

THE STORY @ HOME

KIDS 3RD-6TH NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2023-2024)

Lesson #2-3
Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30

LAST WEEK

God promises that the elderly Sarah and Abraham will have a son to which Sarah laughs in disbelief. God's promise comes true, and with joyous laughter they name their child Isaac (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7).

THIS WEEK

Isaac grows up and has two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob deceives Esau and runs away in fear. Years later, as he is returning, he encounters and wrestles with an unknown stranger. He prevails and gains God's blessing, being renamed Israel (Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30).

STORY SUMMARY

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

PRACTICE: PRAYER

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

THE POINT

God changes us.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Israel's Origin Stories

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

NEXT WEEK

Approximately 400 years later, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the Israelites—are enslaved in Egypt. God comes to Moses in the form of a Burning Bush and sends Moses to deliver God's people from slavery (Exodus 1:8-14 [1:15–2:10]; 3:1-15).

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TRY IT @ HOME

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Family Discussions

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

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

Family Devotions

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

Sunday—Read Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30 Jacob wrestles. What is your origin story? Tell the story of your family as far back as you are able. Share pictures if you have them.
Monday—Read Genesis 33:1-11 Jacob and Esau are reconciled. How did Esau greet Jacob? Greet one another in the same way.
Tuesday—Read Genesis 41:1-24 Pharaoh's dream. Draw pictures of Pharaoh's dream.
Wednesday—Read Genesis 41:25-36 Joseph to the rescue. Share the strangest dream that you have ever had. What do you think it meant?
Thursday—Read Genesis 41:37-45 Joseph is exalted. If you had done something great for a king, how would you want to be honored or recognized?
Friday—Read Exodus 1:8-14 Enslaved in Egypt. How might the Israelites' knowledge of who (and whose) they are help them during difficult times? How can your knowledge of who (and whose) you are help you during difficult times?
Saturday—Read Exodus 1:15–2:10 Defiant and dauntless women. Sometimes you are challenged to do something that you know is wrong. What are some ways that you can be brave and do what is right?

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