

Lesson 49

Israel's Blessing

Jacob blesses his sons before his death.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Prayer Page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God we love him and praise him.

I'll start. Dear God, I love you, and I praise you because . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

What word means God will always keep his promises? Faithful.
Can we trust God only sometimes or all the time? All the time.
What word means God knows and sees everything we do? Omniscient.
What did Jesus come to save us from? The punishment of sin.

Bible Pass Around

Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number choose a number. (You may also choose to recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.) We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word), you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready for it in our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. Begin the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.

K-1st Lesson continues next.

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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.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

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.

Open the suitcase and have fun showing the items inside. 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.

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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.

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

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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.

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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.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

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 about Joseph, he was so surprised 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.

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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.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Jacob blessed each of his 12 sons. But one of them 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.

We've talked a lot about Joseph, and he did receive a very good blessing. But this special blessing was for Judah. As Jacob blessed Judah, God helped him understand many things that would happen to Judah's descendants through the years.

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

Genesis 49:9

Jacob told Judah that his descendants, his children and grandchildren, 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.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Yes! Judah's family would become strong and powerful like a lion.

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 some people in Judah's family would be kings!

But that's not the best part. Jacob told about a special descendant from Judah's family 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. Joseph and his brothers stayed in Egypt and lived there for many years, and their families kept growing—children, grandchildren, and great-

grandchildren—lots of descendants! Joseph lived a long, happy life, and he died when he was 110 years old! And that's how the first book of the Bible, Genesis, ends.

The Bible tells us that God always planned to send Jesus to save sinners from the very beginning. And today we learned that Jesus would be part of Judah's family. 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 below.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to review the lesson with a lesson review game.

Story Time

Do you remember what happened in our last story? Allow discussion.

Matt played a trick on Justin and pelted him with water balloons! They got Justin's church clothes all wet. He was soaked, and he was mad at Matt, too.

Did Justin stay mad? What did he hear at Sunday school that morning? He heard how Joseph forgave his brothers because God could use evil plans for good.

Even when people do mean things, God can still make something good come out of it. What was the good thing that came from Matt's water balloon attack? He said he would come to Justin's church party.

Who do you think our story will be about today? Let's find out. Read the story as you show the picture.

Justin's and Jessie's parents wanted to give their kids a blessing, so they gave them new Bibles of their very own because they knew that a Bible would be a great help to them as they start school and learn many new things.

In our lesson today, Jacob gave each of his sons a blessing, too. God helped him tell many things that would happen to their descendants through the years, including the special blessing of Jesus. It was a little different with Justin's and Jessie's blessings. Their parents didn't know what would happen in the coming years as the kids grew up, but they did know that if they had a Bible of their own, it would always guide them with the truth and help them learn to obey God and follow him every day.

Memory Verse

We should all be hiding God's Word in our hearts! Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game.

Explain the verse to your students as you encourage them to memorize it.

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to sing the songs.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Twelve Sons of Jacob

When Jacob moved to Egypt, he had all 12 of his sons living nearby once again. Let's sing about his sons and see if we remember all their names. Review the words and sing the song together once or twice.

Proverbs 3:5–6

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. It's time for the memory verse song. Review the words and sing the song together once or twice.

Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets (PDF) and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

Thank God for the promise of Jesus, the Savior, through the family of Judah.

Ask God for faith to trust him and his Word.

Song Sheet

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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.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to review the lesson with a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Two beanbags
- Three laundry baskets or boxes
- Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help.

Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

Review Questions
Three chairs set out for bases
Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

Review Questions
Six to ten empty water bottles
Softball or other small playground ball
Masking tape
Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

- Review Questions
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and “wild” written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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