



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

November 25, 2018

What We're Learning This Week

"JACOB'S NEW NAME" GENESIS 32-33

God changed Jacob's life and gave him a new name, Israel. Jesus came so that we might have a changed life, forgiven of sin. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Jesus' death and resurrection provided sinful people the way to be adopted into God's family. When we are adopted into the family of God we also receive a new name—children of God. (John 1:12)

Questions to Ask, Conversation Starters, and Helping to Apply The Truths to Our Kids' Lives

Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!

BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

- Continue conversations as a family regarding the lesson from last Sunday, where we learned that nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even though Jacob did not love Leah, God loved her and used her in His plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would show His love for the world by sending His Son to be the Savior He promised. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through Genesis 32-33, pray and ask God to reveal himself to you and for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week.

AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
 1. Jacob was really nervous to meet his brother Esau, who he had badly wronged by stealing his blessing, on his way to Canaan. Jacob tried to be strategic by sending gifts and dividing

his family into multiple groups, but more than that he asked God to rescue him and to uphold the blessing that he had given to Abraham.

- What was it that ultimately saved Jacob from the anger and wrath of Esau - his actions or God's? What does this tell us about relying on the power of God?
 - We see both dependence on God and human action in this story. How does God call us to balance faith and works? How should prayer and action exist together? See the book of James to help in this conversation.
 - How do we see the incredible power of God in both Jacob's life as well as Esau's life? How does God change people when they trust in Him?
2. In his wrestling match with God, Jacob did not win by strength (God proved His power by crippling Jacob with just a touch) but by confessing his dependence on God's blessing. He could not succeed by his own strength. Jacob held onto God and would not let go. God poured out His grace on Jacob.
- Why does God call us to dependence on Him? What does that look like in Scripture, and what does that look like for your family?
 - How are we tempted to believe we can succeed by our own strength? How do we see God's incredible power and His incredible grace work together in this story?
3. God radically changed Jacob's life and gave him a new name. Jesus ultimately fulfilled this by coming to provide a sinful people the way to be adopted into the family of God. When we are adopted into the family of God we also receive a new name - children of God
- What is the significance of a new name in Scripture? Why is that important for us even today?

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Pray for God to release your family from self-sufficiency and into deep dependence on God and God alone. Pray for renewed hearts for those who do not yet trust in Christ.
- Ask each member of your family - adults included - to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.
- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship through modeling/action

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed

- Each member of the family should identify one area of life they would like to see God grow them in dependence on Christ. Follow up with one another and seek to hold one another accountable to the call of God in those ways.
- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

Our Memory Verse for This Unit

OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED “GOD FORMED A NEW NATION”) IS GENESIS 28:15

- *For our older kids we are doing the full verse:*
 - “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”
- *For our younger kids we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:*
 - “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go”

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God’s Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

What’s Coming Up?

- Stay connected by joining the [RLA Kids page on RLA Connect](#)
- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word “Kids” to 323.859.1122. It really helps in preparing for Sunday and the rest of the week!

We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email kids@realityla.com at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well.