



**The God Who Gives
New Names
For groups meeting
Nov 8- 14, 2015**

Start with FREE PLAY [15 Minutes]

Provide small manipulatives or board games if not outdoors

*Use **PROPS** in Treasure Chest to introduce each session of **the 5 W's**:*

Using props helps kids engage and get into a weekly routine of knowing what comes next. Once a weekly routine is established, kids will know what to expect and therefore learn what is expected of them. Store props in treasure chest.

WELCOME [5 Minutes]

Take wood box with questions from treasure chest. Pick & discuss 1 card per week

WORSHIP [5 Minutes]

Choose 2 Songs from Kidz 'n Groups CD provided. Play and sing.

YouTube links to motions are provided on CD cover if desired. Kids love motions!

Pray to WIN [5 Minutes]

Take the cross from the treasure chest. Read what is on the cross to remind kids that we should pray every day. Place nearby. (Step 1 is necessary if not previously done) **Step 1:** Say "We are going to pray and ask God to help us think of one person we know, who doesn't know Jesus." Then pray. Pass out the 'I PRAY' cards. Have kids write the name of the person that God brought to their mind. Have the group pray for Jesus to win the heart of each person by believing the gospel. Review what the gospel is if needed. Prayer time can be done as a group or by one person praying for all. **Step 2:** Pass cards with names (or a drawing of the person) out each week and pray for the people on the cards. Occasionally ask kids for updates on the person they are praying for. Collect the cards and store in envelope for future weeks.

Treasure the WORD [10 Minutes]

Show kids the Bible and Key. Read the sentence on front of the Treasure Chest. Encourage kids to read their Bible everyday. Teach young children weekly how to find the book, chapter and verse.

Materials Needed in Advance: Baby Names book or Website with the meaning of names listed.

Review: In past weeks, we've been discussing the promise God made to Abraham. God would give Abraham a large family, land and a blessing. The blessing would come from an heir of Abraham, and be from his family line or genealogy. (You could show a family tree to help the kids understand) We learned last week that Jacob, the son of Isaac stole Esau's (his older twin brother) blessing and left his home in fear for his life because Esau was very angry. Today's Bible story starts with Jacob heading back home with his large family and a wrestling match in the wilderness with an unusual "man."

Starter Question: Has anyone here ever wrestled with someone? Who won? [Allow 1 or 2 min. for answers]

Treasure the **WORD** [10 Minutes] - continued

Read: Genesis 32: 24-27

Discuss: Jacob wrestled with an unusual “man” who would change Jacob’s life forever. Later on in the Bible, we are told that this man is God Himself (32:30). God wanted to use Jacob to do great things for him, but He would have to change Jacob’s heart toward God and man first.

Question 1: Why do you think Jacob had to change? [Allow answers]. The meaning of Jacob’s name gives us a hint. Jacob’s name means “cheater.”

Activity: Ask kids if they know what their name means. If they already know, allow them to share. For those that don’t know, locate their names in a baby name book or website and look up the meaning.

Read: Genesis 32: 28-32

Question 2: We just heard the new name God gave to Jacob. What was His new name? [Israel]

Question 3: Can you tell me what his new name, Israel means? [Allow for answers]
Re-read Genesis 32:28. *“Then he said, Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.”*

Finding the treasure in God’s Word: For years, Jacob lied to the people closest to him to get what he wanted. Jacob did what he thought was right in his own eyes. Do you think he cared about what God thought? After Jacob wrestled with God, which the Bible tells us was also a man, that guy injured his hip. But the God-man also blessed him. Do you think Jacob’s new name Israel, along with his limp would be a constant reminder of his unusual encounter with God? [Allow for brief answers] Me too! Jacob’s new name Israel means that he will prevail (or win) with men because he will now do things God’s way instead of his own way. God changed Jacob’s name to Israel, the name of God’s covenant people.

WORKS Challenge [10 Minutes]

Kids will use Kindness Coins and choose to accept or decline the challenge each week to ‘work for Jesus’ by passing on what they have learned. Be stingy with the coins. Only give a kid a coin if he or she agrees to accept and follow through with the challenge. Start each week by asking the kids that took the challenge the week before to tell about what they did and who they gave the coin to. A challenge must be completed and a coin given to the recipient before a new challenge is accepted.

Challenge: Ask a friend or family member the following question.... *“ Does your name have a special meaning? If they say yes, ask them to tell you what it means ”* Then give that person the coin. Tell them they can pass it on, but only if they want to.

End with FREE PLAY

***Lesson Coloring pages:** found at www.enewlife.com/ministries/small-groups/resources
Recommended DVD’s: Superbook or What’s in the Bible or Outdoor Play