

# LESSON 4 | God Keeps His Promises

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 27 – 29

**Bible Verse:** Genesis 26:3: “I will be with you and give you my blessing . . . And I will keep the promise I made with an oath to your father Abraham.”

**Bible Point:** God kept his promise to Jacob. God will keep his promises to me.

---

**Resource:** *The Beginner’s Bible*

- “Isaac’s Blessing” (pages 58 – 62)
- “Jacob’s Dream” (pages 63 – 65)
- “Jacob and Esau Meet Again” (pages 66 – 70)

## Master Supplies List

- The Beginner’s Bible*
- Lesson Materials DVD (optional)
- DVD player (optional)
- Rock (about the size of a grapefruit)
- An opaque bag
- Family Page (one per child; see end of this lesson)

## Optional Supplies

*You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in STEP 3 | Explore More. All craft templates are located at the end of this lesson.*

- Option 1:** Palm-size rocks, large and flat enough to write on (one per child), washable paint, paintbrushes, glitter, permanent marker, newspaper
  - Option 2:** Child-size chair, Bible Promises Pages (see **Option 2: A Stairway to Heaven**), a container (bucket or box)
  - Option 3:** Paper strips (12)
  - Option 4:** Crayons or markers, coloring page (one per child)
- 

## STEP 1 | COME TOGETHER

**Supplies:** Rock (about the size of a grapefruit), an opaque bag.

**Teacher Prep:** Place the rock inside the opaque bag.

**INSTRUCT** the children to sit in a circle.

**SAY,** Come look at what I brought to show you today! It’s inside a bag, so you can’t see it yet, but I promise to show you what it is after you try to guess.

**SHOW** the children the bag so they can see there’s something large and heavy inside.

**SAY,** Even though you can’t see it yet, what do you know about it? (*It’s large, heavy, etc.*)

**ASK,** Do you have a guess what it is? (*Take responses.*)

**SAY,** Those were smart guesses! I promised I would show it to you, and I will keep that promise. Here’s what’s inside the bag.

**SHOW** the children the rock.

**SAY,** I made a promise to you, and I kept it. Sometimes people make promises and break them, but God never breaks a promise. Today we’ll read about a man named Jacob who used a rock for a pillow. Then, when God made a promise to him, Jacob

set the rock up as a pillar to remind himself of that promise. God kept his promise to Jacob, and he will keep his promises to us.

## STEP 2 | HEAR THE STORY

**Supplies:** *The Beginner's Bible*, Lesson Materials DVD (optional), DVD player (optional).

**INSTRUCT** the children to listen carefully to the Bible stories.

**SAY**, When you hear about something good happening, I want you to smile widely. When you hear about someone doing something bad, I want you to frown and stick your lower lip out.

**PRACTICE** those actions together.

**READ** aloud "Isaac's Blessing," "Jacob's Dream," and "Jacob and Esau Meet Again" from *The Beginner's Bible*. Or, if you prefer, **SHOW** these stories from the enclosed lesson DVD.

**ASK**, Why did Jacob wear goatskins on his arms? (*He wanted to fool his father into thinking he was Esau.*)

**ASK**, Whose idea was it to trick Isaac? (*Jacob's mother, Rebekah, thought of the plan.*)

**ASK**, Where was Jacob going when he had his dream? (*He was going to stay with his uncle Laban, so Esau could not hurt him.*)

**ASK**, What was God's promise to Jacob in the dream? (*God said he would watch over Jacob and that someday all the land on which he was lying would belong to him and his family.*)

**ASK**, What happened when Jacob saw his brother, Esau, again? (*Esau ran to give him a hug; they were happy.*)

**ASK**, How did God keep his promise to Jacob? (*Jacob had many sons; Jacob returned to his homeland.*)

**PRAY** with the children. Thank God for always keeping his promises.

## STEP 3 | EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help the children explore the lesson further.

### Option 1: Promise Rock

**Supplies:** Palm-size rocks, large and flat enough to

write on (one per child); washable paint; paintbrushes; glitter; permanent marker; newspaper.

**Teacher Prep:** With a permanent marker, write each child's name on the back of a rock.

**SAY**, Just like Jacob used a rock to remind himself of God's promise, this rock will remind you that God keeps his promises.

**GIVE** the children their rock and allow them to paint it, using the newspaper as a table cover.

**HELP** the children sprinkle some glitter on their rocks while the paint is still wet.

**WRITE** the words "God keeps his promises" on each rock when it is dry, using a permanent marker.

**GIVE** the children their rock to take home.

**ASK**, Where are you going to put your rock to remind you that God keeps his promises? (*Take responses.*)

### Option 2: A Stairway to Heaven

**Supplies:** Child-size chair, Bible Promises Pages, a container (bucket or box).

**Teacher Prep:** Print the Bible Promises Pages on an 8½" x 11" piece of paper. Cut the Bible Promises into individual strips. Place the promises in the container.

**SAY**, Jacob had a dream about a stairway to heaven. He saw angels walking up and down the stairway. Then God made a promise to Jacob and kept it. Today you will have a chance to pretend you are an angel walking on the stairway to heaven. You will also get to share one of God's promises with the class.

**PLACE** the chair next to you. Hold the container of Bible promises high enough in the air so that a child could not reach them without standing on the chair.

**ASK** one child at a time to carefully climb on the chair and pick a Bible promise.

**READ** the promise aloud to the class after the child has carefully climbed down from the chair.

**REPEAT** until each child has had a turn. If you have more than ten children, you will need to put the Bible Promises back into the container to be reused.

**NOTE:** *If you have a stairway area that is available for your use, a "field trip" to this location would make it even more realistic.*

---

### Option 3: Jacob's Twelve Sons

**Supplies:** Paper strips (12).

**Teacher Prep:** Print the names of Jacob's 12 sons (one per strip).

-----

**ASK** the children to sit in a circle.

**SAY**, God made a promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that their children would be as many as the stars in the sky. God kept that promise through Jacob's 12 sons and the 12 tribes of Israel. This song will help you remember the names of Jacob's 12 sons.

**NOTE:** *The names of the 12 tribes of Israel are not the same as the names of Jacob's 12 sons. Levi's descendants became the priests and were not one of the 12 tribes. Two tribes were named for Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, instead of for their father.*

**HOLD** up each of the name cards and read them through once or twice with the children.

**TEACH** the children the following song, "Jacob's Sons," sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me":

*Reuben, Simeon, and Levi  
Judah, Dan, and Naphtali  
Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun (the first three  
names are sung quickly)  
Last were Joseph and Benjamin.*

**USE** the name cards to help cue the children.

**REPEAT** a few times until the children get the hang of saying these names.

---

### Option 4: Let's Color

**Supplies:** Crayons or markers, coloring page (one per child).

## STEP 4 | GOING HOME

**Supplies:** Family Page (one per child).

**GIVE** each child a copy of this week's Family Page.

**SAY**, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family about how God kept his promise to Jacob and that God will also keep his promises to us.

## LESSON 4 | Bible Promises

---

*“I know the plans I have for you,” announces the Lord. “I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come.”*

Jeremiah 29:11

---

*Say with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord.” Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.*

Romans 10:9

---

*The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.*

Psalms 23:1

---

*God has said, “I will never leave you. I will never desert you.”*

Hebrews 13:5

---

*Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn away from it to the right or the left.*

Joshua 1:5

---

## LESSON 4 | Bible Promises

-----  
*He says, "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth."*

Psalm 46:10

-----  
*The Lord is my rock and my fort. He is the One who saves me.*

Psalm 18:2

-----  
*Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me.*

Psalm 119:105

-----  
*Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him.*

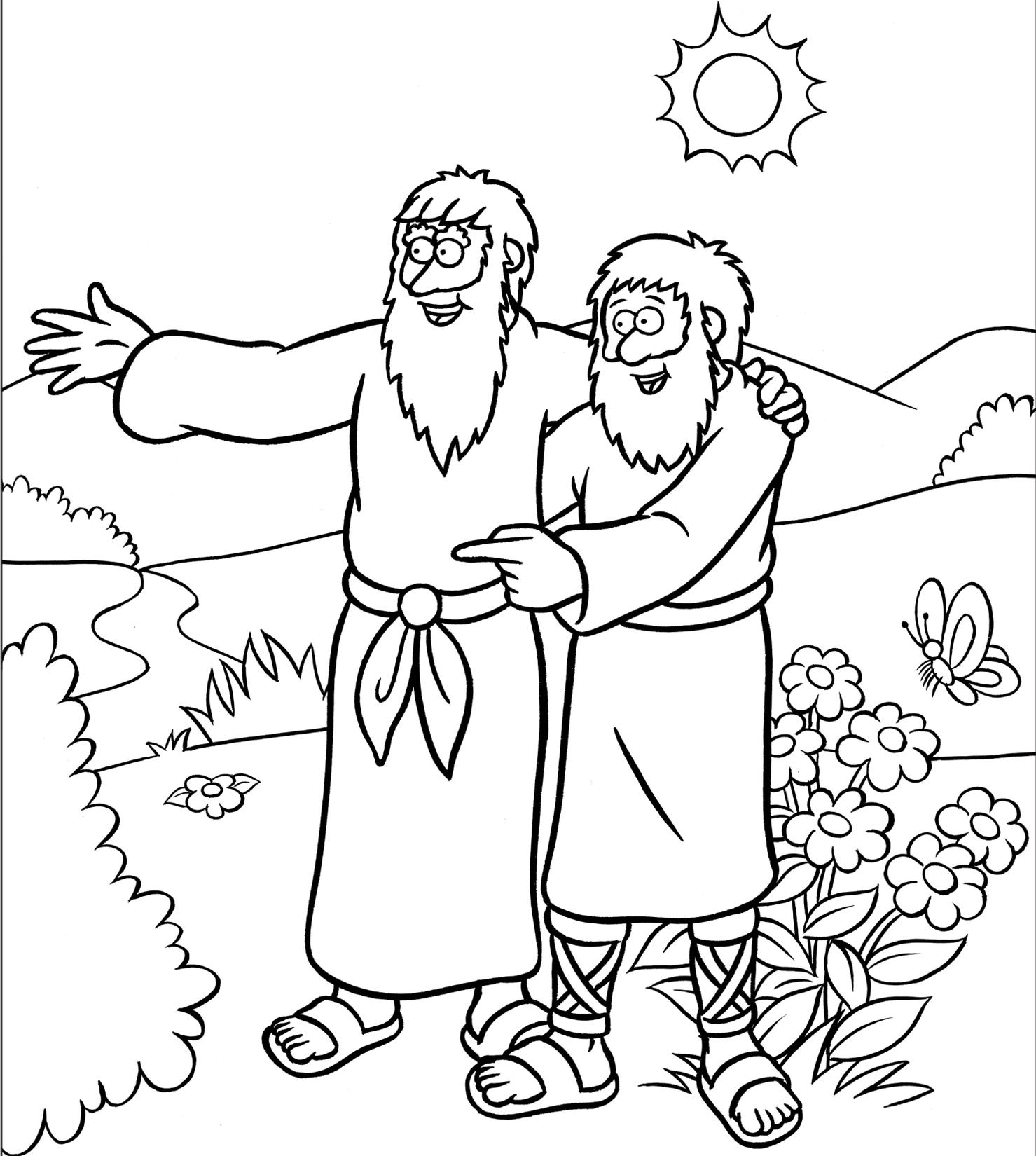
Philippians 4:6

-----  
*The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.*

Proverbs 2:6

-----

LESSON 4 | **Let's Color**



# LESSON 4 | God Keeps His Promises

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 27 – 29

**Bible Verse:** Genesis 26:3: “I will be with you and give you my blessing... And I will keep the promise I made with an oath to your father Abraham.”

**Bible Point:** God kept his promise to Jacob. God will keep his promises to me.

**Resource:** *The Beginner’s Bible*

- “Isaac’s Blessing” (pages 58 – 62)
- “Jacob’s Dream” (pages 63 – 65)
- “Jacob and Esau Meet Again” (pages 66 – 70)

## How to use This Page

This week, you can read the stories listed above in *The Beginner’s Bible* several times to help your child remember them. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is a drama designed to help your child remember the Bible lesson. The Extra Mile provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

### TABLE TALK

1. Have you ever made a promise to someone? Has anyone ever made a promise to you?
2. Why was it so important to keep a promise?
3. What was God’s promise to Jacob? (*God said he would watch over Jacob and that someday all the land on which he was lying would belong to him and his family.*)
4. Jacob played a trick on his father and his brother, Esau. How would you feel if someone tricked you? Would you be able to forgive like Esau did?

### LIVING FAITH

Have your child select one of this week’s Bible stories and act it out for you as you read the story aloud from *The Beginner’s Bible*. Make Isaac’s tent out of blankets and straight-backed chairs. Use dark sunglasses or a blindfold for the person who plays the part of Isaac. Esau’s character can wear fuzzy clothing, such as fleece, and carry a bow and

arrows made from sticks and string. Jacob’s character will need rags or carpet scraps tied on with yarn. Bathrobes, towels, or fabric pieces make great Bible-time clothing for Isaac, Jacob, Esau, and Rebekah. The tasty food for Isaac’s dinner can be plastic toys or cutouts from a magazine.

When you come to the place(s) in the story where a Bible character speaks, instruct your child what to say. If possible, have your child perform the Bible drama for other family members in person, via Skype, or using a video camera.

### EXTRA MILE

- Help your child remember the names of Jacob’s 12 sons by practicing the song “Jacob’s Sons” that they learned in class. It is sung to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me”:

*Reuben, Simeon, and Levi  
Judah, Dan, and Naphtali  
Gad, Asher, Isaachar, Zebulun (the first  
three names are sung quickly)  
Last were Joseph and Benjamin.*

- Use a book of Bible promises or an online search to find and share some of God’s promises with your family. Remind your child that God always keeps his promises.
- Jacob and Esau both brought their father a tasty meal. Make a promise to someone in your church, neighborhood, or family to deliver a tasty meal. Keep your promise by preparing and delivering the meal with your child’s help. Talk about the blessing you will receive from keeping your promise.

- Isaac could not see well in his old age. Help your child understand what this might be like. Find a wood cut-out puzzle of objects your child is familiar with, such as an alphabet puzzle where each letter fits into its own section. Have your child wear a loose blindfold and try to complete part of the puzzle using only the sense of touch. Another blindfold activity is to have your child smell familiar foods and try to identify them without looking.
- Jacob set up a stone to remind himself of God's promise. Create this simple craft with your child to remind your family of one of God's promises. Write or print on paper one of God's promises from the Bible. Insert it in a flat wooden picture frame. Have your child help you collect small pebbles. Glue them around the frame.