

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
- List of Sons and their Mothers Sheet – one per 4 children

Optional:

- Match the Name Card Set – printed and cut out on cardstock paper before class – one set per 2-4 students or you can give one set to each student to take home and practice
- 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**.

Explain to students:

Mandrake: A Mediterranean plant of the nightshade family, with white or purple flowers and yellow berries. See picture 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.

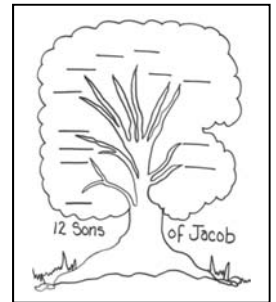
Allow for questions, state that you will come back next week with answers if the questions are too big for you to deal with this week and address the person next week if appropriate. Then, move on to the next activity. Always have the children look to the bible for their answers and help them find the 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: Follow the Leader – Jacob Follows God Game** **5 minutes**

Have students line up behind you. Tell them they are going to play follow the leader – just like Jacob followed and obeyed God by worshiping Him. March around the room doing different actions that they are to follow as you go, examples are pat your head, once everyone is marching and patting their head, then switch to put arms in the air and back down, jump up and down, hop on one foot, tip toe, crawl, etc. The idea is to get the children to follow you. When finished, tell them **“Good job – you followed just like Jacob did. Let’s remember that it is good to follow God and do what He says.**

5) **Optional: Matching Learn the Names of Jacob's Sons Game** **10-15 minutes**

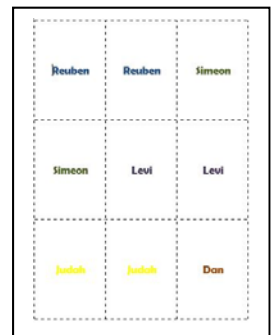
Before Class:

Print and cut out the Match the Name Cards – one set for every 2-4 students (or if you want them to take a set home each to practice – one set per student)

Put students into groups and hand out the appropriate amount of card sets to each group. Each card set has one blank card – remove that.

Explain to students to take their cards, shuffle and mix them up and place them face down so no one can see. Each student gets a turn to flip over two cards, read out the name and if the name matches, they can keep the two cards.

If they don't match have them flip the cards back down and let the next student have a turn. If someone matches a set, they get another turn until they no longer find a matched set. The student with the most matched sets wins.



6) **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!

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) **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.

- 3) **The Bible is God's Book** (To the tune of Farmer in the Dell)

The Bible is God's Book,
His words are written there.
I like to open it and read,
That I am in His care.

He cares for you and me.
He cares for you and me.
Just like he cared for Jacob
Yes, He cares for you and me.

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.

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!