

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 5
Jacob's Ladder (Genesis 28:11-22)

Theme: The Lord's Covenant with Man

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord and His angels are constantly caring for us and leading us toward heaven.
- B. The Lord spoke to Jacob in a special dream, but He speaks to us in His Word.
- C. We can think of the ladder as the Word, descending angels as truths from the Lord, and ascending angels as our thoughts going up to Him.
- D. We shouldn't be so distracted or worried by our daily activities that we don't have time to think about the Lord and hear His Word.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

There was once a man named Jacob. He had a twin brother named Esau, but the two brothers did not look alike and did not act alike. They were very different from each other, and they did not get along very well. So Jacob's parents sent him away for a while to relatives who lived in Haran. Jacob must have been sad to leave his home and family. But on his way to stay with relatives, Jacob stopped one night to sleep on the ground. And the Lord gave him a special dream to comfort him.

B. Tell/Read the Story

Retell the story: Genesis 28:11-22 (see attached retelling)

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Why did Jacob leave his home? (He didn't get along with his brother, Esau.)
- 2. One night, Jacob had a wonderful dream. What did he see in his dream? (A ladder which reached to heaven)
- 3. Who was at the top of the ladder? (The Lord)
- 4. Who were going up and down the ladder? (The angels)
- 5. What did Jacob use as a pillow? (A stone)
- 6. Did the Lord talk to Jacob in the dream? (Yes)
- 7. What did the Lord promise Jacob? (That He would be with Jacob, protecting him and helping him)
- 8. When Jacob woke up, he realized that he was in a special place. What did he do with the stone he had used as a pillow? (He set up the stone to be a marker for this special place, and he poured oil on the stone.)
- 9. What did Jacob promise the Lord? (That he would worship the Lord and follow Him)

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D. Further Ideas

1. Jacob's wonderful dream helped him realize that the Lord was very near, watching over him and helping him. The Lord is near us, isn't He? He is with us day and night.
2. The Lord spoke to Jacob in the dream. The Lord speaks to us, too. He speaks to us in His Word. When someone reads you the Lord's Word, the Lord is talking to you. And when you are older, you will be able to read the Word by yourself.
3. Jacob promised to worship the Lord and follow Him when the Lord talked to Jacob in the dream, promising to help him. Did you know that the Lord makes a promise to each of us? He promises to help us be safe and happy if we look to the Lord and try to do what is right.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Father In heaven," *Hymnal* #152
2. "All that the Lord has spoken," *Hymnal* #245

B. Activities

C. Project

1. Materials needed for each child:
 - a. Precut ladder from poster board
 - b. Precut angel from poster board
 - c. Precut robe for angel from felt or other heavy fabric
 - d. Yarn for angel's hair
 - e. Scraps of lace or other trim

2. Procedure:

Children make a face for the angel and glue on the angel's robe. Use yarn to make hair for the angel. Lace, ribbon, or other trim may decorate the angel's robe. Have the children make rungs on the ladder with a marker. When they are finished, they each have a ladder and an angel to go up and down it.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of Jacob's ladder.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Volume I, Genesis 28.

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A Retelling of Genesis 28: 11-22

Jacob's Ladder

Jacob came to a place and stayed there all night because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

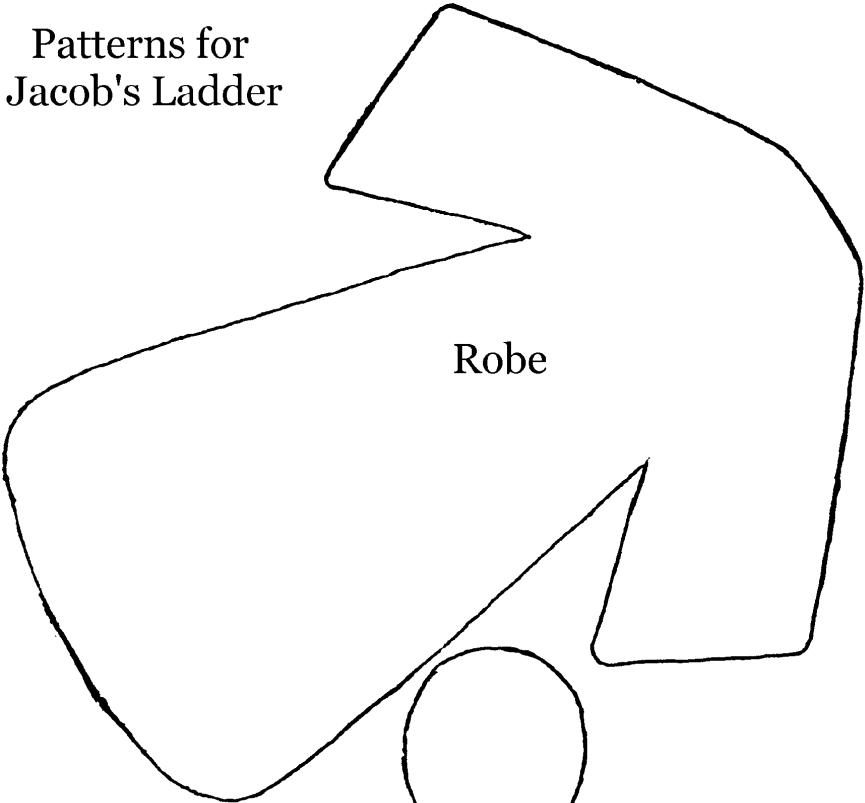
Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and angels were going up and down on it.

And behold, the Lord stood at the top of the ladder and said: "I am the Lord God. I am with you and will stay with you wherever you go."

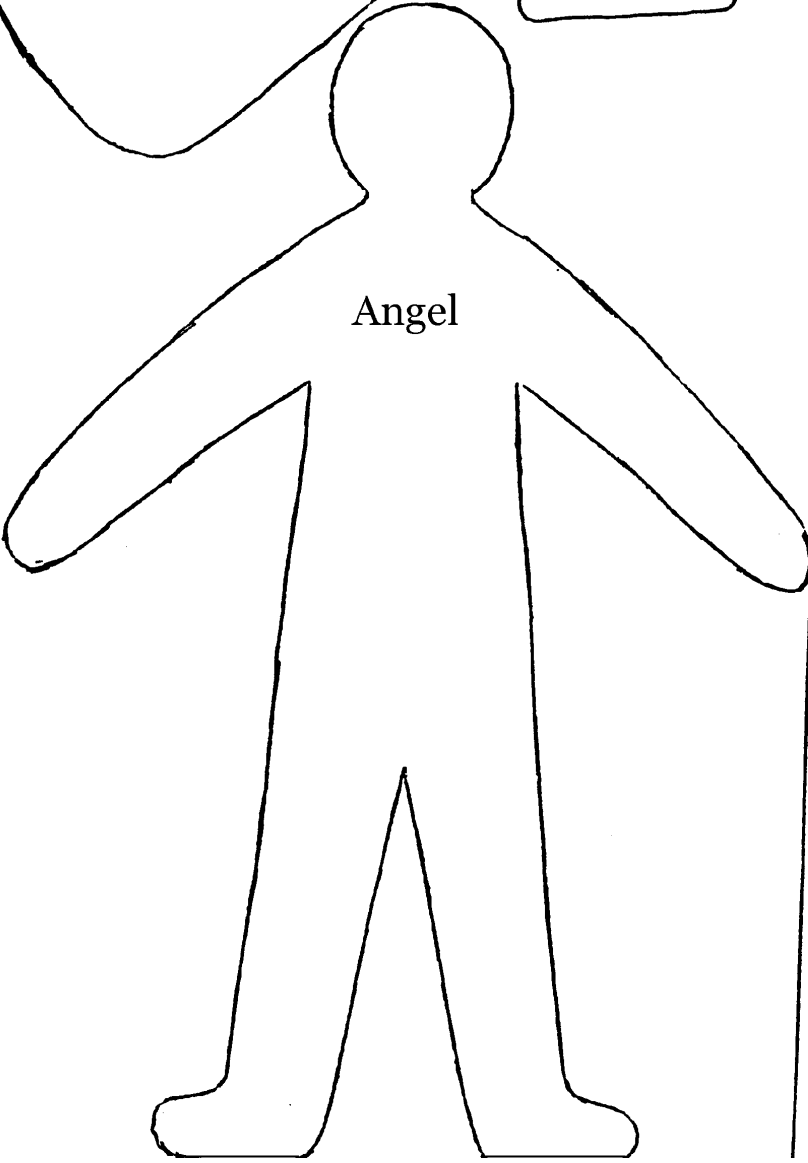
Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." Then Jacob rose early in the morning and took the stone that he had used as a pillow, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. [Jacob did that to show that this was a special place.]

Then Jacob made a promise. "If the Lord will be with me and take care of me, then the Lord shall be my God."

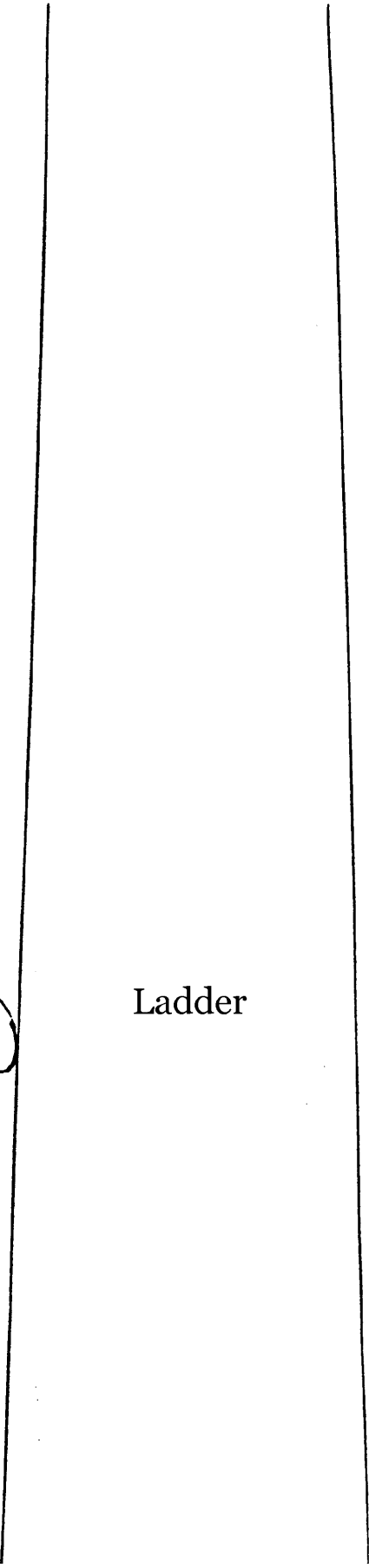
Patterns for
Jacob's Ladder



Robe



Angel



Ladder