



3rd – 5th

September 20-21, 2014

DATE

Jacob Wrestles With God

LESSON TITLE

Genesis 32:22-32, John 1:12
Adventure Bible (p. 41, 1164)

WHERE TO FIND IT

When we meet God, he gives us a new name.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

We're starting with a Connect Time thumb wrestling tournament. "Finals" will be determined at the beginning of Large Group. If you have a big group and aren't sure some kids can handle thumb wrestling, just play "Rock, Paper Scissors" to narrow down finalists for Large Group.

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to hang up their mirror somewhere they can see regularly, so they constantly remember who they are to God this week.

REMEMBER TO HAND OUT A BRAND NEW KIDS' CLUB CD TO EVERY KID ON THE WAY OUT!

large group heads up

Today, we are talking about the time Jacob wrestled with God. It's significant because Jacob finally decided he wanted to be close to God even if it meant risking his life. When he wanted to be close to God, he received a new name. When we decide to follow God at cost to ourselves, we receive a new name too: child.



connect time

Goal: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

THUMB WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

**Break the room into small groups (or keep together if needed).*

- Tell kids we're going to do a thumb wrestling tournament! Here are the rules:
 - Each kid should **stand up and find a partner**. Partner up with a kid if there is an odd number.
 - Each kid should **face their partner** (now their opponent) and **put their right hand thumb in the air** like a thumbs up.
 - Each opponent should **clasp right hand fingertips** (thumbs should still be in the air).
 - Together, **say**: "1, 2, 3, 4, I declare a thumb war."
 - Then try to catch one another's thumbs. **Once one person pins the other person's thumb down for three seconds, he/she is the winner!**
 - Have the **winners remain standing** while others sit.
 - Find a new partner and **compete again**. Repeat until there is a small group champion.
 - **Tell the champion that they will head to the "Finals" during Large Group**. If that kid is uncomfortable competing in front of Large Group, let him/her choose a competitor to act in his/her place.
- **Debrief:**
 - Who would be easiest to win a thumb war against? Who would be hardest to compete against? Why?
 - What would it be like to have a thumb war against God? What would happen? What would you do?
- **Then let kids share the best and worst parts of their week.**

Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will **(1)** recall the details of Jacob's meeting with God, **(2)** understand how an encounter with God changed Jacob and **(3)** recognize that God wants to transform them too.

Why: We want kids to trust God with everything, and to understand that following God means they will have to do difficult, seemingly risky things if he calls them to it.

Tip: Be prepared to share one way you'd like to trust God this week. **Also, kids will get CDs on the way out—encourage them to listen with a friend!**

small group

REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER:

*Pass around a **beanbag** to the person who's speaking. Each group member should be prepared to hold the beanbag and answer questions.

1. Did anybody write something on the sheet of paper during Large Group? If so, would you be willing to share?
2. What did God ask Jacob to do in the beginning of today's story?
3. What was Jacob's response?
4. Tell me about how Jacob encountered God.
5. How was Jacob different after he wrestled with God?
6. What was Jacob's new name?
7. How can we change once we meet God and choose to follow him?
8. What's our new name when we realize and believe God rescued us through Jesus? (Read John 1:12 out of the Bible. It's on page 1164 in the Adventure Bible.)

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

- Give each kid a **marker**
- On a **large, tear-off sheet of paper**, have each kid write one thing this story shows us about God. Read all the responses. Ask kids if they have questions.
- Give each kid a **piece of mirror board**.
- Then give them a **"Hello My Name Is" sticker**.
- If kids want to, have them write their new name (child/kid/etc.) on the mirror (they can also write the whole verse if they want).
 - *If kids don't know what it means to be in God's family, talk to them openly about what it means to believe in Jesus. There are no perfect words for this; just share what you know and encourage them to look in the Bible. They can start in the book of John.*

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- Remind kids that as God's children, we can be confident to trust God.
- On the back of the mirror board, kids can write/draw one way they want to trust God (our perfect dad who never messes up and always loves us unconditionally) this week.
- Share the different ways we plan to trust God (*you go first*).

***Pray together, thanking God that he invites us into his family and that we can trust our heavenly dad.**

***Extra time?** Decorate the mirror board or nametag with markers. Or stage another thumb war/Rock, Paper Scissors tournament. When parents come in, be sure to explain what you're doing and why! Encourage them to ask their kids about who Jacob wrestled.*

special notes

An encounter with God can affect us in many ways—just like it affected Jacob in many ways. We'll talk about a few of them but pray that the Holy Spirit reveals God to kids and changes them in whatever way he sees fit.

presenter tips

If you want to preview today's story, watch it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6q2B5pilqg>.

You may also want to read about it in Genesis 32:22-32 (p. 41 in the Adventure Bible). It's a story that can be hard to understand, so take some time and ask God what he wants to show you through it.

script

**Click to play intro music*

Hi guys! Welcome to Kid's Club! I'm so glad to see you here. We've been having thumb wars and talking about what it would be like to have a thumb war with God. And that's because today, we're going to talk about a guy who actually *wrestled* with God. Can you believe that?? But before we talk about what happened, it's time for the first-ever Kids' Club Thumb War Finals! Can I have the winners from each small group come up here? (Let kids come up. Place kids in pairs.)

OK, each of these pairs is going to compete. But crowd participation is key to help them do their best. I need you guys to cheer...as LOUDLY as you can as soon as the thumb war begins. Ready? 1-2-3-4, I DECLARE A THUMB WAR! *(Let kids compete as you encourage the audience to cheer. Have the winners remain. Repeat until you have one final winner.)*

(Turn to champion): You are the official Kids' Club Thumb War Champion. How does that feel? (Let kid respond.) Yeah, great job. I'd like to award you with your victory **medal** (hand kid a medal)! Now you can proudly wear that for the rest of the day. Go ahead and have a seat (let kid sit).

INTRO: JACOB

(Show picture of Jacob and Esau. Jacob is the less hairy one.) So today, we're going to talk about a guy named Jacob. He got to wrestle with *God*. Some of you may have heard of him before: his twin brother was named Esau. Jacob and Esau were constantly fighting, even in their mom's belly, before they were born. Have any of you guys gotten in a fight with your sibling? Show me with your head (nod or shake head). Yeah...me too. You guys understand what it was like for Jacob and Esau.

Esau was the oldest, which meant he got to receive a special blessing. Back then, the oldest son got more money once his dad passed away, and also received a special prayer for a



script continued

blessing from God. It was a big deal. So once, when they were young, Jacob tricked his brother into selling his right to the blessing in exchange for a bowl of soup. Then, with the help of his mother, Jacob tricked his *dad* into actually giving him the special blessing instead of Esau. The crazy thing was, God had already planned for Jacob to get the blessing. But Jacob took matters into his own hands instead of trusting God.

As you might imagine, Esau was furious with Jacob— so angry that he wanted to kill Jacob. So Jacob ran away. This was the same Jacob who ended up marrying Rachel and Leah while he was far away from his home, hiding from Esau.

JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD

Well, years later, God told Jacob to return home. The problem was, Esau still lived in their home. So how do you guys think Jacob *felt* about going back? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he felt scared, worried that Esau would still want to kill him. So what would you guys do if you had to return to a home where your brother hated you? **Stand up and find one person you don't know. Ask them their name and what they would do if they were Jacob going back to meet Esau.** (Let kids respond. Ask several kids to share.)

Those are great ideas! What Jacob did was send messengers to talk to Esau and say things like, “Your brother Jacob is your servant” and “you rule your brother Jacob.” He even sent Esau expensive gifts! Jacob was obeying God ...but he didn't really trust God with his whole heart. He decided that he would do things his own way by sending Esau gifts and messengers instead of just trusting God to take care of him.

Have you guys ever been afraid to trust God? (*Insert a personal example of a time you were afraid to trust God. For example, maybe you wanted to invite a friend to come to church with you but you didn't know if they'd think you were weird. Let one or two kids share too.*) Great examples! And that's how Jacob felt. God told him to go home but he was afraid to face his brother Esau.

But then...*Jacob met God*. We're going to watch a video about the time Jacob met God and wrestled with him. As you watch, pay attention to what happened when Jacob was wrestling God. Then see if you can figure out how Jacob changed after he was done wrestling God.

Video: Jacob's New Name (The Gospel Project for Kids)

Wow, so what was it like when Jacob wrestled with God? (Let kids say: they wrestled all night, the man/angel injured his hip, Jacob didn't want to let him go.) Isn't that amazing?! Jacob was fighting a man he couldn't win...and he still *didn't want to let him go*. Because when we meet God and get close to him, we realize how strong he is and we don't want to let him go no matter what! We want to trust him and follow him, even if it's hard.

JACOB IS CHANGED

So after Jacob wrestled with God and drew near to God, he was different. How was he different? (Let kids say: he got a new name, he approached Esau courageously, was generous, etc.). That's right, he got a new name—Israel. He approached his brother bravely. And he didn't



script continued

want to give gifts to Esau out of fear: he wanted to give him gifts because he loved him! The coolest part is, he started trusting God with his whole heart. He believed in God's power.

WE CAN CHANGE TOO

And guess what? Now that Jesus paid the price for the sins that separate us from God, we can ALL get close to God too and trust him with our whole hearts. And when we choose to trust in God and believe in Jesus, a guy named John, who wrote the book of John in the Bible, tells us what OUR new name is:

SLIDE: John 1:12 Some people did accept [Jesus]. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.

What's the new name God wants to give US? (Let kids say: child.) That's right, God wants us to be called his kids. And when we're God's kids, we can trust our Heavenly dad to do anything. We can follow him, even when it's hard, because he is powerful and perfect and trustworthy.

WORSHIP

Now we're going to sing a song about how great it is to follow Jesus and be close to God. As you listen, think about one way God might be asking you to follow him by obeying him joyfully. (Lay the **large piece of tear-off paper** on the floor and **scatter some markers** around.) There's some paper up here. If you feel like God is showing you a way you can start trusting him, come up here and write it down.

Music Video: Come With Me (have kids respond while this song plays)

And now we have a brand new song to remind us of WHY we can put all our hope in Jesus and trust him with our whole hearts. It's called "All Our Hope."

Music Video: All Our Hope (no hand motions; kids can just watch or choose an "air instrument" and rock out with band)

PRAYER

Ask somebody to come and thank God for wanting to be near us and for wanting to give us new names.



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Thumb wrestling – no supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid:

1 piece of mirror board

1 “Hello My Name Is” nametag (can order at officedepot.com; search “hello my name is”)

Per group:

Adventure Bible (p. 41, 1164)

1 bean bag

markers

1 large tear-off sheet of paper

Special Setup: KC Love Beats CDs—hand out one per kid during checkout!

large group supplies

One kid per service: medal (OT: IN-13614334)

Large piece of tear-off paper

Markers

Adventure Bible (p. 41, 1164)

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Image: Jacob and Esau
3. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6q2B5pilqg> (Jacob’s New Name; the Gospel Project for kids)
4. SLIDE: John 1:12 Some people did accept [Jesus]. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.
5. Music Video: Come With Me (with musicians)
6. Music Video: All Our Hope (<https://vimeo.com/99668247> password: hope)

connect questions

Tell me about Jacob.

How did Jacob change after he met God?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc