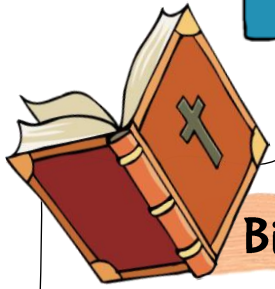


Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jacob's ladder

You can find the story in your Bible in:

Genesis 28 v 10–22

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jacob and the dream of the ladder to heaven. Thank you that you always keep your promises and are with us wherever we go.

Help us to recognise and remember that you are our provider and to demonstrate gratitude in our lives.

We pray for those who don't know you and are worried about having the things they need. Give them faith and a relationship with you, God our provider. Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children
How did Jacob feel in the story?

At first when Jacob wakes up from his sleep, he feels afraid! The vision that he has seen of the ladder, the angels and God frightens him.

There is another feeling that Jacob shows at the end of the story too and that is gratitude. Jacob speaks of how he needs God to go with him and provide for him, he promises that whatever God gives him that he will give an offering of one tenth of it back to God.

A question for children to ask adults
What are some of the ways you give to God?

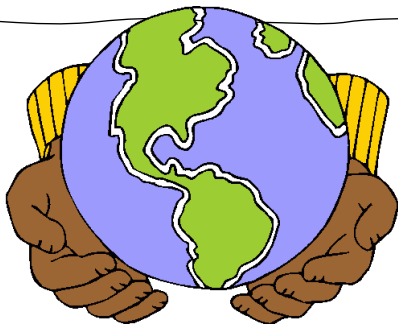
When we recognise the goodness of God in our lives we want to respond and give back to God – we can do that through our offerings, worship, time and service.

Family Activity 1

Jacob chose to give 10% of what God gave him back to God as an offering. Tithing (giving 10%) helps us to remember that everything we have comes from God.

Why not make a money box together, or decorate some containers or jars and think about giving as a family. The sheet on page 3 may be useful to help your child think about how they can bring an offering.





A verse to remember

Psalm 139 v 5

You are all around me—in front and in back— and have put your hand on me.

Jacob was shocked when he woke from his dream, he was scared that he had fallen asleep in a special Holy place. But we know that God is with us wherever we go. Psalm 139 reminds us that there is nowhere we can go where God is not with us.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it . Why not decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week?

Climb the ladder challenge

The ladder that Jacob saw went right up to heaven and God. There are many things we can do to draw closer to God ourselves. Why not take on the ladder challenge and see if you can complete each of these activities together as a family.

Why not write out the activities and put them on the steps in your house or the bannister to remind you to keep drawing closer to God each day.

Learn a memory verse

Learn a verse from the Bible by heart so you can draw on it and remember it later.

Read your Bible

Find and read the a story in the Bible
Ask Holy Spirit to help you understand the story and to learn from it how to live right for God.

Pray and Listen

Spend some time talking to God in prayer, remember to listen for God's voice and answer to your prayers.

Worship

Spend some time creatively worshipping God, sing a song, dance around, create some art...whatever you do, do it for God!

Wait on God

Spend some time just waiting in God's presence. Just like Jacob ask God to help you feel Him near you and to show you more of what He is like.

What other ways can you think of to draw close to God?

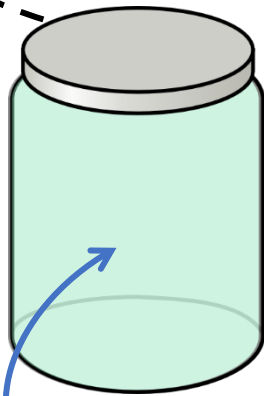


God loves a cheerful giver – helping your child bring an offering to God

Pocket money

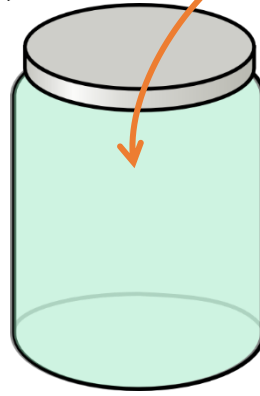
Pocket money is the first experience many children have of stewarding finance and it is the perfect opportunity to teach how we can use our money to honour God.

Using money jars is one way to help your child think about what they will do with their pocket money. Consider giving ten 10p coins instead of a pound so that the money is not in one lump but can be divided up.



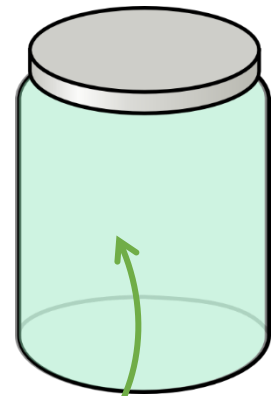
80% Spending

You don't **have** to spend it all at once of course 😊.



10% Church Offering

In the Old Testament God's people were required to give a tithe of everything they had to God. Although we are free from the laws of the Old Testament giving a regular offering is a way of acknowledging that God has provided all we have and saying thank you.



10% Saving

Setting aside savings perhaps to save for a much wanted item or to form the basis of a future bank account is a good way to develop the concept of saving and being a good steward.

Remember:

Bringing an offering is a personal act between you and God. The money being placed in the offering must be the property of your child; whilst giving them 20p out of your purse on a Sunday to place in the offering may make them feel involved it is not a heartfelt act for the child. Giving an offering must also be a personal choice, if your child chooses not to give an offering this is between them and God no matter how much you encourage them, the choice must ultimately be their own.

Promise Offerings

Children who do not receive pocket money, have forgotten their offering on a Sunday or who want to give something extra might choose to give a promise offering to God. They can write or draw an activity that they promise to do for God during the week.

1. Find a piece of paper

Any piece of paper will do but remember this is a gift to God – you can always ask for a piece of paper and a pen to use on a Sunday rather than use a scrap dug from the bottom of a bag.

2. Write or draw a promise

This could be as simple as "I promise to read my Bible this week" or something related to a behaviour – "I promise to be kind and generous to my family this week."

3. Place the promise into the offering basket

Present your promising offering just as you would a pocket money offering.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

You are all around me

in front and in back

and have put your hand on me



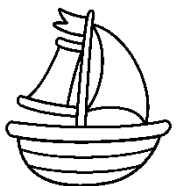
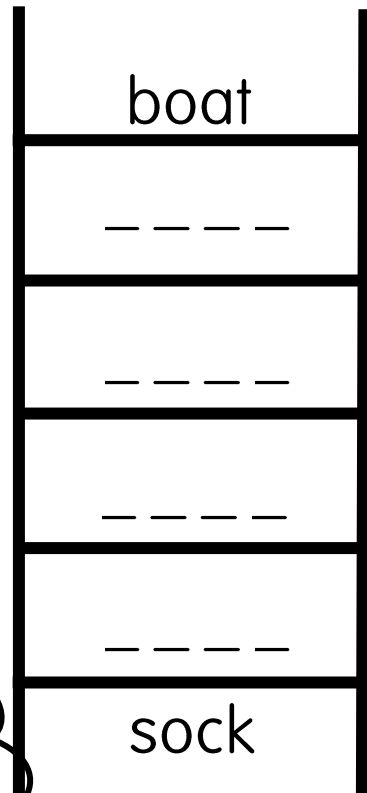
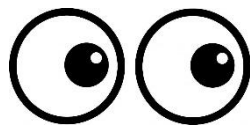
Psalm 139 v 5

PUZZLE SHEET

Complete the picture by drawing the dream that Jacob had.



Can you fill the gaps and complete the word ladder?



Join the dots in order to reveal what Jacob saw going up and down the ladder.