

Dinah was innocent and did nothing wrong but it was the people she was hanging around that had evil desires and hurt her.

What did Simeon and Levi do that was wrong? Lied, murdered and took revenge instead of seeking the help of God.

What did Israel do that was wrong? He did nothing instead of trying to get Dinah back safely and seeking the help of God.

Remember - God does not agree with violence or hurting others. What Shechem did was wrong. God does not want us to be mean or selfish! And God will punish those who choose to be mean and selfish so we don't have too! If someone hurts you - pray to God for help, tell your parents and let God help you - don't take revenge yourself!

Let's turn to Romans 12:19 and see what the New Testaments says through Paul on revenge:

Romans 12:19

¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Allow for other questions before moving on. Questions may be deep and need to be discussed with the student privately after class or left till next week till you can consult with someone before responding. Try to use the Bible itself to answer questions looking to the story and verses to see what the Bible says.

3) Fill in the Blanks Rules of Law

15 minutes

***Do this activity only if you completed Genesis 34 above.** Otherwise move onto next activity.

*For students too young to read/write - allow them to draw a picture on the back of the page of someone turning to God for help when needed while the older students do this activity. Remind the younger students to still listen and pay attention to the verses being read.

Hand out the Fill in the Blank sheet to each student. Read the directions aloud and then have students turn to each verse listed on the sheet. They will need to use a NIV translation or share. Have students fill in the missing words to complete the verse. Work as a group. When they are done have them answer the question at the bottom of their sheet.

Answers:

follow	obey	live	hear	righteous	law
subject	obedient	good	authority	God	rebels
judgment	no	fear	right		

Answer to question: obey obey

Back in the time of Jacob/Israel - there were different laws in affect than today. But we can still see that Simeon and Levi were liars, murderers, and took revenge on their own. Jacob did nothing, which was also not right as his choosing not to do anything left his sons with the idea that they should do something. Finally, the last problem we see in this account is that none of these men sought the help of God!

Discussion Questions:

Who has the right to take revenge? Only God not us.

Simeon and Levi had no right to take revenge they did not ask God to help they just took matters into their own hands. This was displeasing to God and to their dad.

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.

4) Jacob Returns to Bethel 10-15 minutes

Have students turn in their Bibles to **Genesis Chapter 35**. Read it yourself to the students as there are a lot of names and places that may be difficult for students. Once you are done move on to the next activity.

5) Questions and Color Page 10 minutes

Hand out one sheet per child along with pencil crayons. For older students hand out the questions sheet, for younger students hand out the drawing and color version. Read each question as a group and have students fill in the answers who are old enough to do so. Allow the older students to color the page if time. For students too young to read and write, ask them to listen while they draw and color.



Allow for questions if any.

Answers: Simeon, Levi and Reuben (Genesis 34:25 and 35:22)

Deborah (Rebekah's nurse), Rachel, and Isaac (Genesis 35:8, 19, and 28-29)

Benjamin (Genesis 35:18)

6) Optional - Jacob's Family Word Search 10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencils. Read the instructions aloud along with the words in the list to ensure each child knows what the word is, and help the children if needed by going around the room to check. Have them put their name on the page when done and help clean up before moving onto the next activity. As they work go through each word on the word search and ask students how that word relates to the story they studied today.

Jacob's Family Life

E P P E I O I I C O I I
F E I H D I L C O R A
L C D I A C T I F I T
E I R O L R P P H I I
A E R H I E A T E T E
R T H I V M C O N O R
I T P E E A M R R C
I L L E L I N I A R O
I H T T A A I W T
A R I V O I B I P I
C I R C C I H E I V L
O U M I R E P L I C E
B E E R I H E B A X I
N O I T A N O I I I V
B I E V E N I V I E I

ISRAEL	EGYPT	HEBREW
REBEKAH	NATION	LEAH
FRANKLIN	JOSEPH	LYNCH
BROTHER	ISRAEL	MANASSAH
BETHLEHEM	CAHILL	EPHRAIM
ISAAC	COHEN	LEVI
	HEBER	ISRAEL

7) Optional - Snack: Mini Marshmallow Altar 5 minutes

Hand out a handful of mini marshmallows to each child enough for each child to make an "altar" out of them. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **"When Jacob got to the land he was waiting for and God spoke to him, Jacob built an altar where that happened and Jacob called the place "Bethel" which means house of God. Let's build our own pretend altars and then eat them. Today we don't build altars to God for real - we worship God on Sunday's with the church. We can worship God wherever we are with songs, praying, and studying the Bible but Sunday is the time God says we have to meet and worship to also take of the Lord's Supper and to give to the contribution of the church once we are baptized. But back in the day of Jacob, an altar was a reminder of the commitment and promise made to God!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

8) 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) **This is my Father’s World** (Should be in church song book)
- 3) **Father Abraham Song with Actions** – see lyrics from Lesson 1

9) 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 remember to turn to God when and if bad things happen in our lives. Pray that we will also give thanks to God, as Jacob did, when things are going well. Pray that we will help others in need and pray for those who are sick or weak and unable to attend this Sunday. Pray that they will return next week.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!