



The

Life in a Nutshell

Video Based Program

4. What can I learn from Jacob's life?

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Directed by the Holy Spirit

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What is this?

This is a tool to train children and adults in Christian spiritual- and life values.

Why would you want to train a child?

If you have experience in evangelism and discipleship, you probably would have noticed that it's easier to reach adults who have a background in Christianity. They also grow faster in their relationship with Christ.

Therefore this program you're about to experience is ideal for providing children, and even adults, with the much needed foundational knowledge of the Bible and its application in their lives.

In John 8:31-32 Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." He said in Mathew 19:14: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

It is generally accepted that children become accountable to God at the age of around twelve. Until that age they are absorbing information and foundations are laid, which will be set for life.

We believe, however, that it goes beyond this age. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it."

What do we offer you?

We tend to focus on children, but in reality anybody from ages six to one hundred can benefit from this program.

We teach Biblical values and principles the fun way in order to make Christ your anchor. This program teaches viewers about the history and lives of the Biblical characters the Lord used to accomplish His purposes. It then draws it through to spiritual principles and life values the viewer can learn from these lives. The Lord's character and nature is also revealed in the process.

Once the participants have learnt to find peace and acceptance with Jesus, they will not search for it with friends. Teaching children from

young to live their lives according to Biblical principles and values will prevent peer-pressure related anti-social behaviour and therefore crime.

The outcome of an active relationship with Jesus Christ is care, love, peace, respect, and discipline. We aim to help participants lay this foundation in their respective lives.

This leads to more productivity and less crime.

Medium

As parents we all know that children these days have the so-called 'square eye syndrome' thanks to the electronic media. In fact most people actually have this. We felt the Lord guided us to use this phenomenon to the benefit of teaching. We therefore have a range of videos compiled in the accompanying DVD. Along with the videos it is essential for the facilitator to be guided by the accompanying questions to build these outcomes, principles and values into the lives of viewers, whether they're adults or children. The entire presentation takes around 15-30 minutes.

This can be used as part of the program at your youth group or Sunday School/Children's Church, during an outreach, or a children's seminar.

You can have outreaches to:

- Schools
- Youth groups
- Play schools
- Children charities
- Children's conferences
- Camps
- Holiday programs

Training

You don't need specialist knowledge to present these videos. Later in this document you'll find a brief training, which is the same as the one in the last chapter of the DVD, which includes the sample presentation video.

Life in a Nutshell Facilitator Training Notes

Good day to you. Welcome to Life in a Nutshell Training. By the time you have read through this brief training, you will know enough to facilitate learning.

You will be motivated to help many children find a fulfilling relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. In this package you'll find the videos, guiding questionnaires, and guidance to lead someone to the Lord. These can be used to give children (as well as deaf, blind, and illiterate adults) a good basic knowledge of the Word of God. Their faith will grow and they will know how to walk with the Lord, rather than to be religious.

The Role of the Facilitator.

This is a brief foundational training for you as a facilitator. The role of a facilitator is to facilitate learning with the audience. You are however more than a facilitator. You are also a Bible teacher under guidance of the Holy Spirit. You don't need a Bible School background, but do need a personal relationship and walk with the Lord.

A good knowledge of the Bible passages you're presenting is essential. These can be found on the questionnaire:



1. Creation Questions:
Genesis 1 and 2, John 14:21 and 23

These questions are designed to guide the presenter ministering to the children after the video was presented.

You need to prepare thoroughly by reading the relevant chapters. This, together with the questionnaire, will provide the necessary background

for the session you're about to present.

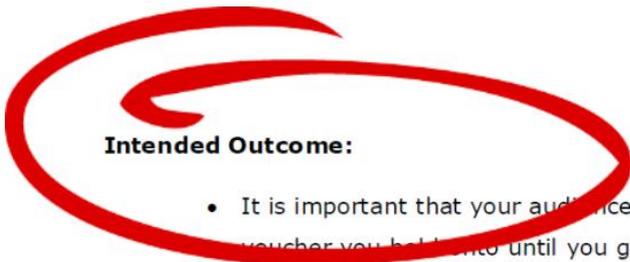
For each session you'll find the video on the accompanying DVD. Please present the videos in sequence, since they follow a particular learning pattern. In this document you'll find the questions which are on photocopiable pages that can serve as masters to be copied. They are designed to stimulate your mind and imagination and create opportunity for ministering to the audience however the Holy Spirit guides you. Please refrain from getting sidetracked and revert to preaching. Try and stick to the questions to maintain interaction with the audience.

If you want to accomplish the aim of this project, it will be wonderful if you keep the following in mind:

These videos are NOT just Bible stories.

Each video represents deep spiritual truths with practical applications, for example: *"People also don't rule over the earth anymore, because Satan, who cheated Adam, rules now. Many years later Jesus, the Son of God, would be born as a man. He would rule over Satan on behalf of those who believe and do what Adam should have done – put Satan in his place! Jesus was called the second Adam, and those who believe in Jesus can have the same power Jesus has, if they obey Him"* (Transcribed from video 3 - *Sin's Effects*).

The aim is to equip children from a young age with truth. This will enhance both their faith and relationship with their Lord. Please ensure you familiarise yourself with the truth and the outcome we intend to impart. Keep these in mind during the presentation, rather than just telling a story. Also keep the aim of this program in mind. This information can be found on the documents containing the questionnaires.



Intended Outcome:

- It is important that your audience understand that faith is the voucher you hold onto until you get what the Lord wants for you.
- Life is not about what you want, but about what the Lord wants for you; for the sake of His Kingdom. This we receive through faith.
- 1 Corinthians 13:13: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." God's **love**; the ultimate solution to any challenge you face, is the object you aim to have. It's always there, but you need to make it your own. You **hope** (have a glad expectation) to possess and live out (exercise) this object (God's love). **Faith** is the substance and evidence (the voucher or proof) that you have it, until you feel part of it through a relationship with Him.

Please do not skip any questions.

The questions are a purposeful repetition of the most important facts mentioned in the video. This has the following benefits:

1. You can determine whether the children have listened.
2. You can see whether they have understood the message.
3. The repetition reinforces the message.
4. It helps those, who missed something the first time, to get it.
5. The re-emphasis imprints the truth in their hearts.
6. The questions inspire you to share additional thoughts.

In preparation familiarise yourself with the questions by reading through them a few times, thinking them over. This will allow for them to be familiar to you during the presentation.

The idea is NOT to read the questions to the audience. The questions are written to the facilitator in an adult manner. You as facilitator ought to

ask the questions in your own words on the level of the age group you're serving.

This is why you ought to familiarise yourself with them during preparation so you could find the question on your sheet at a glance. We always work with the questionnaire in hand so we don't forget questions.

Feel free to adapt the wording of the questions to the age and ability of the group.

Pray beforehand.

These videos were initiated by the Holy Spirit. Every word and picture was obtained under His direction. Because He has initiated this program, working with Him will be the wise thing to do. Therefore, without prayerful preparation along with the Holy Spirit, it will just be a religious exercise.

Pray it through before the time and if possible, have intercessors pray during the presentation. Children are not just to be babysat. They are the next generation believers and if their foundation is sound, the future church will be healthy.

Be over the top!

Children like the loud and dramatic. Not everybody can be loud, but at least be dramatic. Elicit response from the audience. Compliment, reward and be an actor. We often make use of declarations and the children love them.

Declarations are slogans of faith that you call out in sections and the audience repeat them. In the spiritual realm these little believers establish proclamations that will have an everlasting effect on their lives. For example: "In Christ I am more than a conqueror. With Jesus on my

side I have nothing to fear!!”

You have been gifted and will be directed to bring forth something unique, based on truth relevant to the video. Feel free to use your initiative under guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The video in the last chapter on the DVD contains this training including an example of a presentation. Please watch it carefully.

When we do a presentation, we do an introduction of what is coming. This includes the declarations and usually prayer. Then we play the video and thereafter discuss questions from the questionnaire. You'll see in the sample presentation video at the end of the training video how this works.

Whilst watching the sample presentation, look out for the following:

1. Concern for the audience's wellbeing,
2. Making declarations,
3. Giving encouragement,
4. Crowd control – putting up of hand,
5. Handling of wrong answers,
6. Repeating their answers,
7. Prompting for answers,
8. Controlling attention span and tiredness,
9. Handling of audience's opinions,
10. The role of repetition, and
11. Creating understanding by means of explanation.

There you have it. We pray that you will have much joy and fruit in presenting these video teachings to the children that matters to you. Please contact us with any questions at cwhl@live.co.uk. Have a look at our website www.t-a-c.co.za.

Introduction to the Questions

These questions are designed to guide the presenter of this video in ministering to the children after the video was presented to them. The idea is to

- test how they have listened,
- re-emphasize important truths to solidify it in their minds and spirits, and
- create a foundation for the Holy Spirit to minister to them through the facilitator as the presenter.

Feel therefore free to make use of this opportunity to speak into the children's lives on the topic the video has highlighted.

The questions are designed to bring over a pertinent point and it is preferable that you stick closely to them.

1. God's plan with Jacob and Esau Questions

Genesis 25:19-28, Psalm 139, Romans 12:6-8, Matthew 25:14-30

Intended Outcome:

- God has a special plan for you which only you can do.
- He looks at your heart to see whether you are available for His service.
- You have one or more special gifts that you should use to the best of your ability.

Questions

1. Q: When God wants to use you, what does He look for? He wants to see...

A: *(What is in your heart – what are you like)*

2. Q: When God made you in your mother's womb, what did He have for you?

A: *(A special plan)*

3. Q: Why is it wrong to kill people?

A: *(Because God has a great plan for every person that is born – facilitator to expand on it. Some are destined to be great leaders, teachers, great musicians, great sports persons, etc.)*

4. Q: What did the Lord give to each of you?

A: *(A special ability)*

5. Q: According to the video, what kind of things does the Lord plan for you?

A: *(Things that only you can do)*

6. Q: Can anybody be you?

A: *(No)*

7. Q: Can anybody do what you do well?

A: *(No)*

8. Q: What does the video say you should do then?

A: *(Look for opportunities to obey the Lord when He wants to use you)*

Memory Verse:

Psalm 139:23: Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! (ESV)

Romans 12:6: Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them. (ESV)

2. Esau Rejected God's Gift Questions

Genesis 25:27-34, Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 3:20, Matthew 6:33.

Intended Outcome:

- The Lord wants you to put Him first – above everything else in your life.
- If the Lord gives you a gift, you should appreciate it and make the most of it.
- You should seek the best the Lord has for your life.
- You should make an effort to find out what the Lord has in mind for your life and pursue it.

Questions

1. Q: Why did Jacob hold onto Esau's ankle when they were born?
A: *(He actually wanted to be the first born.)*
2. Q: Why did Jacob want to be the first born?
A: *(He wanted the blessings that go along with being the first born. He wanted to continue with the plan God had promised his grandfather Abraham.)*
3. Q: Did Esau care about the importance of being the firstborn?
A: *(No.)*
4. Q: How do we know it?
A: *(He gave that right away to Jacob in exchange for food.)*
5. Q: Why did Esau lose what the Lord had in mind for him?
A: *(He put the things that were important to him ahead of what was important to the Lord. He did not care about God's plan and blessings for his life.)*
6. Q: What is a blessing?
A: *(Something good you proclaim over somebody else. Facilitator to expand. Also stress what shouldn't be said: things like you are stupid, naughty, etc)*

7. Q: What kind of blessings can we speak over other people?

A: *(You are clever, special, will be successful, you are good in that..., you will make a good salesperson etc.)*

8. Q: According to the video, if you only do what you want to do, what do you miss?

A: *(God's amazing plan for your life.)*

9. Q: According to the video, what is it you should find out?

A: *(What it is the Lord has in mind for you.)*

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 3:20: With God's power working in us, He can do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of. (ERV)

and/or

Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

3. Jacob Cheated his Dad Questions

Genesis 27, Matthew 25:14-30, Romans 12:6-8.

Intended Outcome:

- Be grateful for what God has given you.
- Desire what the Lord has in mind for you and make the best of it.
- Go to great extents to accomplish that which you know the Lord wants you to have or do.
- Don't be careless about the Lord and what He has for you.

Questions

1. Q: Isaac called Esau and told him to cook a deer for him. What did Isaac plan to do after he had eaten?
A: *(Speak a blessing over Esau. Facilitator to imagine or research the procedure of pronouncing a blessing and then dramatize/explain it to the audience.)*
2. Q: Rebekah heard when Isaac spoke to Esau. What did she and Jacob do to Isaac?
A: *(They deceived him by pretending that Jacob was Esau.)*
3. Q: Why did they do it?
A: *(They wanted Jacob to get Esau's blessing.)*
4. Q: Why was this not wrong in God's eyes?
A: *(To the Lord Jacob was now actually the firstborn, since Esau sold his rights as firstborn to Jacob.)*
5. Q: God has given each of you gifts and talents. If you don't use them, how will you make God feel?
6. A: *(Unhappy. Your gifts are precious to the Lord and He expects of you to use them every day. However, facilitator needs to explain the Lord's grace and that He will keep giving you second chances to repent and use what He has given you.)*

7. Q: If you do develop your gifts and talents, how will the Lord feel?

A: *(Happy.)*

8. Q: What will He then do?

A: *(He will bless you and give you more! [Matthew 25:29])*

Memory Verse:

Facilitator is to explain that Jesus said the following in the context of gifts and talents. It also involves opportunities to be obedient.

Matthew 25:29: For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. (ESV)

4. Jacob's Dream Questions

Genesis 28, John 14 (especially verses 15, 21 & 23), John 15 (especially verse 10), Psalm 37

Intended Outcome:

- If you desire the things God has for you, you *will* receive them *if* you search and ask for them.
- If you love Jesus by doing what He tells you to do, He *will* show you more of Himself. Because you love Jesus, Father God will love you even more.
- The Lord God is always faithful and will keep His promises, but you'll have to do your part before He'll fulfil His promises.

Questions

1. Q: What did Jacob do to get away from Esau who wanted to kill him?

A: *(His father, Isaac, sent him to find a wife for himself amongst his own people.)*

2. Q: On the way there, what did Jacob dream about?

A: *(He saw a staircase between him and heaven with angels climbing up and down the stairs.)*

3. Q: In the dream God told Jacob three things. What were they?

A: *(a. He would give Jacob and his offspring all that land.*

b. His offspring would be many people.

c. Through Jacob's offspring all the families of the earth will be blessed.)

4. Q: What promise did Jacob make to the Lord?

A: *(That he will always serve the Lord.)*

5. Q: The video said two things about the Lord God. What were they?
A: *(Facilitator to prompt by saying:*
 a. The Lord is always... and the audience answers... faithful.
 b. When He makes a promise He... and the audience answers... keeps it!)
6. Q: Why did Jacob make a plan to get the Lord's blessing?
A: *(Because he really wanted it.)*
7. Q: Who is it that puts desires in your heart to do good things?
A: *(Jesus, through the Holy Spirit.)*
8. Q: What should you do when you get a desire to do good?
A. *(You should do it with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.)*
9. Q: Jesus wants to show you who He is. There are three things you can do and then He will show you who He is. What are they?
A. *(a. Read your Bible so you can know what Jesus wants from you so you can obey it.*
 b. Love the Lord by doing what He tells you to do.
 c. Love others by doing good things for them.)

Memory Verse:

1 John 3:18: Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

5. The Lord's Favour Questions

Genesis 29 & 30, Psalm 37 (especially verses 25 & 26), Philippians 4 (especially verse 19)

Intended Outcome:

- Don't rely on humans. Trust the Lord.
- If you look for and ask for what you need from the Lord, He'll provide it according to His will.
- If you put your trust in the Lord and depend on Him, He *will* give you favour.
- You should listen carefully how the Lord leads you to provide for your needs, just like He did with Jacob.

Questions

1. Q: What was the name of the girl Jacob liked a lot? Tip: He helped her water his uncle's sheep.

A: *(Rachel.)*

2. Q: How many years did Jacob agree to work for his uncle Laban in exchange for Rachel?

A: *(Seven years.)*

3. Q: What happened after seven years?

A: *(Laban gave him Lea, Rachel's older sister, whom Jacob did not love. Facilitator to explain what the Bible says about the family custom that the older sister should marry first.)*

4. Q: In order to marry Rachel as well, what did Jacob offer Laban?

A: *(To work another seven years if he could marry Rachel as well, soon after he had married Lea.)*

5. Q: Did Jacob accept the salary Laban offered him when he wanted to leave after fourteen years?

A: *(No.)*

6. Q: Why not?

A: *(Because he did not trust Laban and knew the Lord's blessing can give him a much better income.)*

7. Q. What did the Lord then do for Jacob?

A. *(He gave Jacob many, many spotted goats and sheep by means of a miracle. This made Jacob very rich.)*

8. Q. Why did the Lord do that for Jacob?

A. *(Because Jacob had the Lord's blessing which he had received from Isaac. God also gave him favour because Jacob wanted it and trusted the Lord for it.)*

9. Q. If you trust the Lord and depend on Him, you'll never have to beg any human being for anything. Why is that?

A. *(You'll have the Lord's favour, blessing and provision, for that is what He has promised.)*

Memory Verse:

Philippians 4:19: And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

6. Love your Enemies Questions

Genesis 32 &33, Matthew 5:38-48, John 13:35

Intended Outcome:

- We should always love people, no matter what happened between us.
- To love people means to do good things for them.
- This is the only way you can actually love your enemies.
- God wants us to love people so His name can be glorified.

Questions

1. Q: Why did Jacob want to see Esau again?
A: *(He loved and missed Esau.)*
2. Q: Why was Jacob scared of Esau?
A: *(Because of what he had done when he took Esau's birthright.)*
3. Q: Why did Jacob send Esau many gifts?
A: *(To show Esau he was sorry.)*
4. Q: Both Esau and Jacob were wrong when Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. What did the video say happened in their hearts afterwards?
A: *(Esau became angry and Jacob felt guilty and they lost their friendship.)*
5. Q: Do we always understand why God does things?
A: *(No.)*
6. Q: In spite of what happened between us and someone else, what should we always do?
A: *(We should love people.)*
7. Q: Jesus told us to love our enemies. Can we **feel** love for our enemies?
A: *(No, because they do bad things to us it is not easy to feel love for them.)*

8. Q: So, how can we then love our enemies?

A: (By **doing** good things for them to show them we love them.)

9. Q: Why would we do this?

A: (Because people can then see God's love for them through what we do.)

Memory Verse:

Matthew 5:44-45: I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. (NIV)

7. The Struggle at Night Questions

Genesis 32:22-32, Romans 8:37, Romans 12:18

Intended Outcome:

- If you seek and desire that which is important to the Lord, He will bless you.
- Christ has given you the victory over your circumstances. In Christ you are more than a conqueror.
- We ought to maintain good relationships with people, for people are important to the Lord.
- We ought to repent and make right where we have wronged people.

Questions

1. Q. Jacob was scared of Esau. Why did the Lord show Jacob the army of angels??

A: *(So that Jacob could know he was safe in God's hands. The number of angels was more than the men with Esau.)*

2. Q: What did Jacob do to make Esau calm down?

A: *(He sent Esau many gifts.)*

3. Q: Why did the Man, who actually was the Lord, attack Jacob that night?

A: *(He wanted to test Jacob to see how serious Jacob was about God's plans with his life.)*

4. Q: During the struggle, what did Jacob ask the Lord to do for him before he would let Him go?

A: *(He had to first bless Jacob.)*

5. Q: What does this show us about Jacob?

A: *(Jacob fought until he got what God wanted for him. He did not give up easily; for to him it was important to have the Lord's will be done in his life.)*

6. Q: If you believe in Jesus and trust Him, who is it that watch over you?

A: *(Jesus' angels.)*

7. Q: Who is it that won against Satan?

A: *(Jesus.)*

8. Q: What must you therefore do to always be a winner with Jesus?

A: *(You must declare that, because Jesus has won, you also have victory over Satan.)*

9. Q: Should you fight against other people?

A: *(No.)*

10. Q: How should you then fight when people are nasty to you?

A: *(In prayer until God makes things right between you and by loving them.)*

Memory Verse:

Romans 8:37: In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (ESV)

and/or

Romans 12:18: If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (NIV)