GIFT

INTRO

We started our journey through the first book of the Bible. What is it called? *Genesis*

Genesis means “the beginning”, and we looked at the beginning of the world.

Can you remember the Days of Creation?

revise with actions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nj-t6nyGJEE>

Of all his wonderful creations, God had a great masterpiece, one crafted after His own self. What masterpiece was that? *Us/Man*

Who was the first man and woman God created? *Adam and Eve*

Adam and Eve disobeyed God and wanted to do things their own way. As such, they had to leave the beautiful garden God had prepared for them.

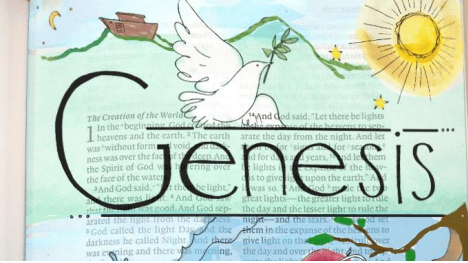
From Adam and Eve, the whole human race was birthed. They had two sons — Cain and Abel.

Here's what happened to the first family after sin had entered the world.

CAIN & ABEL (Genesis 4)

Kids on the Move <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3rDJSnIRhc>

Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSrf0NGsrzo>



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THE HEART OF THE GIFT

LESSON

THE TWO OFFERINGS

Cain was the older brother, and Abel was the younger brother. When they grew up, Cain became a farmer and Abel became a shepherd. The two brothers brought two different offerings.

The Lord looked with favour on the offering by Abel, but did not look with favour at the offering by Cain. What's the difference?

The scripture gives us some clues:

And Abel also brought an offering — fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. (Genesis 4:4)
Abel took care to choose and prepare the best from the firstborn of his flock.

The writer of Hebrews also said: *“By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.”* (Hebrews 11:4)

Remember how we learned that Abraham was considered righteous because of faith? Even before Abraham, Abel was considered righteous and his sacrifice considered acceptable to God because of faith. Abel must have believed and trusted God so fully that he was glad to give the best he had.

Perhaps Cain brought his offering unwillingly because he thought he had to (not because he believed God or really wanted to). Cain was not said to have offered the first and best of his harvest. Cain apparently had no desire to offer what was worthy and befitting to the Lord in his offering. His heart was probably not right.

CAIN'S CHOICE

The Lord pointed out to Cain that if he had done what was right, would it not be accepted?

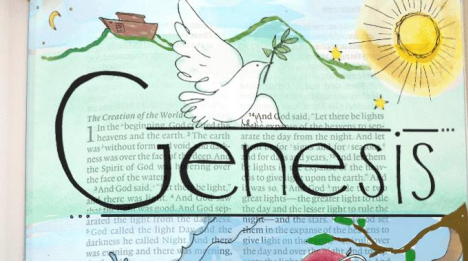
Then the Lord also warned Cain, *“And if you don't do right, sin is lying in wait for you, ready to pounce; it's out to get you, you've got to master it.”* (Genesis 4:6-7)

Cain could have listened to God and repented of his wrong heart. However, Cain chose to let jealousy and anger take control of him, and he ended up killing his brother.

Even when God asked him where his brother was, Cain sinned further by lying: *“I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?”*

As a result, the Lord laid a curse on him, and he was sent away from the Lord's presence.

“Your brother's blood is still on the ground. Your punishment is that nothing you plant in the ground will grow. You will just wander around the earth finding food wherever you can.”



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THE HEART OF THE GIFT

GOD'S GRACE

Even though Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God was still in their midst.

Even though Cain sinned, God still put a mark on him to protect him from being attacked by others.

And because God already had a plan of redemption, He did not let Adam and Eve's family die off just like that. Adam and Eve had a third son, Seth who then had a son, Enosh. And from that line, the Saviour of the World came.

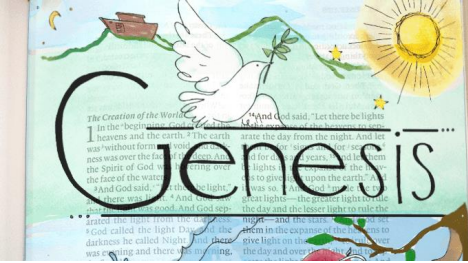
Jesus' blood speaks of sacrifice, of faith and righteousness, one that is far greater than the blood of Abel.

You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Hebrews 12:23-24)

Thank you God, that you made the best offering, with Your whole heart, when You gave Your one and only Son on the Cross ... so that we may be Your people who will call upon Your Name and offer You the best of our lives for Your glory and purposes.

CONCLUSION

God is not concerned about how big or small our gifts are. He wants us to have faith in Him. He wants our whole heart. Let's learn to trust Him and listen to His voice, not depending on our works and efforts to please God or to live our lives. Then we do not allow jealousy and anger to control us.



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THE HEART OF THE GIFT

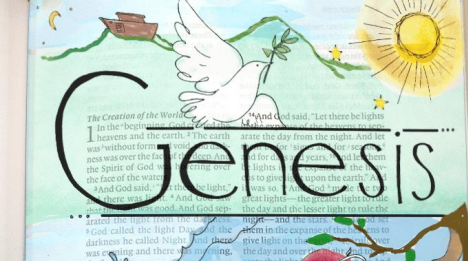
ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

ACTIVITY

Related craft/activity

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to share of some sins they may struggle with and pray for one another to learn to trust God more and more.



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THE ARK & THE PROMISE

INTRO

We started our journey through the first book of the Bible. What is it called? *Genesis*

We learned about Adam and Eve, and how their decision not to trust and obey God let sin enter the world.

We learned about their sons — Cain, Abel and Seth.

Do you know how old Adam lived for? *930 years!*

How old was Adam when he had Seth? *130 years.*

From Seth, there was a whole line of descendants.

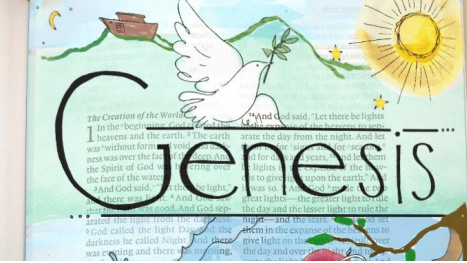
And many (8) generations later, Noah was born. Do you know who Noah is?

NOAH & THE GREAT FLOOD (Genesis 6-9)

Tell the story of Noah in a creative and fun manner (songs/games/puppets etc).

Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yzN0fUxjkQ>

Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzYjy6lhRag>



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THE ARK & THE PROMISE

LESSON

THE ARK = A PICTURE OF JESUS

Salvation is found only in Jesus. When everything else outside is dying or destroyed, those who are in Jesus are safe in Him. We can all find salvation in Jesus if we choose to enter into a relationship with Him.

John 10:9 *I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

THE RAINBOW = GOD'S LOVE & PROMISE

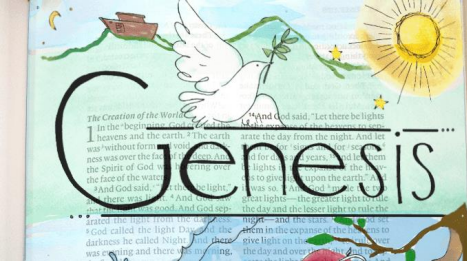
After the flood, God gave Noah and his family a promise (Gen 9:8-17). He promised never to flood the earth again, no matter how wicked man may be.

"I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. ... Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

But God is a holy God. And sin and wickedness had to be judged. So God put the punishment of sin on Jesus.

When Jesus came to earth, everyone thought He would be the conquering hero. No one understood why He was arrested, whipped and crucified. It seemed like all was lost and hopeless. But God's way is the best way. And through Jesus' death on the Cross, He defeated sin, sickness and death once and for all.

When a warrior returns from war, he hangs up his bow (same shape as the rainbow). The hung-up bow tells us that the war is over! All the arrows of God's judgment fell on Christ on the cross. Because of Jesus took all the punishment of sin for us with His finished work on the cross, we can now enjoy God's unfailing love and unending peace.



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THE ARK & THE PROMISE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

ACTIVITY

Related craft/activity, e.g. origami boat or rainbow theme with the words:

GAMES

Animal Charades

Have the children take turns acting like different animals and having the rest of the children guess which animal they are.

Animal Actions

Choose a few animals and give distinctive actions to each. Eg. Elephant's trunk

The leader will shout out the names of the animals and the kids must do the appropriate action. Call out the animal names with increasing speed. Those who do the wrong action have to sit down.

Memory Game

First child says "Noah took a ___ on the ark." (animal name goes in the blank)

Second child repeats what the first said and adds their own animal.

"Noah took a ___, and a ___ on the ark."

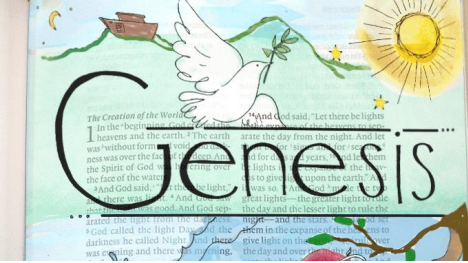
Each child must remember what has been said and add their own animal.

SONGS (can be used as part of story-telling or supplement)

see next page

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

In smaller groups, get the kids to share about what it means to be safe in Jesus and help those who want to invite Him in to their hearts. Pray and bless each child.



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THE ARK & THE PROMISE

SONGS (can be used as part of story-telling or supplement)

Adapted from <http://cdn.www.ministry-to-children.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/Noah-And-The-Flood-Songs.pdf>

Do you see the Animals

To the tune of "Muffin Man"

Oh do you see the animals

The animals, the animals

Do you see the animals

Marching off the ark

God saved all the animals

The animals, the animals

God saved all the animals

Saved them from the flood

Noah sent the Dove

To the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"

Noah sent the dove outside
of the ark to find dry land.

It flew all around and then,

It brought back an olive branch

This meant that the storm was done

God saved Noah from the flood

The Ark Rocks

To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"

The ark rocks back and forth

The ark rocks back and forth

The wind blows hard

The rain comes down

The ark rocks back and forth

God made a Rainbow

To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me"

When a rainbow's in the sky

Then we know it's dry outside

Rainbow tells us of God's promise

That He loves us always

God made a rainbow

God made a rainbow

God made a rainbow

And put it over the ark

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

The rainbow tells me so



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THE TOWER

HOOK & STORY

Quiz/Fun Facts about Skyscrapers (or very, very tall towers)

<https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/5-fun-facts-about-skyscrapers>

<https://www.constructconnect.com/blog/9-fun-skyscraper-facts>

<https://in.musafir.com/blog/10-interesting-facts-about-the-petronas-towers.aspx>

<https://worldofbuzz.com/5-fun-facts-about-merdeka-pnb-118-the-second-tallest-tower-in-the-world/>

After the Flood, Noah and his family lived in the land and his children had children, and grandchildren, and great grandchildren and so on ... until they were lots of people on the earth once more. And one day, they were talking (and they all spoke the same language), and came up with an idea to build a really, really tall tower to reach up to heaven.

THE TOWER OF BABEL (Genesis 11:1-9)

Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CW-NXNzdZhM>

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

³ They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

⁸ So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

LESSON

DIFFERENT TONGUES

Once again, men were trying to live without God. They wanted to do things their way. They wanted to build a city for themselves, make a name for themselves and to reach God themselves.

God was not happy with that. He knew that if they kept on like this, they would only destroy themselves. And He loved them too much to let that happen.

So He had to mix up their language so they could no longer communicate with everyone the same way. This led to confusion and frustration, and in the end, the project was abandoned, and everyone was scattered all over the world (that's how we ended up with many different languages today and how people would fill the earth as God intended).

GOD REACHED DOWN

God knew that no matter how high the people's tower was, however hard they tried, people could never get back to heaven by themselves.

He also knew that people didn't need a staircase to heaven; they needed a Rescuer.

So many years later, Heaven would come down to them, the Rescuer named Jesus.

Jesus is our Tower from Heaven.

Proverbs 18:10 *The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.*

ONE TONGUE, ONE BODY

And because Jesus came to die for us and make us righteous in Him, God's Holy Spirit could come and live within us. On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), God's Holy Spirit came down as flames and gave the gift of tongues to man.

Acts 2 ⁴*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* ⁶*And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.* ¹¹*Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.*"

At the Tower of Babel, God confused the language of men to scatter them. But on the Day of Pentecost, God gave them the gift of tongues to create one body in Christ — not to build a city of man but to speak of the wonderful works of God!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

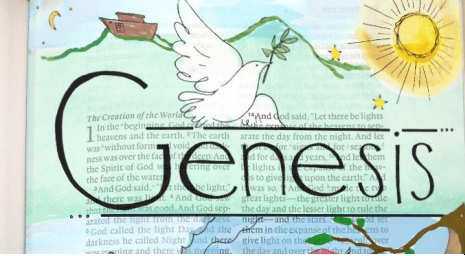
ACTIVITY

Related craft/activity, with the words:

Proverbs 18:10 *The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.*

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

In smaller groups, get the kids to share about what it means to be safe in Jesus and help those who want to invite Him in to their hearts. Pray and bless each child.



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THE SON OF LAUGHTER

HOOK & INTRO

HOOK

Do not Laugh Challenge

The objective of the game is to try not to laugh.

Get kids to make funny faces at each or tell some bad “dad jokes”.

INTRO

We’ve been going through the Book of Genesis (*beginning*):

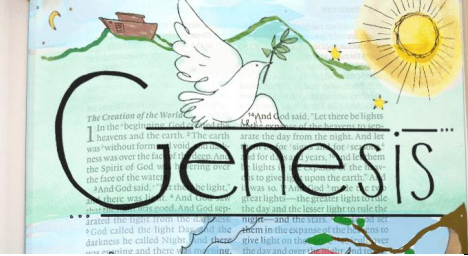
Creation → the Fall → Cain & Abel → Noah & the Flood → Tower of Babel → ...

Noah had 3 sons. One of them was called Shem.

10 generations from Shem came a man named Abraham.

We’ve learnt a lot about Abraham through the years, the latest of which was in our study of the Book of Romans. We learnt that Abraham obeyed God and followed Him out of his land, that God promised many things to Abraham, and that Abraham believed God despite circumstances. God called Abraham righteous.

Today, we continue look at Abraham’s life.



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THE SON OF LAUGHTER

STORY (Gen 17-21)

God made many promises to Abram (as he was originally known as). One of the promises was that Abram will have many children, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the shores.

But as many years passed (24 years since God first called Abram), Abram and his wife, Sarai, still did not have any children.

(Gen 17) Then one day, when Abram was 99 years old, God appeared to him and told him that yes, he will still have many children. In fact, God wanted to change his name to Abraham, which means “father of many nations”.

And his wife will now be called “Sarah” — she will be the mother of nations and kings!

Sarah was a beautiful woman, but she was also very old now. She was almost 90 years old! How many of you have grandmothers who are 90 years old?

But God said that Sarah will have a child.

The thought of that made Abraham fall down on his face and laugh!

(Gen 18) Another day, two men visited Abraham, and he prepared a meal for them. After they had eaten, they asked Abraham, “Where is your wife, Sarah?”

“There, in the tent,” he said.

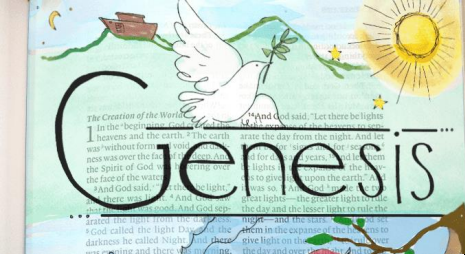
One of the men said, “I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening from inside the tent. She couldn’t believe what the man said, so she laughed to herself. “We’re both so old; how can we have a son?”

The man said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the LORD?”

(Gen 21) True enough, nothing is too hard for God.

One year later, Sarah gave birth to a baby! They named him “Isaac”, which means “son of laughter.” She said, “God has brought me laughter! Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”



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THE SON OF LAUGHTER

LESSON

NOTHING IS TOO DIFFICULT FOR GOD

When all else fails, know that God is all powerful and NOTHING is too difficult for Him.

Romans 4:18 says, *“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’”*

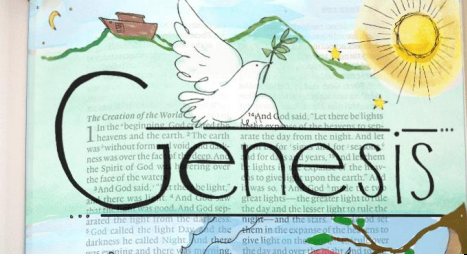
Whatever problem you may face, trust that God will always keep His promises.

ANOTHER BABY

Isaac brought much joy to Abraham and Sarah.

The good news is that through Isaac, God brought another special baby in an even more miraculous way. This baby’s name was Jesus, and His birth brought lots of laughter and joy to the whole world!

Praise the Lord!



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THE SON OF LAUGHTER

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

RELATED CRAFT/ACTIVITY, with the words:

Genesis 21:6 God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.

SONG

With God there is nothing impossible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpgZqfKz97g>

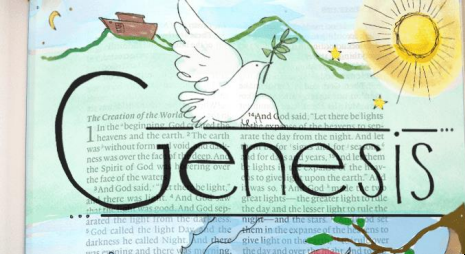
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

www.dltk-bible.com/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.dltk-bible.com/crosswords/b-crossword-withwords-abraham.gif (younger kids - has word list)

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.dltk-bible.com/crosswords/b-crossword-abraham.gif> (older kids)

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

In smaller groups, get the kids to share if they are feeling sad or if they have something they are waiting on God to answer. Pray and bless each child.



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THE RAM

HOOK & INTRO

HOOK

Little Lamb

Have a lamb-related game/icebreaker, and lead into the story of a special ram.

INTRO

Last week, in our journey through Genesis, we learnt about a man called Abraham.

What was one of the promises God gave to Abraham? *He will have many descendants.*

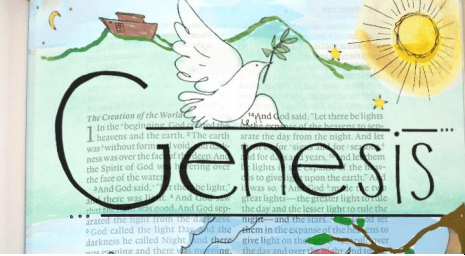
What was the biggest problem Abraham faced? *He didn't have any children with his wife Sarah.*

What happened in the end? *God kept His promise, and Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy, Isaac.*

How old was Abraham when Isaac was conceived? *101 years.*

Abraham and Sarah were incredibly happy with their gift from God.

And then, one day ...



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THE RAM

STORY (Gen 22:1-19)

One day, God told Abraham, *"Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love ... Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering."* (Gen 22:2)

Abraham waited so long for his son. And now he had one, God was asking him to sacrifice him?

Abraham couldn't understand; but he knew God, he knew God loved Him, and he trusted God.

So the next morning, Abraham took his son Isaac and set off to the place where God told him to go. He carried the fire and knife, and put the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's back.

As they walked up the hill, Isaac asked his father, *"The fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"*

Abraham answered, *"God will provide the lamb."*

When they reached, Abraham then built an altar and arranged wood on it. Then he bound Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.

How do you think Isaac felt? He definitely couldn't understand! But he knew his father, he knew his father loved Him, and he trusted his father.

As Abraham reached out his hand raised the knife high, suddenly the angel of the Lord called out, *"Abraham! Abraham! Stop! Don't hurt the boy. I want him to live and not die. I know now that you love me because you would have given me your only son."*

Abraham must have been so relieved. He looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. He took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son, and called that place, *"The Lord will Provide."*

God then blessed Abraham again, *"Because you obeyed me, even when I asked you to do a hard thing, I will richly bless you. From you will become a great nation, and all people on earth will ask you to be blessed the way I have blessed you, all because you obeyed my command."*

VIDEOS

Cartoon Works: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGYtH4FBi_4

Jesus 101: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDtc8LvLNxQ>

Biblical Awareness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEMfvAkxtGY>



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THE RAM

LESSON

ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD

Abraham knew that God loved him soooo much, He would never do anything to hurt him.

God promised him a son, and God provided.

When God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, Abraham trusted that God would provide a way out.

Hebrews 11:17-19 tells us, *"By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death."*

We can trust God!

JESUS IS THE LAMB

From this story, we see God's heart and a shadow of His redemption plan.

All of us have done bad things, sin. The result of sin is death. But God wants His people to live, not die. God loves us so much that He had a plan on how to save us.

With Abraham and the ram, God revealed a picture of what He would do, the sacrifice He would make, to show us how much He loves us.

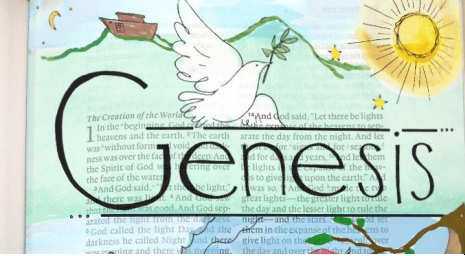
One day, God took His son, His only son, Jesus, whom He loves, and sacrificed Him as a burnt offering. He put the cross on His back and made Him walk up the hill.

Like the ram caught in the thorny bush, Jesus had a crown of thorns pressed on His brow as He took the punishment for our sin.

As John the Baptist said in John 1:29, Jesus is *"... the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

God provided Jesus, the Lamb of God. Jehovah Jireh! The Lord will provide!

Let's pray: *Thank you Jesus that You took our place as the sacrificial lamb. You took all our sins and sicknesses on the cross, You paid for them with your blood, and You defeated death when You rose 3 days later. Thank you that we have life and blessings because of You. Amen!"*



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THE RAM

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

RELATED CRAFT/ACTIVITY

Any sheep-related craft with the words “God provided the Lamb” or “Jesus is the Lamb who took away the sin of the world” or “Jehovah Jireh! The Lord will provide!”

SONG

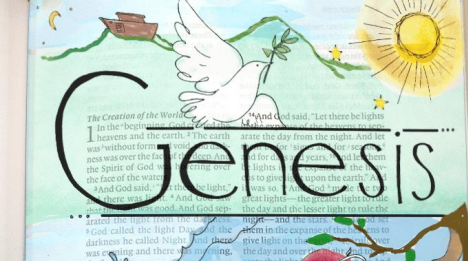
Jesus, Lamb of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5M3C84dHxc>



SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get the kids to share about what it means to have Jesus take our place and our punishment of sin. Pray and bless each child.



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THE BRIDE

HOOK & INTRO

HOOK

Famous Couples: Show half of a famous male-female couple and get kids to guess who the pair is.

E.g.

Minnie and Mickey Mouse

Shrek and Fiona

Romeo and Juliet

Donald and Daisy

Belle and the Beast

Adam and Eve

Abraham and Sarah

INTRO

Last week, in our journey through Genesis, we learnt about a man called Abraham.

What was one of the promises God gave to Abraham? He will have many descendants.

What was the biggest problem Abraham faced? He didn't have any children with his wife Sarah.

What happened in the end? God kept His promise, and Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy, Isaac.

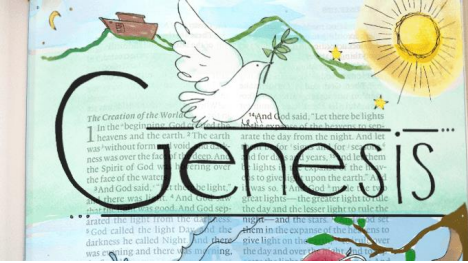
How old was Abraham when Isaac was conceived? 101 years.

Abraham and Sarah were incredibly happy with their gift from God.

They trusted God even when God tested Abraham and asked him to sacrifice his only son.

Isaac was spared, and he grew up. Abraham wanted him to marry someone who would continue to be part of God's covenant people.

In today's lesson we will learn about how Abraham helped his son find a wife.



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THE BRIDE

STORY (Genesis 24)

When Abraham was old and his son Isaac was grown, Abraham wanted to find a wife for him. He said to his servant, "Go to the land of my relatives and find a wife for my son."

The servant agreed to go. When he got to the land, he went to a well. The servant wanted to find the right wife for Isaac, so he prayed. "God, help me find a wife for Isaac. I will ask a girl for a drink of water. If she is the one Isaac should marry, let her also give water to my camels."

When the servant looked up, he saw Rebekah. The servant asked her for a drink of water.

"Drink," she said. "I will also give water to your camels."

The servant asked to stay at her father's house. Then the servant praised God for providing a wife for Isaac.

Rebekah ran home and told her family what had happened. Rebekah's brother Laban invited Abraham's servant into their home.

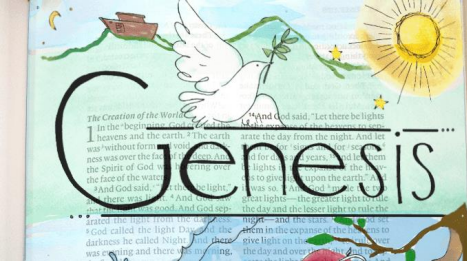
The servant told them about Abraham and Isaac and how God showed him that Rebekah should be Isaac's wife.

The next day, Rebekah went with Abraham's servant to the land of Canaan. The servant told Isaac everything that had happened. Isaac married Rebekah and loved her.

VIDEOS

Sharefaith: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nT4WjE3oZwU>

Teaching Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrwZrMzX09o>



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THE BRIDE

LESSON

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

Abraham knew he was part of God's Covenant people. So he was concerned that Isaac not choose a wife from among the Canaanites (whom he was living among). The Canaanites did not follow God, and Abraham did not want Isaac to choose a wife who would likely lead him astray — something we see happen to Solomon years later. So Abraham assigns a servant to travel 900km to his homeland and find a suitable wife for Isaac.

The servant did not take his job lightly. He prayed and asked God to show him the right person. God provided Rebekah as a wife for Isaac as part of His covenant to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. One day, Jesus would be born into Abraham's family as the promised Savior.

CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

In Genesis 24, Abraham is a spiritual picture of God the Father.

His servant is a spiritual picture of the Holy Spirit,
the helper from God.

Isaac is a spiritual picture of Jesus the Bridegroom,

and Rebekah is a spiritual picture of the Bride of Christ — His Church (all of us who believe in Jesus).

In this spiritual picture, we can see that God the Father desires to find a Bride for Jesus the Messiah. To do this, God sent His Holy Spirit to prepare a people to meet and marry Jesus, the Bridegroom. Just as Isaac loved Rebekah, Christ loved His bride, the Church, having given His life for her.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (Eph 5:25-27)

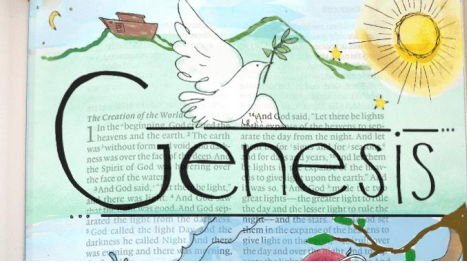
We are Jesus' bride. And He loves us. He is preparing a place for us, and He will come back for His Bride and to bring us all back with Him for the wedding feast! Let's wait faithfully and eagerly for our bridegroom's return!

*For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.*

*Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear."*

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God." (Rev 19:7-9)



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THE BRIDE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

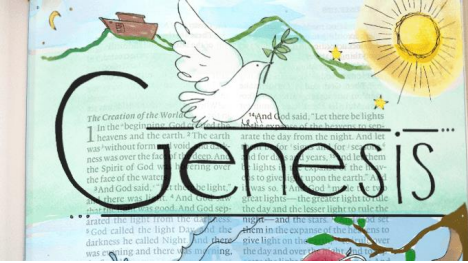
ACTIVITY

Related craft/activity, with the words:

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Eph 5:25)

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

In smaller groups, invite the kids to accept Jesus invitation to be with Him forever as His beloved bride. Pray and bless each child.



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BROTHERS: BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

HOOK & INTRO

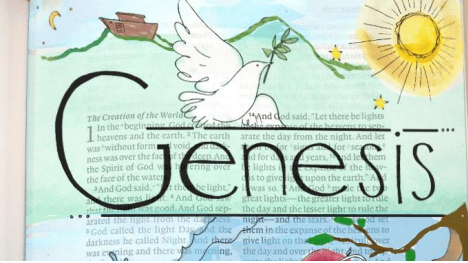
INTRO

In our journey through Genesis, we learnt about a man called Abraham.

Who was Abraham's son? *Isaac*.

Who did Isaac marry? *Rebekah*.

Today we continue the story and look at Isaac and Rebekah's children!



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BROTHERS: BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

STORY (Genesis 25-27)

So Isaac grew up, and when he was 40 years old, he married Rebekah. Many years went by, and still they didn't have any children. And so Isaac prayed to God, "Oh Lord, please look with favor on my wife Rebekah, and bless us with children."

God heard Isaac's prayer (of course, God hears every prayer!), and He answered it. When Isaac was 60 years old, Rebekah became pregnant — and not with just one child, but with twins!

The first baby born was a boy. He was all red and covered with hair, and so Isaac and Rebekah named him Esau, which sounded like their word for "red." The second baby was also a boy, and he came grabbing onto Esau's heel. So they named him Jacob, which sounded like their word for "heel."

The boys grew up.

Esau became a strong and skillful hunter who loved the outdoors.

Jacob was a quiet man, who preferred to stay home.

Isaac like Esau because he liked to eat the wild game Esau brought home from hunting. But Rebekah liked Jacob because he learned to cook and to do other things to help her around the home.

Jacob took Esau's birthright

One day Esau went out for another one of his hunting trips. He must have been gone for a few days, and the hunting must not have been very good, because when he came back, he was starving for something good to eat.

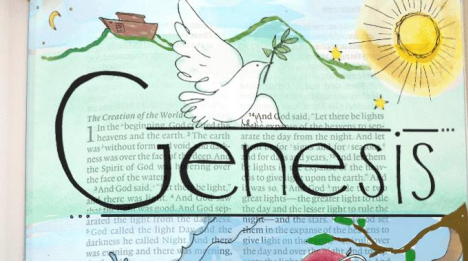
It just so happened that when Esau came home, Jacob had just made a great big pot of hot, steaming, stew. The mouth-watering smell filled the air.

"Give me some of that red stuff — I am starving!" Esau demanded.

Jacob was a schemer, and so he said, "Sure! I'll give you some stew — IF you will give me your Birthright."

The Birthright was a very important thing. It went to Esau because he was born first. When Isaac died, Esau's Birthright would make him the head of the household, and he would get twice as much of Isaac's wealth as Jacob would.

But here is where Esau made his mistake. He was hungry NOW. He didn't care about tomorrow. All that Birthright stuff wouldn't happen for a long time.



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BROTHERS: BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

But Jacob was wiser. He knew one day tomorrow would come. If he had the Birthright, one day he would receive double portion of the inheritance and become the head of the household.

“Give me your Birthright, and I will give you some stew,” Jacob said again, as he slurped on a steaming spoonful himself.

“All right! All right!” Esau said, “You can have my Birthright. What good will it be to me if I starve to death!” Not that he would have starved to death. He was just hungry.

“Do you promise?” Jacob said.

“I promise!” Esau snapped.

“All right then,” Jacob said, and he gave Esau what he wanted.

And so Esau gave away his Birthright for a bowl of soup and few pieces of bread.

That wasn't too smart.

Jacob stole Esau's blessing

Isaac grew old. He could no longer see. He knew he would die soon.

And so he called his son Esau. “My son, before I die, I want you to take your bow and your arrows and go out hunting. When you come back, cook the meat you have caught. Make one of your delicious meals, the kind I like so much, and bring it to me. And then I will bless you.”

Now, Rebekah just happened to hear all of this from the other room (the walls of tents aren't very thick!).

As soon as Esau left, Rebekah took Jacob by the arm and said to him, “Your father has sent Esau away to hunt. When Esau gets back, he is going to fix your father's favourite dinner, and your father is going to give him his blessing.

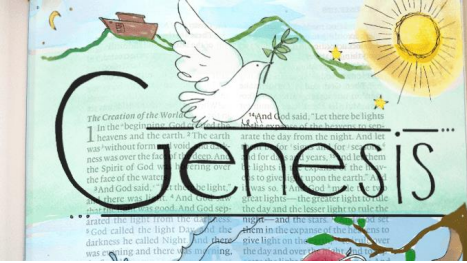
“Quick! Do what I say! Go out into the fields and bring me two young goats, and I will make your father's favorite dinner from them. Bring it to him, and your father will think you are Esau, and he will bless you instead.”

When Jacob had brought the two goats, Rebekah prepared a delicious meal. Then she took some of Esau's clothes and had Jacob put them on. She took the skins from the goats and put them on Jacob's arms and the back of his neck so that he would be hairy like his brother.

Wearing the disguise his mother had made, Jacob took the steaming hot meal in to his father.

“Who is there?” his father asked.

“It is your first born son Esau,” Jacob said. “I have brought your favorite dinner, just like you asked.”



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BROTHERS: BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

“How did you do it so quickly?” his father asked.

“Your God was with me, and he gave me success,” Jacob answered. “Eat, and then you can give me your blessing.”

“You don’t sound like Esau,” Isaac said. “You sound like your brother Jacob. Come here. Let me touch you.”

Isaac felt the fur on Jacob’s neck and arms. And then he said, “The voice is Jacob’s, but the arms are Esau’s.” He was about to give his blessing when he asked again, “Are you really my son Esau?”

“Yes, I am,” Jacob lied.

And so Isaac ate the meal he thought Esau had brought him. When he was finished he said, “Come here, my son, and kiss me, and then I will give you my blessing.”

So Jacob came near his father and kissed him. Isaac could smell the smell of Esau’s clothes, and so he gave him his blessing. “ ... Let anyone who curses you be cursed, but blessed be anyone who blesses you!”

Jacob runs from Esau

Of course when Esau came back from his hunting and found out how Jacob deceived his father, he was furious! Wouldn’t you be mad if your brother stole something that belonged to you?

From that day on Esau hated his brother Jacob. “One day, my father will die,” he said, “And then I will kill my brother Jacob!”

When his mother heard it, she told Jacob to run for his life. “I can’t lose both my sons in one day,” she said.

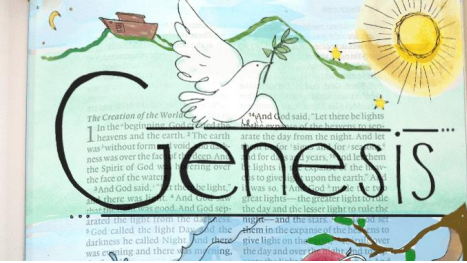
What a mess we make when we lie and cheat.

Source: <http://www.essex1.com/pages/paul/bible24.html>

Images: <http://www.freebibleimages.org/stories/?book=Genesis>

VIDEO

Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGs1WfRKIoM>



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BROTHERS: BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

LESSON

BAD BROTHERS, GOOD GOD

Jacob was a liar and a cheat. He thought of ways to take what didn't belong to him — Esau's birthright and blessing.

Esau was a careless — he sold his birthright for some soup and bread. Esau was murderous — he wanted to kill Jacob.

But through it all, God was with the brothers. He never left them. He knew their weaknesses, and he still worked through them to accomplish his good and wonderful plans through them, even when they messed things up.

When Jacob ran away from Esau, he slept in the middle of the desert and had a dream. God appeared to him and told him that He will watch over and protect him and bless him greatly. "All this I will do. Be sure of this, I am with you. I will never leave you or forsake you."

ESAU SHOWED GRACE

The story doesn't end there. Twenty years later, when Jacob wanted to bring his large family back to his homeland, he was very worried that Esau would still be angry with him. He brought all sorts of gifts to try to appease Esau. He went to meet his brother (who was accompanied with 400 men) and bowed down to the ground 7 times.

But surprisingly, Esau ran to meet his brother, hugged him tightly and kissed him. And they both wept. Esau met and welcomed all of Jacob's family. Despite all the wrong Jacob had done to him, Esau had forgiven him. Esau showed him grace. Just like the father who ran to welcome the prodigal son who spent all his money and returned dirty and smelly.

This is a picture of God's unmerited grace through Jesus.

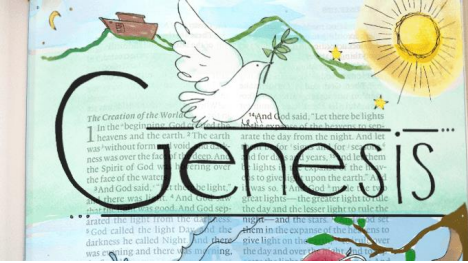
Just as Jacob schemed, lied, deceived, cheated, and caused great heartache and pain to Esau, we have done likewise to our heavenly Father. Just as Jacob struggled and tried by his own efforts to earn Esau's forgiveness, we do the same by trying to be good to earn God's favour.

And finally, just as Esau extended grace and forgiveness to Jacob despite all the injustices and suffering, God's amazing grace is extended to us when we accept His gift of forgiveness in Jesus Christ!

MEMORY VERSE

Gen 28:15 "Be sure of this, I am with you. I will never leave you or forsake you."





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BROTHERS: BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

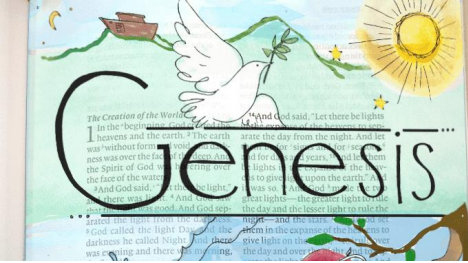
ACTIVITY

Related craft/activity, with the words:

Be sure of this, I am with you. I will never leave you or forsake you. (Gen 28:15)

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share praise and prayer points. Pray and bless each child.



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THE 2 SISTERS

HOOK & INTRO

INTRO

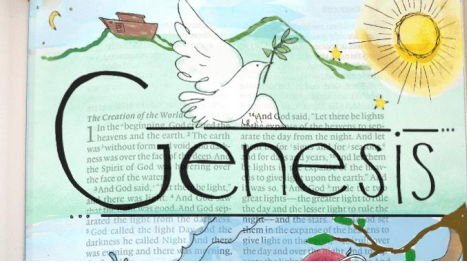
Who remembers Abraham? What was his son's name? *Isaac*

How many children did Isaac have? *2 twin boys*

What were their names? *Esau and Jacob*

What did Jacob do? *Lied to his father and stole his brother's birthright and blessing*

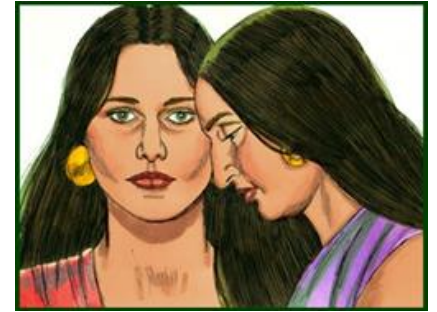
What happened to Jacob? *He had to run away from his brother who wanted to kill him.*



STORY (Genesis 29-30)

So Jacob travelled east, to the land where his grandfather Abraham was born. He was also hoping to choose a wife from his grandfather's family.

Early on a warm afternoon, he came to a well in the fields outside the town of Haran. At that moment, a beautiful girl, Rachel, arrived with her father's sheep. When Jacob's eyes met Rachel's, he fell in love with her instantly and helped her to get water for her sheep. He found out that Rachel was his uncle Laban's daughter.



"I am your relative. Your aunt Rebekah is my mother," he told the girl.

Rachel ran home to tell her father all that had happened. When her father heard the news, he ran to meet Jacob. He hugged and kissed this nephew he hadn't known until now, and brought him to his home. And so Jacob stayed with his uncle's family for a whole month and worked for him.

Now, Laban had two daughters. Rachel and Leah.

As we know, Rachel was very beautiful. She was the kind of girl everyone loved and liked to have around.

Leah was the older sister. She wasn't as beautiful as Rachel, and some even thought she was quite ugly. Poor Leah ... no one hardly noticed her.

One day, Laban said to Jacob, "You've been working hard for me ... I'd like to pay you. What do you want?"

Immediately, Jacob said, "I will work for you for seven years if you will let me marry your daughter Rachel."

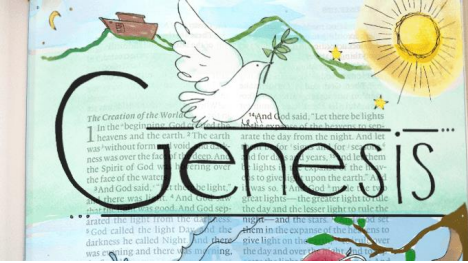
Laban said, "I would rather give her to you than to anyone else."

And so Jacob worked for his uncle for seven years.

Finally, the day came that Jacob had worked for all those years. At last, the wedding day arrived. There was a great wedding feast. And that night, under a sky of shining stars, Jacob's bride came to Jacob's tent. She was wrapped from head to foot in layers of veils and flowing robes. Jacob took his wife by the hand and led her inside. They slept that night as man and wife.

But, when the light of morning came, Jacob awoke to a big surprise. It wasn't Rachel he had married at all! It was her sister Leah he was lying beside!

Jacob jumped from his bed and ran straight to the tent of his Uncle Laban. "You lied to me! You cheated me! You promised me Rachel, but you gave me Leah instead!"



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THE 2 SISTERS

Well — look who's talking! The cheater got cheated. (So it doesn't pay to cheat!)

Laban said to him, "It isn't our custom to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older. Work for me another seven years, and I will give you Rachel as well."

And so Jacob agreed, and Jacob and Rachel were married at last.

(In those days, it was common to marry relatives and have many wives. Today, God intends for 1 man to have 1 wife only.)

But how do you think Leah felt? First she was the sister nobody liked. Now she was the wife that no one loved.

"No one loves me," Leah said. "I'm too ugly." Do you ever feel that way?

But God didn't think she was ugly. God looked at her and saw a princess.

And when he saw that Leah was not loved and that no one wanted her, God chose her. God loved her and gave her a special job. One day, God was going to rescue the world — through Leah!

When Leah realised how much God loved her, in her heart, it didn't matter anymore that her husband loved her sister more or that her sister was prettier.

Someone had chosen her. Someone did love her — with a never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love.

When Leah had her fourth baby boy, she called him Judah, which means, "This time I will praise the Lord!" And that's what she did.

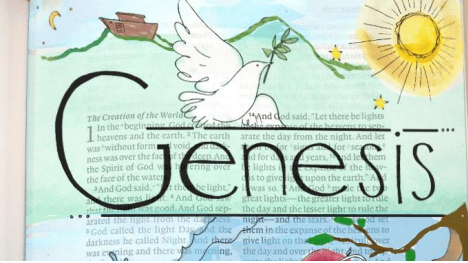
And many, many years later, Judah's descendent, Leah's great, great, great, great great, great grandson, was born into this world.

And His name was Jesus!

Source: <http://www.essex1.com/pages/paul/bible24.html>; The Jesus Storybook Bible

VIDEO

Lifeway <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q42EogloSBs>



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CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

THE 2 SISTERS

LESSON

GOD BLESSED THE WORLD THROUGH LEAH

God doesn't choose people the way the world chooses. The world chooses the biggest, best and strongest. God chooses the weakest and unlovely so that His strength and greatness can be shown through them.

God chooses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, the weak things to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. (1 Corinthians 1:27-28)

Leah was unwanted and unloved by her father (who was eager to get rid of her) and her husband (who made his preference for Rachel obvious to all). Leah tried hard to win her husband's affection. She bore him sons. "Surely my husband will love me now," she thought after her first son was born. "Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too," she said after her second son was born. "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons," she said after her third child.

Finally, when she had her fourth son, she said, "This time I will praise the Lord." So she named him Judah. And it was through Judah that God chose to bless all of mankind. Jesus Christ was descended from the line of Judah; that's why He is called the Lion of Judah.

EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE LOVES US ... GOD LOVES US!

In fact, God loved us soooooo much, that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for us and save us from our sin. (John 3:16)

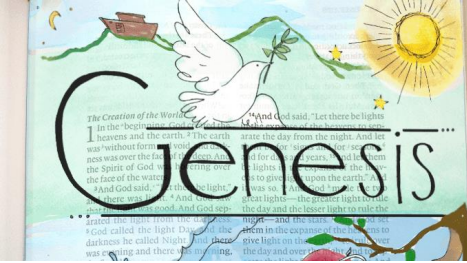
Jesus loved God's people, whether they are beautiful or ugly, good or bad. They didn't need to be beautiful for Him to love them. He would love them with all His heart. And they would be beautiful because He loved them.

If you ever looked in the mirror and said, "No one loves me" ... always remember that Jesus loves you most of all!

Do you know anyone who needs to know how much Jesus loves them? Let's share Jesus' love to everyone!

TAKE-HOME LESSON

God Loves Me. God Chose Me. Even when I was unlovely!
God's love makes me lovely!



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THE 2 SISTERS

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

ACTIVITY

Related craft/activity, with the words:

God's love makes me lovely!

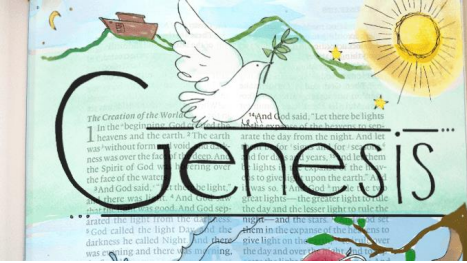
Crossword Puzzle:

http://www.sermons4kids.com/jacob_rachel_crossword.htm



SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share praise and prayer points. Pray and bless each child. Reaffirm that they are lovely in God's eyes!



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A NEW NAME

HOOK & INTRO

ICEBREAKER: Name game

Get kids to think of an adjective that describes them that they can add in front of their names. The word kids choose should begin with the same letter as their names.

e.g. Amazing Anna or Beautiful Brad.

Get kids to remember each other's name and play some sort of memory game with it.

Can you imagine having a new name? Today, we'll find out more about someone who had his name changed by God.

REVIEW

Who remembers Abraham? What was his original name before God changed it? *Abram*

How about Sarah's? *Sarai*

What was their son's name? *Isaac*

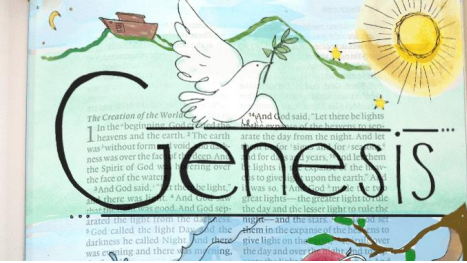
How many children did Isaac have? *2 twin boys*

What were their names? *Esau and Jacob*

What did Jacob do? *Lied to his father and stole his brother's birthright and blessing*

What happened to Jacob? *He had to run away from his brother who wanted to kill him.*

Who did Jacob marry? *Leah and Rachel*



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A NEW NAME

STORY (Genesis 32-33)

After deceiving his brother of his birthright and blessing, Jacob ran away to escape Esau's anger. God met Jacob and promised to be with him. After 20 years, God told Jacob that it was time to go home.

Jacob began the trip with his family and all of his possessions. Going home meant that Jacob would see his brother Esau again. Jacob was afraid that Esau would still be angry with him for stealing his blessing. So Jacob sent messengers to tell Esau that he was coming. When the messengers came back, they told Jacob that Esau was coming to meet Jacob, and he had 400 men with him!

Jacob was very afraid! God had promised that his family would be as numerous as the stars, but how could that happen if Esau was going to kill them all? Jacob made a plan. He divided his family into two groups. If Esau attacked one group, maybe the other group could escape. Then Jacob asked God to keep His promise. Jacob prayed, "Please rescue me from my brother Esau."

Jacob sent a large gift of animals — goats, sheep, camels, cows, bulls, and donkeys — to try to make Esau happy. Maybe then Esau would forgive him. That night, Jacob moved his family across the stream where they might be safer, but Jacob stayed behind.

A man appeared. (The man was actually God Himself!) The man wrestled with Jacob all night. Jacob refused to give up, so the man injured Jacob's hip.

"Let Me go. The sun is coming up," the man said.

But Jacob would not let Him go. "I will not let You go unless You bless me."

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," said the man. "Your name will be Israel because you wrestled with God and men, and you have won." And the man blessed Jacob.

The sun came up, and Jacob limped because of his hip.

Now Jacob looked and saw Esau and his 400 men coming to meet him. Jacob went to meet Esau. He bowed down seven times to show respect to his brother. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. He was not angry anymore. The two brothers cried together.

"Why did you send so many animals ahead of you?" Esau asked.

"I wanted to make you happy," Jacob said. "I have enough," said Esau. "You keep them."

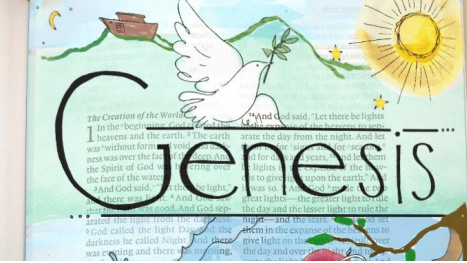
"Please take my present," said Jacob. "God has given me more than I deserve.

Esau agreed to take the gifts and returned to his home. Jacob and his family traveled on to Shechem, and Jacob bought land for them to live on. He was finally home in the land God had promised him.

VIDEO

Faith Kids https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-PhM9xPZ_E

Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zIbU866z6A>



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A NEW NAME

LESSON

JACOB TRIED TO EARN ESAU'S FORGIVENESS THROUGH HIS OWN EFFORTS

He schemed how to win Esau's heart with gifts. He planned his family's escape. He grovelled before his brother. He thought by doing all these, by his own strength, Esau would forgive and not kill him.

But the one right thing he did was to call upon the Lord for help. He recounted how much God had blessed him and reminded himself of God's promises and covenant.

"O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, Lord, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,' I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'"

(Gen 31:9-12)

JACOB WRESTLED WITH GOD

God visited Jacob again (He had earlier visited Jacob when he was running away from Esau). This time, God wrestled with Jacob and in the end, Jacob's hip was injured. Now not only did Jacob have to face a potentially still-angry brother, but he couldn't even walk properly!

Yet Jacob did not let go and held him until God blessed him. Jacob realised he couldn't do things on his own strength anymore; he needed to depend more and more on God. God changed his name to Israel, which probably meant "he struggled with God". God had to wrestle out the self from Jacob.

The story ends happily with both brothers reconciled. Jacob acknowledged that "God has been gracious to me and I have all I need."

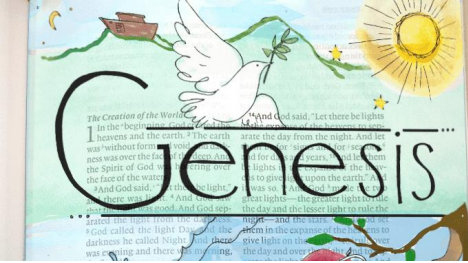
A NEW NAME

God changed Jacob's life and gave him a new name, Israel.

Jesus came so that we might have a changed life, forgiven of sin (2 Cor 5:17).

We do not need to work or earn or bribe God for His forgiveness. It's already been paid in full at the Cross. Jesus' death and resurrection provided sinful people with the way to be adopted into God's family. When we are adopted into the family of God we also receive a new name — children of God (John 1:12).

"... you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow." Isaiah 62:2



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A NEW NAME

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

CRAFT

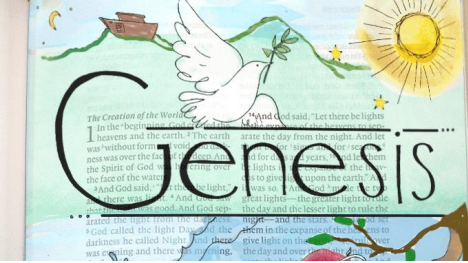
Thumb-wrestling puppets <http://www.users.waitrose.com/~1stprestrainbows/images/puppets.jpg>

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Encourage the kids to think of one way that they need to stop trusting themselves and trust God instead. E.g. anger towards brother, jealousy towards friend, struggling in studies etc.

Tell the kids to write down one word (or draw a picture) to describe/illustrate that area or situation that they chose. Then lead the kids to pray personally with God about the thing that they chose.

Pray and bless each child. Reaffirm that they are children of God and the Lord is always with them!



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THE BELOVED SON

HOOK & INTRO

REVIEW

Who was Abraham and Sarah's son? *Isaac*

How many children did Isaac have and what were their names? *2 twin boys; Esau and Jacob*

What did Jacob do? *Lied to his father and stole his brother's birthright and blessing*

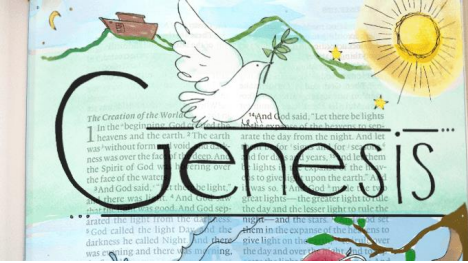
Who did Jacob marry? *Leah and Rachel*

How many sons in total did Jacob have? *12*

Last Sunday, we learned about how God brought Jacob and his family back to the Promised Land, saving him from his brother's wrath.

In the next few weeks, we will follow the life of one of Jacob's sons — a young man who went through great trials and challenges in his life. But because God was with him, he could overcome them.

Any guesses who he is? *Joseph!*



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THE BELOVED SON

STORY (Genesis 37)

FAVOURITE

Leah had many children, But Rachel could not have children for a very long time. Finally, she had two sons — Joseph and Benjamin. (Rachel passed away after giving birth to Benjamin.)

Of all his 11 brothers, Joseph was his father's most beloved son. Of course this didn't make his brothers happy, especially when 17-year-old Joseph caught them goofing off one day and told Dad.

One day, Jacob made a beautiful coat of many, many colours for Joseph. Joseph was very happy with it. But this made his brothers even more jealous of him.

When his brothers realized that their father loved him more than them, they grew to hate him — they wouldn't even speak to him.

DREAMER

Joseph is also known as the Dreamer. Why? Because God gave him many dreams.

In one of the dreams, Joseph and his family were in the field gathering bundles of wheat. Suddenly Joseph's bundle stood straight up, and all the other bundles (belonging to his brothers) circled around it and bowed to it.

In another dream, the sun, moon and 11 stars bowed to Joseph. This was a picture of Joseph's father, mother and 11 brothers bowing to him.

Of course, when Joseph told his brothers about his dreams, they were furious. "So! You're going to rule us? You're going to boss us around?!" But Jacob thought about all the Joseph said.

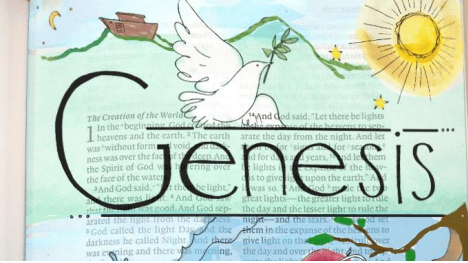
HATED

One day, Joseph's brothers went to Shechem to take care of their father's sheep. Jacob told Joseph to go and check on them and bring back a report. So Joseph goes to look for his brothers.

As he was approaching, his brothers spotted him in the distance. They started to think of a plot to get rid of him. "Here comes that dreamer. Let's kill him and throw him into one of these old wells; we can say that a vicious animal ate him up. We'll see what his dreams amount to."

Reuben, the eldest, quickly said, "Don't kill him! We can just throw him into the well, but let's not harm him." Reuben was hoping he could rescue Joseph later and return him to his father.

So when Joseph came, the brothers stripped off his beautiful colourful coat and threw him into an empty well.



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THE BELOVED SON

As they were sitting down to eat their meal, a caravan of Midianite traders came.

Judah said, "Let's just sell Joseph to these traders. We don't have to kill him. After all, he is our own brother, our flesh and blood." The others agreed. So they sold Joseph to the traders for 20 shekels of silver.

When Reuben returned and saw that Joseph was gone, he was very afraid. What was he going to tell his father now?! After all, he's the eldest and responsible for his brothers.

So the brothers took Joseph's coat, slaughtered a goat and dipped the coat into the blood. Then they brought it home to show their father.

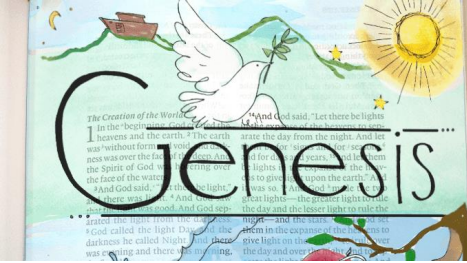
When Jacob saw the blood-soaked coat, he wailed and cried. "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces. And he mourned for many days, refusing to be comforted.

Meanwhile, Joseph was being brought to Egypt. And the story continues next week ...

VIDEO (only show until Joseph is sold by his brothers)

Crossroads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ7wLTBnF84> (only until 1:04)

Saynetwork https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ze_3JnwoEi8 (only until 2:24)



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THE BELOVED SON

LESSON

BELOVED SON

Joseph was Jacob's beloved Son.

Jacob trusted Joseph to check on his brothers and bring back reports for him. Jacob blessed Joseph with a beautiful colourful coat as a mark that he was the beloved son.

This reminds us that Jesus was God's beloved son.

When Jesus was on earth, twice God spoke from heaven to declare, "This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased."

Because of Jesus, we are all now God's beloved children.

Unlike Jacob, God doesn't play favourites. So we don't have to be jealous of each other. God sees us in His beloved son, Jesus, so He loves all of us just the same! So we can live each day knowing that our Father's favour and grace is on us always.

Romans 9:24, *"I will call those who were not my people, 'my people,' and he who was not beloved, 'beloved'."*

GOD'S DREAMS DON'T DIE

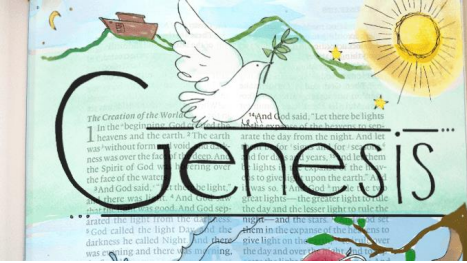
Joseph's brothers tried to kill the Dreamer. But God's dreams don't die.

God had a purpose for Joseph's life. And even though his brothers tried to stop it by selling him off, God continued to work in Joseph's life to bring it to reality (as we will find out more in the next few lessons).

Like Joseph, Jesus also was rejected by his brothers. He was betrayed by his disciple for 30 pieces of silver, whipped and crucified. The devil thought he had destroyed God's plan of saving the world. He thought he had won! But he was wrong. God used the devil's evil plans to bring His own plan of salvation to reality.

TAKE-HOME LESSON

Because of Jesus, we are God's beloved children.



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THE BELOVED SON

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

CRAFT

Colour Craft/Experiment

Choose a colour-based activity or craft (depending on age group) to tie in with Joseph's colourful coat and remind the children that: *We are all God's beloved children!*

SONG: I am Special

(sing to the tune of "Are you sleeping?")

I am special (point to yourself)

I am special

Don't you see? (make binoculars with your fingers)

Don't you see?

Someone very special (hands out to the side, palms up)

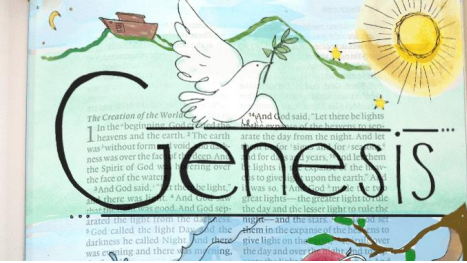
Someone very special

'Cause God (point to heaven) made me (point to yourself)

God made me!

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share what it means to be God's beloved children. Pray for each other.



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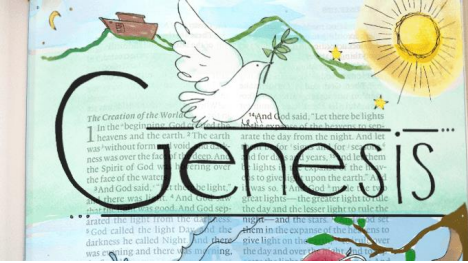
THE LORD WAS WITH HIM

HOOK & INTRO

REVIEW

We're learning about one of Jacob's sons. What's his name? *Joseph*

What happened to him? *Brothers angry with him. Sold him to traders. Lied to father that he died.*



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THE LORD WAS WITH HIM

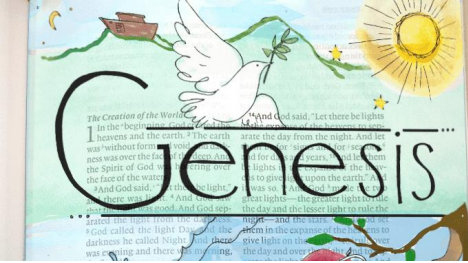
STORY (Genesis 39)

Tell the story based on Genesis 39.

VIDEO

Faith Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X72HeY3frBY>

Kids on the Move <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDKzxuk7zI0>



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THE LORD WAS WITH HIM

LESSON

GOD WAS WITH JOSEPH

Joseph was sold by his own brothers and ended up a slave in Egypt ... far from his father and home. Can you imagine being abandoned by your own family?

But the good news is, God never left Joseph, and He was with him in Egypt.

And even when he was thrown into prison for something he did not do, God was there with him too.

Today, when we believe in Jesus, God's Holy Spirit is in us forever. So no matter what happens, always remember that God is always with us!

GOD'S PRESENCE GAVE JOSEPH FAVOUR AND SUCCESS

the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. (Genesis 39:23)

In fact, this phrase "the Lord was with Joseph/him" appears three times in this one chapter.

Joseph served in Potiphar's house. Potiphar was a captain of the guard, a high-ranking official.

Potiphar realised there was something different about Joseph and put him in charge of his household.

Everything Potiphar had was under Joseph's care. That was a very big and important responsibility.

Because of Joseph, Potiphar and all he had were blessed by God too!

Even in prison, the Lord granted Joseph favour in the eyes of the prison warden who put him in charge of all in the prison.

When we have Jesus, we have His favour and success. And all around us are blessed because of us.

We are blessed to be a blessing!

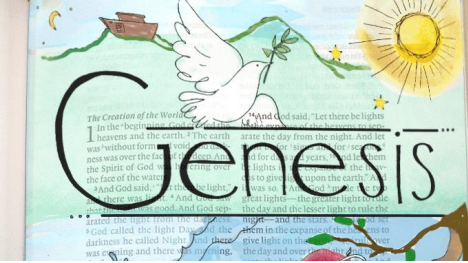
GOD'S PRESENCE GAVE JOSEPH POWER TO RESIST TEMPTATION

When Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to do something bad, Joseph refused because:

- He knew his master trusted him
- He knew his position in the house — he could have everything except his master's wife
- He knew God had blessed him so much ... so how could He sin against God?

Jesus was also tempted in every way, yet He did not sin.

When we believe in Jesus, we become Jesus' boys and girls. When we know who we are and who we belong to (Jesus), we can also say no to sin and temptation. We don't have to listen to or follow our friends when they do naughty things. We can remind ourselves, "I'm a Jesus-boy/girl, and I don't do these sort of things!"



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THE LORD WAS WITH HIM

JOSEPH WAS FALSELY ACCUSED AND PUNISHED FOR WHAT HE DID NOT DO

Jesus was also falsely accused by the chief priests and false witnesses (Matt 26:59-60).

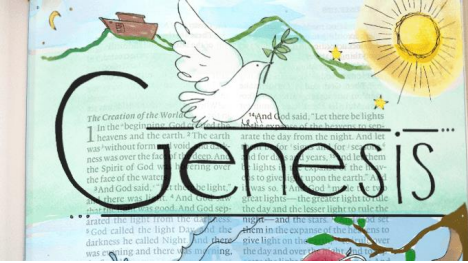
Jesus took the punishment that was meant for us.

And there was a time when even God left Jesus' presence — as He was hanging on the cross, carrying all our sin and shame, Jesus cried out, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* (Matt 28:46).

Because of Jesus, we can have God's presence and favour in our life!

TAKE-HOME LESSON

Jesus is with me and gives me success in whatever I do.



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THE LORD WAS WITH HIM

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

CRAFT

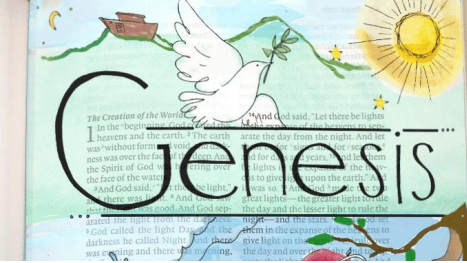
Father's Day-related

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 39:23 *the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.*

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share what it means to have the Lord with us always. Pray for each other.



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NOT FORGOTTEN

HOOK & INTRO

REVIEW

So far, in our story of Joseph, he had to overcome several challenges in his life:

Disappointment: when his brothers rejected him and his dreams

Despair: when he was thrown into a pit and sold to slavery

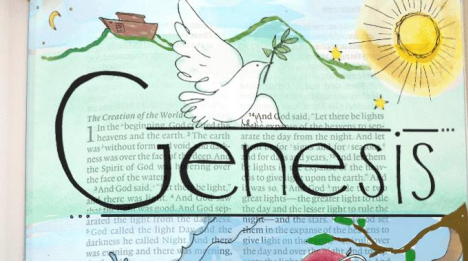
Distraction: when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him

Dungeon: when he was falsely accused and thrown into prison

But through all these, we are reminded over and over again:

But the Lord was with Joseph ...

Even in prison, the Lord granted Joseph favour in the eyes of the prison warden who put him in charge of all in the prison.



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NOT FORGOTTEN

STORY (Genesis 40)

Tell the story based on Genesis 40.

Later, Pharaoh became angry with his baker and wine server/butler, so he put them in the same prison as Joseph. One night, both the baker and the wine server each had a dream. Joseph went to them the next morning and saw that the two men were worried.

The wine server told Joseph his dream. "I saw a vine. On the vine there were three branches. I watched the branches grow flowers and then become grapes. I was holding Pharaoh's cup, so I took the grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup. Then I gave the cup to Pharaoh."

Joseph explained the dream to the wine server. He said, "The three branches mean three days. Before the end of three days, Pharaoh will forgive you and you will be Pharaoh's wine server again.

***Remember me.** Tell Pharaoh about me **so that I can get out of this prison.** I have done nothing wrong! I should not be in prison."*

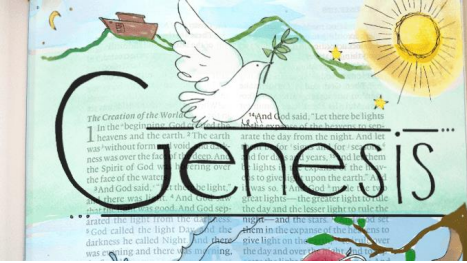
The baker also told Joseph his dream. He dreamed there were three baskets of bread on his head. In the top basket there were all kinds of baked food for the king, but birds were eating this food.

Joseph told him that, "The three baskets mean three days. Before the end of three days, the king will take you out of this prison and cut off your head! He will hang your body and the birds will eat it."

*Three days later, Pharaoh freed the wine server and gave him his job back. But Pharaoh hanged the baker. Everything happened the way Joseph said it would. **But the wine server forgot about Joseph.***

VIDEO

Faith Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ximUkN0dWpY>



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NOT FORGOTTEN

LESSON

JOSEPH WAS FORGOTTEN

Even though he helped to interpret the wine server/butler's dream, the butler did not remember Joseph and forgot him!

Have you ever put your hope on someone to help you, and they disappointed you?

Have you ever felt forgotten and forsaken? Have you ever felt like nobody cares?

[get kids to share]

GOD NEVER FORGETS US

Even when people fail us and forget us, the Bible tells us repeatedly that God will:

- never abandon us (Deuteronomy 4:31)
- never leave nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8), and
- never forget (Isaiah 49:15)

In **Isaiah 49:15-16**, God asks: *"Can a woman forget her own baby and not love the child she bore?"*

Do you think your mother will forget you? No!

But ... even if she does (because mothers are humans too), God promises us, "Though she may forget, I will not forget you! ..."

JESUS ASKS US TO REMEMBER HIM

1 Corinthians 11:24-25 *"This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

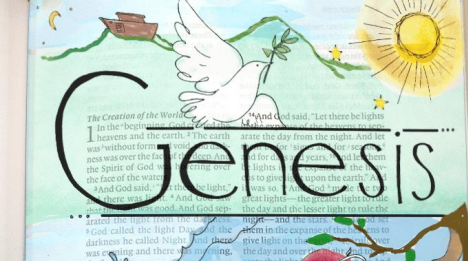
In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

When we are in our dungeon, when we are feeling sad, lonely and forgotten, we can fix our eyes on Jesus — we can remember His love for us and His finished work on the Cross — and believe that He will help us overcome the challenges because He has already overcome the world!

So every time we take the bread and cup on Sunday, it is not a snack time. It is a time for us to remember how much Jesus loves us because He went to the cross to die for us so we can be with Him forever.

TAKE-HOME LESSON

Jesus will never forget or forsake me!



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CHURCH

NOT FORGOTTEN

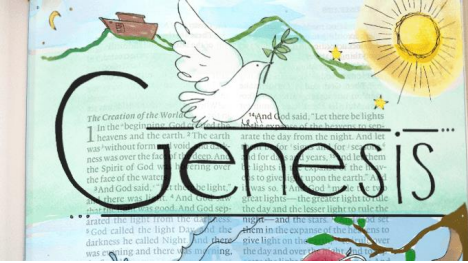
ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

CRAFT

Related craft to remind kids: *Jesus will never forget or forsake me!*

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share what it means to never be forgotten by the Lord. Pray for each other.



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PROMOTED TO GLORY

HOOK & INTRO

REVIEW

So far, in our story of Joseph, he had to overcome several challenges in his life:

Disappointment: when his brothers rejected him and his dreams

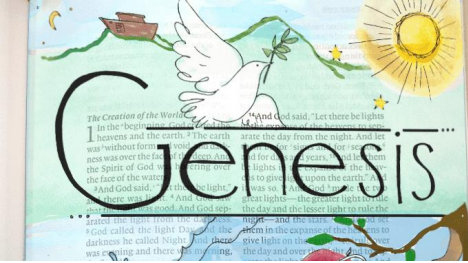
Despair: when he was thrown into a pit and sold to slavery

Distraction: when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him

Dungeon: when he was falsely accused and thrown into prison

But through all these, we are reminded over and over again:

But the Lord was with Joseph ...



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PROMOTED TO GLORY

STORY (Genesis 41)

Tell the story based on Genesis 41.

Two years later, Pharaoh dreamed he saw seven healthy, good-looking cows came out of the river and stood there eating grass. Then seven more cows came out of the river and stood on the bank of the river by the healthy cows. But these cows were thin and looked sick. The seven sick cows ate the seven healthy cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

Pharaoh went back to sleep and began dreaming again. This time he dreamed that he saw seven heads of grain growing on one plant. They were healthy and full of grain. Then he saw seven more heads of grain but they were thin and scorched by the hot wind. The thin heads of grain ate the seven good heads of grain. Then Pharaoh woke up again. The next morning Pharaoh was worried about these dreams, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told these men the dreams, but none of them could explain the dreams.

Then the wine server remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about Joseph. So Pharaoh called Joseph. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can explain it for me. I heard you can explain dreams." Joseph answered, "I cannot, but God can explain the dream for you." Then Pharaoh told Joseph his dreams.

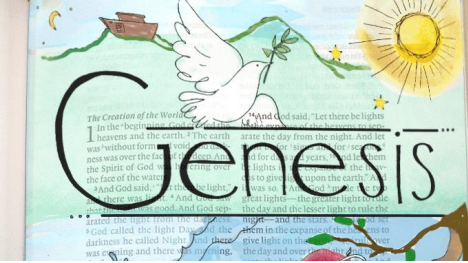
Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Both of these dreams have the same meaning. God is telling you what will happen soon. The seven good cows and the seven good heads of grain are seven good years where there will be plenty of food in Egypt. The seven thin, sick-looking cows and the seven thin heads of grain mean that there will be seven years of hunger. These seven bad years will come after the seven good years. It will be so bad that the people will forget how much food there had been in Egypt.

So, Pharaoh, you should choose a wise, intelligent man and put him in charge of Egypt. Then you should choose other men to collect food from the people. During the seven good years, the people must give them one-fifth of all the food they grow. All the food collected during the seven good years will be stored in the cities until it is needed. Pharaoh, this food will be under your control. Then during the seven years of hunger, there will be food for Egypt, which will not be destroyed by the famine."

Then Pharaoh told them, "I don't think we can find anyone better than Joseph to take this job! God's Spirit is in him, making him very wise!"

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "God showed these things to you, so you must be the wisest man. I will put you in charge of my country, and the people will obey all your commands. I will be the only one more powerful than you."

Pharaoh made Joseph governor over all of Egypt. Joseph was 30 years old.



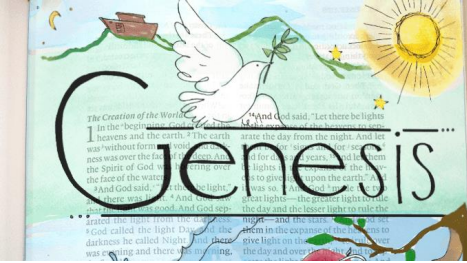
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PROMOTED TO GLORY

VIDEOS

MovieClips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWij8VQXJzY>

Faith Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xFym2D8-S8>



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PROMOTED TO GLORY

LESSON

THE LORD WAS ALL JOSEPH HAD — AND HE WAS ENOUGH

Joseph had nothing. He was a slave and slaves had no rights. The people who owned them can beat them to death and they will not be punished. But Joseph rose from a slave to the second most important man in Egypt.

How was he able to interpret Pharaoh's dream, when even the wisest men in Egypt could not do it? Joseph told Pharaoh that he was not able to interpret the dream but God was able to do it.

"I cannot, but God can explain the dream for you." (Gen. 41:16)

You see, although Joseph had nothing, he had the Lord, and the Lord was enough because he gave Joseph all the wisdom he needed.

Psalm 23:1 *"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing".*

We can prepare ourselves and do what we can — Joseph was diligent and made sure he was presentable before Pharaoh — but ultimately, it's not our own cleverness or abilities that gives us success, but the Lord with us. Like Joseph, we have everything we need because we have Jesus.

GOD RESTORED (GAVE BACK) TO JOSEPH MORE THAN HE LOST

Joseph was 17 years old when he was sold as a slave by his own brothers. He lost his family, home and even his own rights. He spent 13 years of his life as a slave and in prison. It would almost seem like he was going nowhere and his life was wasted. But at the age of 30, God promoted Joseph to be the second most important man in Egypt, a powerful nation.

There may be times in our life when things are going wrong and we feel sad or upset. We may have lost our friends when we changed classes/school, or our brother/sister broke our favourite toy.

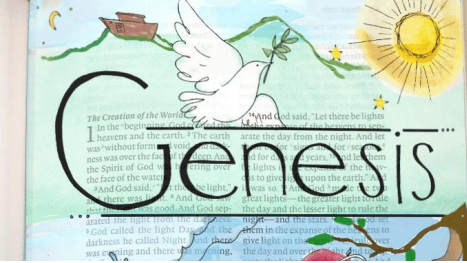
Jesus was 30 when He started His public ministry. Three years later, He was crucified on the cross. When Jesus died, He took all our sins and punishments so that we can have all God's blessings. And when Jesus rose from the dungeons of hell, He defeated sin and death to rule over the whole world.

As God restored to Joseph more than what he lost, He will also give to us more than we lost.

Whatever sin took away from us — love, joy, peace, patience, health, wealth etc — Jesus restored on the Cross in exchange for His blood.

TAKE-HOME LESSON

Jesus is all I need.



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PROMOTED TO GLORY

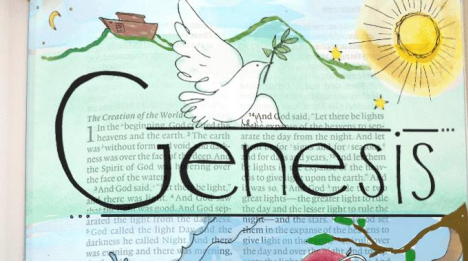
ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

CRAFT

Related craft to remind kids: *"I cannot, but God can explain the dream for you."* or *Jesus is all I need.*

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share what we lack and what we can do about it on our part. Pray that we will find all we need in Jesus.



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FORGIVING SAVIOUR

HOOK & INTRO

HOOK (optional)

Where's the coin?

Prepare 3 or more identical non-transparent plastic cups. Put a coin under one of the cups and shuffle them around. Get kids to guess which cup has the coin.

Variations: <requires practice>

Cup and Coin Magic Trick: www.instructables.com/id/Cup-and-Coin-Magic-Trick/

3-cup shuffle: http://www.ehow.com/how_2217381_do-threecup-shuffle-magic-trick.html

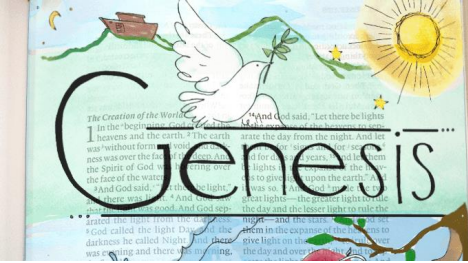
Tennis ball trick: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIPY9MrbX7M>

Magic Cup trip: http://www.ehow.com/how_2215863_do-magic-cup-trick.html (no coins in this one)

REVIEW

Last week, we learned how Joseph was called to interpret Pharaoh's dream and then he was promoted from prisoner to Prime Minister of Egypt!

What happened next?



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FORGIVING SAVIOUR

STORY (Genesis 42-45)

Tell the story based on Genesis 42-45.

Joseph was ruler of Egypt. During 7 good years of plenty, he collected all the food and stored in huge quantities — too much to count.

Then the famine came. Everywhere else had no food except for Egypt.

Pharaoh told the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you."

Joseph opened the storehouses for the Egyptians. People from all over the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph.

Jacob found out there was grain in Egypt, so he sent 10 of his sons to go buy grain. Jacob did not let Benjamin, the youngest, go because he was afraid something might happen to him like with Joseph.

The brothers came to see the ruler of Egypt (Joseph) and bowed with their faces to the ground (remember Joseph's dream?)

They did not recognize Joseph, but right away Joseph knew who they were, though he pretended not to know.

Joseph interrogated the brothers (maybe he wanted to know how his father and youngest brother were doing) and kept them under guard for three days.

He allowed them to bring back food to their father on 2 conditions:

- i. *1 brother was to stay back in Egypt as a prisoner*
- ii. *They had to bring their youngest brother with them the next time they come*

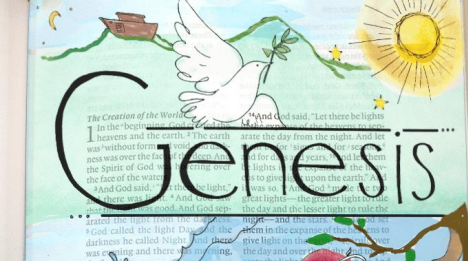
Joseph's brothers agreed. Simeon was taken away while the rest were allowed to leave. They said to each other in their Hebrew language, "We're being punished because of Joseph."

They didn't know Joseph could understand them. He turned away and cried.

The brothers went home with the grain and told the father what had happened. Of course the father refused to allow them to bring Benjamin with them to Egypt.

But when the grain ran out, they had no choice but to go back to Egypt. Judah promised the father that he will take good care of Benjamin. So bringing gifts and Benjamin, they returned to Egypt.

When Joseph saw Benjamin, he ordered a huge feast to be prepared for them. Interestingly, the brothers were seated from eldest to youngest, and Benjamin was given 5x more than anyone else.



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FORGIVING SAVIOUR

Then Joseph gave instructions to fill up each of the brother's sacks with as much food as possible, put the money they brought to pay for the grain back into the sack and put Joseph's silver cup into Benjamin's sack.

The next day, the brothers set off on their donkeys with their bags of grain. After that, Joseph sent his men to go after them to look for his silver cup.

The men searched the brothers' sacks and found the cup in Benjamin's sack! They wanted to arrest Benjamin.

The brothers protested and rushed back to the city and threw themselves at Joseph's feet. Joseph said all of them could go home but Benjamin had to stay back because the cup was found in his cup.

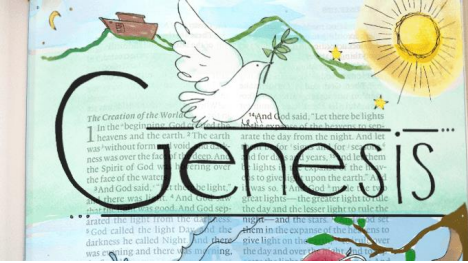
Judah pleaded with Joseph and offered to be Joseph's prisoner/slave instead of Benjamin, for his father's sake.

Joseph could not control himself anymore and revealed himself to his brother. "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt. Do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. God made me ruler of Egypt."

Everybody cried and hugged each other. Joseph invited his brothers to stay with him in Egypt because the famine was still going on for another 5 years and he wanted to provide for them. So the brothers went back with great news to the father; they brought all their families to live in Egypt together with Joseph.

VIDEO

Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndETu4bzwAY>



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FORGIVING SAVIOUR

LESSON

GOD RAISED JOSEPH TO BE RULER OF EGYPT TO SAVE THE WORLD

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. He was wrongly accused. He was sent to prison. But God raised him up to be the one who would save his family, the whole of Egypt and other countries from the famine.

"... it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you." (Gen 45:5)

Jesus was betrayed by his own disciple. He was sentenced to death despite being innocent. Yet through His death on the cross, He defeated death. And God raised Him up to be the King of kings who would save the world from their sin.

JOSEPH FORGAVE HIS BROTHERS AND SHOWED THEM GRACE

No matter how bad his brothers were, Joseph still loved them and forgave them. Joseph told his brothers not to blame themselves — that God had allowed what they did for His greater plan ... all the bad He turned for good. Joseph not only forgave them but also invited them to live with him where he could provide for them always.

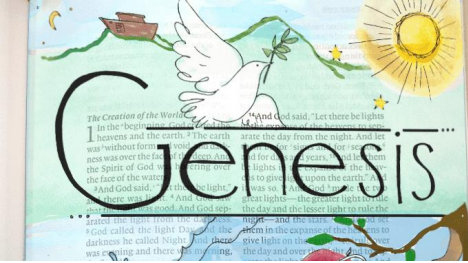
Even after their father died, and the brothers were afraid that Joseph will seek his revenge, he reassured them. *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children."* (Gen 50:20-21)

No matter how bad we are, Jesus still loves us and forgave us. Jesus forgave us for our sin and showed us grace. He died for us while we were still sinners. He gave us His life — in Him we are always provided and cared for.

Because of Jesus, we can forgive others who hurt us, just like Joseph forgave his brothers.

TAKE-HOME LESSON

Jesus is my forgiving saviour!



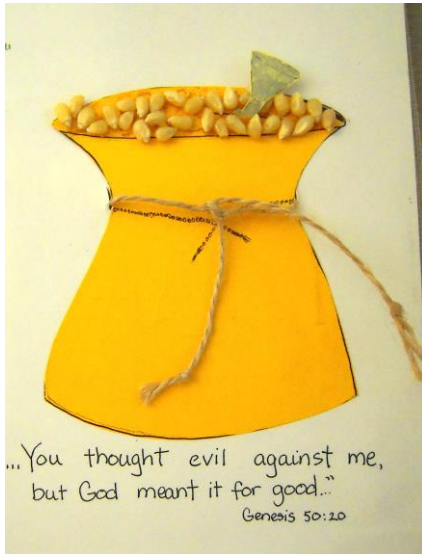
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FORGIVING SAVIOUR

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

CRAFT

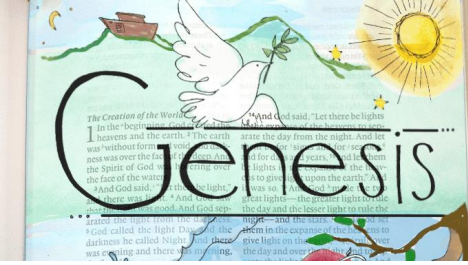
Related craft to remind kids: *God turns evil to good for us*



WORKSHEET (next page)

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share how you have experienced forgiveness, and how can we show forgiveness for others. Invite kids to accept the Forgiving Saviour into their hearts.



Use the secret code below to decode the following message:

SECRET CODE												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

7 15 4 18 1 9 19 5 4 10 15 19 5 16 8

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20 15 2 5 18 21 12 5 18

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15 6 5 7 25 16 20

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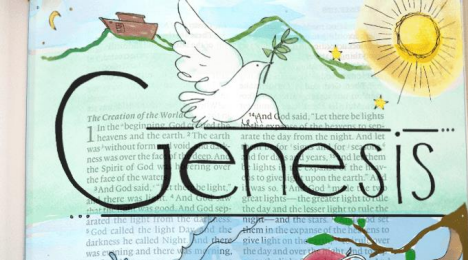
10 5 19 21 19 9 19 15 21 18

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6 15 18 7 9 22 9 14 7 19 1 22 9 15 21 18

— — — — — — — — — — !





REVIEW

Bring the kids through the timeline of Genesis so they see how all the stories and people they've been learning fit together. No need to go into too much detail. You can use games or quizzes or get different ones to act/draw out different scenes etc.

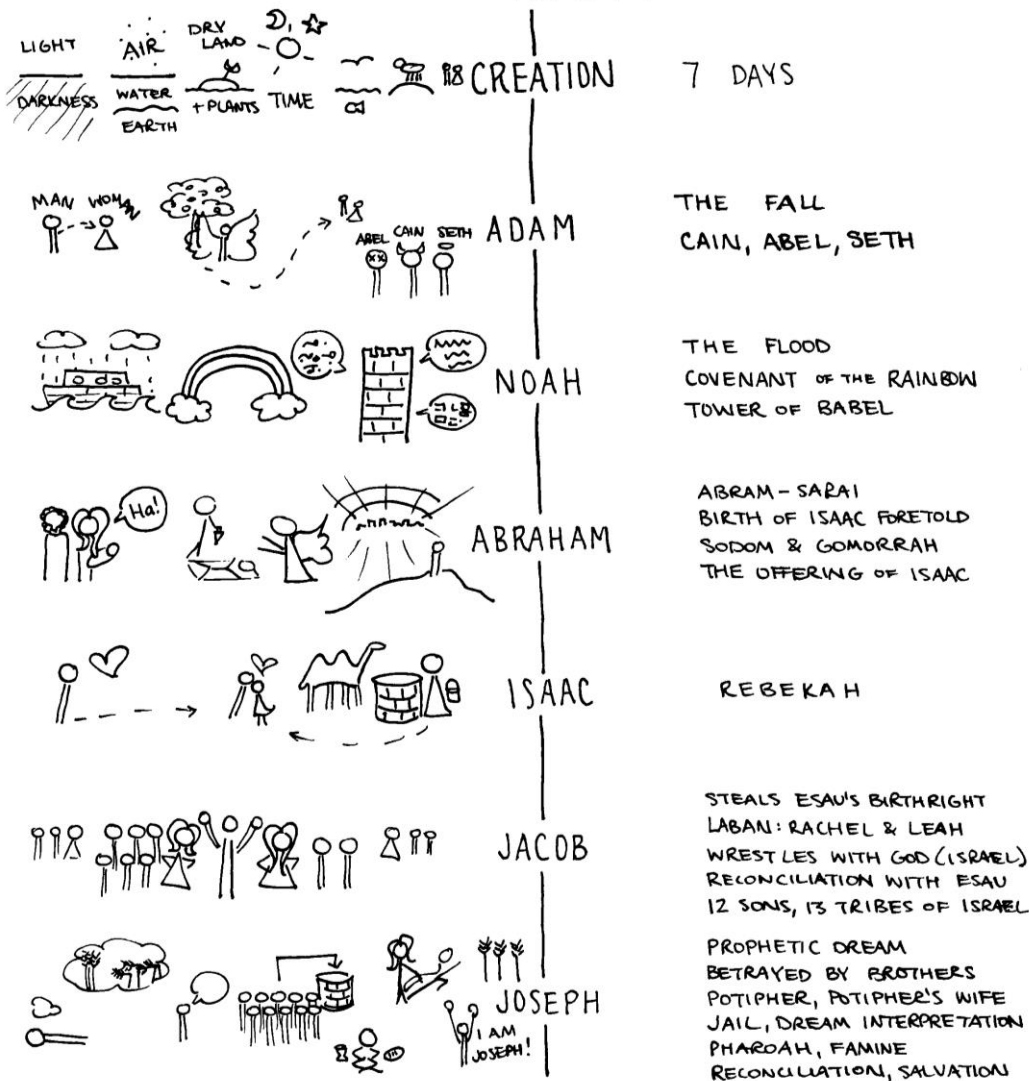
VIDEO SUMMARY

Bible Project: Genesis Pt. 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQI72THyO5I>

Bible Project: Genesis Pt. 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo>

Encourage all teachers to watch these 2 videos for your own reference. You can choose to show kids Pt. 2 if suitable.

GENESIS



GENESIS: BEGINNINGS

- Human Race
- Hebrew Race

CREATION: Revise actions:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nj-t6nyGJEE>
God created everything good!

TWO TREES: Trust in God or Trust in Self?

CAIN & ABEL: Self effort or Faith?

THE ARK & THE PROMISE:

We are safe in Jesus

THE TOWER: Man's Pride.
Christ our Tower came to make us ONE in Him

SON OF LAUGHTER: God made a promise to Abraham. Nothing is too difficult for Him!

THE RAM: God provided the Lamb

THE BRIDE: Isaac is a picture of Jesus our Bridegroom

THE BROTHERS: Bad Brothers, Good God

THE SISTERS: God loved Leah, the unloved

A NEW NAME: Jacob chose to rely on God

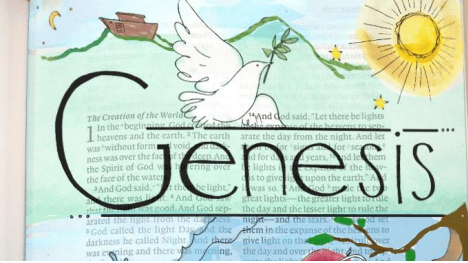
BELOVED SON: We are God's beloved children

THE LORD WAS WITH HIM: Jesus is with me and gives me success in all I do

NOT FORGOTTEN: Jesus never forgets/forsakes me

PROMOTED TO GLORY: Jesus raised us from sin and death to eternal life

FORGIVING SAVIOUR: Jesus forgave and saved me!



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GENESIS REVIEW

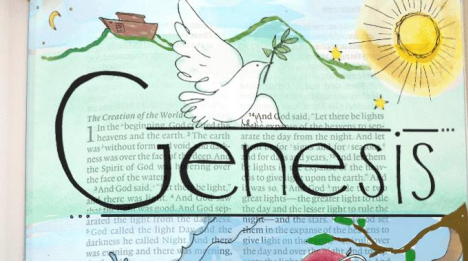
KEY SUMMARY

- God created you and me because He wanted to have a relationship with us.
- Yet, through the ages, starting from Adam, men always wanted to do things their own way instead of trusting God. This caused our relationship with God to be broken by SIN.
- Right from the start, God already knew how He would bring us back to Him. And we see hints and shadows of this great plan throughout Genesis. (can you think of any?)
- God chose Abraham to be the father of His very own special people: the Hebrew race. God made a special promise with Abraham, a Covenant.

Genesis 17:7 *And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.*

- Do you remember what were some of the blessings God promised Abraham? *Father of many nations, descendants as many as stars and sands, all the nations will be blessed through you etc.*
- Today, because of Jesus, we are all children of Abraham, part of God's covenant people, and we can share in God's special blessings.

Thank you Jesus!



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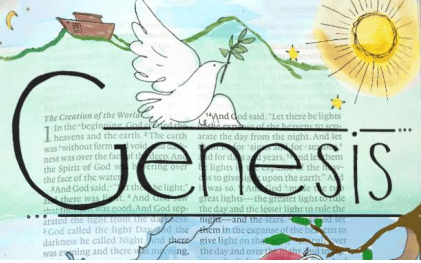
GENESIS REVIEW

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

WORKSHEET (next page)

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share one thing you learnt from Genesis. Pray for one another.



Descendants of Abraham

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Descendants are people born after a certain person.

Use the chart to write God's promises to Abraham.

Scripture references are all found in Genesis.

