

ARRIVAL

SERVICE

SMALL GROUP

HOME

## SCHEDULE

8:45 | 10:30 SGL ARRIVE  
9:00 | 10:45 DOORS OPEN  
9:15 | 11:00 SERVICE STARTS  
10:05 | 11:50 GO TO CLASSROOM  
10:08 | 11:53 SMALL GROUP TIME  
• RESPOND  
• BLESS  
• EXPLORE  
10:25 | 12:10 GO BACK TO WORSHIP  
10:30 | 12:15 HOME

## BIG IDEA

God is Faithful

## REMEMBER VERSE

"I have hidden your word  
in my heart that I might  
not sin against you."  
Psalms 119:11

## BIBLE STORY

Jacob Wrestling with God  
Genesis 27:41-28:21; 32-33

Teacher talks: Script is written in orange.

## RESPOND

### QUESTIONS

- God spoke to Jacob in a dream. What is some other ways God speaking to us?
- Why do you think Jacob sent gifts ahead to his brother Esau?  
Genesis 32:17-21
- Have you ever sent gifts or done something nice after you made somebody angry?
- Why did God change Jacob's name to Israel? Genesis 32:28
- Do any of you feel that you know facts about God, but you don't really know Him?
- What does it mean to know God? 1 John 4:7-12

### God's Faithfulness

God's faithfulness in Jacob's life didn't always take the form we might expect. In Genesis 32:24-28, Jacob wrestled with God all night. God took on the form of a man, and Jacob struggled and struggled until the Man asked Jacob to let him go. Jacob refused, saying he wouldn't let go until the Man blessed him. Then the Man asked his name, and after Jacob responded, the Man changed Jacob's name to Israel.

Why did God ask for Jacob's name right after Jacob said he wouldn't let God go until He blessed him? Some biblical scholars suggest this question parallels the one his father Isaac asked him many years before. When Isaac asked Jacob for his name, he said, "I am Esau." Then he used his brother's name to steal the blessing.

In today's passage, God came to redeem Jacob from that which his name symbolized. (The name *Jacob* means "deceiver.") Obviously, God knew Jacob's name. Perhaps God asked him for his name because He wanted to know if Jacob knew it. When Jacob answered, "My name is Jacob," he acknowledged his true self.

### ACTIVITY

God's Word explains that He is faithful to continue the good work He started in us. Even though we may make mistakes, God doesn't give up on us. Children will play a game of the human knot.

**RELATE**

**Our Remember Verse tells us that God is faithful to continue and finish the good work He started in us. Say the Remember Verse in unison with the children. The Holy Spirit is working in and through each Christian to make us more and more like Him. Even though we may make mistakes, God doesn't give up on us. He faithfully continues to change us from the inside out to become more like Him.**

**Today we're going to play a game that might feel kind of frustrating at times. Even if it gets difficult, let's work together to complete it!**

Split the kids into two groups and have the kids hold hands with 2 different kids in the circle that are not right next to them. Then have them untangle their arms without letting go of each other's hands.

**BLESS**

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

God's faithfulness recently. After each person shares, have the group clap as they thank and praise God for His faithfulness. After a few children have shared, open a Bible and read Psalm 100:4-5:

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

After reading the Scripture, pray with blessing over each child individually:

**May the Holy Spirit help you see God's faithfulness in your life. May you praise Him for His goodness and love.**