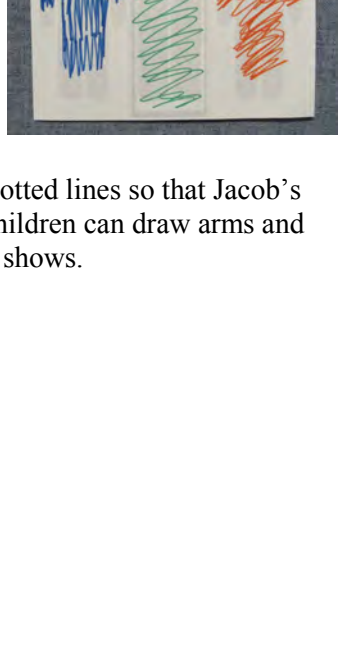
Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh

Make a picture of Jacob blessing Joseph's children with moveable arms.



1. Distribute the pictures and ask children to color in faces and clothes. Remind them that Jacob is in the center, lying on a bed. Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph's sons (Jacob's grandsons), are on either side of Jacob waiting to be blessed.
2. Once the coloring is done, help students cut along the solid black lines, making sure not to cut Jacob's head off! The pieces that are cut off can be discarded.
3. Jacob could have blessed Joseph's two sons with his arms straight, the way their picture looks now. But he didn't do that. Instead he crossed his arms to bless them.
4. Help children to fold the arms inward along the dotted lines so that Jacob's arms cross to bless his grandsons. If they want, children can draw arms and hands for Jacob on the side of the paper that now shows.

Materials for each child

Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh copied on to heavy paper

crayons or markers

scissors

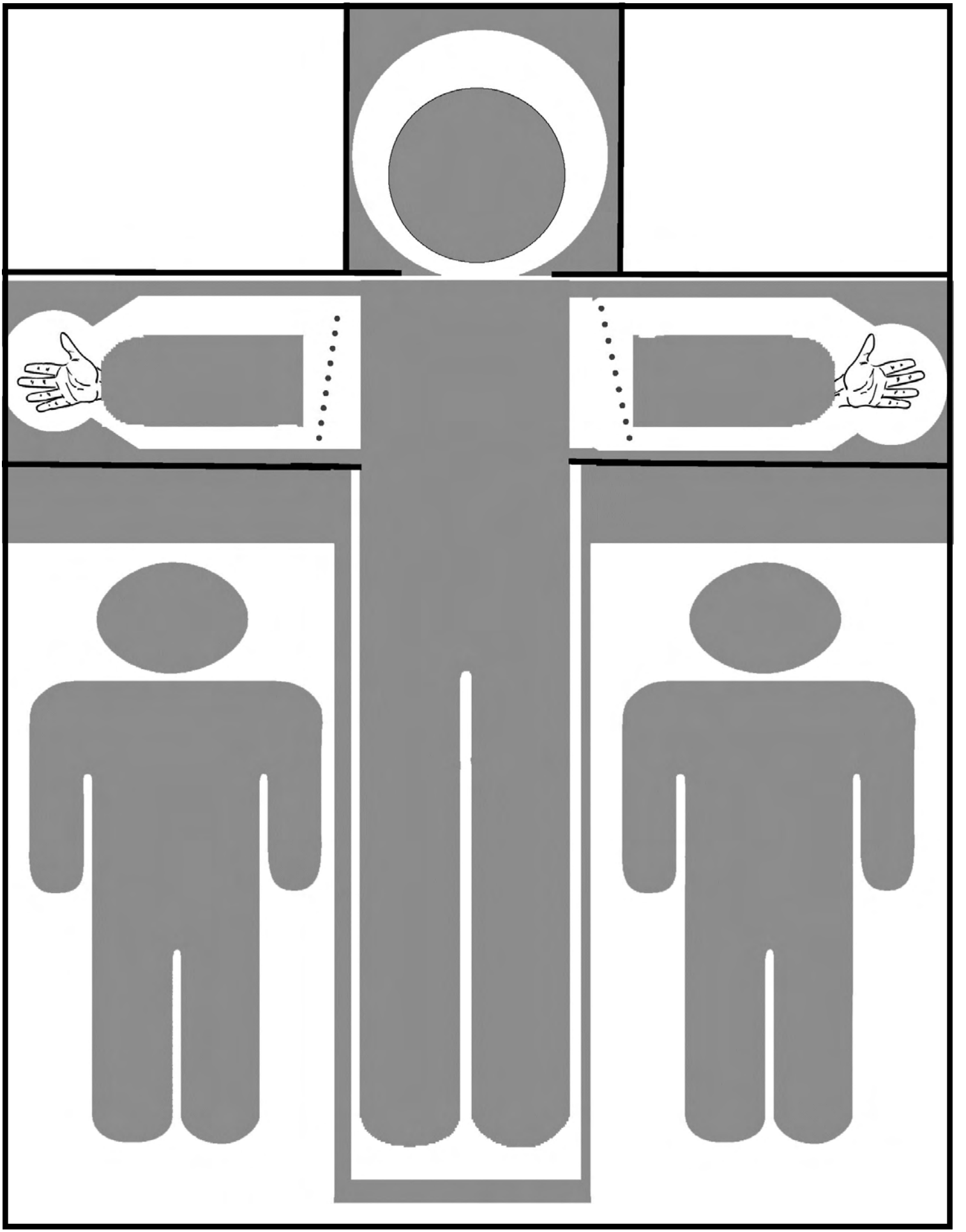
Young group?

For a young group, cut out the figures ahead of time to simplify the project.

Create more fun!

Have children sing the *Blessing Song* as they fold and unfold Jacob's arms.

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Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh

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Blessing Song

Sung to the tune of *A Tisket, a Tasket*

See a video of the song and actions at www.bitly.com/BlessingSong
or https://newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-blessing-song/

He blessed them, he blessed them,
He crossed his hands and blessed them!
Israel blessed both Joseph's sons,
He crossed his hands and blessed them!

1. Put your right hand up in the air. Now lay it across your chest.
2. Put your left hand up. Lay it across your chest over your right hand. Now your hands are crossed like Jacob's!
3. Bring your hands down and join your crossed hands with your neighbors.
4. Sing the Blessing Song together.
5. Repeat the song several times and choose a different action to do each time such as:

    - Have the children walk around in a circle in time to the music
    - Turn and walk in the reverse direction
    - Continue holding hands and move them up and down in time to the music
    - Continue holding hands and pull back and forth in a "pump" motion with neighbors
    - Walk towards or away from the center of the circle as you sing