

Story Time - Read the story to the children

Lesson 26: THE SONS OF JACOB

GENESIS 29:31 - 30:24; 35:26-26

The LORD saw that Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, so he made it possible for Leah to have children. But Rachel did not have any children. Leah gave birth to a son, and she named him Reuben. She named him this because she said, "The LORD has seen my troubles because my husband does not love me. So now maybe my husband will love me." Leah became pregnant again and had another son. She named this son Simeon. She said, "The LORD has heard that I am not loved, so he gave me this son." Leah became pregnant again and had another son. She named this son Levi. She said, "Now, surely my husband will love me. I have given him three sons." Then Leah gave birth to another son. She named this son Judah. Leah named him this because she said, "Now I will praise the LORD." Then Leah stopped having children. Rachel saw that she was not giving Jacob any children. She became jealous of her sister Leah. So Rachel said to Jacob, "Help me have children, or I will die!" Jacob became angry with Rachel and said, "I am not God. He is the one who has caused you to not have children." Then Rachel said, "You can have my maid Bilhah to make children with. Go and be with her, and she will have a child for me. Then I can be a mother through her." So Rachel gave Bilhah to her husband Jacob. He was with Bilhah, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Jacob. Rachel said, "God has listened to my prayer. He decided to give me a son." So she named this son Dan. Bilhah became pregnant again and gave Jacob a second son. Rachel said, "I have fought hard to compete with my sister, and I have won." So she named that son Naphtali. Leah saw that she could have no more children. So she gave her slave girl Zilpah to Jacob like Rachel had done with her slave girl, so she could have children with Jacob for her. Then Zilpah had a son. Leah said, "I am lucky." So she named the son Gad. Zilpah gave birth to another son. Leah said, "I am very happy! Now women will call me happy." So she named that son Asher. During the wheat harvest Reuben went into the fields and found some special flowers called mandrakes. He brought them to his mother Leah. But Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." Leah answered, "You have already taken away my husband. Now you are trying to take away my son's mandrakes." But Rachel answered, "If you will give me your son's mandrake flowers, you can go and be with Jacob tonight." Jacob came in from the fields that night. Leah saw him and went out to meet him. She said, "You will sleep with

me tonight in my bed. I have paid for you with my son's mandrake flowers." So Jacob stayed with Leah that night. Then God allowed Leah to become pregnant again (even though she had been unable to get pregnant before!). She gave birth to a fifth son. She said, "God has given me a reward because I gave my slave to my husband." So she named her son Issachar. Leah became pregnant again and gave birth to a sixth son. She said, "God has given me a fine gift. Now surely Jacob will accept me, because I have given him six sons." So she named this son Zebulun. Later, Leah gave birth to a daughter. She named her Dinah. Then God heard Rachel's prayer and made it possible for Rachel to have children. She finally became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She said, "God has taken away my shame." Rachel named the son Joseph, saying, "May the Lord give me another son." Jacob and his group left Bethel. Before they came to Ephrath, Rachel was pregnant again, and began giving birth to her baby on the way to Ephrath. She was having a lot of trouble with this birth. She was in great pain. When her nurse saw this, she said, "Don't be afraid, Rachel. You are giving birth to another son." Rachel died while giving birth to the son. Before dying, she named the boy Benoni. But Jacob called him Benjamin. Rachel was buried on the road to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). Jacob put a special rock on Rachel's grave to honor her. That special rock is still there today. Then Israel (which was a special name God gave to Jacob) continued his journey. He camped just south of Eder tower. Israel stayed there for a short time. While he was there, Reuben slept with Israel's slave woman Bilhah, and Israel heard about it. Jacob had twelve sons. Jacob and Leah's sons were his firstborn son Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. Jacob and Rachel's sons were Joseph and Benjamin. Bilhah was Rachel's maid. Jacob and Bilhah's sons were Dan and Naphtali. Zilpah was Leah's maid. Jacob and Zilpah's sons were Gad and Asher. These are all of Jacob's sons who were born in Paddan Aram.

THE SONS OF JACOB
GENESIS 29:31 - 30:24; 35:26-26



"Behold, children are an inheritance from the LORD." **PSALM 127:3**
"Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them." **PSALM 127:5**

26. THE SONS OF JACOB

GENESIS 29:31 - 30:24; 35:26-26

MEMORY VERSE:

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD.....Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them." **PSALM 127:3 and PSALM 127:5**

Review Questions

True or False

1. When Leah had her son Reuben, she said, "The Lord has seen my troubles because my husband does not love me. Now maybe my husband will love me."
2. After Leah had her first son Reuben, Rachel got pregnant too.
3. Leah had four sons, then she stopped having children for a long time.
4. Rachel could not have children, so she gave her slave girl Bilhah to Jacob so she could have children for Rachel.
5. Bilhah never had any children with Jacob.
6. After Rachel gave her slave girl Bilhah to Jacob to have children for her, Leah gave her slave girl Zilpah to Jacob so that she could have children for Leah.
7. After Bilhah and Zilpah had children for Jacob, Leah gave her son's mandrake flowers to Rachel, and Rachel let Leah spend the night with Jacob, and that night Leah got pregnant again with another son.
8. Leah had six sons for Jacob and one daughter, and Rachel did not have any sons.
9. Rachel had two sons for Jacob, and died while giving birth to the last son who Jacob named Benjamin.

Questions

1. In those days, having sons was very important. Do you know how many sons Jacob had from his wives and their slave girls (Not counting Dinah, his daughter!) – He had 12 sons!
2. Do you remember who the oldest son was? (Reuben) How about the youngest son? (Benjamin).
3. At first, could Rachel have any children with Jacob?
4. When Rachel couldn't have any children, what did she do so that she could have sons for Jacob?
5. After Leah stopped having children and got jealous of Rachel's slave girl having sons for Jacob, what did she do to have more children?
6. Did Rachel ever have any children with Jacob? How many? (2)
7. When Rachel finally got pregnant and had a son for Jacob, what was his name? (Joseph)
8. What happened to Rachel when she had her last son Benjamin?
9. What did Jacob do at Rachel's grave to honor her?

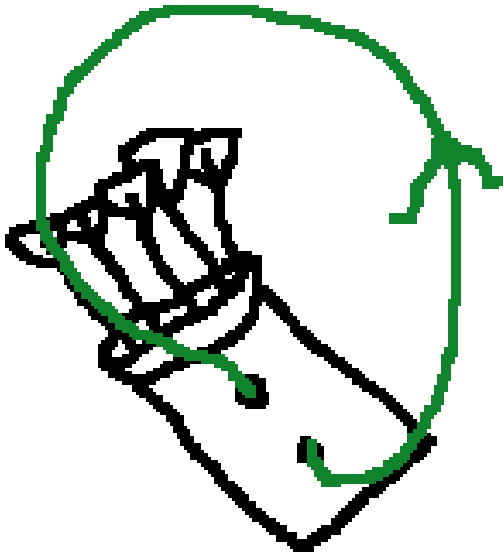
Lesson 26 Activity/Craft

Memory Verse Activity: Equipped Quiver

You will need 5 plastic drinking straws per child (sometimes McDonald's will give you some, but if not, Wal-Mart or Crest sells drinking straws by the box – don't use the tiny coffee stirrers in the kitchen – they are too small), heavy paper (index card or cardstock thickness), paper clips, brown paper bags, and yarn.

Help the kids make arrows by cutting two 1 1/2" slits in the ends of each straw. Cut a paper triangle, which is 2" on each side for each arrow. This slides into the slits you cut (pointy end goes to the inside of the straw, large bottom of the triangle is on the outside end).

Put a paper clip in the point end of the arrow to be the arrowhead and also to give the heads some weight so they will stay in the paper sack. The paper bag is the quiver. Fold the top edge of the open bag down once (roll it down around the top of the bag). Punch two holes in the double part of the bag where it's glued together (so it won't tear easily) for the yarn to go through – make the yarn long enough to go cross-body across the kids' bodies and tie in a knot after passing through the paper sack (See picture).



Let kids do as much as they can themselves. Five arrows constitute a full quiver. Explain that you will look closely at the benefits of a well-equipped quiver. What can arrows be used for? Protection, getting food, fun and many other things. Compare the quiver full of arrows with a godly family (Psalm 127:3-5).

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for our adoption as His sons and daughters. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.