

Vayechi “And he lived”

Genesis/B'reisheet 47:28 – 50:26 1 Kings 2:1-12 | Pet 1:1-9

“Jacob Blesses His Sons”

Objective:

- Understand that Joseph received a double portion when Jacob blessed Ephraim and Manasseh.
- Understand that Jacob gave a blessing to each of his 12 sons.
- Jacob and eventually Joseph’s bodies were buried in the Promised Land.

Welcome/Opening Slide

- Welcome the children & organize as required
- Opening Prayer

Please Remember These Rules

Say: Here are the rules:

- Please don’t talk when others are talking
- Please raise your hand if you would like to ask a question
- Please keep your hands, feet and other body parts to yourself
- You must ask to leave the room

Title Slide

Note: If possible, hold your Bible open throughout the story.

Say: Last week we learned about Joseph revealing himself to his brothers.

Say: Now that the brothers were together they brought his father Jacob to dwell in Egypt, where God had promised to make them into a great nation.

Jacob a Very Old Man

Say: Our story started when Jacob was 147 years old:

Question: Does anyone know someone that is 147 years old? (Wait for or encourage a response)

Say: Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years.

Jacob Asks Joseph To Keep a Promise

Say: Jacob knew that he was old and that he would die soon.

Say: Jacob asked Joseph to promise him that he would bury him in the cave in the Promised Land with Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Leah rather than in Egypt.

Say: Later, Joseph was told that Jacob was ill and went to visit him.

Jacob Blessed Joseph's Sons

Say: Joseph brought his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, with him.

Say: Jacob told Joseph that the two boys would be counted as his own sons when building the nation of Israel with 12 tribes.

Say: Joseph was given a "double portion" when Jacob blessed his two sons.

Say: Joseph then brought his sons to Jacob's bedside to receive the blessing

Jacob Blesses Ephraim First

Say: He put Ephraim to Jacob's left and Manasseh (the firstborn) to his right, but Jacob crossed his arms and laid his right hand upon Ephraim and left upon Manasseh.

Say: The right is the hand of blessing!

Say: Joseph thought that his father made a mistake.

Say: But Jacob told him that he knew what he was doing, and gave them a blessing!

Say: Both sons would be great, but Ephraim would be greater!

Jacob's Wants To see His 12 Sons

Say: Knowing that he would die soon Jacob asked all his sons to visit him.

Say: Jacob gave each son a blessing! We will see a short video about the blessings Jacob gave his sons.

Video

Note: The video length is **3:21** and should start automatically.

Jacob Blesses His Sons

Say: The blessing Jacob gave to his sons would tell them what they, their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc. would be like in the future.

Say: When he finished with blessing his sons, he died.

Jacob Dies - Joseph Keeps His Promise

Say: Joseph fell upon Jacob's face and wept, and then ordered the Egyptian physicians to embalm his father.

Say: Joseph, along with his brothers returned to Canaan to bury Jacob in Hebron.

Say: Joseph kept his promise to his father Jacob.

Joseph is Now An Old Man

Say: Joseph lived to the age of 110.

Say: When he died he too was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Say: Joseph knew that God kept his promises and ordered that his bones would be buried in the Promised Land.

Say: We will later learn that this happened.

Hebrews 11:21, 22

Say: The writer of Hebrews 11:21, 22

By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

Say: It was by faith that Joseph and Jacob believed God would keep his promises about the Land God gave them.

Say: At the time of Joseph’s death the people were living in Egypt, but he knew that they would one day return to the Promised Land.

God’s Land of Promise to the Jewish People

Say: We celebrate Passover when Israel left Egypt and returned to their homeland—the Land that God gave them.

Say: Sadly 2000 years ago the Jewish people were removed from the Land and many of them were killed by the Romans.

Say: Perhaps the Jewish people thought that God forgot his promises because the Jewish people did not have their homeland of Israel any more.

Say: But all that has changed now!

Israel is Back in the Land

Say: Now the Jewish people are back in the Land of Israel.

Say: There are many enemies of the Jewish people that seek to kill and destroy them, but they have not defeated them.

God Keeps His Promises

Say: God has kept his promise to the Jewish people and they are back in the Land of Israel.

Say: This is the same Land that Jacob was buried in and the Land where Joseph wanted his bones to be buried.

Say: If God keeps his promises with Jacob and Joseph, He will keep His promises with us too.

Yeshua will Return to the Land of Israel

Say: Yeshua promised that He would return someday. When he returns He will be the King of Israel and rule the entire world.

Say: He will return to the Land of Israel, the same Land promised to Jacob and Joseph!

Say: That will be a very exciting day.

Say: Our lesson verse is Hebrew 11:22

Lesson Verse - Hebrews 11:22

“By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.”

Note: You can make a game by using word cards to teach the verse. Each review remove one of the cards until all the cards are removed and the children know the verse. Make a game jumbling the cards and time a few children to see who puts the cards in the correct order the quickest.

Let's Learn Hebrew!

Say: In our teaching this week we learned about the deaths of both Jacob and Joseph.

Say: Our Hebrew word for this week is a **“Mavet”**.

Say: Mavet in English means **“Death”**.



Note: Have the children practice the word a few times.

What Did We Learn Today?

- Joseph received a double portion when Jacob blessed Ephraim and Manasseh.
- Jacob gave a blessing to each of his 12 sons that would tell what their future would be like.
- Jacob and eventually Joseph’s bodies were buried in the Promised Land.

Small Group Time

Break the children into two groups:

- Primary – Ages 4-7
- Elementary Ages 8-12

Distribute the self-directed learning handout to each child and let them work together or alone.

Primary Handout Answer Sheet

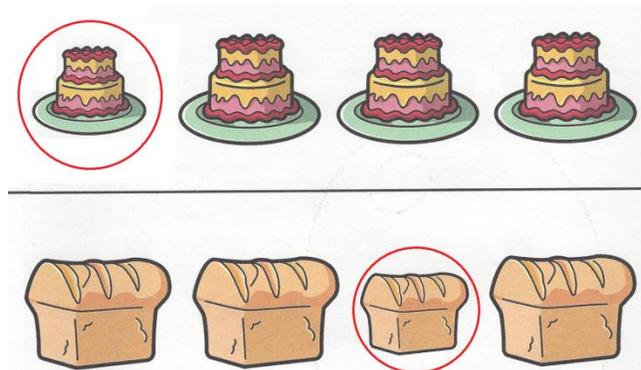
Jacob Blesses His Sons – Page 1

Here are the blessings that each of Jacob's 12 sons received.

Son/Tribe	Blessing
Reuben	No long consider a leader, even though the firstborn
Simeon	Rebuked for killing people and will be scattered in Israel
Levi	Rebuked for killing people and will be scattered in Israel
Judah	Kings will come from him, and so will the Messiah
Dan	Will have great judges and promote justice in Israel.
Naphtali	Shall produce beauty and praises in Israel.
Gad	Will have many warriors of Israel.
Asher	Will be a baker and have a lot of money
Issachar	Will be hard workers
Zebulun	Will be prosperous seafaring merchants.
Joseph	Will be blessed with fertility and prosperity.
Benjamin	Will have many victorious warriors of Israel.

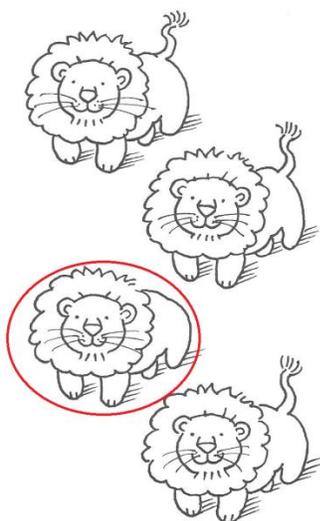
The Blessing of Asher Puzzle – Page 1

Jacob blessed his son Asher saying, “Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies.” The blessing that Asher received was to be a baker. Circle the baked items below that are different. (Genesis 49:20)



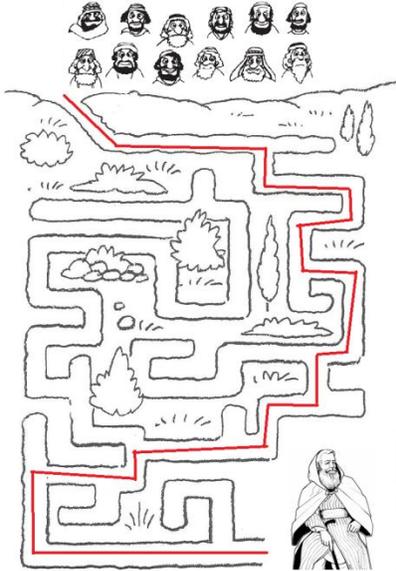
Judah’s Blessing Puzzle – Page 2

Jacob gave Judah a very important blessing. Jacob blessed Judah saying, “Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?” Judah would provide Israel with it’s future kings. A lion is the “King of the Beast”. Circle the odd one out here. (Genesis 49:9-12)



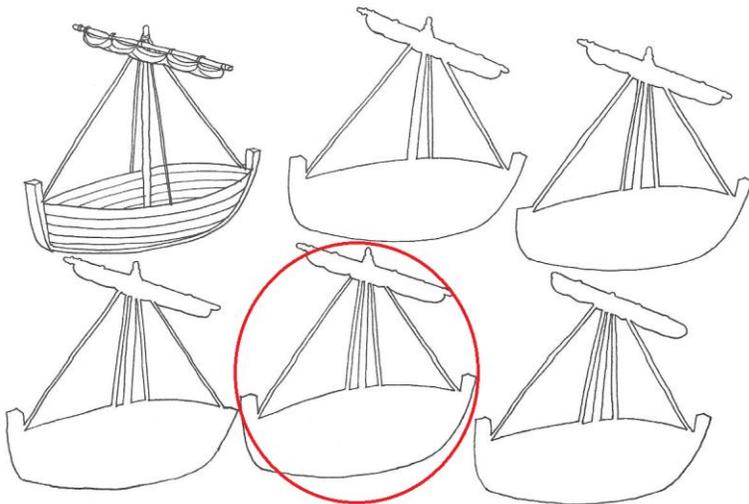
The Amazing Maze Puzzle – Page 2

Jacob asked his sons to visit him so that he could give a blessing before his death. Help Jacob’s 12 sons to find their way to see their father.



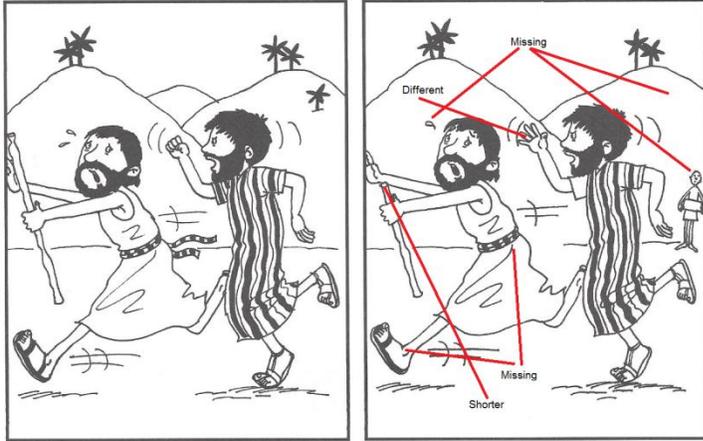
Zebulun’s Blessing Puzzle – Page 3

Zebulun was blessed with working around water and to be fishermen. Jacob blessed him saying, “Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon.” Which outline fits the finished drawing of Zebulun’s fishing boat? (Genesis 49:13)



Simeon and Levi Blessing Puzzle – Page 3

Sadly, both Simeon and Levi did not receive a good blessing. Jacob said of the two brothers, “Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords... I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.” This probably made them very sad and they ran away. How many differences can you spot between the two pictures? (Genesis 49:5, 7)



Color Me! - Jacob Blesses His Sons – Page 4

When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people. (Genesis 49:33)



Genesis/B'reisheet 49:3-27 -- Page 1

³ “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. ⁴ Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it--he went up to my couch! ⁵ Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. ⁶ Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstringed oxen. ⁷ Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel. ⁸ Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. ¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. ¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk. ¹³ Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon. ¹⁴ Issachar is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheepfolds. ¹⁵ He saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant at forced labor. ¹⁶ Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁷ Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward. ¹⁸ I wait for your salvation, O LORD. ¹⁹ Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at their heels. ²⁰ Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies. ²¹ Naphtali is a doe let loose that bears beautiful fawns. ²² Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. ²³ The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely, ²⁴ yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), ²⁵ by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. ²⁶ The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my parents, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers. ²⁷ Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at evening dividing the spoil.”

Lesson Verse – Page x

Hebrews 11:22

“By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.”

Let's Learn Hebrew! – Page 2

In our teaching this week we learned about the deaths of both Jacob and Joseph. Our Hebrew word for this week is a “**Mavet**”. Mavet in English means “**Death**”.



Questions – Pages 2

1. Who was the firstborn son of Jacob?

- A. Reuben
- B. Judah
- C. Joseph

Answer: A. Reuben

2. Circle the correct word: “Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of (**WAR, VIOLENCE**) are their swords.” (Genesis 49:5)

Answer: Violence

3. Fill in the blank: “Judah is a _____ 's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a _____ ; who dares rouse him?” (Genesis 49:9)

Answer: Lion, Lioness

4. “Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon.” (Genesis 49:13)

TRUE OR FALSE

Answer: True, Quote from the scripture.

5. Circle the correct word: “Issachar is a strong (**DONKEY, HORSE**), crouching between the sheepfolds.” (Genesis 49:14)

Answer: Donkey

6. “Dan shall rule his people as one of the tribes of Israel.” (Genesis 49:16)

TRUE OR FALSE

Answer: False, He will be a judge

7. Fill in the blank: "Raiders shall raid _____, but he shall _____ at their heels."
(Genesis 49:19)

Answer: Gad, Raid

8. Fill in the blank: "Asher's food shall be _____, and he shall yield _____ delicacies."
(Genesis 49:20)

Answer: Rich, Royal

9. What animal is associated with Naphtali? (Genesis 49:21)

- A. Sheep
- B. Bear
- C. Doe

Answer: C. Doe

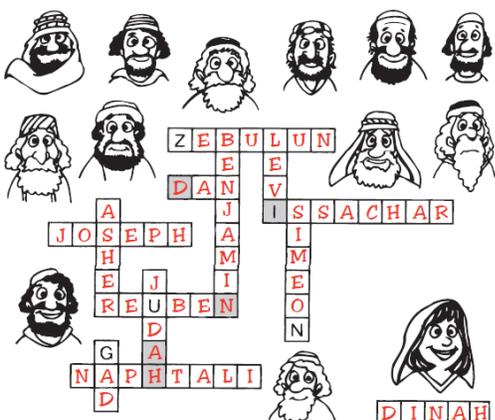
10. "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at evening dividing the spoil." (Genesis 49:27)

TRUE OR FALSE

Answer: True, Quote from the scriptures

Jacob's Sons Crossword Puzzle - Page 3

God blessed Jacob with twelve sons. Can you fit all of their names in the puzzle below? Some letters are already in the puzzles to help you. When you are finished, take the letters from the shaded boxes and put them into the boxes below. These letters will spell the name of Jacob's daughter.



Asher	Gad	Judah	Reuben
Benjamin	Issachar	Levi	Simeon
Dan	Joseph	Naphtali	Zebulun

Cryptogram– Page 3

Decode the message by finding each substitute letter or symbol.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
A	P	D	I	Z	S	U	N	V	M	R	Q	H	B	C	X	J	F	K	E	T	L	O	W	G	Y

BY FAITH JOSEPH, AT THE END
 PG SAVEN MCKZXN AE ENZ ZBI
 OF HIS LIFE, MADE MENTION
 CS NVK QVSZ HAIZ HZBEVCB
 OF THE EXODUS OF THE ISRAELITES
 CS ENZ ZWCITK CS ENZ VKFAZQVEZK
 AND GAVE DIRECTIONS CONCERNING
 ABI UALZ IVFZDEVCK DCBDZFBVBU
 HIS BONES.
 NVK PCBZK

Word Search– Page 4

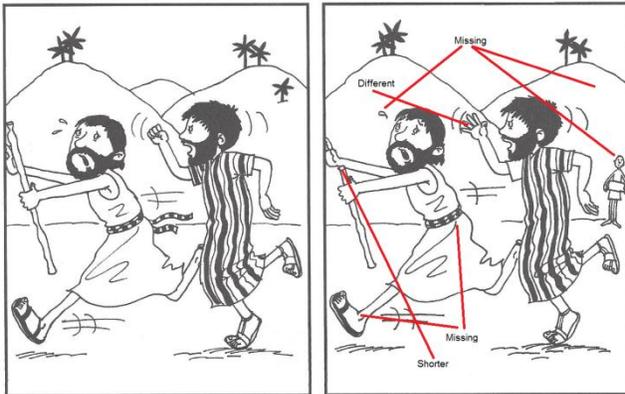
Find the hidden words within the grid of letters.

N A P H T A L I G U I H P B D
 K X M E I R I A G A C Z L F Z
 K D L Y M L R E P J D G N P K
 I O E H M W Y F O Z P Q R C
 R L E F C P T U D A N Z M J Q
 Z E Z Z R Y I F L E I P A N U
 F Z H I E N P R F V S L J W O
 R K O S B B A U R I G Q N I B
 D B B I A H U E N U J M E C Y
 L B E T C H U L Y T O H B U F
 L Q F A X B Q J U X S A D F X
 T O S L E E K J O N E D F J S
 K S L N W W C D R Z P U H E Q
 I N O E M I S X L F H J O L G
 R N Q T N J J D W F K F A R M

Asher	Gad	Judah	Reuben
Benjamin	Issachar	Levi	Simeon
Dan	Joseph	Naphtali	Zebulun

Just For Fun – Page 4

Sadly, both Simeon and Levi did not receive a good blessing. Jacob said of the two brothers, “Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords... I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.” This probably made them very sad and they ran away. How many differences can you spot between the two pictures? (Genesis 49:5, 7)



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All references are taken from the Jewish New Testament, David H. Stern, Publisher: Jewish New Testament Publishers and the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.