

GOD'S PROMISE TO JACOB

Genesis 35

God Story:

God's Promise to Jacob | Genesis 35

Big Idea:

God keeps his promises.

Key Verse:

"God has made a great many promises." 2 Corinthians 1:20a

Leader Tip:

Prepare the free-play activities and pray for the children in your group before they arrive.

Ls Life Story

- 1. Where Are the Brothers?** **Free Play**
Hunt for the 12 "brothers" hidden around your class space as you introduce today's Bible story.
- 2. 12 of Those** **Free Play**
Develop the children's motor skills as you talk about God's promises.
- 3. Do It 12 Times!** **Large Group**
Get active as you lead the children in repeating fun actions 12 times.

Gs God Story

CIRCLE TIME!

- 4. Bible Story** **Large Group**
Read "The Twelve Sons of Jacob" flipbook.
- 5. Key Verse** **Large Group**
Say the words and do the actions for this month's key verse.
- 6. Music** **Large Group**
Get everyone moving and singing "There Are Promises" on the *Little Praise Party: Taste and See* CD.

Ms My Story

- 7. 12 Brothers Craft** **Large Group**
Review today's story and the Big Idea as the children colour their activity pages.
- 8. Brothers Beanbag Toss** **Free Play**
Wrap up by saying the Big Idea together in this active game.

Os Our Story

- 9. Dismissal**
Connect with parents. Remember to give them take home cards!

Life Story

1. WHERE ARE THE BROTHERS?

Supplies:

- 12 craft-stick men
- Empty toy bin

Before the Activity:

- Hide the craft-stick men around your class space.

Leader Tip:

- After finishing this activity, set aside the craft-stick men to re-use in the "Do It 12 Times" activity.

Instructions:

- Gather a small group of children during free-play time.
- Ask them to help you find the "lost brothers."
- Help the children hunt for the hidden craft-stick men and bring them back to an empty toy bin on the floor or a table.
- After the group finds all the craft-stick men, count them aloud.
- Tell the children that today's story from the Bible is about 12 brothers. Explain that the brothers are part of a big promise that God made and **God keeps his promises.**

2. 12 OF THOSE

Supplies:

- Strainer
- Masking tape
- 12 pipe cleaners

Before the Activity:

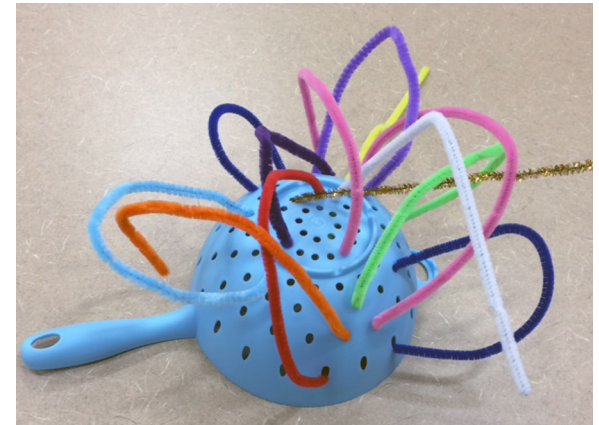
- To keep the strainer from moving during the activity, tape the handle to the table.

Leader Tips:

- This is a great activity to do as the children arrive. It also helps them develop fine motor skills.
- Be aware that the wire ends of pipe cleaners are pokey!

Instructions:

- As the children arrive, invite them to join you at the table where you placed the strainer and pipe cleaners.
- Help them count the 12 pipe cleaners.
- Poke each pipe cleaner into the holes in the strainer (see sample photo below).
- As the children play, tell them that today's story is about 12 brothers who are part of a promise God made.
- Emphasize the Big Idea: **God keeps his promises.**



3. DO IT 12 TIMES!

Supplies:

- 12 craft-stick men

Instructions:

- Gather all the children together in an open space.
- Tell the children that today's Bible story is about 12 brothers.
- Explain that to help everyone remember the number 12, you will do the following actions together:
 - Jump 12 times.
 - Give 12 high-fives.
 - Hop 12 times.
 - Stomp 12 times.
 - Make 12 circles with your hands.
 - If time allows, encourage the children to come up with their own ideas for actions.
- Finish the activity by counting the 12 craft-stick men and showing them to all the children.
- SAY: In today's story, we'll hear about how God continued to keep his promise to Abraham through Jacob having a HUGE family: 12 boys! Let's go hear their story now.



CIRCLE TIME!

Supplies: CD player, tidy up and/or circle time songs on class CD

Instructions:

- Make sure the CD player is easily accessible during circle time.
- Play music while clearing space on the floor.
- Gather the children into a circle to do the following activities together.
- Change the order of the circle time activities so they work well for your group.

4. BIBLE STORY

Supplies:

- "The Twelve Sons of Jacob" flipbook

Leader Tip:

- Use the Bible story to start conversations about God with the children.

Instructions:

- Sit on the floor with the children.
- Tell them that today's story is from the Bible.
- Read the story aloud. Use an expressive voice and show everyone the pictures.
- PRAY: Dear God, thank you for keeping your promises. Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for your love. Thank you for your promise that we will be with you forever. We love you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

5. KEY VERSE

Supplies:

- Key verse sign
- Wall-safe tape

Before the Activity:

- Tape the key verse sign to a wall or play panel where everyone can see it.

Instructions:

- Remind the children that 2 Corinthians 1:20a is this month's key verse.
- Say the words and do the actions with the children:
 - God [point to the sky]
 - has made a great [jump]
 - many [jump]
 - promises [jump].
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20 [hold hands together with palms up like a book]

6. MUSIC

Supplies:

- Song lyrics sheet
- Wall-safe tape
- CD player
- "There Are Promises" (track 9) on *Little Praise Party: Taste and See* CD
- (Optional) Scarves or musical instruments

Before the Activity:

- Tape the lyrics sheet to a wall or play panel so all the leaders can see it during this activity.

Leader Tips:

- Remember, you set the tone by being energetic and having fun during music activities.
- Feel free to extend your music time with the class CDs.

Instructions:

- Mix it up each week! Here are some options:
 - Sing along with the song.
 - Wave the scarves.
 - Use the musical instruments.
 - Make up fun actions that go with the song.
- If using supplies, give them to children before starting.
- After the music is finished, prompt children to return any supplies to the bin.



7. 12 BROTHERS CRAFT

Supplies:

- 12 brothers colouring pages
- Crayons

Leader Tip:

- Remember to write the children's names on their crafts.

Instructions:

- Gather the children to sit at a table.
- Give each child a colouring page.
- Place crayons where everyone can reach them.
- Encourage the children to colour in the picture.
- As the children colour, review the Bible story with them.
- Wrap up with the Big Idea: **God keeps his promises.**

8. BROTHERS BEANBAG TOSS

Supplies:

- Activity pages (showing the 12 brothers)
- Masking tape
- Beanbag

Before the Activity:

- Tape the activity pages to the floor in a small area of your space. Tape a line about 2 metres from the activity pages.

Leader Tip:

- Make sure you don't have too many children waiting in line to play. Long waits can lead to negative behaviour!

Instructions:

- Gather a small group of children and instruct them to line up where you have taped the line on the floor.
- Give the 1st child in line a beanbag.
- Instruct the child to toss the beanbag underhand towards Joseph (i.e., the one with the colourful coat).
- After the beanbag is tossed, lead the group in saying the Big Idea: **God keeps his promises.**
- Repeat until each child has a turn.

9. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Children's crafts
- Take home cards
- Key verse colouring pages

Before Dismissal:

- Place take home materials and crafts where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Take a moment to share with parents about their children's experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their children.
- Give parents take home cards and key verse colouring pages. Remind them to take any crafts.
- Make sure children's security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave the classroom.