

>>> COMMUNITY KIDS <<<

GOD CHANGED JACOB

Genesis 25-33



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Mornings: Tell God the fears and struggles that you might face today. Ask God to give you peace in each of these areas. How does it feel to know that God cares and wants to help you overcome your fears?
- Evenings: Ask God to help you live in the new identity that came when you trusted in Jesus. How does faith in Jesus change us? How should the love God has shown us change the way we live?

>>> MAIN IDEAS:

CHRIST CONNECTION

THIS IS THE BIG IDEA OF HOW THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STORY
POINTS TO JESUS:

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.

JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION PROVIDED SINFUL PEOPLE THE WAY TO BE ADOPTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY. WHEN WE TRUST IN JESUS, WE ALSO RECEIVE A NEW NAME—CHILDREN OF GOD.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is in control of
everything?

God is in control of
everything in heaven
and on earth. Nothing is
outside of God's good plan.

>>> CONTINUE THE STORY AT HOME

GENESIS 25-33

Dear Families,

Jacob's journey in Genesis is one of unexpected and undeserved blessing after blessing. With a name that literally means "*he cheats*," Jacob was unlikely to receive the privilege and opportunity God gave him.

Jacob was a cheater, a liar, and a deceiver. He was quiet and not strongly gifted. And he was gullible, too. We cannot miss that the deceiver was deceived at times too—easily convinced by his mother and tricked by his uncle. But God would work through Jacob when no circumstances or characteristics made it seem possible.

In Genesis 32:10, Jacob expressed his own bewilderment to the Lord. "I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. Indeed, I crossed over the Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two camps."

Jacob came to realize that nothing that he had accomplished or accumulated was the result of his own doing. He was not capable or competent enough to produce the many good things he had received and especially not to be the recipient of the promise of God to make his family like the dust of the earth. Jacob was humbled by the reality that through him and his offspring, all of the families of the earth would be blessed.

Have you ever had a moment of astonishment at the magnitude of what God has given you through Christ? Have you taken the time to recognize that all that you have is from God? Does it cause you to rejoice when you think about God's grace?

It's easy to look at Jacob and say he didn't deserve what God gave him. It's hard to feel that way about ourselves. But it's just as true. Paul wrote in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Salvation should bring about this astonishment in us as well. It should remind us that we are not worthy, and it should lead us to rejoice in the undeserving gift of God's grace.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES <<<

For Fun: Sprinkle a generous amount of salt on a saucer, then sprinkle a layer of pepper over the salt. Explain that the salt represents the way God originally created people without sin and reflecting His image to the world. The pepper represents the sin that we are born in. Next, rub a plastic spoon multiple times over a microfiber cloth to build up a static charge on the spoon. Pass the spoon over the pepper and watch it "jump" off the salt. Like Jacob, we are all born in sin. There is nothing we can do to please God or earn His forgiveness, but God has shown His love by sending Jesus through Jacob's family to rescue us from sin. Jesus' work on the cross removes our sin and provides forgiveness when we believe in Him.

To Serve: Collect clothing and coats to donate to those in need. Take time to pray for those who may receive the items. Remind your kids how God was there for Jacob when he cried out for help. Ask God to give comfort and peace to those who are in need.



UNIT MEMORY VERSE:

For I know that the Lord is
great; our Lord is greater
than all gods. The Lord does
whatever he pleases in heaven
and on earth, in the seas and
all the depths.

Psalms 135:5-6