

Jacob and Esau: Wrestling with God

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia, WA

February 2008

ROTATION OVERVIEW:

Bible Texts and References:

Story: Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1 - 33:20

Part One

Genesis 25:19-34

Genesis 27:1-35

Genesis 27:41-43

Part Two

Genesis 29:15-30

Genesis 31:1-3

Genesis 32:3-7a, 22-30

Genesis 33:1-4



Memory Verse:

Genesis 28:16 (Key Verse)

When Jacob woke up from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”

Genesis 28:15a

“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.”

Genesis 28:22b

“and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

Numbers 6:24-26

May the Lord bless and take care of you; May the Lord be kind and gracious to you; May the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.”

Objectives:

By the end of the rotation, the students will:

1. Find the stories of Jacob in Genesis, in the Old Testament.
2. Identify the following characters and place them correctly in the story: Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob, Laban, Rachel, Leah.
3. Discover God’s plan at work in the lives of these characters, despite their imperfections.
4. Understand that a loving, forgiving God is at work in our lives too.
5. Realize that we need patience, persistence, and courage to wait for God’s timing.
6. Discover that the stories of the Bible are timeless and continue to speak to us.
7. Make the connection between Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Israelites.
8. Increase awareness of our actions toward others, of forgiveness, and of tithing.

Workshops:

- **Drama:** Students will focus on the portion of the story where Jacob wrestles with God and examine ways we have wrestled with problems.
- **Movies:** As students watch excerpts from “The Lion King,” they will explore their relationship with others and the consequences of our actions toward others. They will learn how God works in flawed people.
- **Computers:** "God is working out his plan through imperfect people just like Jacob and Esau, and just like you and me." His plan is to spread the message of salvation and forgiveness to all. Students will use “Bibleland.com” CD and “Awesome Bible Stories CD” to explore the characters, events, and the ways God works through His people.
- **Cooking:** Students will explore the meaning of “blessing” and “birthright” in Bible times. They will focus on the part of the story where Jacob tricks Isaac and make Lentil Stew as they learn about the story.
- **Games:** Students will play a game of “Calvin Ball” (Calvin & Hobbs) and learn that it isn’t funny or nice when someone plays a trick on you. When we play fairly, everyone has fun.

Sunday School Time Schedule:

- 10:00 Students meet with shepherds in workshop locations.
- 10:03 Lesson Begins
- 10:15/20 Activity has begun, e.g.: game, project, drama, computer time etc.
- 10:35 Lesson Closure/Wrap-up time
- 10:44 Shepherds lead students to Closing.
- 10:45 Sunday School Closing Begins in the Choir Room Upstairs or in Luther Hall
- 10:55 Sunday School Ends. Parents pick up children.

References:

- *Sunnyvale Church, www.rotation.org*
- *www.sundaysoftware.com*
- *www.rotation.org*

