

# Jacob's Family

Genesis 29:21-35; 30:1-24

## Level A | Lesson 4 | Teacher Overview



**Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward.**

**Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth.**

**Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them.**

**They shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.**

Psalm 127:3-5

### For Teachers

This lesson has several activity options. You may wish to choose 2-3. Reading through the options will help you identify the activities best suited to your group's size, gender mix, available supplies, and the time you have to prepare. You may also want to mix and match activities from other age levels.

### Activity Options

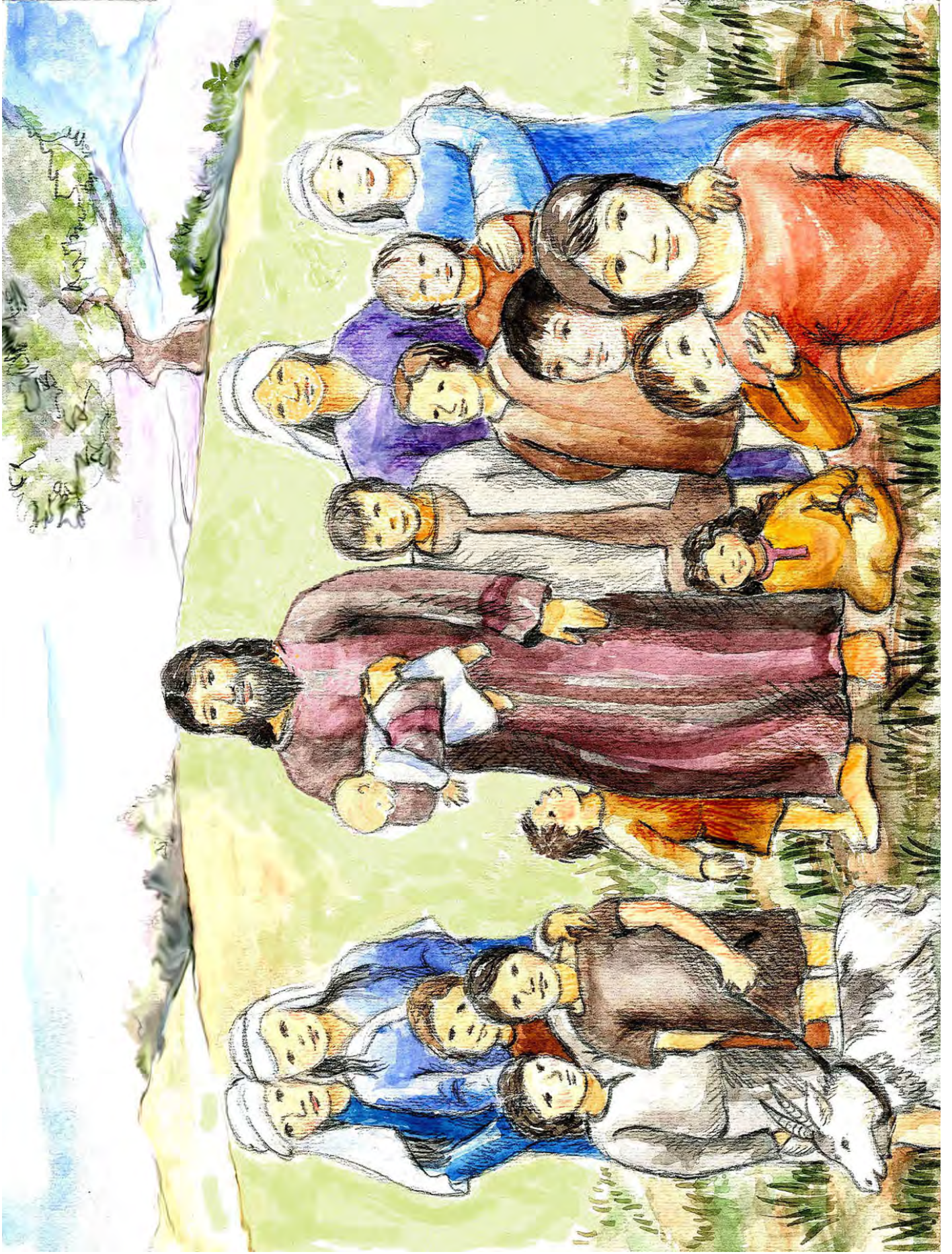
1. Talk About It
2. Illustration: Jacob and His Family
3. Memory Verse
4. Take Action: A Circle of Sons
5. Make: My Family Finger Poem and Picture
6. Coloring Picture: Jacob and Children

# Talk About It

**Reading: Genesis 29:21-35; 30:1-24**

*This week's story introduces marriage and family customs that were a permitted part of Israel's culture, but are not the same as the Lord's laws of order for marriage today. The relationships in the story depict the way human beings understand true ideas in new ways and put them into action in their lives. In light of this, today's focus is on Jacob's family—his twelve sons whose descendants later became the twelve tribes of Israel.*

1. Jacob worked for a long, long time—seven years—to marry Rachel. What did he discover after his wedding? (He had married Leah, instead of Rachel. This was because Leah was older and so she had to get married before Rachel. It was their custom at that time.)
2. Jacob was very disappointed. Things did not turn out the way he hoped they would. Have you ever been disappointed? (Encourage children to share disappointments. The following prompts may help them get started: Have you ever looked forward to playing outside and then found that it was raining? Have you ever lost a favorite toy? Etc.)
3. The Lord blessed Jacob and his wives with many children. How many children did Jacob have? (twelve sons and one daughter, Dinah)
4. Today we heard about the first eleven of Jacob's sons being born. Let's say their names together. I will say each name, and then we will say the names again together: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, and Joseph. Jacob's youngest son was called Benjamin.
5. Many years later Jacob's descendants became the twelve tribes of Israel. Israel is another name for Jacob. They were called the "children of Israel" because they were all descended from Jacob.



## Memory Verse: Jacob's Family



Behold, children  
are a heritage from  
the Lord, the fruit  
of the womb is His  
reward.

Psalms 127:3

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Cut in quarters and give one to each student to take home.

# Take Action: A Circle of Sons

## At a Glance:

Children will have fun learning the names and birth order of Jacob's twelve sons through learning a song and playing a singing game. Jacob's sons are important because they later become the twelve tribes of Israel.

## Supplies Needed:

- *The Twelve Sons of Israel* song by Lori Odhner. Sheet music on next page; <https://youtu.be/KGHVf2eZzOU> space for a circle dance involving all of the children



## Teacher Preparation:

- Become familiar with *The Twelve Sons of Israel* song so that you can sing it from memory.

## Directions:

1. Jacob had twelve sons. Their names were: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.
2. Let's use our fingers and count to twelve. We will need to use some fingers more than once! Count out loud to twelve, putting up an additional finger with each number. When you get higher than ten, close fists again and count two more.
3. It takes a lot of fingers to count twelve! Let's show our fingers again—only this time, we will say the names of the Jacob's twelve sons when we put our fingers up:
4. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.
5. Repeat this several times, until the children seem comfortable saying most of the names.
6. Now we're going to learn a song about all of these brothers. Sing or play *The Twelve Sons of Israel* while the children listen.
7. Let's try singing the song together! Repeat the song until the children are singing the song fairly comfortably.

# Take Action:

## A Circle of Sons continued

- Now we are going to learn a dance to go with this song. Let's stand up and make a circle. Hold hands with the person next to you. We're going to start moving in a circle together. Each time we sing the name of a brother, take a step. All move around to the right or the left as you sing, taking a step for each brother.
- Once the children are comfortable doing this, introduce new a new action and repeat the song. Here are some ideas for doing this: clap once for each brother; march in a circle and clap hands for each brother; hold hands and move towards the center of the circle on the first 6 names and then back out again on the next 6 names; change the direction of the circle.
- Continue playing until the children have learned the song or until they seem ready for a different activity.

## *The Twelve Sons of Israel*

*Genesis 29:31-35, 30:1-24, 35:18*

*Lori Odhner*

Reu - ben, Sim - e - on, Le - vi, Ju - dah, Dan, Naph - ta - li,

Gad, A - sher, Is - sa - char, Ze - bu - lon, Jo - seph, Ben - ja - min.

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# Make: My Family Finger Poem and Picture

## At a Glance:

Children will name each of their fingers as one of their own family members and perform a finger play.

## Supplies Needed for Each Student:

- piece of paper
- text slip
- crayons
- *optional*: round labels to use as faces

## Teacher Preparation:

- Cut apart text slips.
- Review the poem on the next page.

## Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle on the floor.
2. Let's imagine that each of our fingers is a little finger-puppet. I'm going to show you my fingers. (Teacher holds up two hands with fingers stretching up.)
3. Let's all hold our fingers up and wiggle them like puppets!
4. Now I'm going to pretend that each one of my fingers is someone in my family! (Point to each finger and then wiggle each finger in turn and say: "This one's Mom (wiggle one finger), this one's Dad (wiggle another finger), this one's Joey," etc.)
5. Let's all show our finger-puppets and tell everyone about our families. Go around the circle giving each child a turn to wiggle their fingers and name their family members.
6. Now we are going to say a rhyme together. Put your hands in your lap. I will say the rhyme and do the actions once while you watch, and then we will do it together. (See poem and finger motions on next page.)
7. We are now going to make a picture of our family using our hands. Demonstrate putting your hand on the paper, spreading your fingers and drawing around.
8. Distribute paper and crayons and help each child draw around their hand(s) so that there are enough digits to draw each person in their family.
9. Now we will give everyone a face. Give each person two eyes and a lovely smile!
10. *Optional*: Give the children a round sticker for each member of their family. Let the children put a sticker at the top of each finger. Draw a face on each sticker.
11. Distribute text slips. Glue at the top or bottom of the page.



# My Family Finger Poem



Here is my family in a fine row.

*Hold hands out and wiggle fingers.*



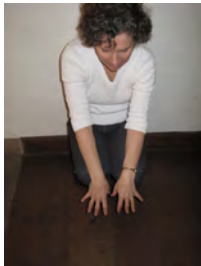
Together, in God's special love,  
we can grow.

*Hug oneself wiggling fingers.*



Some people are tall.

*Hold hands over head.*



And some others are small.

*Crouch down with hands low.*



We praise God together  
in thanks for us all!

*Raise hands and wiggle fingers overhead.*



**My Family**

**My Family**

**My Family**

**My Family**

**My Family**

**My Family**

**My Family**

**My Family**

**My Family**

**My Family**

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