

November 24, 2019

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Patriarchs: Jacob's New Name*

Lesson Objective:

In today's lesson we discover God finally changes Jacob's name to Israel. Through Jacob's journey we see he and his character transformed by God. Through his fears, failures, and struggles, God reminds Jacob that he is always with him. A new limp, God reminds Jacob he will walk beside Him. A new home and land, God reminds Jacob He has prepared a place for Him and will protect Him. A new name, God reminds Jacob He controls his destiny and identity. Jacob affirms this with his whole family in heeding the call to go to Luz/Bethel: "I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone" (Genesis 35:3).

Teaching Points:

- God is faithful. God keeps His promises.
- God is sovereign (or in control).
- Man is sinful.
- Jacob, as he returns home, was fearful of his brother Esau. God promised that He would protect Jacob.
- Jacob wrestles with God and receives not only a blessing, but a name change. Jacob's new name is Israel.
- God commands Jacob to go to Luz and live there. This is the land God had promised.
- Jacob is obedient. Once he arrives in Luz, God appears to Jacob and reaffirms the covenant promises with Him.
- God changes Jacob's name to Israel.

Scripture: Genesis 33:1-11, 20; 35:1-15

Story: Vos Child's Story Bible, Pages 40-42

Scripture Memory for November: Genesis 28:15b (ESV)

For I will not leave you (*shake your finger and step sideways*)

until I have done what I have promised you (*hold open your hands like a Bible and then point to the palm of your hand*)

Craft: Israel's (Jacob's) Altar

Supplies: Cardstock picture of altar, tissue paper, glue, crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Have children crumple tissue into a ball shape and glue to altar.
2. Color scene if desired.

If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet



Story

Review

Last week an angel told Jacob he would have a new name. Would you want a new name? What would it be? [Allow kids to discuss]. In today's story, God finally changes Jacob's name. Let's find out Jacob's new name God gave him.

Wrestling with an Angel

Jacob was all alone. The Bible says while he was all alone a man wrestled with him all night long. As the sun started to rise, Jacob realized that he had been wrestling with an angel of God. The angel said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking" (that means the sun is starting to shine). But Jacob said, "I will not let you go until you bless me." The angel asked, "What is your name?" "My name is Jacob," he answered. The angel then said something very strange, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel." The angel had given Jacob a new name. When the angel saw how hard Jacob was wrestling, he touched Jacob's hip (point to your hip). After the angel touched Jacob's hip, he let the angel go. From that moment on Jacob would walk differently (or with a limp).

Jacob Meets Esau

Not long after the angel had left, Jacob looked up and there was Esau coming with his 400 men. Jacob went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he came close to his brother Esau.

But the Bible says Esau ran to meet Jacob and gave him a big hug. Esau threw his arms around Jacob's neck and kissed him. Then they both cried. Esau had forgiven Jacob. Then Esau met Jacob's family and received all the gifts that Jacob had offered him. God had heard Jacob's prayer and protected him. When Jacob finally reached his old home in Canaan, he bought a piece of ground and set up his tent there. Then he built an altar to the Lord.

Jacob's New Name

Then God said to Jacob, "Go to the city of Luz and live there. Make an altar to Me who appeared to you there. This was when you were running away from your brother Esau." So Jacob prepared to move to Luz. But before he and his family started packing their things, Jacob said to them, "Stop worshipping other gods. Clean-up and change your clothes. We are going to Bethel, and there I will build an altar to God." An altar is a place where people would worship God. Jacob then said something very important to his family, "God has helped me during my time of trouble. He has been with me everywhere I have gone." Jacob's family gave up their idols (statues of fake gods) and then headed out to their new home.

As Jacob and his family traveled across the land, they saw nearby cities full of people. The people in those cities could have come out and attacked Jacob and his family, but the Bible tells us God caused the people in the cities to be afraid of Jacob and his family. Once Jacob and his family arrived at Luz, he built an altar just like God commanded.

Then God appeared to Jacob one more time, and God blessed him. God said to him, "Your name is Jacob. But you will not be called Jacob any longer. Your new name will be Israel." God then told Israel, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and many, many other nations will come from you, and you will have kings and royalty that will be part of your family. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you too, and I will give the land to your children after you." Then God left Israel (Jacob). Israel (Jacob) set up a pillar in the place where God had spoken to him, a pillar of stones (explain *pillar*: a tall vertical structure of stone, wood, or metal, used as a monument to remember an event). Israel took out a jar and poured some wine on the pillar, and then he took out another jar of oil and poured it on the pillar. This was known as a drink offering, a way to make the pillar official.

Jacob renamed Luz, Bethel, because God appeared to Jacob there.

God had kept His promise to Abraham and Isaac, and now those promises were for Israel (Jacob). God would be with Israel; He would be Israel's God, and the God of Israel's children.

Questions for Review with Younger Children

Have the kids answer “Yes” if it is true, or “no” with the correct answer if it is false.

- Jacob wrestled with an angel of the Lord. The angel changed Jacob’s name to Bobby. (No! Jacob’s new name was Israel.)
- When Esau finally met Jacob, Esau punched him. (No! Esau ran to Jacob and kissed and hugged him.)
- God kept His promise to Jacob to be with Him. (Yes)
- God told Jacob to move to Texas. (No! To the city of Luz.)
- God made the people in the nearby cities afraid of Jacob and his family. (Yes)
- God changed Jacob’s name to Israel. (Yes)
- God promised Israel he would have a big family, many kings and queens would come from his family, and his family would have lots of land. (Yes)
- After God finished talking to Israel, Israel made a pillar to remember God’s promise. (Yes)
- Israel renamed the city of Luz, Bethel. (Yes)
- God kept his promises to Abraham and Isaac. (Yes)
- God always keeps His promises. (Yes)