



Jacob the Grabber:
Grabbing to be Safe

Grabby People, Gracious God:
Week 4

Welcome to



FAMILY CHURCH

BEFORE YOU START

When do you feel afraid?

Who do you go to when you feel afraid?
Why?

Activity: Trust Walk! Instructions
attached in the slides below.



Trust Walk

What You Need:

2 players

Blindfold

Several small objects such as blocks, small traffic cones, stuffed animals, tennis ball canisters or plastic containers (larger objects like plastic trash cans also work)

Large flat area

What You Do:

Before you begin placing your obstacles, clear the play area of any items that won't be part of the game and make sure there aren't any uneven surfaces or stairs nearby that could cause injury to the blindfolded player.

Place obstacles strategically around the play area to create a sort of maze for players to wind through. Make sure you leave no straight, direct path to the other side.



- Have the first pair of players choose which one will give the directions and which one will follow them. Securely blindfold the follower and instruct her not to talk while the game is in play.
Begin the game. The communicator must give her blindfolded partner directions to help her successfully navigate the maze of obstacles and reach the other side. The communicator can give her partner directional cues, but cannot tell her how many steps to take in each direction. Advise the communicator to speak slowly so her partner has time to follow her directions and doesn't get confused.
Once the blindfolded player safely reaches the other side, have the two partners switch roles and restart the game.
You can easily play this game with more than two players, and with a few modifications you can also make it into an exciting treasure hunt that's great for birthday parties and other group gatherings. Just put a small gift under or inside one of the obstacles and have the communicator guide her partner to that obstacle.

When I'm afraid ...

Everyone feels afraid sometimes, of real things or imaginary things. When we're scared, we want a place we can run and hide. We also want someone to run to who will help us and protect us.

So far, God has shown HUGE undeserved kindness – *grace* – to Jacob: he stole his brother's blessings but God promised to be with him; he wanted to do things his way, but God used his bad choices to make Jacob great, and to teach Jacob to trust Him with his plans. God has been **faithful**.

But can we trust God when we're frightened?

Pray: Dear God, there are lots of scary things in the world. Thank you that you care about us. Please show us how we can trust you, even when we are worried or afraid.

WHO? WHAT? WHEN?

How has God graciously kept his promises to Abraham of LAND, FAMILY and BLESSING so far? Put these events in order.

Rachel and Leah give Jacob a huge family.

God says he will be with Jacob wherever he goes

Isaac, Abraham's son, is born

God helps Jacob breed huge flocks from Laban's goats

Abraham settles in the promised land

Rebekah tricks Isaac into giving Jacob Esau's blessings





In the Bible: Jacob is Afraid

Jacob escaped from his Uncle Laban, but then he gets some news. He's about to face his greatest enemy: Esau! Jacob is so scared! What will he do??

How is Jacob feeling?

Which emoji best sums up what Jacob has been like so far:



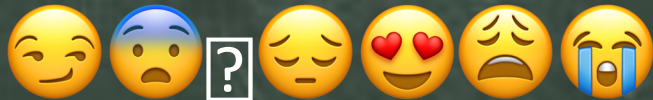
As you read Genesis 32:3-21 choose emojis to represent how Jacob is feeling.



How is Jacob feeling?

³ Jacob's brother Esau was living in the area called Seir in the country of Edom. Jacob sent messengers to Esau. ⁴ Jacob told the messengers, "Give this message to my master Esau: 'This is what Jacob, your servant, says: I have lived with Laban and have remained there until now. ⁵ I have cattle, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants. I send this message to you and ask you to accept us.'"

⁶ The messengers returned to Jacob and said, "We went to your brother Esau. He is coming to meet you. And he has 400 men with him."



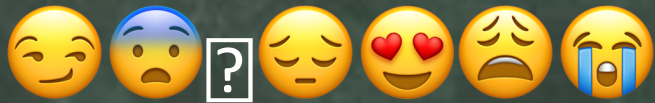
WHAT WILL JACOB DO?

- A. Run away. 400 men means he is coming to attack!
- B. Prepare. Get all his servants to make a shield around him and his family and protect them
- C. Prepare. Send servants ahead to offer gifts so Esau will forgive him.
- D. Pray

To find the ANSWER, read on!

How is Jacob feeling?

⁷ Then Jacob was very afraid and worried. He divided the people who were with him into two camps. He also divided all the flocks, herds and camels into two camps. ⁸ Jacob thought, “Esau might come and destroy one camp. But the other camp can run away and be saved.”



How is Jacob feeling?

⁹ Jacob said, “God of my father Abraham! God of my father Isaac! Lord, you told me to return to my country and my family. You said that you would do good to me. ¹⁰ I am not worthy of the kindness and continual goodness you have shown me. The first time I traveled across the Jordan River, I had only my walking stick. But now I own enough to have two camps. ¹¹ Please save me from my brother Esau. I am afraid he will come and kill all of us, even the mothers with the children. ¹² You said to me, ‘I will do good to you. I will make your children as many as the sand of the seashore. There will be too many to count.’”



After praying to God, Jacob prepares a gift for Esau, which he arranges to go before him so that by the time he meets Esau, Esau might not want to harm him.

200 female goats



20 male goats



200 ewes



20 rams



30 female camels



40 cows



10 bulls



20 female donkeys



10 male donkeys



WHAT WILL GOD DO?

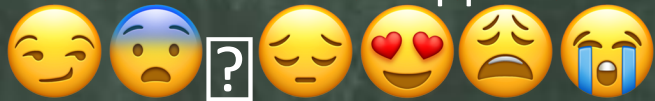
- A. Leave Jacob to be harmed by Esau, since it was Jacob's fault he tricked Esau
- B. Test Jacob to make sure he has really learnt to trust God to do what he says
- C. Remember his promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and answer Jacob's prayer

ANSWER You will find out next week, but it includes both B and C

But how does the story end???

Genesis 32:1-4

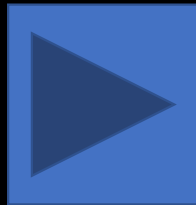
¹ Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two female servants. ² He put the female servants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. ³ He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.



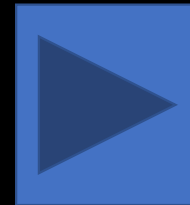
⁴ But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.



Click here for
extension questions



Click here to skip
extension questions



Extension – Jacob's prayer

Did you notice Jacob's prayer? This is the first time Jacob actually talks to God! Read it again and then answer the quiz questions

⁹ Jacob said, "God of my father Abraham! God of my father Isaac! Lord, you told me to return to my country and my family. You said that you would do good to me. ¹⁰ I am not worthy of the kindness and continual goodness you have shown me. The first time I traveled across the Jordan River, I had only my walking stick. But now I own enough to have two camps. ¹¹ Please save me from my brother Esau. I am afraid he will come and kill all of us, even the mothers with the children. ¹² You said to me, 'I will do good to you. I will make your children as many as the sand of the seashore. There will be too many to count.'"

Extension – Jacob's prayer

- **What does Jacob call God?**

- A. My Father
- B. My God
- C. God of my father Abraham
- D. God of my father Isaac

C and D – He doesn't even know God well enough to call him his own God

Extension – Jacob's prayer

- How has Jacob changed since he first left his family home?
 - A. He now has a walking stick
 - B. He now has enough money to stay at a hotel instead of camp
 - C. He now acknowledges God's kindness and goodness
- C – He has definitely increased in wealth but in a different way!

Extension – Jacob's prayer

- Does Jacob believe God will do what he has promised?

No, Jacob thinks Esau will kill him and his descendants and the promises will be over.

Yes, Jacob knows only God can make the things he promised happen.

YES Instead of trying to work things out himself, Jacob reminds God of his promise and trusts him in his difficult and fearful situation.

Summary



When we are scared, we know that we are small and weak. We realize we need help.

God has been teaching Jacob that he is small and weak. Jacob relies on someone bigger than himself to protect and care for him: God.

Jacob is finally starting to see that God is the one who has been caring for him all along. He is learning that God, not Jacob, is the one he should really trust in. And so Jacob turns to God. He trusted that God would never leave him and that he was the only one who could really help him.

God is our protector and hiding place. He will always be with us, even when things are scary. So when you're worried or scared, pray to God. He will hear you, and he will never leave you.

So What??

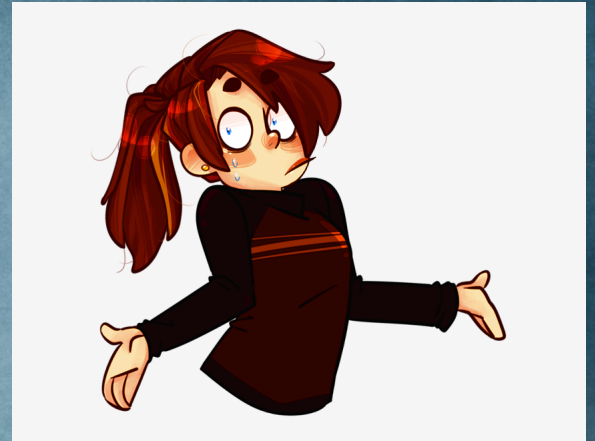
Sometimes we face really scary things.

We wonder, 'Is God there? Does he care? Will He do something?'

In Psalm 23, the songwriter pictures God like a shepherd with a big staff to chase away animals who might hurt his sheep (us!). He says "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."

God doesn't promise he will take away the scary things; He tells us instead that He is bigger and stronger than anything we could be scared of, and to trust that He will beat them all in the end. We know that's true, because Jesus beat the scariest thing of all: dying.

So next time you are worried, take your worries to God, who is big enough to beat anything, and is bringing a future where nothing scary will ever happen again.



Activities: Memory Time!

- Create this fun Rememberall Ball of verses to remind yourself that God never stops loving you, and will never leave you. Don't be afraid! Make sure you follow this link for the instructional video:
- <https://paththroughthenarrowgate.com/fear-not-paper-globe-craft/>
- [Rememberall Cutout Page](#)
- FEAR NOT
- Colour, stick, paint or make a stained glass cellophane window using this printout.
- [Colouring In Printout](#)