

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **February 14, 2021** Family Theme | **God Confirms His Promises** Study Text | **Genesis 35:1-29**

**Objective:** Help children understand God continually works to bring about His will and confirms that to us when we need it most. We can confidently live for the Lord knowing He will keep His promises.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson is set later in Jacob's life as God confirmed His promise to make from Jacob's descendants a great nation, just as He promised Abraham and Isaac. God blessed Jacob and changed his name to Israel.

**Bible Basics:** Review Ephesians 2:8-9 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** Genesis 35:1-29

## Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that it is good to recall what God has done for us in the past and to remember that He is always working out His plan for our lives. He is with us through the ups and downs of life.

 **Key Truth: Reflecting on What God Has Done Strengthens Us (Genesis 35:1-8)**

God told Jacob to return to Bethel. This return was to remind Jacob of what God had done to deliver and prosper him in the years that had passed since he left home fleeing his brother. Decades had elapsed between Jacob's two visits to Bethel. He went from being a single man with no resources to being a husband, father to numerous children, and owner of large flocks and livestock. When they arrived at Bethel, Jacob built an altar and worshiped God, who had spoken to him, protected him, and blessed him for many years. It is good to reflect on what God has done for us and worship Him.

 **Key Truth: God Is Always Working His Plan (Genesis 35:9-15)**

This passage describes a second appearance by God to Jacob. God reminded him of his name change. In Genesis 32, after Jacob wrestled all night with the heavenly messenger, he received a new name, Israel, which was interpreted as one who strives with God. Here in chapter 35, God reaffirmed His promises. He would accomplish His plan. Jacob knew many struggles in his life (some caused by his own deceptive character), and more still lay ahead. God and His promises had not changed, but Jacob had! He worshiped the God who had blessed him. Submit to God's plan and work to advance it.

 **Key Truth: God Is With Us Through the Ups and Downs of Life (Genesis 35:16-29)**

From Bethel, Jacob and his family moved toward Bethlehem. Jacob was making his way back to Hebron, hoping to see his father again. He could not remain at the place of his "mountaintop experience." Eventually, Jacob again saw his father, as he had requested of God years before at Bethel. He and his brother Esau, once estranged, came together at the end to bury their father with the proper honors. In a rather short time, Jacob had faced the loss of loved ones (Rachel, Isaac), the birth of a child (Benjamin), and family problems with his eldest son Reuben. We can praise God in the good times and trust Him when trials come.

# Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- How can reflecting on what God has done in the past encourage and prepare us for what lies ahead?
- How would God bless all the peoples of the world through the nation He was building through Jacob?
- Why do you think we suffer ups and downs in life, even when God has great plans for us?
- What has God done in the past that assures you He can accomplish what He said He would do in the future?
- How could you express praise and worship to God this week for His blessings in your life and for what He yet has in store for you?
- **For Elementary:** What are some ways God changed Jacob?
- **For Elementary:** What are some ways God is changing you to be more like Him?

## Everyday Extras

Hold a pose! How long can family members freeze in place? Set the stopwatch and have a contest or play a game of freeze tag. You can make the poses easy or difficult, according to your children's ages. Sometimes we feel like we are stuck — waiting on God to do what He has promised and uncertain about when it will happen. But God is faithful, even when we cannot see how He is working. He often lovingly confirms His promises to us and reminds us that He cares about us. Be watching for Him, even in the small circumstances and daily provisions you may often overlook.

Give a special valentine to someone who may not get one otherwise. Take cookies or a box of candy to someone to remind that person he or she is special!

## Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child began learning about the life of Joseph. His brothers were jealous of the coat their father gave him, and they became angry when Joseph shared dreams where they were bowing to him. They sold Joseph and lied to their father about what happened to him. Joseph continued to trust that God was with him. **I Can Trust God** like Joseph did.