 **Jacob dreams…How does God speak to you?**

**7th Sunday After Pentecost**

**19 July 2020**

***Readings:*** *Gen28: 10-19*

***Theme:***  *How does God speak to you?*

***Memory verses:*** *Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it. Gen 28 vs 16*



**Information for the teacher:**

The lesson today is about Jacob who has a dream in which a staircase or ramp connects heaven and Earth. The dream demonstrates the contact between God and Earth.

The dream also shows us that God appears and renews the promise of land and descendants, and through the descendants blessings to all nations of the Earth.

A point of importance is that Jacob hears God through the form of a dream. Jacob then, because he has encountered God in the dream, equates that place where the dream happened, to being holy.

In the lesson with the children we are concentrating on the way God speaks to us, and that God is always connected to us and that all we need to do is to listen. Dreams can be one way of encountering God but there are other ways. We all hear or see God in different ways not just in the forms of dreams.

**Lesson suggestions:**

**Younger Children (3 – 6 years)**

**Lesson objectives:**

* To understand that God talks to us and we are always connected to God.
* To learn that God spoke to Jacob in the form of dreams.

**Bible Story:** Gen 28 verse 10-19

It may be good to read from a children’s bible.



**Questions:**

1. What was the dream that Jacob had?
2. What did God promise Jacob?
3. What did Jacob say when he woke up from the dream?



**Discussion:**

Start by asking the children if they have ever had a weird dream? Let the group tell you about their weird dreams.

Ask the group if they think God speaks to them through dreams like God did with Jacob?

Ask if they know any other way in which God speaks to people?

Ask if they have ever heard or seen any signs that God has spoken to them?

*Children of this age are more likely to remember a time that they were connected to God. God can be seen in any acts of love and its important to be encouraging that their experiences of God are validated even if it is not in the ways that we might think that God would speak to us. Remember God comes to us where we are at.*

**Craft:**



In this craft every child gets a piece of paper have them fold the piece of paper in half, they then halve it again, and then again until you have on long strip of paper. Then open the piece of paper again, the lines make up the ladder.

You can either have prepared a landscape, angels and clouds to be stuck on the ladder or I would get the children to draw how they think it would look on their ladders.

 **Activity: Body broken telephone**

Have the group stand in a line facing the front. Go to the back of the line and allow only the person at the back of the row to turn and face you.

Show that person a series of actions (try not to do any clapping or clicking as the rest of the group will hear). Once you have done with the small dance that person then taps on the shoulder in front of them and will show that person the dance moves. They only have one chance to show the person.

That person will then tap on the shoulder of the person in front of them and will show that person the dance moves.

And so, it continues down the row until you get to the front that person will then need to show you the dance move to see how well they got it.

**Prayer:**

Dear God help us to hear you when you speak to us. Help us to spend time with you in the quiet. We pray this in your name

Amen

**Older children:**

**Lesson objectives:**

* To learn about how Jacob heard God.
* To learn that God can speak to us in all ways.

Bible Story: Gen 28: 10-19

*Have the group read from the bible*

**Discussion:**

Ask the group what they heard in the reading.

What had Jacob seen in his dream?

Ask them what they though it meant (it is important that at this age they start drawing their own conclusions about what they are reading)

Ask them whether God speaks to them in their dreams.

Have they ever had dreams that they didn’t understand?

What would they do if God spoke to them through a dream?

Ask if God speaks to them in different ways?

God speaks to us in different ways, dreams was a way that Jacob understood God to appear to him. In our time God can still speak to us in the scriptures, or through other people and I’m not sure if we received an email from God we would take it seriously or if we receive a DM from God or a Whatsapp message.

Would you take it seriously if got a text message from someone who is called God?

So how do we know its God?

**Craft:**

**Code breaking**

**A=0 I=8 Q=16**

**B=1 J=9 R=17**

**C=2 K=10 S=18**

**D=3 L=11 T=19**

**E=4 M=12 U=20**

**F=5 N=13 V=21**

**G=6 O=14 W=22**

**H=7 P=15 X=23**

**Y=24**

**Z=25**

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19 7 3 13 9 0 2 14 2 22 14 10 4 5 17 14 12 7 8 18 18 11 4 4 15 0 13 3 18 0 8 3,

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18 20 17 4 11 24 19 7 3 11 14 17 3 8 18 8 13 19 7 8 18 15 11 0 2 4 0 13 3 3 8 3

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13 14 19 10 13 14 22 8 19.

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**6 4 13 19 22 4 13 19 24 4 8 6 7 19 21 4 17 18 4 18 8 23 19 4 4 13**

**Physical activity:**

Ladders

This game needs a fair amount of space and as there is a risk (depending on how skilful the players are) of accidentally treading on legs of somebody. So it’s a good idea **not** to wear shoes.

Players pair up and sit down facing each other in two lines with legs together, outstretched and feet touching, so that each pairs legs form the rung of a ladder on the ground. Each pair is then given a number.

When a pair’s number is called out that pair has to get up, run down the middle of the ladder (without treading on any legs!), back around the outside and then back up the middle of the ladder to their original position. The player that gets back first and sits in position wins that round.

You can play this as a team game, but make sure the pairs are relatively equal.

**Prayer:** God of ultimate kindness and love. Help us to hear you when you speak to us. Help us to understand what you want for our lives. We pray this in your name

Amen

References:

<https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2013/10/22/jacobs-ladder/>

<https://funandgames.org/ladders/> Published on February 20, 2020