

## God Is Faithful

### Jacob Wrestles with God

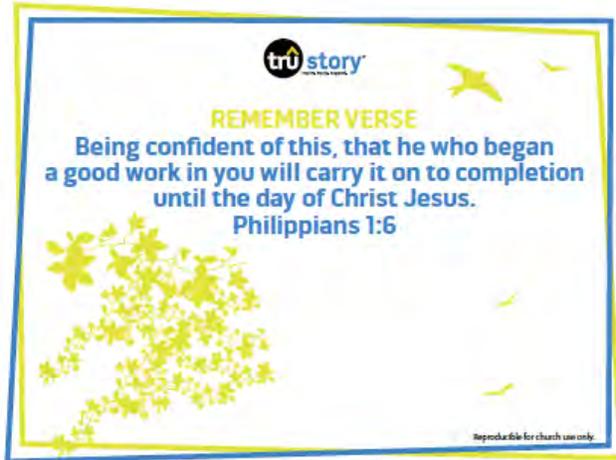
#### PREPARE AHEAD

Gather some Bibles for you and your children or have a Bible app ready on your phones.

You can download Storytelling Video and the Worship Music Files using the following link: <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/lesson-dl.com/tru/TaH-God-Is-Faithful-Media.zip>

Print the Remember Verse cards for your family to cut out and hang around your house.

Prepare the Storytelling Video and TruWorship songs to play for your family. Lyric sheets are available to help you sing along.



*Use the Remember Verse Cards to help your family memorize this verse. You can also use the **Remember Verse Stairway** activity in the **Bonus Anytime Activities** to help learn this verse.*

#### CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Gather your children around and read the biblical account of God and Jacob wrestling in **Genesis 32:22–32**. If your children are old enough, have them read parts of the passage out loud.



*After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:*

- **How did God meet with Jacob?**
- **What did Jacob ask for?**
- **How does God meet with us today?**

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God is faithful into your everyday life as a family.

## **INVESTIGATE TOGETHER**

*Together, watch the Storytelling Video included this week.*

After watching the video learn more about Jacob's story by diving back into Scripture.

If they are old enough, have your child read Genesis 28:12–15.

Then ask these questions:

- **What did Jacob see in his dream?**
- **Why was Jacob never alone?**
- **What does *faithful* mean?**
- **How was God faithful to Jacob in his life?**

**God's faithfulness doesn't depend on anything we do or don't do. God chooses to know us and show Himself to us. As we get to know Him, we see His faithfulness in our lives and learn to trust Him.**

Read Deuteronomy 7:9 aloud.

- **How has God been faithful to all people?**
- **How has God been faithful in your life?**

**Though Jacob was alone many times, God was always with him. God promises to always be with us too.**

Ask a volunteer to read Deuteronomy 31:6–8.

- **What did you notice in these verses?**
- **How can these words help you this week?**



## **WORSHIP**

Play the videos for “Remain” from *Sincerely Yours* and “Jump” from *Radio the World* and sing along as a family. Download songs here: <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/lesson-dl.com/tru/TaH-God-Is-Faithful-Media.zip>

## **BLESS**

Before you end your time together, lead your child in a time of blessing by reading Psalm 121:7–8:

**The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.**

Then ask each child about something important coming up this week. Once kids share, bless each child, specifically addressing what they mentioned. Then bless everyone with the following words:

**May you see God’s faithfulness in your life. May you praise Him for His goodness and love.**





**REMEMBER VERSE**

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6



Fall Lessons 6-9

Reproducible for church use only.



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## BONUS ANYTIME ACTIVITIES

Here are some optional activities you could do with your family throughout the week to help remember and celebrate the promises of God from the **God Is Faithful** lesson.

Find the ones that look like they would work best from your family and try them out. You might just find a fun new way to build your faith together!

### HOPSCOTCH

#### SUPPLIES

- Masking tape or sidewalk chalk
- Beanbags or small, flat stones (1 per child)

#### SET UP

Create a hopscotch grid on the ground. If you're playing inside, use masking tape; if you're outside, use sidewalk chalk. Number each box one through 10.

#### RELATE

When Jacob was alone in the desert, he dreamed about a giant stairway going up to heaven. At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, who reaffirmed God's covenant with Jacob's family. Today, lead your kids in a game of hopscotch during which each child gets to hop through a stairway on the ground.

To play, have kids line up behind the hopscotch grid. The first child will throw her beanbag or stone onto the hopscotch grid, aiming for a square. Then she will hop on her feet through the grid, skipping the square where her beanbag or stone landed. Make sure kids know they can only have one foot in each square as they hop. When a child gets to the end of the grid he will turn around and hop back to the starting line, picking up his beanbag or stone before he finishes. Then it will be the next child's turn. Continue until everyone gets a turn—including you!



## **GOD IS FAITHFUL, SO ...**

### **SUPPLIES**

- Paper
- Markers
- Tape
- “Remain,” TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*

### **PREPARE AHEAD**

On three sheets of paper, write one of the following phrases: “God is faithful to give me what I need, so I can ...”, “God is faithful to hear my prayers, so I want to ...”, and “God is faithful to watch over me, so I can ...”

### **SET UP**

Have the papers and markers ready on a table or some other surface that is easy to write on.

### **RELATE**

God was faithful to watch over Jacob throughout his life. Even when Jacob saw nobody else around, God was always with him. God knew Jacob and revealed Himself to him. Just like God knew Jacob, God knows us too, and He reveals Himself to us. In what ways has God helped you to know Him better? Allow responses.

Invite your children to spend some time reflecting on God’s faithfulness in their own lives. Read aloud the three different “God is faithful, so ...” statements written on the pieces of paper. As you go through each statement, give your child a few moments to consider how they would respond to each statement. You may also want to offer example statements, such as “God is faithful to watch over me, so I can ... go to sleep without being afraid.” Then encourage your child to draw or write their response to each one. As they respond, play “Remain.”

Display the posters in a prominent place in your home to remind everyone of God’s faithfulness. Your family may even want to add to the papers in the coming weeks.



## REMEMBER VERSE STAIRWAY

### SUPPLIES

- Construction paper (3 or 4 sheets, any color)
- Marker
- Tape

### PREPARE AHEAD

Cut each sheet of construction paper into three or four strips. Write different parts of the Remember Verse and the verse reference onto the strips of construction paper with printing large enough to be read from a distance.

### SET UP

Tape all of the Remember Verse parts to the wall so they're stair-stepped like a stairway.

### REMEMBER VERSE

**Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6**

### RELATE

Gather your kids and point to each "step" on the Remember Verse stairway, guiding everyone to read the verse together. Go through the verse a few times. Then, remove a step of the verse and have the children repeat the entire verse. When your family finishes reciting the verse, remove another step and have the kids repeat it again. Continue until children are able to recite the entire verse without any help.



## STAIRWAY TOSS

### SUPPLIES

- Stepladder (with at least 3 steps)
- Beanbags (3)
- Masking tape

### SET UP

Set up the stepladder on one side of the room. Use the masking tape to create a starting line about 10 feet away from the ladder.

### RELATE

When Jacob was alone in the desert, he dreamed about a giant stairway going to heaven. At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, who reaffirmed God's covenant with Jacob's family. Today, invite your kids to play a game using a stepladder. To play, invite each child, one at a time, to stand at the starting line and throw three beanbags toward the ladder, trying to land each beanbag on one of the steps (or just toss it through the step). Give each child a turn and see who gets the most beanbags on (or through) the steps.



## OUR STORIES OF FAITH

### SUPPLIES

- My Story of Faith template (see Resources)
- Pens
- Optional: card stock (1 sheet), stapler

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print one copy of the My Story of Faith template for each child.



The template is a rectangular box with the title "My Story of Faith" at the top. It contains three sections of writing lines, each preceded by a question:

- Section 1: "When did you become a Christian?" followed by three horizontal lines.
- Section 2: "When was a time you knew God was speaking to you and you changed your mind?" followed by three horizontal lines.
- Section 3: "When you think about how you're a part of The Big God Story, what do you want to see to God?" followed by three horizontal lines.

### RELATE

**The main event in The Big God Story is the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus came and died in our place so that we might have the opportunity to live forever with God and be a part of The Big God Story. Today we have the opportunity to write down our stories of faith and how God brought us into His story. What part do you think you can play in The Big God Story? How has God gifted you as His child?**

Invite your children to spend some time reflecting on their part in The Big God Story. Next, give a My Story of Faith template to each child. Allow kids a few minutes to write down how they met God. They can use the questions provided on the template for prompts or create whatever parts of their stories they want to tell. When they're finished, invite children to share their stories of faith with one another.

If your child hasn't yet made a decision to follow Jesus, refer to the Salvation Plan resource. Be ready to talk with your child. You might also take everyone's sheets and staple them together with a card stock cover to save for your family.



# My Story of Faith

When did you become a Christian?

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When was a time you knew God was speaking to you and you obeyed Him?

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When you think about how you're a part of The Big God Story, what do you want to say to God?

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# Explaining God's Salvation Plan to Kids

- It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict us of our sin and lead us to Christ. It's a great privilege when God allows us to be part of the process in others! If you have a child who's expressed an interest in God's salvation plan, you can use these key thoughts to equip you to have a conversation with him.
- The whole Bible describes God's grand plan to be in a loving relationship with us forever. Ever since Adam and Eve, we all have sinned. ("For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23) God is holy. We cannot be in relationship with Him because of our sin.
- God is also perfectly fair and just. We all deserve God's punishment. But He loves us even though we sin. ("But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8) God is also perfect love. His love is a free gift. ("For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23)
- God loves us and wants to forgive us. ("For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16) Jesus is God's perfect Son, and He died on a cross to take the consequences for our sin. But Jesus didn't stay dead. He conquered death and came back to life to prove He's stronger than our sin. Because Jesus died and rose again, God's forgiveness provided a way for us to be in relationship with Him again.
- God's plan is perfect. Believing in Jesus, asking for His forgiveness, and inviting Him to lead your life is the way to accept God's free gift. ("If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:9-10)

From *Spiritual Parenting DVD Curriculum* by Michelle Anthony, David C Cook, 2011.

# Explaining God's Salvation Plan to Kids (continued)

- God always keeps His promises. Once we believe in Jesus and ask for God's forgiveness, we can celebrate because we're sure He forgives us. Now we're part of The Big God Story and His family forever. ("Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12) We want to grow in a relationship with Him and some of the ways we do this include: praying, reading the Bible, worshipping, and being involved with other believers in the faith community.
- God is now our Father, and we have the power of the Holy Spirit to help us live the way He wants us to live. When we have the good news of being in God's family, we have a new identity, and we want to tell others about it. (Encourage your child to express his decision in his own words.)
- Celebrate! This is the greatest decision a child will ever make, and you've been privileged to participate in it!

From *Spiritual Parenting DVD Curriculum* by Michelle Anthony, David C Cook, 2011.

# Following Jesus is a lifelong journey

that begins with a few basic steps. Below you'll find a path with several discussion points to help guide your conversation with a child who expresses an interest in God's plan of salvation.

This is so exciting! Now that you are forgiven and part of God's family (John 1:12), you can share your decision with others.

- **Is there someone you want to tell about your decision to follow Jesus?**

Once we ask Jesus to forgive us, He takes away all of our sins.

Jesus saves us from the penalty of our sins. And when we trust Jesus as our Savior, we become part of God's family forever (1 John 5:11-12). Because we are part of God's family, we now have God's Spirit to empower us to live in a way that pleases Him and to do the things that help us learn about Him, such as reading His Word, being a part of a local church, praying, etc. (Colossians 1:10).

- **What are some ways you can learn more about Jesus?**

Jesus didn't stay dead.

The Bible tells us that He rose from the dead and lives today. That means we can talk to Him right now. If we believe that Jesus died on the cross to take the consequences for our sins and rose from the dead (Romans 10:9-10), we can ask God to forgive us, and He will (Colossians 1:13-14; 1 John 1:9).

- **Would you like to ask God to forgive you for your sins?**

God loves us but He hates sin. The Bible teaches that all people have sinned or disobeyed God (Romans 3:23).

- **Where do you see sin in your own life?**

Jesus is God's perfect Son. Jesus died on a cross to take the consequences for our sins (John 3:16). Because Jesus died for us, God forgives our sins.

- **Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive your sins?**

The Bible says that our sin separates us from God (Romans 6:23). But God provided a way for us to be in relationship with Him so we can live with Him now and forever. We all need God's forgiveness.

- **Do you want to know how to be forgiven by God?**

## The Path to Salvation

2

3

4

5

6

## THE BIG GOD STORY TELEPHONE CHARADES

### SUPPLIES

- None

### RELATE

**The Big God Story is one large story. Every person and event in The Big God Story are a part of God's plan to bring us into a relationship with Him.**

Invite your children to play a game of The Big God Story Telephone Charades. To play, have each child line up in a single-file line facing the same direction. The person at the end of the line will have to come up with a scene from The Big God Story, such as when Moses saw God in the burning bush. Then, he'll tap the person in front of him and act out the scene without saying any words. Then, that person will tap the person in front of her and reenact the scene that the previous person just showed her. This will continue until the very last person in line has to act out the scene and then try to guess which scene from The Big God Story was acted out. If you have time, choose another child to start and do another round.



## CHANGING COLORS

### SUPPLIES

- Disposable plate
- Food coloring (red, yellow, green, and blue)
- Dishwashing soap (1 tsp.)
- Cotton swabs (2–4)
- Whole or 2% milk (about 1 cup)

### RELATE

**After Jacob took his brother Esau’s blessing, he ran away to live with his uncle because he thought Esau would kill him (Genesis 27:42–43). While Jacob traveled, God spoke to him through a dream and made a promise to him.** Read Genesis 28:14–15. **What did God promise Jacob? Allow answers. He promised Jacob many descendants and that all people would be blessed through him. To whom did God make a similar promise? Allow answers. Right—Abraham, Jacob’s grandfather. How does this show God’s faithfulness? Allow answers. Good thinking. God continued to be faithful to Jacob.**

**Once Jacob arrived at his uncle’s house, Jacob stayed in that land for more than 20 years. He worked, got married, and had children. Then God told him it was time to go home. Jacob was afraid to face his brother. The night before seeing Esau, God came to Jacob again, and Jacob wrestled with God! What happened after that? Allow answers. Read Genesis 32:27–28. Yes, God changed Jacob’s name to Israel. The next day, Jacob saw Esau. Read Genesis 33:4. How did Esau react when he saw his younger brother? Allow answers. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him! God changed both brothers. God was faithful to His promises.**

Lead your child in an experiment in which they will see colors change. Pour the milk onto a disposable plate so it completely covers the bottom. Then place a drop of each food color in the center of the milk. With a cotton swab, touch the center of the milk without stirring it. Ask if anything happened. (No drastic change should have occurred.) Now place a drop of dishwashing soap on another cotton swab and touch it to the center of the milk for 10 seconds. Ask again what happened. The dish soap should have created a burst of color, changing the original mix of color. As time permits, place dishwashing soap on one or two more cotton swabs and touch the colors in the milk again. The colors should continue to change





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