



Joseph's Sons Blessed

Genesis 48:1-22

Level B

Ages 7-10

Life Focus: The Lord blesses me.

Memory Verse: "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your children." Genesis 48:11

Story Summary: Joseph heard that his father Jacob (Israel) was sick and took his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, to see him. Jacob sat up in bed, greeted Joseph and told him that Ephraim and Manasseh would be treated as *his own* children. Joseph presented his sons and Jacob offered to bless them. Joseph approached with his sons, guiding his elder son, Manasseh, to his father's right hand and his younger son, Ephraim, towards his father's left hand. Jacob crossed his hands and stretched his right hand towards Ephraim and his left hand towards Manasseh and he blessed Joseph. When Joseph realized what his father had done, he tried to switch Jacob's hands back, but Jacob would not let him do it and blessed both of Joseph's sons.

Lesson 7

Materials Needed

		<i>Supplied with Lesson</i>	<i>Additional Materials</i>
1. Getting Started (2-3 min)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Welcome Warm-up Activity directions pp. 100, 103 online video at www.bitly.com/BlessingSong	computer or other viewing device - watch online or download; see p. 4 for downloading directions
2. Focus on the Word use all activities (5-7 min)	Read the Word Talk About It story discussion	Talk About It discussion guide p. 100 Teaching Pictures pp. 104-105	Bible or copy of Genesis 48:1-22
3. Learn by Doing choose 1 or 2 activities (15-20 min)	Make 3-D blessing picture	Blessing Ephraim and Manasseh Diorama directions p. 101 <i>Blessing Ephraim and Manasseh Diorama</i> pp. 106-107	crayons or markers, scissors, tape, <i>optional</i> : bags to carry diorama pieces home computer or other viewing device - watch online or download; see p. 4 for downloading directions
	Make and Do make blessing bracelets for the left and right hands to think about some of the things the Lord gives us	Blessing Bracelets with Actions directions pp. 101-102 <i>Blessing Bracelets</i> p. 108 copied on heavy paper	scissors; crayons or markers; tape <i>optional</i> : glitter, stickers, etc.
	Picture to Color	The Blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh p. 109	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 min)	Memory Verse introduce <i>Memory Verse</i> for the week	Memory Verse <i>Parent Note</i> p. 110	

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

Blessing Song with actions (sung to tune of *A-Tisket, a-Tasket*)

Get bodies moving with a welcome song about Jacob's cross-hand blessing! Stand children close together in a circle—just like Joseph brought his sons close to Jacob to be blessed! Have them cross their arms and then hold the hands of the children on either side of them. Teacher stands outside the circle to help children and joins the circle once everyone has sorted their hands out!

See *Blessing Song* sheet for words and actions p. 77.

See an online video demonstration online at www.bitly.com/BlessingSong. Download in mp3 format to use as a sing-along during the lesson. See download directions on p. 4.

2. Focus on the Word

Read

Genesis 48:1-22

Show the **teaching pictures** on pp. 104-105 as you discuss the story.

Talk About It

Joseph invited his father and brothers to come and live in Egypt with him. His brothers brought their wives and children, and everything they owned. Joseph's father, Jacob (also called Israel), came too. Jacob was happy to see Joseph because he was 147 years old and knew he could now die in peace.

As was the custom, Jacob called for Joseph to come to him before he died so he could give him a blessing.

What does 'blessing' mean? Wanting good things for someone. The Lord blesses us by giving us good things we need each day. This is the "daily bread" we ask for in the Lord's prayer.

The eldest son usually received a special blessing. During the blessing the right hand would have been placed on his head. Each hand has a special spiritual meaning. The right hand stands for power and strength. Being touched means that power is being transferred from one person to another. Sometimes a minister gives a blessing by the laying on of hands, during a baptism or a wedding for example. Every time a minister raises his hands and says the benediction, it is a symbol of putting his hands on everyone's head.

Joseph brought his two sons along with him to see Jacob. He carefully arranged them so that his elder son, Manasseh, would be in front of Jacob's right hand. What did Jacob do that surprised Joseph? He crossed his hands so that his right hand rested on the head of Ephraim, the younger son.

What did Joseph try to do? He took his father's hand and tried to switch it back, but his father refused. This was surprising—but Jacob had a special purpose in doing it this way.

The Lord blesses each of us just as Jacob blessed his grandsons. The biggest blessing the Lord gives us is the blessing of being able to live in heaven when we die, because there the Lord can make us truly happy to eternity.

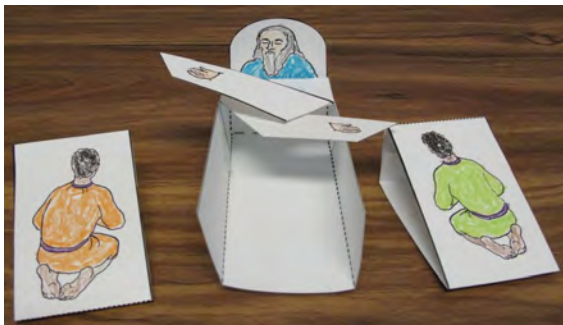
How has the Lord blessed you today? Let's celebrate the Lord's blessings by sharing them with others.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

Make: Blessing Ephraim and Manasseh Diorama



Make figures of Jacob, Ephraim and Manasseh to show the scene of Jacob blessing Joseph's sons. Jacob is lying in a bed while Ephraim and Manasseh kneel on either side of him. **Note:**

we recommend preparing a sample to help students understand how the folding works.

1. Distribute the diorama pages and invite the children to color them.
2. Carefully cut out the pieces along the solid black lines.
3. Fold the pieces along the dotted lines, creasing each fold in both directions. Then lay the pieces flat again.
4. Fold the Ephraim and Manasseh figures into 3-D triangles and tape the flap to the bottom of the pieces.
5. For the Jacob figure, fold the sides and the head of the "bed" up. Fold the two tabs near Jacob's shoulders in and tape them to the sides of the "bed".
6. Fold the two arm pieces over so the hands are hidden. Tape the two pieces together along the tab near Jacob's head.
7. Finally, fold the ends of the arm pieces up so that the hands show and the arms are crossed.

Choice

Make: Blessing Bracelets with Actions

Make a blessing bracelet for each hand and learn about the ways the Lord blesses us through His truth and His love.

1. The Lord made us, and He loves us. He wants us to be happy. Another word for being happy is blessed. What are some of the things that make you happy? *family, friends, good food, healthy body, playtime, fun games, etc.* The good things in your life that help you to be happy are blessings from the Lord.
2. The blessings Jacob gave to his grandsons represent the most important blessings that the Lord gives us—the blessings of love and truth.
3. Love is an important blessing because it leads us to care about things that are good for others and for us. It lets us have fun, enjoy doing things, and be happy being with other people.



Materials for each child

Blessing Ephraim and Manasseh Diorama pages (pp. 106-107) **printed on heavy paper**, crayons or markers, scissors, tape, *optional*: bag to hold diorama pieces

Preparation

copy diorama pages onto heavy paper; prepare sample diorama

Video Directions

See how to fold and assemble online at

www.bitly.com/BlessingEphraimAndManasseh

OR

Download video to your computer or other device. See directions on p. 4.

New Church Concept Correspondence

There is a relationship between spiritual things and natural things. Natural things *correspond* to or represent spiritual things.

Manasseh *corresponds* to love or goodness. Ephraim *corresponds* to truth. From an eternal perspective, love is most important and should lead a person's life. However, in the natural world, truth often takes the lead, because we become more loving through learning and practicing truth.

So, truth must often seem to take precedence, just as Jacob gave the preferred blessing of the right hand to the younger son, Ephraim, rather than to Manasseh.

Materials for each child

Blessing Bracelets p. 108 **copied on to heavy paper**, crayons or markers, scissors, tape, *optional*: glitter, stickers, etc.

Make: Blessing Bracelets with Actions *continued*

6. Fold each bracelet in half along the dotted line, with the printed side showing. Cut out the half heart shape and the half of the T. Unfold both strips. The heart means love and the T stands for truth.
7. Have students decorate the blank sides of the strips as they wish, using markers, glitter, stickers, etc. Encourage them to draw pictures of love blessings on the heart strip—like activities they love, people who are important to them, pets, etc. Draw blessings associated with truth—like the Word, church, and all the people who help them learn what is true—on the other strip.
8. Tape the ends of each strip together to form two bracelets.
9. Children can slip one bracelet on each arm and cross arms over their chest to remind them of these two most important things—love and truth—that the Lord blesses us with.

**Picture to Color: The Blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh**

Hand out copies of the picture and invite the children to color it.

Materials for each child

picture p. 109, crayons, markers, or colored pencils

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

“I had not thought to see your face;
but in fact, God has also shown me your children!”
Genesis 48:11

Read the *Memory Verse* aloud. Repeat it slowly several times. Invite the children to say it with you. Say “I had not thought to see your face.” Ask the children to repeat it with you. Say “but in fact, God has also shown me your children!” Ask the children to repeat it with you. Say the whole sentence and have children repeat it several times.

Closing

Shake each child’s hand, or lay your hands on his or her head and say a brief blessing as each child leaves. This blessing could be a personal blessing, or a blessing from the Word such as “The Lord bless you and keep you.”

Hand each child his or her projects and a *Parent Note* (p. 110) to take home.

Blessing Song

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

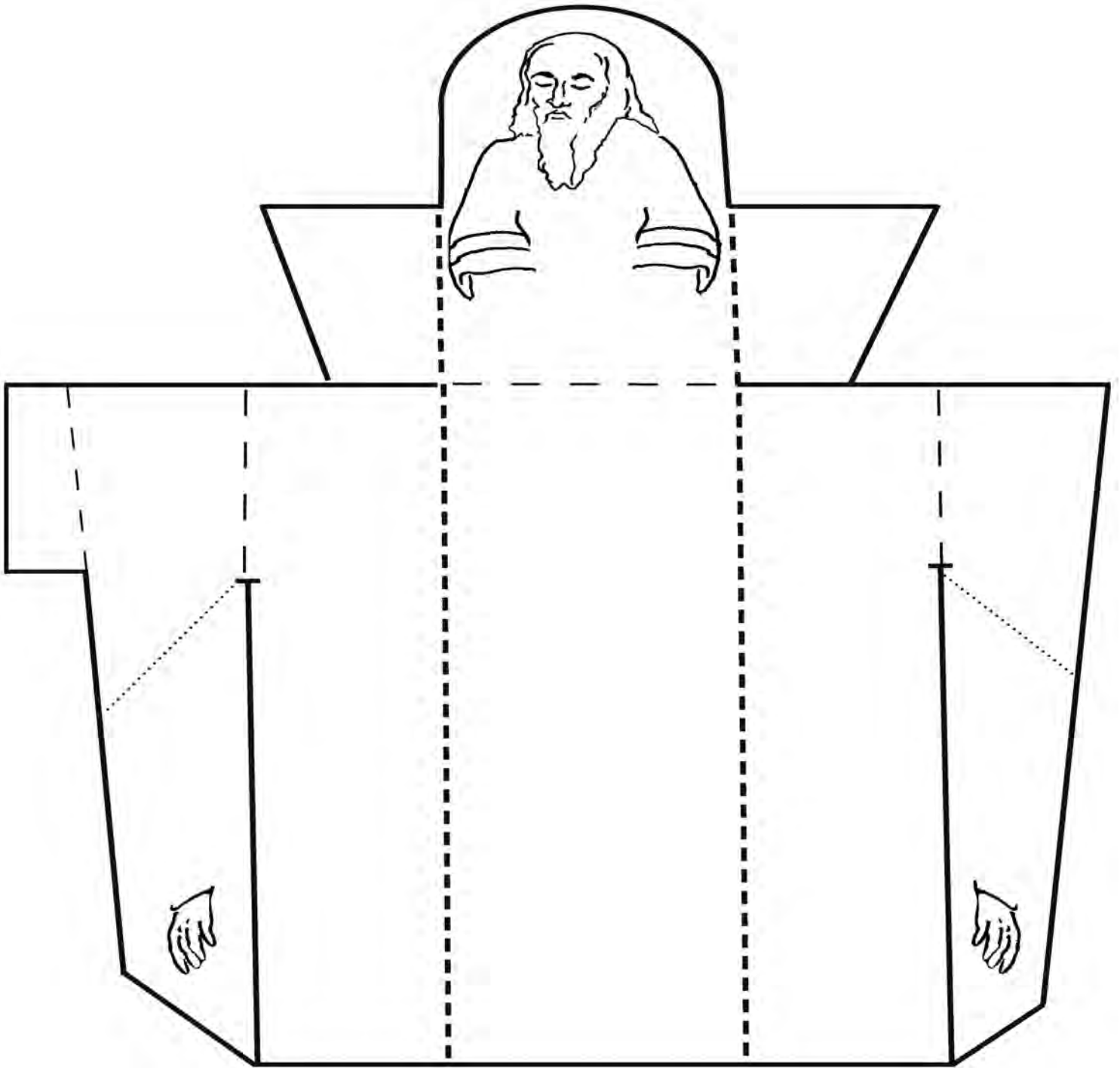
See a video of the song and actions at www.bitly.com/BlessingSong

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!

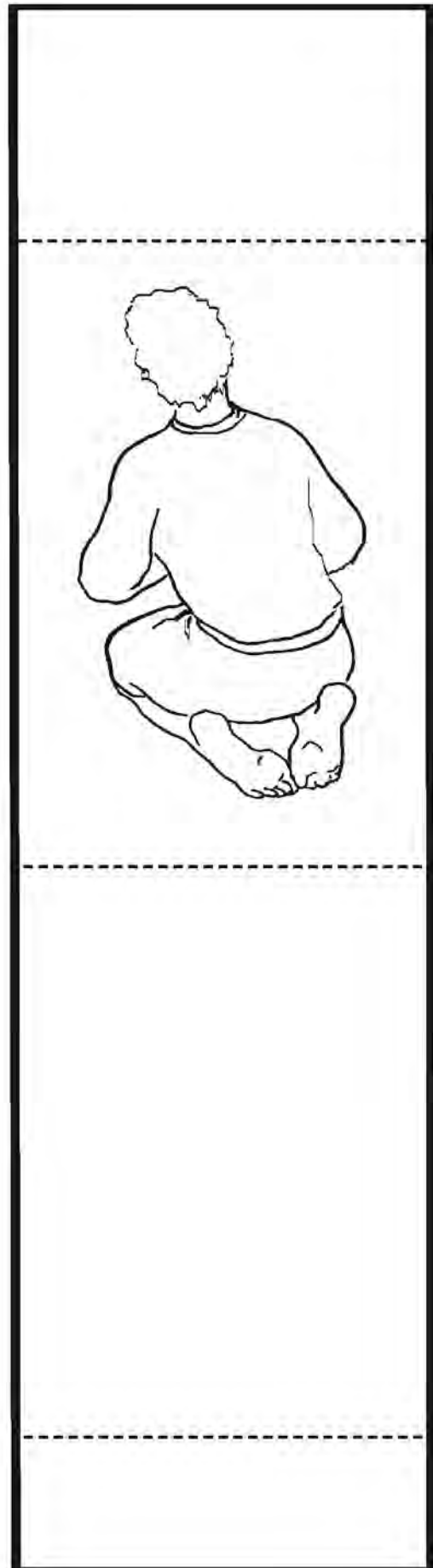
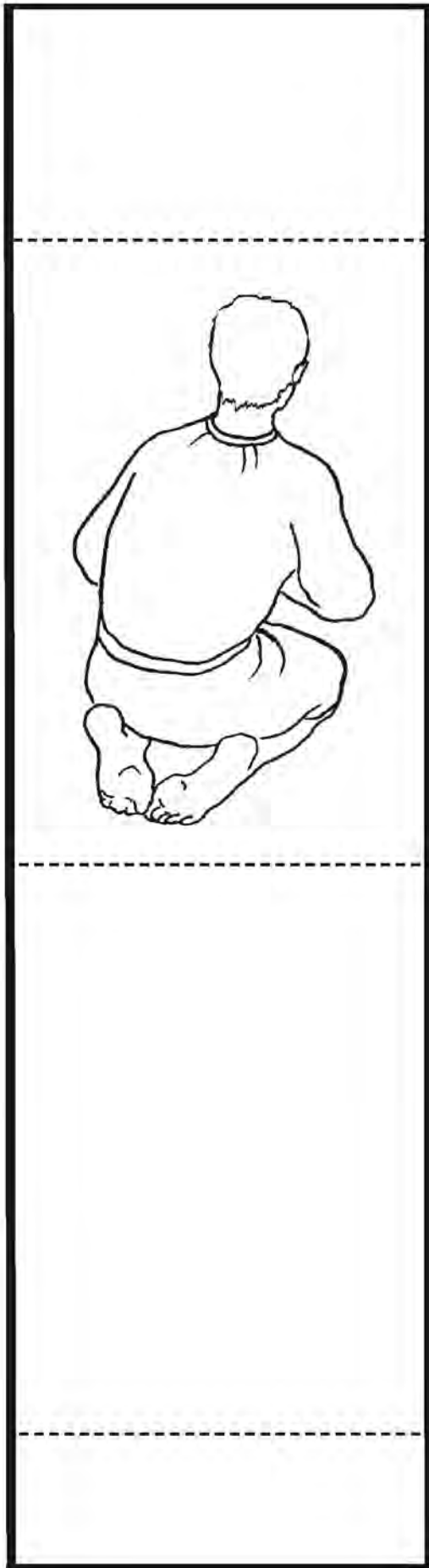
1. Put your right hand up in the air. Now lay it across your chest.
2. Put your left hand up. Lay it across your chest over your right hand. Now your hands are crossed like Jacob's!
3. Bring your hands down and join your crossed hands with your neighbors.
4. Sing the Blessing Song together.
5. Repeat 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



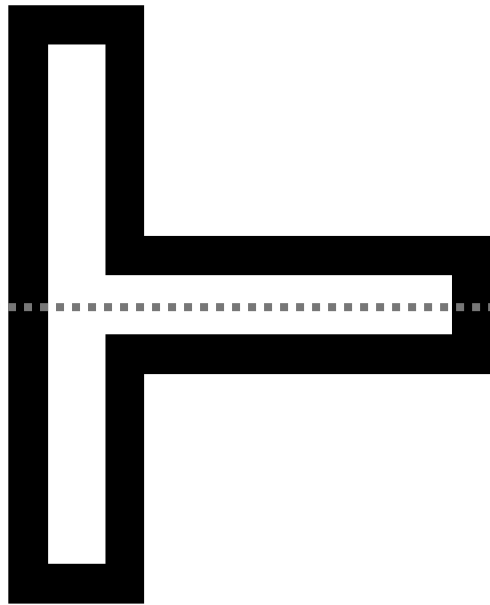
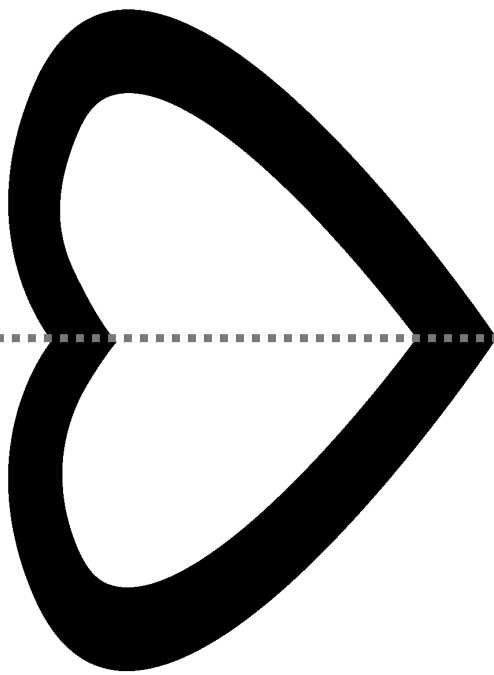




Blessing Ephraim and Manasseh Diorama



Blessing Ephraim and Manasseh Diorama



Blessing Bracelets



Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Today’s lesson focused on Jacob blessing Joseph’s sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Ask your child what surprising thing happened during the blessing! (Genesis 48:1-22). Look for a Blessing Song online at www.bitly.com/BlessingSong. We encourage you to help your child keep the Lord’s Word in his or her heart by learning this week’s Memory Verse. Try saying it once or twice in the morning, at mealtime or before bed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memory Verse</p> <p>“I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your children!” Genesis 48:11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Today’s lesson focused on Jacob blessing Joseph’s sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Ask your child what surprising thing happened during the blessing! (Genesis 48:1-22). Look for a Blessing Song online at www.bitly.com/BlessingSong. We encourage you to help your child keep the Lord’s Word in his or her heart by learning this week’s Memory Verse. Try saying it once or twice in the morning, at mealtime or before bed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memory Verse</p> <p>“I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your children!” Genesis 48:11</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Today’s lesson focused on Jacob blessing Joseph’s sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Ask your child what surprising thing happened during the blessing! (Genesis 48:1-22). Look for a Blessing Song online at www.bitly.com/BlessingSong. We encourage you to help your child keep the Lord’s Word in his or her heart by learning this week’s Memory Verse. Try saying it once or twice in the morning, at mealtime or before bed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memory Verse</p> <p>“I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your children!” Genesis 48:11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Today’s lesson focused on Jacob blessing Joseph’s sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Ask your child what surprising thing happened during the blessing! (Genesis 48:1-22). Look for a Blessing Song online at www.bitly.com/BlessingSong. We encourage you to help your child keep the Lord’s Word in his or her heart by learning this week’s Memory Verse. Try saying it once or twice in the morning, at mealtime or before bed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memory Verse</p> <p>“I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your children!” Genesis 48:11</p>