

Lesson 5: Jacob Has Children

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 29-30: Jacob leaves his family to go to Haran, marries and has children
- 2) Learn that Jacob had 12 sons – the twelve tribes of Israel.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Jacob's 12 Sons – Family Tree – one per child

Optional:

- Roll the Dice Family Tree Game Template – one per 4 children (cut and taped before class)
- Scissors, Glue and/or Tape – to make the paper dice before class
- List of Sons and their Mothers Sheet – one per 4 children
- 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:

- Animal Crackers 6 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.

What did we study last week about Jacob and his family? Jacob left to go to Haran and met his mother's relatives. While there he fell in love with Rachel and offered to work seven years in return for her hand in marriage. On the marriage night – Rachel's father tricked Jacob and gave him Leah – the older daughter instead! Jacob the trickster was tricked himself! Jacob then worked another seven years for Rachel but got to marry her after a week and so now had two wives.

2) Jacob's Sons and Wives

5-10 minutes

Ask students to get their Bibles and turn to Genesis 29:31. Read for the students from **Genesis 29:31-30:24**. You should read as there are lots of names in this part of the story.

Explain to students:

Mandrake: A Mediterranean plant of the nightshade family, with white or purple flowers and yellow berries. See Here: Like Sarah and Abraham, Jacob allowed his wives to give him their maidservants as wives as well. This is not something we do today! But in total Jacob ended up with eleven sons and 1 daughter! Later on Rachel will have another child – Benjamin making the total number of sons 12.



Allow for questions, state that you will come back next week with answers if the questions are too big for you to deal with this week and address the person next week if appropriate. Then, move on to the next activity. Always have the children look to the bible for their answers and help them find the verses they need.

3) Jacob's Son Family Tree Sheet

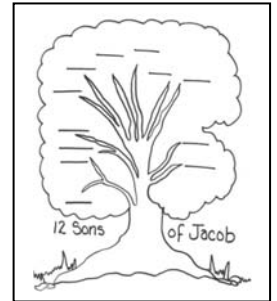
10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencils. Explain the following:

We are going to list the names of each son that Jacob had with what wife.

Give them the list of sons and their mother sheet so they have the names already spelled and ready for them to copy. Read through the chart.

Help the children if needed get started. Allow children to color if time. When finished check as a group to make sure the sons are listed correctly before moving on.



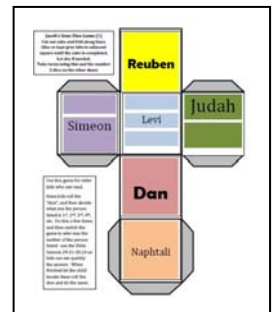
4) Optional: Roll the Dice Sons of Jacob Game

10-15 minutes

Before class print and cut out the 2 dice templates. Tape or glue the tabs together to make two sets of dice. Print and bring the list of "Jacob's 12 Sons" sheet as well.

At class explain: **We are going to get into groups of approximately 4 people, each taking turns we are going to roll the dice and when you roll the dice a name of one of Jacob's 12 sons will show - try and list what number that son is 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. You can look at Genesis 29:31-30:24 or from the list on the sheets provided. Go around your group a number**

of times, when done and you feel you know all the sons in order - try to name what mother the son of Jacob was from. Example if you land on Reuben - his mother was Leah, if Benjamin - Rachel, if Gad - Zilpah, etc. Have someone in your group check the sheet to see if you are right - if you guess wrong - look at the sheet to see what number you should have chose and then let someone else have a turn. Take turns by going around the circle. Remind students to use both dice and different times so they practice learning all 12 sons!



5) Optional - Snack: Animal Crackers

5 minutes

Hand out animal crackers enough for each child. Also give each child a glass of water or juice.

Explain that, **"Jacob became a shepherd and worked for his uncle Laban. Let's see if we can find any sheep in our animal crackers today! Also, see if you can find other animals that we have read belong in the area Jacob was in- example camels, cows, goats, wild animals, etc.**

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

6) 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) **Sons of Jacob** (to the tune of "Ten Little Ladybugs")

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,
Issachar, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali,
Gad and Asher, Joseph, Benjamin - These are the sons of Jacob.

7) 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.

Pray that we will trust in God and not in other people. Pray that we will make wise decisions and look to the Bible rather than relying on what people say. Like Rachel and Leah – many problems came from being tricked. We pray also that we remember it is never good to trick others and instead Lord, help us to be kind and thoughtful instead.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!