

Status Update

God changed Jacob's life and gave him a new name, Israel. Because Jesus died and was raised from the dead, He made the way for us to be adopted into God's family. When we are adopted into God's family, we get a new name, too—children of God. (John 1:12)

Unit 3, Session 2: Jacob's New Name

Dear Parents,

This week in The Gospel Project® for Kids, our journey takes place 20 years after Jacob ran away from Esau. Jacob had lived with his uncle Laban for many years, and God had kept His promise to bless Jacob with a large family and riches. Now God said it was time for Jacob to return home. But uncertainty awaited Jacob in his homeland. His brother Esau was there. The last time Jacob saw Esau, Esau wanted to kill him.

Jacob tried to prepare for his meeting with Esau. He strategically divided his family into separate groups. He sent gifts ahead of them to appease Esau. That night, Jacob anxiously awaited word from Esau, and that is when he encountered the Lord. Jacob wrestled with the Lord all night.

Explain to your kids that Jacob did not win by strength but by confessing his dependence on God's blessing. Jacob had nowhere else to turn. He could not succeed by his own strength. Jacob held onto God and would not let go. God poured out His grace on Jacob. He blessed Jacob and gave him a new name, Israel. From Jacob's descendants—from the nation of Israel—God would bring into the world His Son, Jesus.

Jacob's New Name

Bible Passage: Genesis 32–33

Main Point: God changed Jacob's name to Israel, the name of God's covenant people.

Unit Memory Passage: Genesis 26:24

Big Picture Question: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

Christ Connection: 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 with 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).

Family starting points

Babies and Toddlers: God's plan is perfect. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. God's chosen people are called Israel. God sent Jesus through Israel's family.

Preschool: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's plan. God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

Kids: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan. God changed Jacob's name to Israel, the name of God's covenant people.

Questions for home

You can ask these questions all at once or spread them out throughout the week. Please do whatever is best for your family. Use these questions as discussion starters and not just information passing. The important thing is that you talk to your children about the Lord day and

night as we are instructed to do in Deuteronomy 6. This resource is not meant to replace your discipleship of your children, but only to function as a help to you in your most important task.

Monday

Who was Jacob's grandfather? (*Abraham*)

What did God make with Abraham? (*covenant*)

Tuesday

Who was Jacob's brother? (*Esau*)

What did Jacob steal from Esau? (*blessing*)

Wednesday

How did Esau feel when Jacob stole his blessing? (*angry*)

God told Jacob it was time to go where? (*home*)

Thursday

Who traveled home with Jacob? (*his family*)

Whom did Jacob wrestle? (*God*)

Friday

Where was Jacob injured? (*his hip*)

What was Jacob's new name? (*Israel*)