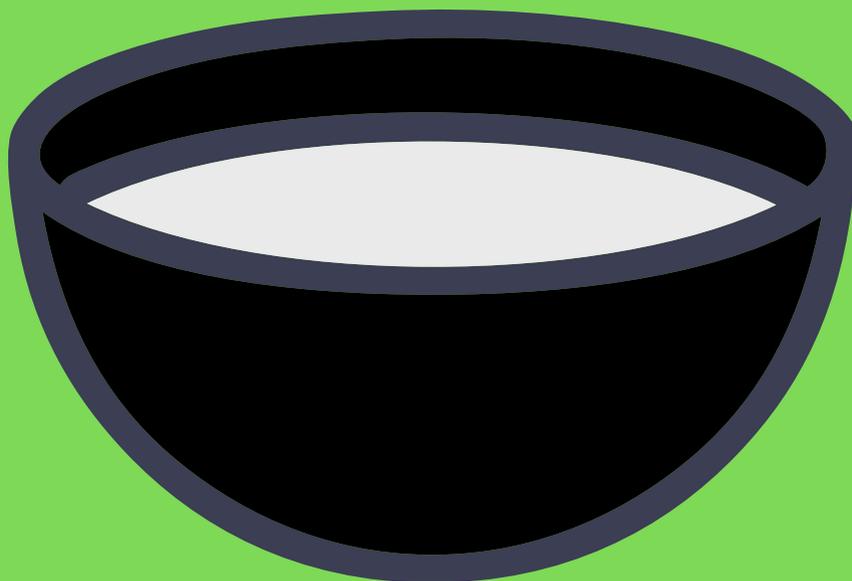


GOD'S STORY WITH PEOPLE  
**PENTATEUCH**



abram to jacob's 12 sons



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# Session 1

Abram

An introduction to the ancestor Abram

**Scripture:** Genesis 12–15

**Supplies:**

- Sandbox or felt board
- Characters: Abram, Sarai, Lot, and Pharaoh
- 2 characters as slaves/shepherds
- Sheep
- Camels
- A tent
- A river
- Trees (green twigs)
- Wooden blocks to represent a city
- A bag of sweets
- A glass of cooldrink for each child



**Welcome**

Play a choosing game with the children. (In this story Lot and Abram also have to choose.) Divide the group in two and let them choose one:

- 1 or 2            On the back of 1 is written: Put your fingers on your mouths  
                      On the back of 2 is written: Stand on one leg
- A or B            On the back of A is written: Sing a song for the other group  
                      On the back of B is written: Lie on the ground
- Lots or little    On the back of lots is written: Do 5 push ups!  
                      On the back of little is written: Do 1 push up
- Wet or dry        On the back of wet is written: Get your cooldrink first at the end of today's session  
                      On the back of dry is written: Wait for the other group before you get anything



**Worship**

**Settle down ritual:** Children lie on the ground and hold hands. Say: “Remember: God binds us together as believers and also to our ancestor Abram.” Give each other's hands a squeeze to confirm this and then get up again.



**Word**

Sandbox or felt board:

**Movement 1:**

*Place in the sand a few blocks in the back left corner representing Harran and a few blocks in the front right corner representing Canaan. Use pictures to do this on the felt board.*

In Harran Abram and his family lived with their slaves, animals, and possessions. *(Place the characters one by one beside each other in Harran)*

The Lord told Abram to leave everything and travel to a new land. He will show them where to go. He blessed Abram and said that he will be a blessing to the nations. Abram and his people then left for Canaan. *(Walk all the characters and animals over to Canaan)*

### **Movement 2:**

*(Move Harran to the front left corner – it now represents Egypt. Put the Pharaoh there too.)*

After a few years in Canaan there was a big drought and a great starvation. *(Take the sheep and the camels away)* Abram took his wife, Sarai, and their slaves and moved to Egypt. *(Walk everyone over to the front left corner)* Just outside the city Abram realized that his wife is beautiful and because he was afraid that he would be killed to get her, he said that Sarai was his sister. *(Move Abram and Sarai away from each other)*

After a time Pharaoh realized that Sarai and Abram were actually married, and he called Abram and argued with him. *(The characters talk to each other. Abram realizes that he made a mistake and was disobedient to God.)*

### **Movement 3:**

*(Prepare your two spaces: one with a river and trees and one without anything)*

After it rained a lot in Canaan, Abram moved back home. *(Let everyone now move back and bring back the sheep and camels.)* While Lot and Abram's shepherds were looking after sheep in the fields, they began to argue. *(Let the two shepherds argue with each other)* Abram and Lot realized that they would have to move away from one another. They went to the top of a hill. *(Make a hill in the sand, or use a picture for the felt board.)* They saw that the river Jordan flowed in one area. There was a lot of grass and trees but in the other area there wasn't anything. Abram was so kind that he let Lot choose first. Lot chose the green area with the river, which meant Abram had to be happy with the dry and barren land. *(Put Lot between the trees)* God was still with Abram and blessed him. He was truly blessed, despite living in a dry land.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder if Abram was scared to go to a strange place. How would you feel about moving?
2. I wonder why God was so patient with Abram.
3. I wonder if you are also disobedient like Abram sometimes.
4. I wonder if you know that God is also patient with you and forgives you.



### **Working and Playing**

- Let the children play with the sand or felt board to tell each other the story again.
- Give the children paper to draw their favourite part of the story.
- Give the children some material to play with to dress up like the Biblical characters. Let them act out different parts of the story and let them choose who will be sheep, camels, Lot, Abram, and Sarai.

### **Closing prayer to end the session:**

Leader says:

May we know where to walk

May we know what to do

May we know where to look

May we know what to say

All together:

Children answer and do:

Walk-walk-walk

Clap-clap-clap

Blink-blink-blink

Praise the Lord!

Amen.



## Session 2

Abram intercedes for others

Children learn how Abram interceded for sinners to be saved.

**Scripture:** Genesis 15–17 and 19

**Supplies:**

- Sandbox
- Characters: Abram, Lot's wife, Hagar, and a smaller puppet can be Ishmael
- Salt clay (recipe at end of session)



**Welcome**

**Play “Abram says”**

The game's purpose is to trick the children into doing the opposite of what you say. See if the children do what you say or do what you do. For example, “Abram says... bow down!” (you bow as well) “Abram says... lift your arm! (you also lift your arm) “Abram says... sit down!” (You bend but don't sit down). Everyone who just bent, is now out of the game. This game makes us think of Abram's disobedience in this story.

**S–T–O–P game**

One person stands against the wall with his back to the group. The others stand against the opposite wall in a row and look at the person in front. He calls out S–T–O–P... stop!” The children move forward as quickly as possible to get to the other wall. They may only move until the person in front says “stop”. Once the person in front has said “stop”, he looks as quickly as possible to see who is still moving. Anyone still moving is out. The person who touches the wall first, gets the next turn to call out “stop!”



**Worship**

**Settle down ritual:** Children lie on the ground and hold each other's hands. Say: “Remember, God binds us together as believers and also to our ancestor, Abram.” Give each other's hand a squeeze to confirm this and then get up again.



**Word**

**Movement 1** (God makes a covenant with Abram)

Abram began to doubt whether God would really bless him and Sarai and give them a child. The Lord knew that he had to give Abram a sign that would help him to believe. He then made a covenant with Abram. The way they made a covenant was by slaughtering a sheep or another animal and make a promise on the animal's life. (*Take a sheep and let it lie in front of Abram.*) The wonder of this covenant was that Abram never had to promise anything, only God did. To tell you the truth, Abram slept the entire time. (*Put Abram flat next to the sheep*)

**Movement 2** (Abram is disobedient and has a child with his slave) (*Here you must put up the tent and put Ishmael in the tent beforehand.*)

Although Abram had this special covenant with God, he still doubted. He and Sarai made their own plan and asked their slave to give him a child. (*Let Abram and Hagar go into the tent*) Abram had a son with Hagar and named him

Ishmael. *(Let Abram come out of the tent with Ishmael)* This was wrong in God's eyes. Abram felt bad and chased Hagar and Ishmael away into the desert. *(Now take Ishmael and Hagar and put them far away)* But the Lord still promised to be with Hagar and Ishmael. *(Put a small branch next to them to give them shade)*

**Movement 3** (God gives the circumcision as a sign of the covenant)

God also stayed with Abram. *(Put a branch next to Abram as a symbol of God's refuge)*

He realized that He had to give Abram a visible sign of the covenant that he could always see. God then told Abram that all the men had to be circumcised as a sign of the covenant. After this, baby boys were circumcised when they were 8 days old.

From then on Abram believed that God will be a God to him. God would make a nation of him and bless them.

**Movement 4** (Sodom and Gomorra's fate)

*(Build the nice area that Lot chose in the previous session)*

In Lot's area the people became worse and later they built the cities Sodom and Gomorrah. *(Take the blocks and build them next to a river and trees to represent the cities Sodom and Gomorrah. Put their names next to the blocks.)*

They became worse and worse until God just couldn't take it anymore. God told Abram that he was going to destroy the cities. Abram pleaded with the Lord not to destroy the cities and asked if he would spare them if there were 50 righteous people. God said that he would spare them if there were 50 righteous people. Then Abram pleaded for 45 people and God said that he wouldn't do anything if there were 45 righteous people. Then Abram pleaded for 40, and then 30, and later for 20 people and each time God agreed. Then Abram asked "What about 10 people?" and God said yes, he would spare the cities for 10 good people. But the cities were so bad that there weren't even 10 righteous people there. God then sent two angels to Lot to warn him. They took Lot and his family to the outside of the city and told them to run without looking back even once, otherwise they would die. Lot and his family fled. *(Lot and his wife run away quickly)* God destroyed the cities. *(Wipe the cities away with your hand)* Lot and his family kept running, but his wife stood still. *(Lot keeps running and his wife stays in one place)* Then Lot's wife did a terrible thing. She turned around and looked at the cities. *(Turn the character around)* Immediately she turned into a pillar of salt and died. *(Put the salt pillar over the character)*

The Lord was with Lot even though the place he chose wasn't a good place after all.

Children reflect on the story:

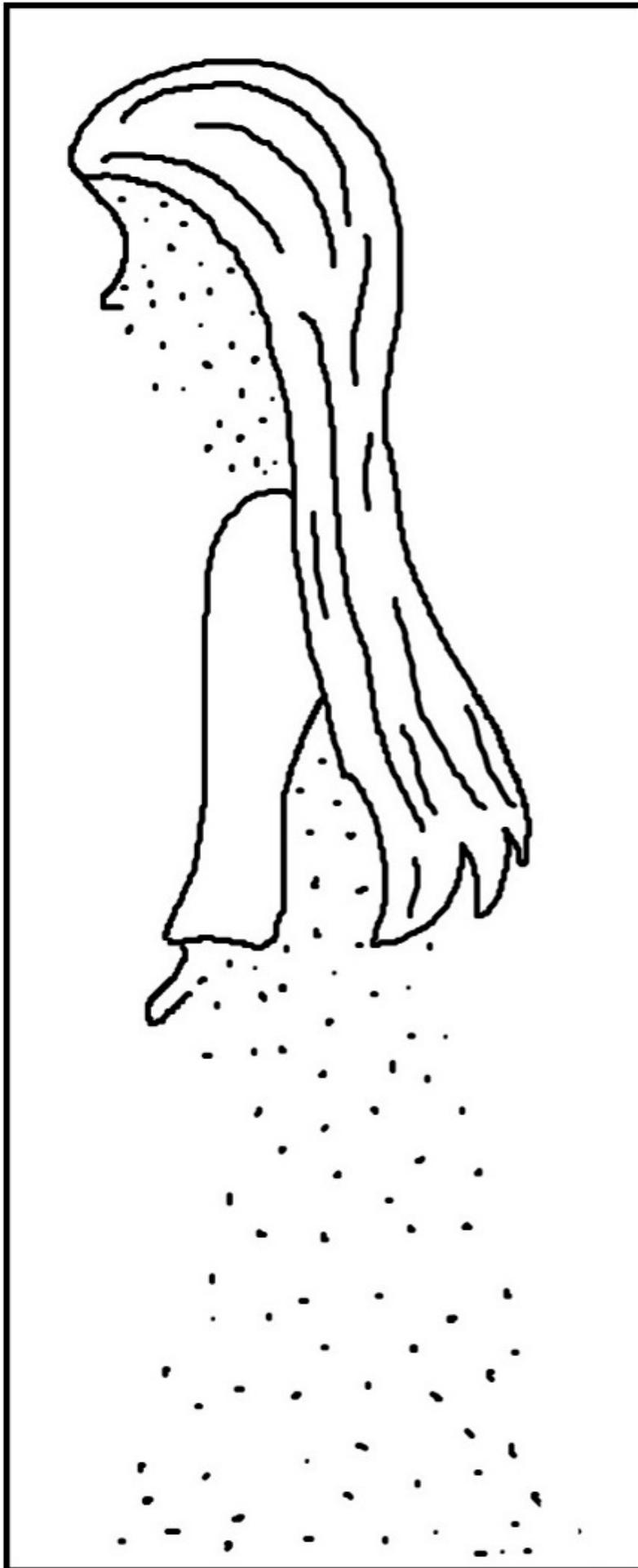
1. I wonder why Abram made his own plan to get a child.
2. I wonder if it would be nice for you to get a sign from God that He loves you.
3. I wonder which signs of love are all around us that we don't see.
4. I wonder why Lot's wife looked around.
5. I wonder why there were so few good people in the cities. Is it like that today as well?



### Working and Playing

- Copy the picture of Lot's wife onto cardboard. Let the children colour it (except where the dots are). Let them put glue on the dots and pour salt onto it.
- Colouring picture
- Make salt clay and let each child act out a part of the story:
  - 2 ½ cups cake flour
  - 1 cup salt (fine)
  - 1 cup water
  - 2 table spoons oil
  - Mix thoroughly

**Closing prayer to end the session**





## Session 3

### Abraham and the visitors

God keeps his promise to Abraham and Sarah to give them a son.

**Scripture:** Genesis 18

**Supplies:**

- Split pins
- Square paper for each child
- Popsicle stick for each child



#### Welcome

The leaders welcome the children with a handshake and a greeting: “We are so glad you’re here. You are welcome.” (Bend down a little to make eye contact with the children.)

For a bit of a treat: Arrange leaders (or older children) to wait on one side to help wash the children’s hands. You need some bowls, water, soap, towels and some hand lotion. (Later on we’ll hear how hospitable Abraham was.)

#### “Small talk”

Divide the children into two groups if you have a small group (for bigger groups, divide them into ages and halve the groups.) The one half is the “teapots”. They stand in a line with one hand on the hip (alternate the right hip and the left hip, this way there are “handles” on both sides of the line). The other group also forms a line and moves in a circle around the teapots while music plays (any music). Once the music stops, they hook in with the child closest to them. The leader then asks each new pair to discuss something, for example “What colour are your bedroom curtains?” or “What did you eat for breakfast?” Once the music starts again, the movement is repeated. Repeat it about three times with different questions.



#### Worship

**Settle down ritual:** Children lie on the ground and hold each other’s hands. The leader says: “Remember, God binds us together as his children but also to our ancestor Abraham.” Give each other’s hand a squeeze and sit up again.



#### Word

*Tell/read the story*

#### Abraham receives visitors

God said to Abraham: “I will make your descendants as many as there is sand on the earth. If someone can count the sand on earth, your descendants will be able to be counted as well. Leave your land, move away from your people and move to the land that I will show you.”

It was difficult to believe, but because God said so, Abraham believed Him.

Abraham moved away. He and his wife, and all their possessions, slaves, and animals moved to Canaan. He moved around to the big trees in Mamre and went to live there. Abraham and Sarah became old and Sarah still didn't have a child. Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 89. God came to Abraham again and said: "I am God Almighty. Live near me and be righteous! I will make a covenant with you and let many, many people be born from your family." Abraham fell to his knees.

God also said: "I will bless Sarah and give you a son."

Abraham laughed and thought: "Can a man of almost 100 and a woman of almost 90 have a child?" It was difficult to believe. God told Abraham again that Isaac, the son that Sarah would have, would be his heir. Abraham believed because it was God who told him.

While Abraham was sitting outside his tent on a very warm day, he saw 3 men standing nearby. He went to them and said, "Sirs, don't pass by here. Let me get you some water so that I can wash your feet. Come rest here under these trees. I will also give you food." They agreed.

Sarah was in the tent and Abraham asked her, "Knead some dough and let us make bread for our guests." He went back to the cows and asked his slave to prepare some meat. Abraham made sure that the men had meat, bread, butter and milk to eat and drink.

"Where is your wife?" they asked. "Here in the tent," Abraham answered. Then one of them said, "I will come back here next year and then Sarah will have a son." Sarah was eavesdropping from the tent. She laughed and thought: "We are too old to have a child." Then God asked Abraham, "Why is Sarah laughing? Is there anything too difficult for God?"

Sarah got a fright. It was difficult to believe.

The men went away and Abraham knew they were angels who came to visit him. Abraham moved away from Mamre. A year later Isaac was born.

To believe is difficult, but nothing is impossible for God.

Everything that God promised, came true. Abraham's descendants are as many as there is sand on the earth today.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder what you liked in the story.
2. I wonder how you would welcome strangers.
3. I wonder if you have ever heard something that was difficult to believe. What was it?



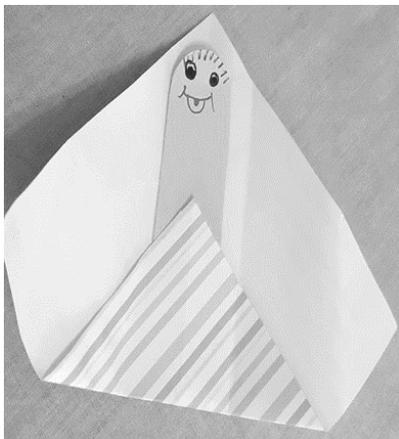
### **Working and Playing**

- Sarah's baby movable craft: The children colour the pictures. Cut out baby Isaac. Push the split pin through the page where the  is marked. Fasten baby Isaac into Sarah's arms. Now she can "rock" her baby.
- Popsicle stick baby

**Closing prayer to end the session**



Popsicle stick baby



## Session 4

Isaac and Rebekah

Children discover how Isaac and Rebekah got married.

**Scripture:** Genesis 23–24

**Supplies:**

- Flowers for the welcome
- Old clothes, material, and cheap jewellery
- 2 hand puppets
- Paper bags, old socks, buttons, beads, material, etc. to make hand puppets
- Beads and chords to make jewellery
- Clothes for Rebekah



### Welcome

Receive the children at the door with flowers (paper or real). Tell each one, “God sees you.”

**Treasure hunt:**

Hide old clothes, material, scarves, and jewellery (cheap). Give the children five minutes to find it. Put everything together. Let the children sit down. Hold up the items one by one and let them choose if it goes on the “wow” heap or on the “oh no!” heap. They can shout “wow” or show a thumbs-up, or shout “oh no!” or give a thumbs-down. Call a girl to the front, preferably one of the older girls. (Later on we’re going to use her in the role of Rebekah). She can choose from the “wow” heap of clothes and jewellery and get dressed up.



### Worship

**Settle down ritual:** Children lie on the ground and hold each other’s hands. The leader says: “Remember, God binds us together as his children and also to our ancestors Abraham and Isaac.” Give each other’s hand a squeeze to confirm this and then get up again.



### Word

Use 2 hand puppets. Two different socks with eyes (buttons or googly eyes) and wool for hair will do well, or just use whatever you have. It can be done as a puppet show as well. One puppet is the story teller (glasses made from wire or pipe cleaners would look nice). The other can be more colourful. He or she can interrupt the storyteller with questions. You can even give them names if you want to – name the storyteller Freddie and his friend Eddie.

A biblical love story

Freddie: I am Freddie. I was so curious to know what happened to Isaac. I heard you know who Isaac is.

Eddie: Oh, I know, I know! My grandpa’s name is Isaac.

Freddie: No man, Eddie! Let’s ask the children. They learned who Isaac is. Children, can you tell Eddie about the biblical Isaac?

*Let the children tell the story.*

- Eddie: Aww cute! It's such a nice story... Isaac, the wonder baby!
- Freddie: Yes, Eddie... it's like you just said. But babies grow up and I read Isaac's story in my Bible three times last night!
- Eddie: Wow, you're so clever.
- Freddie: I am so glad that God helped me to read well, because now I can tell you the rest of the story. Isaac grew up, and was a young man. His mom, Sarah, had died and after his dad, Abraham, had buried her, he was very sad and alone.
- Eddie: It would help if we gave him a dog...
- Freddie: Shhh, you're confusing me. Abraham knew that it was time for his son to get married. He called his slave and said, "Promise me that you will make sure that my son marries a good woman. Go find Isaac a woman in the land that I was born."
- Eddie: What was wrong with the girls in his land?
- Freddie: They were worshipping false gods. The slave understood that Isaac needed a good woman who loves the Lord. But how would he find the right woman?
- Eddie: The Bachelor?
- Freddie: Luckily the slave was smarter than you, Eddie! He prayed. He didn't guess or advertise, he just trusted God. He went to the land that Abraham told him about, sat down by a fountain and prayed. *Leader's name*, please read us the lovely prayer in Genesis 24:12-14.

*Leader reads the scripture*

- Freddie: The slave trusted God that the right woman would come talk to him. It went like this: While he was still praying, Rebekah arrived. She was very pretty, kind, good, friendly, helpful...
- Eddie: And does she know God?
- Freddie: Yes, her dad was related to Abraham and their whole family served the Lord. But remember, the slave didn't know her. That's why he had to ask her to give him water so that God could show him if she was the right woman.
- Eddie: And what if she was the wrong girl?
- Freddie: No man, Eddie, you're confusing us! Listen to the story. The slave asked Rebekah for water and she was so friendly that she immediately gave him water and said that she would give the camels water without him having to ask. The slave sat still and watched Rebekah carrying the water and thought about his prayer. He was so surprised that God made everything work out so well. When the camels were finished drinking, the slave got up and gave Rebekah gold rings and bracelets. He asked Rebekah who her dad is and when he heard he was related to Abraham, he... listen to this... knelt down and praised the Lord.
- Eddie: Can I say something?
- Freddie: Yes, Eddie?
- Eddie: I was wondering. Rebekah had to be on the road for a long time to meet the slave at the fountain when he got there.
- Freddie: You're right. God knows everything and nothing is too difficult for Him. And I saw a pretty girl here earlier, one who looks like Rebekah.

*Let the girl who dressed up like Rebekah come closer*

- Eddie: I see her, I see her! There she is.
- Freddie: Would you please come stand over here, then you can help us with the story? Rebekah ran home. Her brother, Laban, wanted to know where she got the golden jewellery. Laban ran to the fountain to meet the slave.
- Eddie: Did they drink Red Bull for all that running?
- Freddie: Never, Eddie! God was busy doing special things and it made them very excited.
- Eddie: I want to run as well! But that's my secret. You'll never guess where I want to run.
- Freddie: You just want to be closer to the children. I know. Rebekah was a very good girl and wanted to do what God wanted. She listened well to what the slave told her. She heard that he prayed and that

everything happened as he asked of God. Her brother said that she can choose whether she'd like to go with the slave. She said "yes".

Eddie: Oooh, will she go? Will she go??

Freddie: Eddie, you need to hear what her brother did.

Eddie: What?

Freddie: He blessed her and wished her the very best. Rebekah then left with the slave...

Eddie: ... probably on a camel's back. Up and down, up and down over the sand dune. *(Let Eddie make overdramatic movements to illustrate)*

Freddie: That's right. They travelled, and when they were nearby Isaac's house, Isaac came out to meet them. Rebekah jumped off the camel and asked, "Who is that man?" She pulled a veil over her face when she heard it was Isaac.

Eddie: A ve... what?

Freddie: A veil, it's a soft piece of material that you put over your face.

Eddie: Shame...

Freddie: No, not "shame!" It's what good girls did back then. Isaac immediately liked Rebekah. Soon after, they were married and Isaac really loved her.

Eddie: Does it say that in the Bible?

Freddie: Yes, just like that. Isaac loved her.

Eddie: So they lived happily ever after?

Freddie: Happily ever after.

Eddie: *Gives a deep and happy sigh*

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder what your favourite part of the story was.
2. I wonder what the word "love" means to you.
3. I wonder which part of the story was the strangest.



### Working and Playing

- Draw a picture of what you liked in the story.
- Make your own hand puppet (sock or paper bag).
- Make jewellery.

Closing prayer to end the session



## Session 5

### Jacob and Esau

Children learn more about the story of Jacob and Esau.

**Scripture:** Genesis 25:19–34, 27:1–42

**Supplies:**

- Items with a significant scent for the game
- Blindfolds
- Decorations for masks
- String for masks



#### Welcome

Play a smelling game: The children are blindfolded and then smell the different items. Use scents like lemon, orange, parsley, celery, cinnamon, cloves, etc. (*Isaac also differentiated between his sons with smells.*)



#### Worship

**Settle down ritual:** Children lie on the ground and hold each other's hands. The leader says: "Remember, God binds us together as his children and also to our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Squeeze each other's hand and get up again.



#### Word

**Show the children the three do-together activities:**

Every time when walking is mentioned, the children clap their hands on their legs (walk-walk-walk) and clap fast when running is mentioned.

When eating or food are mentioned, they must say "yum yum!" If shooting or hunting are mentioned, they must say "poing" and pretend to be shooting an arrow from a bow.

(*Get four broomstick operators for Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau.*)

**Story:**

Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. They couldn't have children at first. But God answered Isaac's prayers and gave them twin boys. Esau was born first. He was red and had a lot of hair on his body. His nickname, Edom, means "red". When the second baby was born, he was holding his brother's heel. They named him Jacob; it means "someone who holds the heel" or someone who is sneaky. Isaac was 60 years old when his sons were born. The two boys grew up. Esau was a good hunter (**poing**). He loved to walk around in the veld (**walk-walk-walk**). He was Isaac's favourite because Isaac loved venison (**yum yum!**). Jacob was a peaceful man; he farmed with sheep and goats and rather helped his mother in the tent. He was Rebekah's favourite.

One day while Esau was walking around in the veld (**walk-walk-walk**) to hunt (**poing**), Jacob stayed at home and made a pot of soup (**yum yum!**) When Esau came home tired and hungry, he told Jacob: "Give me some of that soup (**yum yum!**) because I am starving!"

Jacob answered, "I will give you some of the soup (**yum yum!**) but you're the eldest brother. One day you are going to inherit twice as much as I will. Give me your firstborn right that you received from being born first."

Esau said, "I'm dying of hunger anyway. It doesn't help me to be the firstborn. Give me something to eat (**yum yum!**)"

Jacob gave Esau some of the soup (**yum yum!**) and a piece of bread (**yum yum!**) Esau ate and ate (**yum yum!**) and then got up and walked away (**walk-walk-walk**) without saying a word. And that's how Esau gave away his firstborn right. It wasn't important to him.

Over the next few years Isaac became a very rich man because God was good to him. Esau married two women when he was 40 years old. They were bad women who worshipped false gods. This made Isaac and Rebekah very sad.

When Isaac became old, he was almost completely blind (*bind some material over Isaac's eyes.*) One day he called Esau and said: "I am very old and I don't know when I'll die. Take your hunting things (**poing**), your bow and arrow (**poing**), and walk (**walk-walk-walk**) to the veld and hunt (**poing**) some wild game (**yum yum!**) and cook it as I like it. I want to eat it (**yum yum!**) and then I want to bless you before I die." Rebekah heard what Isaac told Esau. She walked (**walk-walk-walk**) quickly to Jacob and told him about it. "Go kill two goats (**yum yum!**). I'll cook them like your dad likes it. Then you take it to him so he can bless you before he dies."

"Mom, your plan won't work. Esau has a lot more hair on his body than I do," Jacob said.

"Don't worry about it. Go kill the two goats (**yum yum!**)" she answered.

Rebekah made a lovely meal (**yum yum!**), just as Isaac liked it. The skins from the goats (**yum yum!**) she tied around Jacob's hands, arms, and neck and Jacob put on Esau's best clothes. (*Bind rough material to Jacob*)

Jacob walked (**walk-walk-walk**) with the food (**yum yum!**) to Isaac. "Here is the yummy food (**yum yum!**) for you, Dad!"

"Which son is talking to me?"

"It's Esau, Dad's eldest son. I did as you asked. Come, sit up and eat (**yum yum!**) the food (**yum yum!**), then you can do what you promised to do and give me a big inheritance," Jacob lied.

"But how did you get the game so quickly?"

Then Jacob lied again, "God helped me!"

"Come a bit closer so I can feel if it really is Esau."

Jacob came closer and Isaac felt the hair from the goat's skin.

"I don't understand it. You sound just like Jacob, but your arms are as hairy as Esau's!"

Isaac was entirely confused at this point. "Are you really Esau?"

"Of course, Dad!"

"Then give me the food (**yum yum!**) and I will bless you."

Jacob gave Isaac the food (**yum yum!**) and wine. He enjoyed the meal (**yum yum!**)

"Esau, come closer and kiss me!"

Jacob did so. Isaac smelled Esau's clothes and said, "My son, you still smell like the veld!"

Isaac then blessed Jacob.

Jacob was barely out of the tent when Esau came walking along (**walk-walk-walk**). He had also prepared a delicious meal (**yum yum!**)

"Dad, here is the venison (**yum yum!**) that I promised you. Sit up and eat it (**yum yum!**) so that you can bless me."

"But to whom am I speaking now?" Isaac asked, surprised.

"To me, Dad, Esau!"

"But who just came in here and brought me food (**yum yum!**)? I ate it and blessed him and the blessing will stay with him!"

When Esau heard this, he screamed and began to cry.

"Dad, it can't be! Please bless me as well!"

"Your brother has already gotten your blessing through trickery. I cannot break my word."

"Jacob was smart from the start. First he blackmailed me into getting my inheritance. Now he's tricked you into giving him everything. Can you bless me as well?" Esau begged.

Isaac told Esau that he would live on a barren piece of land and that he will be at war and be subject to his brother. Esau was furious. "Just wait until you have died, Dad, then I will kill Jacob!"

Rebekah realized what Esau was planning. She helped Jacob to flee (**walk-walk-walk**). The best place for him to go, was to her brother Laban in Harran. It was far enough that Esau couldn't find him there.

Both sons made Isaac very sad. Will there ever be peace in their family that God made so many promises to? Next week we're going to tell the next part of the story, because we know that God doesn't give up. He wouldn't make promises to their grandpa, Abraham, and then forget them.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how the story made you feel.
2. I wonder which part was the most important to you.
3. I wonder if you think there will be peace between Jacob and Esau.
4. I wonder how Esau felt when he realized that Jacob had lied to him.

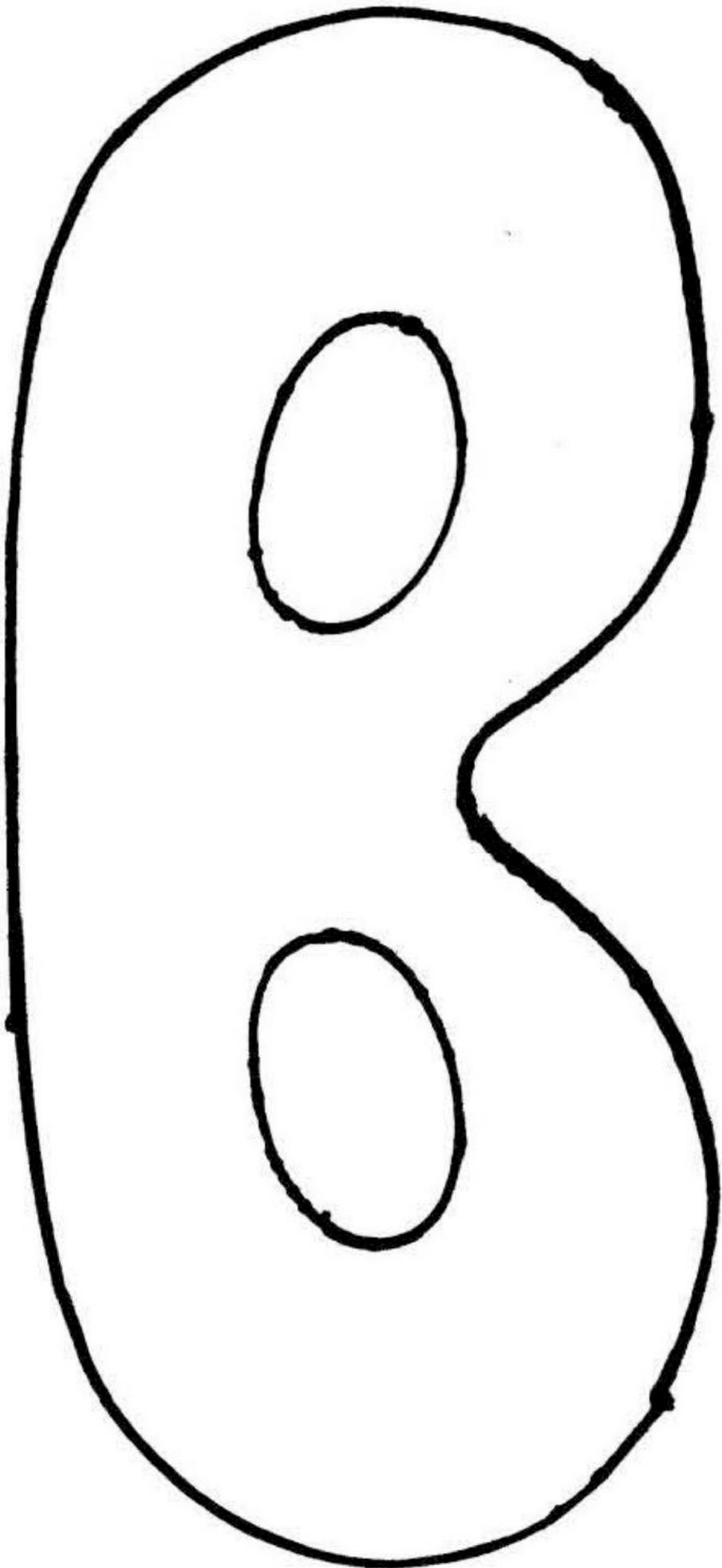


### Working and Playing

- **Disguise game.** Give the children some material, toilet paper, old clothes and blankets to make each other unrecognizable. They can even have a competition to see who make the best disguise. For big groups, divide into smaller groups.
- **Something to take home.** Ask your parents the meaning of your name. Ask them why they gave you that name.

Closing prayer to end the session





## Session 6

Jacob's 12 sons: Dreams and tricks  
Children learn more of Jacob's story.

**Scripture:** Genesis 28:11–29:30

**Supplies:**

- Salty cooldrink/bitter, cold coffee
- Sandbox and toilet roll figures to tell the story
- Popsicle sticks
- Copies of the handouts
- A thin piece of cloth (veil) and a bit of olive oil
- Smooth rocks



### Welcome

A game based on “Cat and Mouse”. The group makes a circle and hold hands. Inside the circle there is one child, we'll call her Rachel. Outside the circle there is a boy we'll call Jacob. Jacob should try to get inside the circle to catch Rachel, but the circle is Rachel's family that try to protect her by closing the gaps when Jacob comes close. To make the game more interesting, you can add another child who tries to catch Jacob. We'll call her Leah.

If the weather and the venue allows it, take the group outside and give them a chance to lie on the ground and look at the sky. Let's daydream a little and chat about the things we've dreamt about.



### Worship

**Settle down ritual:** Children lie on the ground and hold each other's hands. The leader says: “Remember, God binds us together as his children and also to our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Squeeze each other's hand and get up again.



### Word

Make cold coffee or salty cooldrink beforehand. Tell the group that you have some delicious cooldrink for someone who wants to taste it. Let them taste it. Now ask the group if they've ever tricked someone. Have they ever been tricked by someone? Sometimes when someone tricks us, it can be very funny but other times someone could get hurt. Remember when Jacob tricked his dad? Esau was so mad that he wanted to kill Jacob. His dad was very sad. Jacob had to flee to his uncle Laban, who lived in Harran.

**Sandbox**

You'll need: Jacob, Laban, Rachel and Leah, a ladder made from popsicle sticks with angels and a cloud on top, a rock, sheep, a veil, and oil (olive oil).

En route to Harran Jacob found a place where he could sleep. He used a rock for a pillow. He dreamt. In his dream there was a ladder that went from earth right into heaven. Angels walked up and down the ladder. God came to

Jacob and told him, “I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather, Abraham and your father, Isaac. I will give the ground on which you lie to your children. Your family will be very big. They will be as many as the dust on the earth. Through your family the whole world will get to know me. I am with you. I protect you wherever you go. *(While reading this, put your hand over Jacob as a sign of a blessing.)* I will bring you back to this land. I won’t let you down. I will do what I have promised.”

Jacob woke with a fright and said, “It’s true! God is here and I never realized!” Jacob was blown away. He said, “This is a special place, it is the house of God. Here I saw the heavenly door open.”

That morning Jacob put the rock he used as a pillow upright. He poured a little oil onto the stone because it was a special reminder of God’s presence. He named the place Bethel. It means “house of God”. *(Put a rock upright and pour some olive oil over it.)*

Jacob finally arrived at his uncle Laban’s house and began working for him. After a month Laban told him, “You have been working here for a month. How can I pay you for the work you have done?” *(Whisper secretively)* Laban had two daughters. The eldest’s name was Leah. She wasn’t very pretty but she had beautiful eyes. *(Leah’s face only has eyes and a veil.)* The youngest daughter was Rachel, and she was beautiful. Jacob fell in love with her immediately. *(Stick a red heart on Jacob’s chest.)* He told Laban, “I will work for you for 7 years if I can marry Rachel.” Laban answered, “This is a good idea.” *(Take Rachel and Leah away.)*

The 7 years felt like a few days to Jacob because he really loved Rachel. When the 7 years were over, he told Laban, “The 7 years are over, I want to marry Rachel now.”

Laban planned a big wedding. *(Place 4 popsicle sticks in a square and put white or gold material on top. Put Leah and Jacob in front of the tent. Leah now has a veil over her head.)*

When the wedding was over, Jacob realized with a shock that he had married Leah and not Rachel. Laban had tricked him! Jacob was furious and went to Laban. “Why did you trick me? I worked 7 years to marry Rachel.” Laban answered, “You don’t understand our ways. Here our youngest daughters can’t get married before the eldest. Wait a week, then you can marry Rachel as well. But then you must work for me for another 7 years.” After the week was over, Jacob married Rachel.

Jacob had 12 sons and 1 daughter. God kept his promise that Jacob would have many children.

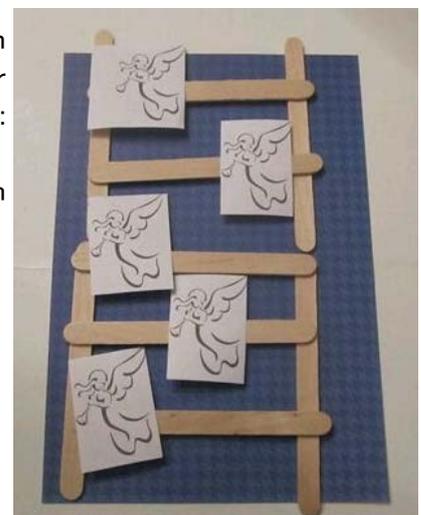
Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder what was important to you in the story.
2. I wonder if you can think of a time and a place that has a special reminder of God for you.
3. I wonder how Jacob felt when he was betrayed (as he betrayed his brother).



### Working and Playing

- Use the popsicle sticks and pictures of angels to make the ladder from Jacob’s dream. Write God’s promise to Jacob on the sticks. Older children can find the scripture in the Bible and write it down as well: Genesis 28:15.
- Take a rock and write God’s promise on it. It’s something you can take home.



**Closing prayer to end the session**

