



Memorize Ephesians 5:20,

“Always give thanks to God, the Father, for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Let older children write a poem or song about how God is always present with those who trust Him to watch over them.

Poem. Let four children each recite one of the verses from Psalm 139:7-10 —

Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
If I make my bed in the grave, behold, you are there.
If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me,
And your right hand will lay hold of me.

Prayer: “Father, we thank you for revealing yourself to Jacob. We know that you are with us all the time, just as you were with Jacob. Help us to trust you like he did. Thank you for blessing me and everyone else through Jacob’s descendent, Jesus.”

Jacob Saw into Heaven

Prayer. “Dear Lord, please, help the children to appreciate the adventures and lessons of the ancient Patriarchs of the Old Testament.”

Choose any of these children's learning **activities** that fit their ages.

Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching to heaven, with angels going up and down it (Genesis 28:12).



Let an older child or teacher read the story of Jacob’s Ladder from **Genesis 28:10-22**. It tells how God revealed himself to Jacob, one of the fathers of the Israelite nation.

After telling the story, ask these **questions**. [Answers appear after each question.]

- What did Jacob use for a pillow while resting during his journey? [See verse 11]
- What did Jacob dream about? [Verse 12]
- What did the Lord promise about the number of Jacob's descendants? [Verse 14]
- Who did the Lord say would be a blessing to all families of the earth? [Verse 14]
- What did the Lord assure Jacob about his travel? [Verse 15]
- Why was Jacob afraid when he awoke? [Verses 16-17]
- To whom did Jacob promise to give a tenth of all that God gave to him? [Verses 20-22]

Dramatise parts of the story of Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:10-22).

- Arrange with the worship leader for the children to present this brief drama.
- Use your teaching time with the children to prepare the drama.
- You do not have to use all the parts.
- Let the older children help the younger ones to prepare.
- Let **older children** or adults play the parts of:

Jacob. Prepare a stone and a small bottle.

Voice of God.

Narrator. Summarize the story and help the children remember what to say and do.

Let **younger children** play the parts of **Angels** with chairs or something that represents a ladder.

Narrator: Tell the story from Genesis 28:10-22. Then say, "Hear what Jacob says."

Jacob: Lie down with the stone under your head. Then say, "It is night. I have travelled a long way. I must sleep."

Angels: Place the 'ladder' near Jacob and step up and down on it.

Voice of God: (Speak each promise loudly, slowly and clearly.)

"Jacob, I am the Lord God of your father Isaac and grandfather Abraham. "I will give you many descendents. "I will bless all the world through them. "I will take care of you."

Angels: Leave and take the ladder.

Jacob: Wake up, stand up and say, "What a powerful dream! This is an awesome place, because God is here! I will leave a memorial here." (Pick up the stone pillow and set it where everyone can see it. Pretend to pour oil on it from the bottle.). Say, "If the Lord will protect me as I travel, He will be my God."

Narrator: Thank everyone who helped with the drama.

Questions. If the children dramatize this story for the adults, let them also ask the adults the questions that are listed above.

Ask the children: What are other examples of ways that God reveals himself to people? (Let the children give examples.)

Draw a picture of a ladder and let the children copy it. They can show their pictures to the adults during worship time and explain that the ladder to heaven illustrates how God is all around us even when we cannot see Him.