

GENESIS

Lesson 7: GOD LET'S DOWN A LADDER

CONTENT:

1. To tell the story of Jacob's life -

- The twins, Jacob and Esau are born to Isaac and Rebecca.
- Jacob shrewdly gets his brother's birth right using a trick.
- Jacob flees in fear - God meets him in a vision.
- Jacob marries Leah and Rachael - he prospers.
- Jacob finally returns home and reconciles to Esau.



2. To show how God reached out to Jacob even though he had done wrong...He purified him and led him back home.

3. Guide to help the children to see God as a merciful God who is ready to work with them even when they sin.

ASSIGNMENT

REFERENCES: Genesis 25-31

MATERIALS NEEDED: Good News Bible, Activity sheets for all the children, colours.

I. STARTER: (Recapitulation)

Teacher: Hands up those who like reading comics?

Today you can make your own comic, or picture story of Jacob's life. Jacob is the next 'Patriarch' or 'Father' we are going to hear about. Take out your Bibles and get ready. I will give you the story in pictures but you have to fill in the story, in your own words, under each picture. [Distribute sheets to the children. Instruct the children not to write as the story is being read, but only after each section is read. They should write very briefly, only 1 or 2 sentences per picture.]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

JACOB'S STORY:

- **Read: Genesis Ch. 25:19-24** [Birth of Jacob and Esau]
[Children write about for the first picture example. Rebecca gave birth to twins-Esau and Jacob.]
- **Read: Genesis Ch. 25: 27-34** [Jacob got his brother Esau's birth right.]
- **Read: Genesis Ch. 27: 1-29,41-45** [Jacob tricked his father]
- **Read: Genesis Ch. 28: 10-22** [The ladder from heaven]
- **Read: Genesis Ch. 29: 1-28** [Jacob gets married]
- **Read: Genesis Ch. 31: 1-3; 32:1-5; 33:1-11; 35: 9-13** [Jacob returns home]

REFLECTION ON THE STORY:

- Think about Jacob... did you like his behaviour in the first part of the story?... Why? [No! Jacob cunningly got what belonged to his brother Esau. He used his hunger to take his rights and then he tricked his father, using an animal skin.]
- If someone does something wrong, what does he normally do to save himself? [Run away.]

- Jacob had to run away. He must have felt guilty, sad, tired and home sick. But then something happened that changed his life. What happened? [God reached out to him... he saw a stair-way coming down and God spoke to him. God promised to be with him.]
- After meeting God, Jacob slowly began to change. He realised that God was with him. He did what was right... with God's help. At last he was able to return home and make friends with his brother Esau.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

{Form a prayer circle and help the children to relax and come into the presence of God – tell this story -}

Once there was a man called Levi, who used to cheat people. You could say he was somewhat like Jacob. All the good people would not even go near his house.

But one day Jesus saw him sitting in his office. He said – ‘Follow me, Levi!’ Levi left everything and gladly followed Jesus. He was so happy that he had a big feast in his house for Jesus. Many others, who also did what was wrong, came to the feast to meet Jesus.

When the good people saw this, they got angry. They complained to Jesus's disciples. ‘Why does your master eat and drink with sinners’.

But Jesus answered them – ‘Those who are sick need a doctor, not those who are well! I have come to call sinners to repent’.

Let us close our eyes and think of ourselves. Every one of us is a sinner. We hurt each other, we hurt God... we think only of ourselves most of the time. But Jesus comes to us as we are, because he came to save sinners. [Lead the children into this prayer experience]

Lie down in a comfortable position... like Jacob when he ran away... Think of all your sins and the sad things in your life... Now imagine you can see a staircase coming down from heaven... Imagine angels all along it... and now imagine Jesus coming down the stairs... he looks at you lovingly.. He says – ‘I love you! I will help you to change. I will be with you and make you happy.’

Enjoy this moment with Jesus... Now slowly open your eyes... sit up...

Sing: *Jesus, You Are A Wonder* OR *God's Love Is So Wonderful!*

IV. ACTIVITY:

Children colour and complete the ‘comic strip’ – Jacob’s life. They think of a good name for the story and write it on the top. Example: JACOB MEETS GOD; GOD COMES DOWN THE STAIRS; JACOB RUNS AWAY.