

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 6
Twelve Sons of Jacob (Genesis 35:23-26)

Theme: The Children of Israel like the stars of heaven

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are sometimes called the Patriarchs because they were the fathers of the Israelitish nation.
- B. The twelve sons of Jacob represent the necessary thoughts and affections that we develop in our spiritual development.
- C. Joseph represents the affections for spiritual things, and Benjamin the affection of learning about spiritual things.
- D. The number 12 represents a fullness or completeness.
- E. Joseph's 2 sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, inherited 2 tribes, instead of Joseph and Reuben.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the story
 - 1. Our story today is about the 12 sons of Jacob. Do you remember Jacob?
 - a. His father is Isaac
 - b. His grandfather is Abraham
 - 2. The Lord promised Abraham that his descendants (his family in the future) would be like the stars of the heavens. That means it would be a big family - a nation!
 - 3. Abraham's grandson was Jacob, and Jacob had 12 sons. These 12 sons are the names of the tribes (or the little countries) in the land of Israel. So the Lord's promise came true. His descendants were a whole nation.
- B. Tell/read the story
Gen 35:23-26
- C. Ideas to discuss
 - 1. Can you remember the name of the grandfather, the father, and the man in our story today? (Abraham was the grandfather; Isaac was the father, and Jacob is the man who has 12 sons)
 - 2. Let's see if we can remember some of these sons (the Lori song will help with this, or a visual aid. The second to last one, Joseph, is most important.)
 - 3. What did the Lord promise Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? (That their descendants would be a nation.)
 - 4. Did this promise come true? (Yes)

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D. Further ideas

1. The Lord changed Jacob's name to ISRAEL. That is why the country Israel is called "Israel," and the descendants are called "the children of Israel." Sort of like how our families are called "the Smiths", like your grandfather's name. What is your family name?
2. The 12 sons are sometimes called the 12 sons of Jacob and are sometimes called the 12 sons of Israel.
3. Show the children a map of the land of Israel in Bible times. See that the 12 sons each had a tribe - a part of this country?
4. This country is where all Jewish people come from.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. Lori: 12 Sons of Jacob/Israel (Lori's Songs; tape 3, side B, song 16)
2. Lori: Joseph's Coat to tie this story to next week (Lori's Songs; tape 1, side A, song 1)

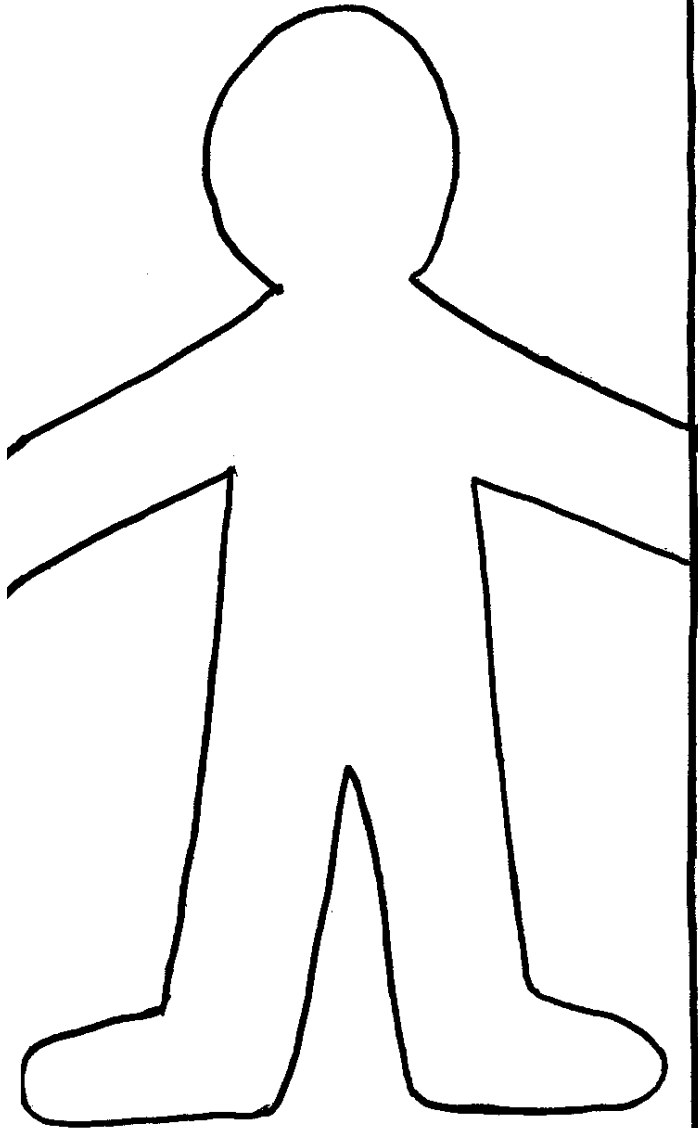
B. Activities

1. Assign each child a name of the 12 sons of Israel. The children sit down in a circle and the teacher sings or plays "The 12 Sons of Israel." (See Music above.) The children sing along if possible and stand up when they hear their assigned name. (When the children are comfortable with this, you could make additions such as the children clap their hands or shake a rattle when it is their turn to stand up.)

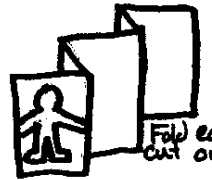
C. Project

1. 12 Sons Mural
 - a. Before class, photocopy 3 extra pattern pieces. Fold each of the 4 pages accordion style and cut out the 12 sons figures without cutting the ends of the arms, giving you 4 sets of 3 people.
 - b. In class, have the children color in the 12 sons of Israel. Ask them which one would be Joseph (2nd to last) and suggest that perhaps he could have a colorful coat.
 - c. Glue the 12 sons down on a piece of mural paper, placing the 4 sets of figures together so that they are all connected at the hands.
 - d. Have the children add star stickers in the sky, as many as possible, reminding them that the Lord said there would be as many of them as there are stars in the sky. (You may need helpers for taking the stars off their backing.)
2. 12 sons collage
 - a. Have a big pile of precut figures (cut out of old magazines, construction paper, wall paper).
 - b. Children choose 12 and glue them onto paper.

IV. Teaching Aids



Don't cut ends
of arms.



Fold each page and
cut out figures.

