

## Lesson 49

# Israel's Blessing

*Jacob blesses his sons before his death.*



## K-I<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Review

Refer to Lesson 48 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy grain during the years of famine when there wasn't enough food.

- ? Who was in charge of selling grain in Egypt? *Joseph.*  
Yes. Joseph was in charge of selling grain to the people.
- ? Since Joseph was a powerful ruler, his brothers did something that reminded him of his dream. What did they have to do when they came to him? *They bowed down to him.*
- ? Right. They had to bow to Joseph just like in his dream. Did Joseph's brothers know he was Joseph? *No.*
- ? Why not? *He looked and sounded Egyptian.*

Instead of telling them who he was, Joseph decided to test them to see if they had changed from the jealous, angry men they had been when they sold him into slavery.

- ? When they brought Benjamin to Egypt, what did Joseph put in Benjamin's sack as part of the test? *His silver cup.*

Joseph wanted to see if his brothers would help Benjamin when he was in trouble. And they did! They passed the test.

Joseph told his brothers who he was and that he forgave them. Joseph understood that God was in control of everything that happened. So now he could save many people from the famine.

### Jacob Moves to Egypt

This was a very exciting time for Joseph to be together with his brothers again. He had not seen them in 20 years. They all cried and hugged each other. Then Joseph told his brothers what they should do.

### Genesis 45:9–10

- ? Let's read about that in Genesis. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. *Have the student bring the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Genesis 45:9–10.*
- ? What did Joseph want his father to do? *Come down to him. Move to Egypt.*

Joseph knew the famine would last another five years. So he wanted his family to be close. Since he was a very important ruler in Egypt, he could give them everything they needed and make sure they were taken care of.

- ? Where would they dwell, or live? *In the land of Goshen.*

Joseph's family would live in a part of Egypt called Goshen. This land was the best for raising their sheep and goats and other animals.

Wow! God was taking care of Jacob and his sons and their families. Remember, this was during a famine when people had very little to eat and times were really hard. But God made a way for Jacob to come and be near Joseph.

Joseph told his brothers to hurry back to Canaan and tell his father that he was alive. He gave them carts, donkeys, clothing, silver, and food for the journey. When Jacob heard the news, he was thrilled to learn that his beloved son Joseph was alive, and even more surprising, that Joseph was a powerful ruler of Egypt! Jacob was so shocked at the news that he couldn't believe it at first. But he decided that he would go see Joseph. Jacob was going on a trip to Egypt!

- ? What kinds of things do you need to pack for a trip? *Allow discussion.*

Hey! Would you like to see what I packed in my suitcase? *Put the suitcase on a table so students can't see inside. Start pulling items out one at a time, commenting on each one. For example, show a sweater and say, "This is good. I need it to keep me warm." Or bring out a silly item and say, "What's this doing in here?!" and toss it aside. When you've gone through the contents, close the suitcase and continue with the lesson.*

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Jacob and his family packed up all their special things to take with them. They knew they would have all they needed because Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, promised they could have the best of everything when they got to their new home. Finally, they were ready—Jacob, his sons, their wives, children, and all the grandchildren were moving to Egypt!

Along the way, Jacob stopped to worship God. And God spoke to Jacob about his descendants.

- ? Do you remember what descendants are? We've heard that word before. *Family; children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on.*

God promised that he would go with Jacob and his family to Egypt. He said he would make Jacob's descendants into a great nation of many people and bring them back to Canaan someday. This was a very important promise that we'll hear more about later.

### Jacob Blesses His Sons

Jacob and his family lived in the land of Goshen near Joseph and cared for their animals. Jacob's sons had children and grandchildren, and their families grew quickly.

After living there for 17 years, Jacob turned 147 years old. He was getting sick and old, but he wanted to give each of his sons a blessing. Back in those days, a father's blessing was special. It told if that son would get special things like money or land, and it sometimes told about what would happen in the future.

- ? Jacob blessed each of his 12 sons. But one of Jacob's sons received a very special blessing. Which son do you think that was? *Allow guesses. You may want to sing the "Twelve Sons of Jacob" song to remind the students of all the sons' names.*

### Genesis 49:8

Let's look in the Bible to find out. *Read Genesis 49:8.*

- ? Which brother was this blessing for? *Judah.*

Right! It was Judah. We've talked a lot about Joseph, and he did receive a very good blessing. He and his family would have many good things and raise many children. But this special blessing was for Judah.

Refer to the Flip Chart. As Jacob blessed his son Judah, God helped him understand some things that would happen in his family through the years.

- ? What did Jacob say Judah's brothers shall do? *Praise him.*

Judah's name means "praise." And this verse says his brothers would praise him.

Jacob said that many would bow down to Judah's descendants. This showed that Judah's family would be leaders.

### Genesis 49:9

Jacob told Judah that his descendants would be like a certain kind of animal. Listen to the verse and tell me what animal that is. *Read Genesis 49:9.*

- ? What kind of animal would they be like? *A lion.*

Yes! Judah's family would become strong and powerful like a lion.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Jacob also said Judah's family would always have a scepter. A scepter is a symbol of power and authority.

- ? Who would use a scepter? I'll give you a hint: he usually wears a crown. *A king.*

When Jacob talked about a scepter, he meant that kings would come from Judah's descendants. And because we have the whole Bible now, we can see how this came true! The kings of Judah—like King David and King Solomon—came from Judah's family.

Now, do you remember the promise God first gave to Abraham, then to Isaac and Jacob? Part of God's promise told about a special descendant who would be the Savior.

- ? Who is the Savior who came to save sinners by dying on a cross? We celebrate his birthday at Christmas. *Jesus.*

Yes. This was the best part of Judah's blessing. Jesus would be part of his family! And Jesus would be the King over everything!

### Jacob and Joseph Die

Soon after blessing each of his sons, Jacob died. His family was very sad and mourned for him many days.

Joseph and his brothers lived in Egypt for many years, and their families kept growing—children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Joseph lived a long, happy life, and he died when he was 110 years old! And that's how the book of Genesis ends.

Wow! There is so much packed into the first book of the Bible! In Genesis, we see that God always planned to send Jesus to save sinners. Remember way back in the Garden of Eden, God promised Adam and Eve there would be a Savior, and that same promise was passed on to Abraham, Isaac, and then to Jacob. And today we learned that this promise was passed down to Judah and his family in a special blessing. Jesus is the promised Savior. He came to save sinners from God's punishment. All who turn from their sin and put their trust in Jesus will be saved and live with him forever.

*Continue with the Lesson Review Game.*



Judah's family would have many kings.

**JESUS** would be a part of Judah's family.



Jacob's family moved to **EGYPT**.