

# Parish of the Epiphany

## Faith at Home: Week of February 06, 2022

### Storymakers Stars Chapter:10 The Ladder

#### Overview

We continue with the story of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham and son of Isaac. Jacob, we'll remember, has not been treating his family with kindness or integrity. Because of his jealousy of his elder brother, he tricked Esau; he tricked his father; and now he's had to run away out of fear of his brother, who is filled with rage and anger. Today, we meet several new characters in our story, and the tables are turned on tricky Jacob. But we also see a very important, very clear picture of who God is.

#### Our takeaways include

For the first couple chapters of Jacob's story, God was whispering to Jacob that there were better ways to handle his bad feelings, and that Jacob didn't need to be jealous of his brother Esau; God made Jacob special, too. Jacob didn't listen, and he got himself into trouble. In today's story, God stopped whispering and started to make sure Jacob listens. And the most important thing God wanted Jacob to hear was: God loves him and won't ever leave him. We'll see as we continue that God has big plans for Jacob and his family; but sometimes God's plan can be hard to see, like camouflage.

#### Stars Chapter 10: The Ladder

Start with the picture on page 79.

*What do we see in this picture? Does this give you a clue about our story?*

Read the story together on pages 81-82. There's a lot going on today!

Jacob runs away after he tricks Isaac; and he has a dream that God speaks to him.

*What does God say?*

*After everything that's happened so far, is that what you expected God to say to Jacob?*

*What do we learn about God here?*

God isn't angry. God doesn't say I told you so. God doesn't say 'Jacob you're a mess and it's all your fault.' None of that. God says, 'Jacob, I will not leave you.'

Wow. There's a really important truth about God.

After his dream, Jacob goes to his uncle's house. After working for seven years to marry Rachel, Uncle Laban tricks Jacob into marrying someone he doesn't want to marry.

Our chapter continues on pages 83-84, and 85-86.

Our zine goes very quickly today, but Jacob's dream is a very interesting one. Attached is the story from Desmond Tutu's Storybook Bible.

*Does the ladder image make sense now?  
How might you feel if you had a dream like this? Would it change your  
life? Do you think it changed Jacob?*

**Envelope:**

Today's envelope has a special angel engineering challenge.

**Ending prayer:**

Dear Lord, please help us to trust in your plans even when we can't see them. We know you love us, and that our futures are filled with hope. Help us to listen for your whispers. Thank you that Jacob's story leads to Jesus and that you always keep loving us. Amen.

God speaks to Jacob

## A Wonderful Dream

Genesis 25, 27-28

Isaac grew up healthy and strong and had two sons, Esau and Jacob. One day, the brothers fought, and Jacob became scared of his big brother. He ran into the desert to hide. When it was dark, Jacob rested his head on a large, smooth stone and tried to sleep.

For a long time Jacob stared up at the distant stars. Jacob felt far away from his family and so very alone. Finally, he fell into a restless sleep.

He dreamed of a ladder reaching to the sky with angels going up and down. In the dream, God stood beside him and said, "I made a promise to your forefathers, Abraham and Isaac, and I will keep that promise to you. I will be with you, and I will protect you, and I will keep you safe."

Jacob woke up. He was amazed by the dream. "God is in this place, and I did not know it!"

So he took the stone he had rested on, stood it up, and poured oil on it to bless it. He said, "This is the house of God and the gate to heaven." He called that place Bethel, which means "house of God," and he promised to remember God everywhere he went.

Dear God,  
help me to see that the whole world is your home.

