

ABRAHAM

Jacob's Ladder

Series Objective: Students will understand the place of Abraham and his family in the larger context of the story of God.

Series Theme Verse: “Know that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God. He will keep His covenant of love for a thousand generations to those who love Him and obey His commandments.” Deuteronomy 7:9

Lesson Objective:

- Students will understand the story of Jacob's ladder.
- Students will understand that we must make a choice to follow God.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 28:10-22

Materials Needed: string/yarn, video of Jacob's Ladder:
http://www.momsminivan.com/how_to_do_jacobs_ladder.html

Lesson Plan:

Bridging the gap between lessons:

Summarize Genesis 24-27 briefly: Abraham's son Isaac marries Rebekah who came from the same country and relatives as Abraham. Isaac has 2 sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob tricks Isaac into giving him the blessing that belonged to Esau. Esau vows to kill Jacob. So Jacob's parents sent him on a trip to see his relatives in Haran. They wanted him to find a wife there who would worship the true God. (The girls in their area, Canaan, worshiped idols.) On the first night of the journey Jacob slept out in the open. He used a stone for his pillow. After all of the bad things that Jacob did, he was about to learn some good lessons from the Lord.”

The Story: Read Genesis 28:10-22, then retell the story in your own words.

Talking Points:

- **Why was Jacob to go to Haran?** *To find a wife among the family – not a Canaanite, and Rebekah wanted her brother, Laban, to protect him from Esau.*
- **Where did he sleep?** *Outside with a rock for a pillow.*
- **Describe Jacob's dream.** *There was a stairway up to heaven and angels were going up and down on it.*
- **Who was at the top of the stair?** *God*
- **What promises did God make to Jacob?**
 - That He would give Jacob the land that he was sleeping on.
 - That his children would be like the dust of the earth in number.
 - That his family would be a blessing everyone in the whole earth.
 - He would watch over Jacob and not leave him.

- **Do you think that Jacob was surprised to find that God loved him after what he had done to his brother?** *Yes. He probably thought that God was angry with him.*
- **What does this tell you about God?** *He keeps his promises. He is quick to forgive us even when we have sinned.*
- **What did Jacob say when he woke up?** *God must be in this place. This is the gate of heaven.*
- **What did Jacob do in the morning?** *He made a pillar of the rock he had slept on, anointed it with oil, and called it Bethel*
- **What did Jacob promise God?** *That if He took care of him and brought him home safely again, that he would make Him his God, that the stone would be God's house, and he would give him one tenth of everything he had.*
- **What does this tell you about Jacob's faith?** *He hadn't yet made a decision to follow the Lord before – even though his father, mother and grandparents loved the Lord.*
- **Do you think that Jacob will be as tricky as he was after this? Or do you think that this encounter with God will change him?** *He'll be changed. When we meet God, He changes us.*

The Story Retold:

- Recreating Jacob's Ladder
 - Give each student a long piece of yarn.
 - Have them tie the two ends together making a loop.
 - Either use the instructions and pictures below, or the video at www.momsminivan.com/how_to_do_jacobs_ladder.html to help students manipulate the yarn to create what is known as "Jacob's Ladder."
 - After they are finished, students that even when things seem weird, God's plan is still the best plan. Who knew such an intricate pattern could be formed with just a loop of yarn and some random twisting and crossing of the fingers? In the same way, who knew that something as odd as the story of Jacob's Ladder in Scripture would lead to a man following God and becoming one of the founding fathers of Israel's faith? Later on in Scripture, people will refer to "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

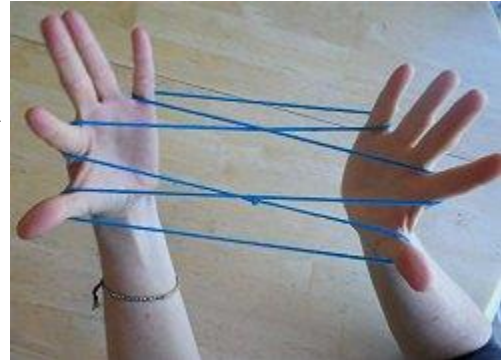
The Story and Me:

- Using a bean bag, play hot potato while reciting the verse as a group.
- Each person that is tossed the "potato" will have to say the next word in the memory verse. If someone needs help, it is okay, let the group help them the first couple rounds.
- After that, help is gone if a word is forgot and they are out of the game for that round.

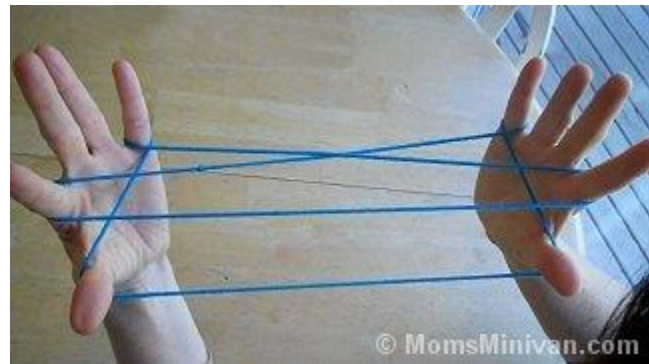
Instructions for Jacob's Ladder:

Begin with a string the right length. Wrap it from your thumb around your elbow two to three times to determine the length. Then tie it into a circle and trim off the ends.

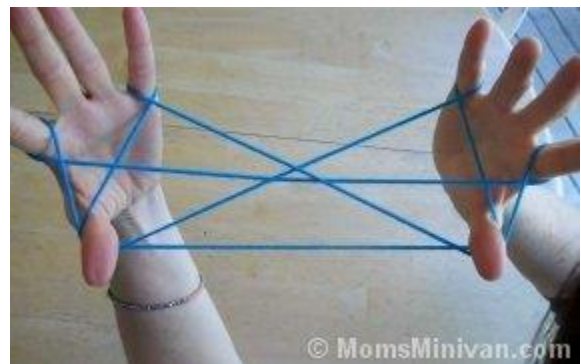
1) Start with the string across both of your palms in the open position. Use your pointer finger to pick up the string from each of your palms. This position is called, "open A". It should look like this.



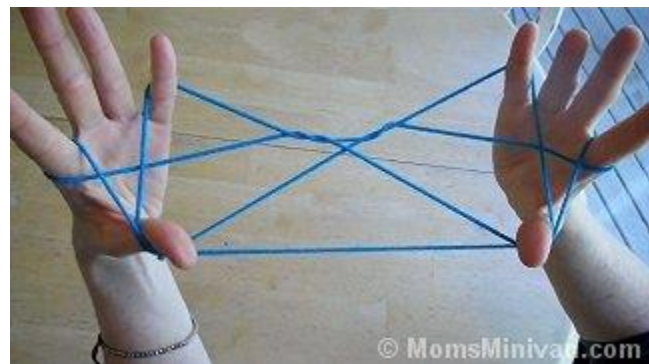
2) Drop the thumb strings. Reach under with your thumbs and pick up the last string with the thumbs.



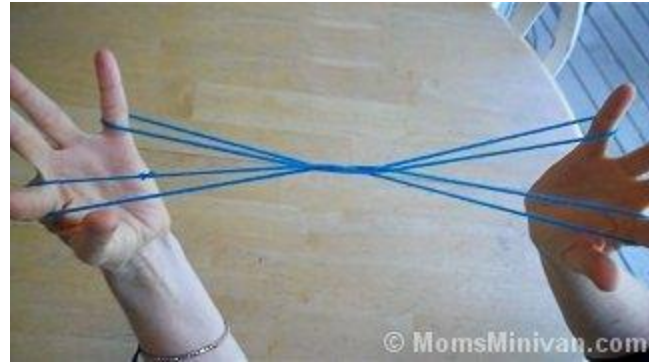
3) With both your thumbs, reach over the first string and pick up the second string.



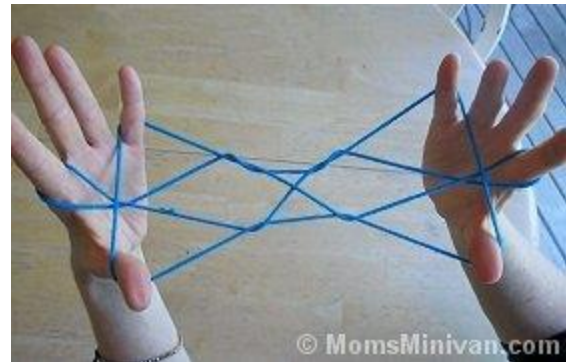
4) Drop the pinky finger strings. With your pinky finger, reach over the last string and pick up the next string.



5) Drop the thumb strings. This is called cat's whiskers!



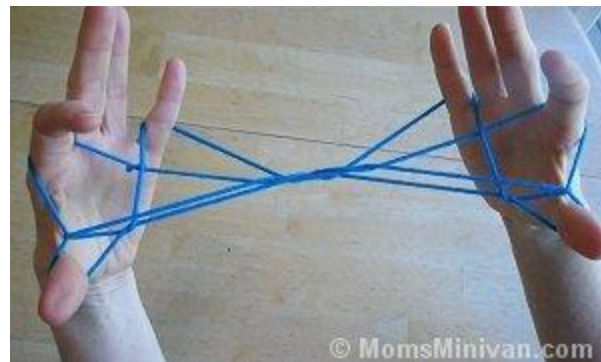
6) With the thumbs, go over the first two strings and pick up the third strings.



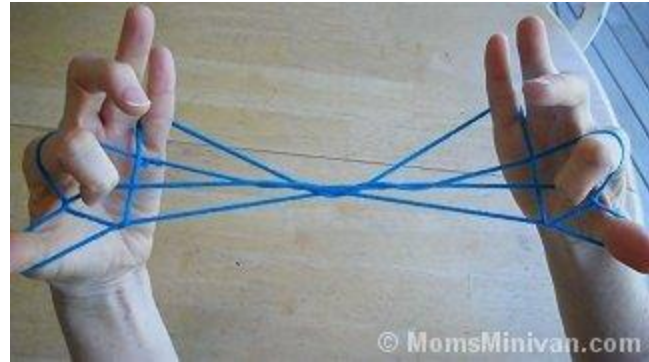
7) This next part is tricky. Be sure to look at the video where I demonstrate this very slowly. Using your right hand, lift the string from the outside of the left hand's pointer finger and place it over the left thumb. There are now two strings on your left thumb. Then lift the string on the bottom of the left thumb over your left thumb. You should now have one string on your thumb again.



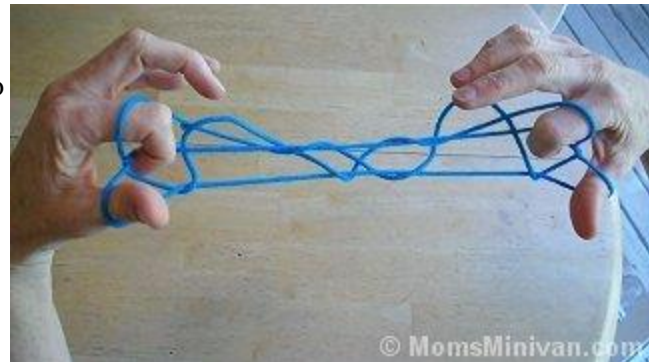
8) Now repeat the last step on your other hand. (Use your left hand to place the string from the outside of your right hand's pointer finger over your right thumb. There are now two strings on your right thumb. Then lift the string on the bottom of the right thumb over the right thumb. You should now have one string on your right thumb again.)



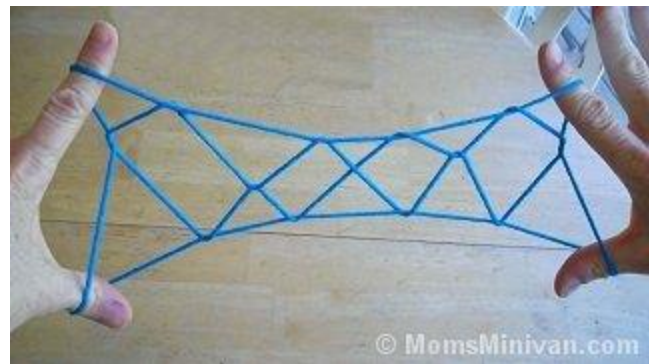
9) Looking down into the design, stick your pointer fingers into the triangle hole that is next to your thumb (see video!). Turn your hands down and out away from your face, while you carefully drop the pinky finger strings.



The strings on the back of your pointer fingers will slide off, and your pointer fingers will pick up one of the triangle strings as you do this. Be careful NOT to drop the thumb strings while you do this. Watch the video carefully for this step. It's the hardest part!



You should now have made Jacob's Ladder!



To undo Jacob's Ladder without getting your string all tangled, place the whole string design on the table, and pull the two center strings from the top and bottom. This should undo it without it getting into knots.

