

Lesson 12: Jacob Blesses His Sons

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 49: Jacob blesses his sons
- 2) Review what they have learned so far about Joseph, Jacob, Manasseh, Ephraim and Joseph's brothers with activities
- 3) Play a game to remember that there are consequences to being good or evil.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Jacob Body Template- one per student (two Jacobs per page)
- Jacob Clothes and Hair Template- one set per student
- Clothing and Accessories Jacob - one set per student
- Empty and Clean Paper Towel Rolls - 2-inches of roll per student
- Glue or Glue sticks to share
- Scissors to share
- Tape to share

Optional:

- Large writing surface - like easel with paper or chalkboard (to play hangman) or piece of paper to show children as you play hangman.
- Game Hearts and Smiley/Sad Face Templates - print and cut out one set for the class on construction or cardstock paper
- Tape for the Game Heart Templates
- Storybook of this chapter in Genesis with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board and characters to show the story of this chapter. (if available)

Snack:

- Triangle Shaped Snack (like Cheese) 1-2 per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance. Once children are seated say:

What did we study last week about Joseph? Joseph's father and family moved to Egypt and went to Goshen to live as shepherds. Joseph went to visit his father with his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob blessed them and took them as part of the inheritors of the land God promised Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham. Jacob blessed the younger one more than the older one. Joseph told his father about it and Jacob said that was the way it should be and Joseph accepted it.

This week we will see that Jacob, Joseph's father, blesses all of his twelve sons before he dies. We will also make a Jacob/Israel Paper Doll to go with the other Patriarchs we have made so far.

2) Israel Blesses His Family

10-15 minutes

Optional: if you have a book with pictures showing this story you can show the pictures as you read from the Bible.

Ask the students to turn to **Genesis 49**. Have students follow along as you read the verses in this chapter. (Note: The information about Reuben, Simeon and Levi might not have been shared with the class as it was too "mature" so when the reasons are given here as to why these men weren't blessed read it but keep the explanation simple) Start with:

Genesis 49:1-4

In Chapter 49, Israel blesses all his children.

What does he say about Reuben? Did he bless him?

He does not bless Reuben because he defiled Israel/Jacob's home by sleeping with Israel's wife. So Reuben will not receive the blessing. This happened when Reuben was younger.

Genesis 49:5-7

He also does not bless Simeon and Levi – Why? They killed Shechem and his people after Shechem took their sister Dinah. This was not right and so Jacob says they will not be blessed because of their evil deeds.

Genesis 49:8-12

Who received the blessing first then? Judah

What does Israel say Judah will receive? The scepter – (an ornamented staff carried by rulers on ceremonial occasions as a symbol of sovereignty.) The promise of being king over the others – **this it says will last until he comes to whom it belongs – that is Jesus!**

Judah wasn't sinless but he was faithful. His descendants would have rulers until the time of Jesus when Jesus (who came from the line of Judah) is now forever king and will remain king!

Ask students to turn to **Matthew 1:1-3** read it aloud for them as there are many, many names that show the lineage of Jesus from Judah. Tell them

"see all the other names from verses 4-15, that shows how Judah is related through all these people to who? Let's read verse 16 – And Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ." See Judah – the one to receive the scepter according to what his father blessed him with – gave the scepter through his descendants all the way to Jesus. "The one to whom it belongs!"

Israel/Jacob's blessing on Judah is a prophecy of what was fulfilled – it points to Christ!

Let's turn back to Genesis 49:13.

Genesis 49:13

What does it say about Zebulun? He will live by the sea and his land will be a haven or safe place for ships.

Genesis 49:14-15

What does verse 14 say about Issachar? He will stay in the land he receives and not need to work hard because the land is so good. It might even imply that Issachar is a bit lazy....

Genesis 49:16-17

What does it say about Dan in verse 15? He will provide justice for his people – He will be fair.

Genesis 49:18-21

What does it say about Gad? He will be attacked, but he will be able to attack back.

What about Asher? His food will be rich. His area would be known for its good food.

What does it say about Naphtali? He will bear/have beautiful words or fawns. The word fawn here also means words. Naphtali is the region Jesus taught. This could be why Naphtali was said to have beautiful words. The words of Jesus!

Genesis 49:22-26

What does it say about Joseph in verses 22-26? Even though Joseph was attacked by his own brothers and treated poorly in Egypt, he was faithful to God and became a blessing and a fruitful vine because of the workings of God’s hand in Joseph’s life. Jacob at the end, says that yes, Joseph was the prince among his brothers. The prophecy Joseph dreamed years ago about his brothers bowing down to him was remembered again here.

Let’s remember to be like Joseph. Even when bad things happen, stay true to God, trust in God and good things will happen and everything will work out in the end!

Genesis 49:27-28

What does it say about the youngest brother Benjamin? He would be a strong attacker and vicious to anyone who got in his way.

Genesis 49:29-33

What happened after Jacob blessed his sons? He died.

Any questions? Answer if you can from the Bible or say you will get back to them next week and seek help if you have been asked a question you can’t readily answer.

3) Paper Roll Patriarchs Jacob or Israel Doll Craft

15 minutes

Hand out the body templates of Jacob along with clothes and hair and let children cut out and color 1 set of clothing and hair each for Jacob. Glue the pieces of clothes and hair on Jacob’s body.

Cut out 2-inch circles from the paper towel rolls and attach the doll to the roll so he will stand up using tape.

Remember that Jacob was the third patriarch in the Old Testament. We are going to make the four patriarchs before the end of the quarter. We will make Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Joseph!



What can you remember about Jacob or Israel, raise your hand if you know? Had 12 sons and a daughter, was married to Leah and Rachel, used to be a trickster and liar but grew up to follow and obey God, had his name changed by God to Israel, was told Joseph had died when he was alive, was reunited with Joseph late in life when he moved to Egypt – thanks to God making sure they survived the famine that had come, was faithful to God and worshipped God.

What did you find interesting about Jacob/Israel's blessing on the 12 sons?

What did you find interesting about Jacob/Israel's life?

We saw that Jacob's family suffered consequences because of the sins and wrongs they committed. What were some of the things they did and what were the results?

What are ways we can avoid evil in our lives?

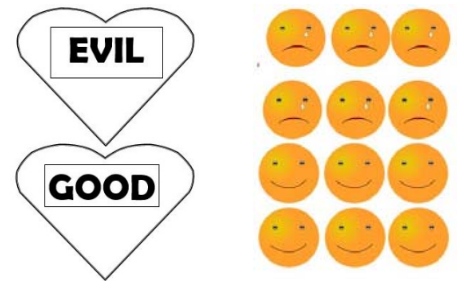
What did we learn about Jesus today? He came from the line of Judah – Israel's 4th son. And, that it was predicted that Jesus would rule forever and He does!

Have students clean up before moving on to the next activity.

4) Optional: Evil And Good Hearts Game (Can be played outside)

10 minutes

Before class print and cut out the templates. There will be two large hearts. One will say EVIL and one GOOD. Then there will be smaller faces which will have either a happy or sad face. Cut them all out and hang and tape the two big hearts on one wall of the classroom where kids can run to them safely.



During class explain to the students: **On the wall are two**

hearts. One says EVIL and one says GOOD. Today we learned that Reuben, Simeon, and Levi were punished for the evil they had done when they were younger. But Joseph was good and always gave thanks to God and gave praise to God for what God helped him through.

I will split you into two teams. Each person on the team will get a random face that will either be a happy face or a sad face. Your team will line up in single file beside the other team. When I say "GO" the first person on each team will run to the heart that their face matches and tape the face beside the right heart – if your face is sad; tape it beside the heart on the wall that says EVIL, if your face is happy, tape it beside the GOOD heart! Then run back to your team and tag the next player so they can put their happy or sad face on the appropriate heart. The first team to finish wins.

*Make sure each face already has a piece of tape on it so the child can stick their face quickly on the wall. If playing outside choose a wall that is away from doors people might be using or from windows where others might be studying.

If time talk about why doing evil things makes people sad and why doing good things makes people and God happy!

5) Optional: Hangman

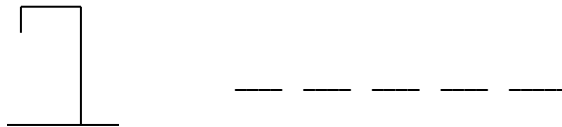
10-15 minutes

Before class get a large easel or chalkboard with marker or chalk to show kids while playing the game of hangman. If neither are available sit around a table and hold up a page with the gallows and slots for the words underneath so all children can see – use a marker to fill in each letter as they say them. Play hangman with key words from the Bible story – when kids discover the word –

ask them to explain why that word was important if they can, or you can explain if they can't remember.

Game instructions: Ask students if they know the game, if not explain to them the following:

1. Start the game by choosing a word from the list below –because the students are young and don't know how to spell well yet, write down each word below on a piece of paper or on the easel so they can see what are the choices and be able to recognize a word easier once you start to play the game. Don't let the children know what word you have chosen but let them see the different options they have.
2. Place one dash on the bottom of a piece of paper for each letter of the word or words chosen. Leave a space between words. Example: Jacob – you would write ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ at the bottom of the page.
3. Draw a "gallows" at the top of the paper - draw a horizontal line at the bottom, a vertical line coming up out of its center, and then a short line off to the right at the top (so that you now have an upside-down "L" on the horizontal line). Draw a short vertical line off the end of the top line - this is your "noose." Example:



4. Have the children guess one letter at a time - or he or she can use a turn to guess the entire word. If they get the letter write – fill it in where it belongs – example: J ___ ___ ___ ___. If they said "Jacob" they would win that round.
5. If they get the letter wrong – write the letter on the top of the page – so other students know it was already chosen and then fill in a part of the body on the hangman's noose. Begin by drawing a head attached to the short vertical line (the "noose"). Add body, right leg, left leg, right arm, then left arm.
6. Know that if the drawing of the person is completed before the word or words are guessed, the class loses. If the class figures out the word or words first, they win.
7. When a student guesses the word ask them to explain something that they know about the word.

List of Words to Use

(and possible suggestions for things they might know about that word):

Joseph –the son of Israel's who became the second-in-command to Pharaoh and brought his family down to Egypt to keep them safe from the famine. Joseph was forgiving and forgave his brothers for selling him as a slave many years earlier.

Twelve – Total number of Jacob's sons.

Israel- the name Jacob received from God, had 12 sons and died in Egypt after being reunited with Joseph.

Manasseh – the oldest son of Joseph –to receive a portion of land along with Israel's sons and his brother Ephraim.

Ephraim – received the greater blessing from Israel even though he was the youngest. Was to receive a portion of land along with Israel's sons and his brother Manasseh.

Egypt – the land Joseph and his family stayed in during the famine.

Pharaoh – ruler of Egypt who allowed Joseph's family to stay in Goshen.

Goshen – the area of Egypt that Joseph's family settled. It was good for livestock and shepherding.

Forgive – what Joseph did with his brothers and what we should do today when someone wrongs us.

6) Optional – Snack: Triangle Shaped Snack (Ex: Cheese)**5 minutes**

Hand out triangular snacks enough for each child to have 1-2. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“Jacob and his family moved to Egypt. Let’s all eat our triangle shaped snacks that look like pyramids and remember that Jacob, Joseph and their family lived in Egypt – the land of the pyramids!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking. And talk about how sins of our youth – like Reuben, Simeon and Levi can have long lasting affects even into our adult lives so we need to be careful and pray to God for guidance.

7) Optional – Songs**5 minutes**

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

- 1) **Old Testament Books of the Bible – Sung to the Alphabet song**
- 2) **Songs of Joseph** (See Printed Song Sheet). Keep copies and sing each week.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Remember to also ask God for help in studying the Old Testament and for us to realize and learn how important it is in showing us and everyone that God had a plan with Jesus from the beginning.

Thank you, God, that we can see the benefit of trusting in You as Jacob and Joseph did and how You are willing to be with us, just like You were with Jacob and Joseph! Pray that we will also learn from Reuben, Simeon and Levi. Because they did wrong, they did not receive a blessing as their other brothers had. Let us learn that there are long term consequences for our actions and to remember it is better to be nice and do good, then to do bad and pay for it like Reuben, Simeon, and Levi did! Thank you for Jesus and for all that You provide us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!