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.

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Take Action:
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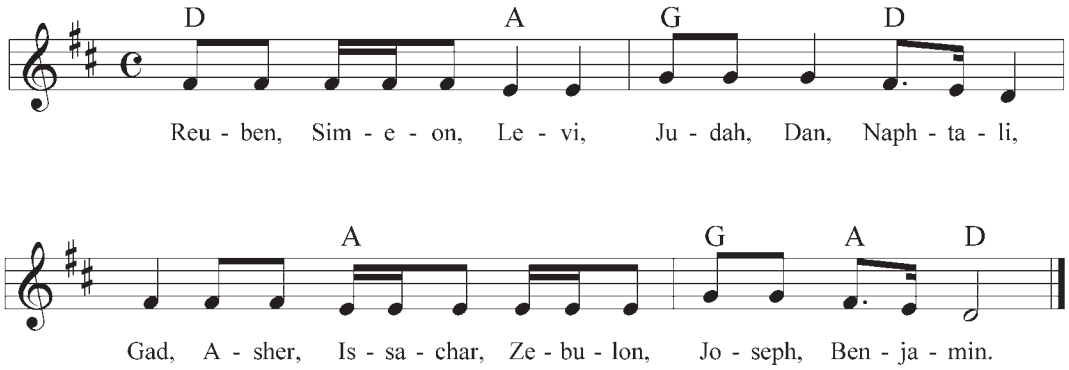
8. Now we are going to learn a dance to go with this song. Let's stand up and make a circle. Hold hands with the person next to you. We're going to start moving in a circle together. Each time we sing the name of a brother, take a step. All move around to the right or the left as you sing, taking a step for each brother.

9. 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.

10. 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*



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