



# Joseph's Sons Blessed

Genesis 48:1-22

## Level A

Ages 3-6

**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 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>
<b>1. Getting Started</b> (1-2 min)	<b>Welcome Warm-up Activity</b>	<b>Welcome Warm-up Activity</b> directions pp. 74 & 77 online video demonstration at <a href="http://www.bitly.com/BlessingSong">www.bitly.com/BlessingSong</a>	computer or other viewing device - watch online or download; see p. 4 for downloading directions
<b>2. Focus on the Word</b> use all activities (5-7 min)	<b>Read the Word</b>  <b>Talk About It</b> story discussion	<b>Talk About It</b> discussion guide p. 74  <b>Teaching Pictures</b> pp. 78-79	Bible or copy of Genesis 48:1-22
<b>3. Learn by Doing</b> choose 1 or 2 activities (15-20 min)	<b>Make</b> a moveable blessing picture	<b>Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh</b> directions p. 75 <i>Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh</i> p. 80	crayons or markers, scissors
	<b>Activity</b> an action rhyme about blessings from the Lord	<b>The Lord Blesses Me Action Rhyme</b> directions p. 75 online video demonstration at <a href="http://www.bitly.com/TheLordBlessesMe">www.bitly.com/TheLordBlessesMe</a>	computer or other viewing device - watch online or download; see p. 4 for downloading directions
	<b>Picture to Color</b>	<b>The Blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh</b> p. 81	crayons, markers or colored pencils
<b>4. Wrap It Up</b> (2-3 min)	<b>Memory Verse</b> introduce <i>Memory Verse</i> for the week	<b>Memory Verse</b> <i>Parent Note</i> p. 82	

# 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](http://www.bitly.com/BlessingSong). Download in mp3 format and import to iTunes 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. 78-79 as you discuss the story.

**Talk  
About It**

**Joseph invited his father and brothers to come and live with him in Egypt. His brothers brought their wives and children and everything they owned. Imagine how happy Jacob (also called Israel) must have been to see Joseph again!**

**Jacob was an old man by this time and knew he would soon die. At that time there was a custom of giving your children a blessing if you expected to die. So Jacob called for Joseph to come so he could bless him.**

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

**The eldest son was usually given a special blessing. The right hand was used for this special blessing because the right hand stands for power and strength.**

**Which is your right hand? Put your right hand up in the air! How many of you use this hand to draw, or to throw a ball? The hand you use this way is often more powerful or stronger because it is used to do so many things!**

**Manasseh was Joseph's older son. Which hand did Joseph expect his father to put on Manasseh's head?** The right hand.

**Did Jacob put his right hand on Manasseh's head?** No, he crossed his hands and put his right hand on Ephraim's head. Ephraim was younger. Joseph was surprised!

**What did Joseph try to do?** He took his father's hands and tried to switch them back, but his father would not do it. Jacob had a special purpose in doing it this way.

**The Lord has special blessings for each one of us! No two people are blessed in exactly the same way.**

**How has the Lord blessed you today?** We can celebrate these blessings by sharing them with others.

# 3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

## Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh

Make a picture of Jacob blessing Joseph's children with moveable arms.

1. Distribute the pictures and ask children to color in faces and clothes. Remind them that Jacob is in the center, lying on a bed. Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph's sons (Jacob's grandsons), are on either side of Jacob waiting to be blessed.
2. Once the coloring is done, help students cut along the solid black lines, making sure not to cut Jacob's head off! The pieces that are cut off can be discarded.
3. Jacob could have blessed Joseph's two sons with his arms straight, the way their picture looks now. But he didn't do that. Instead he crossed his arms to bless them.
4. Help children to fold the arms inward along the dotted lines so that Jacob's arms cross to bless his grandsons. If they want, children can draw arms and hands for Jacob on the side of the paper that now shows.



### Materials for each child

*Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh* p. 80 copied on to heavy paper, crayons or markers, scissors

### Young group?

For a young group, cut out the figures ahead of time to simplify the project.

### Create more fun!

Have children sing the *Blessing Song* (p. 77) as they fold and unfold Jacob's arms.

Choice

## The Lord Blesses Me Action Rhyme

The Lord blesses us and calls us to be His own just as Jacob blessed Ephraim and Manasseh and made them his own. This action rhyme encourages children to recognize the Lord's love and blessings in their own lives.

1. How has the Lord blessed you today? He gives us many good things. Encourage sharing of examples (e.g. food, family, warm bed, friends, church).
2. That's a lot of blessings! The Lord loves and cares for us at every moment. How can we share these blessings with others? (e.g. helping, showing concern, being kind and patient, doing nice things, etc.)
3. We are going to learn a rhyme about the love and blessings that the Lord's showers on us.
4. Teach *The Lord Blesses Me* action rhyme, words and actions below.
5. We can thank the Lord for all His blessings by saying a 'thank you' at mealtime, when we go to bed and when we pray. We can thank the Lord each time we remember His blessings.

The Lord (*raise one hand*) blesses my father (*stand tall—make strong arms*)  
 The Lord (*raise one hand*) blesses my mother (*arms holding baby*)  
 The Lord (*raise one hand*) blesses my friends (*spread arms out*)  
 And the Lord (*raise one hand*) blesses me (*hug yourself*)

Thank you, Lord, (*hands folded*) for my loving father (*stand tall—strong arms*)  
 Thank you, Lord, (*hands folded*) for my loving mother (*arms holding baby*)  
 Thank you, Lord, (*hands folded*) for my loving friends (*spread arms out*)  
 Thank you, Lord, (*hands folded*) for loving me (*hug yourself*)

### Video Directions

See a video demonstrating the rhyme and actions at [www.bitly.com/TheLordBlessesMe](http://www.bitly.com/TheLordBlessesMe)

### OR

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

Choice

## The Blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh

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

### Materials for each child

picture on p. 81, 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 with you.

### 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. 82) to take home.

## Blessing Song

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

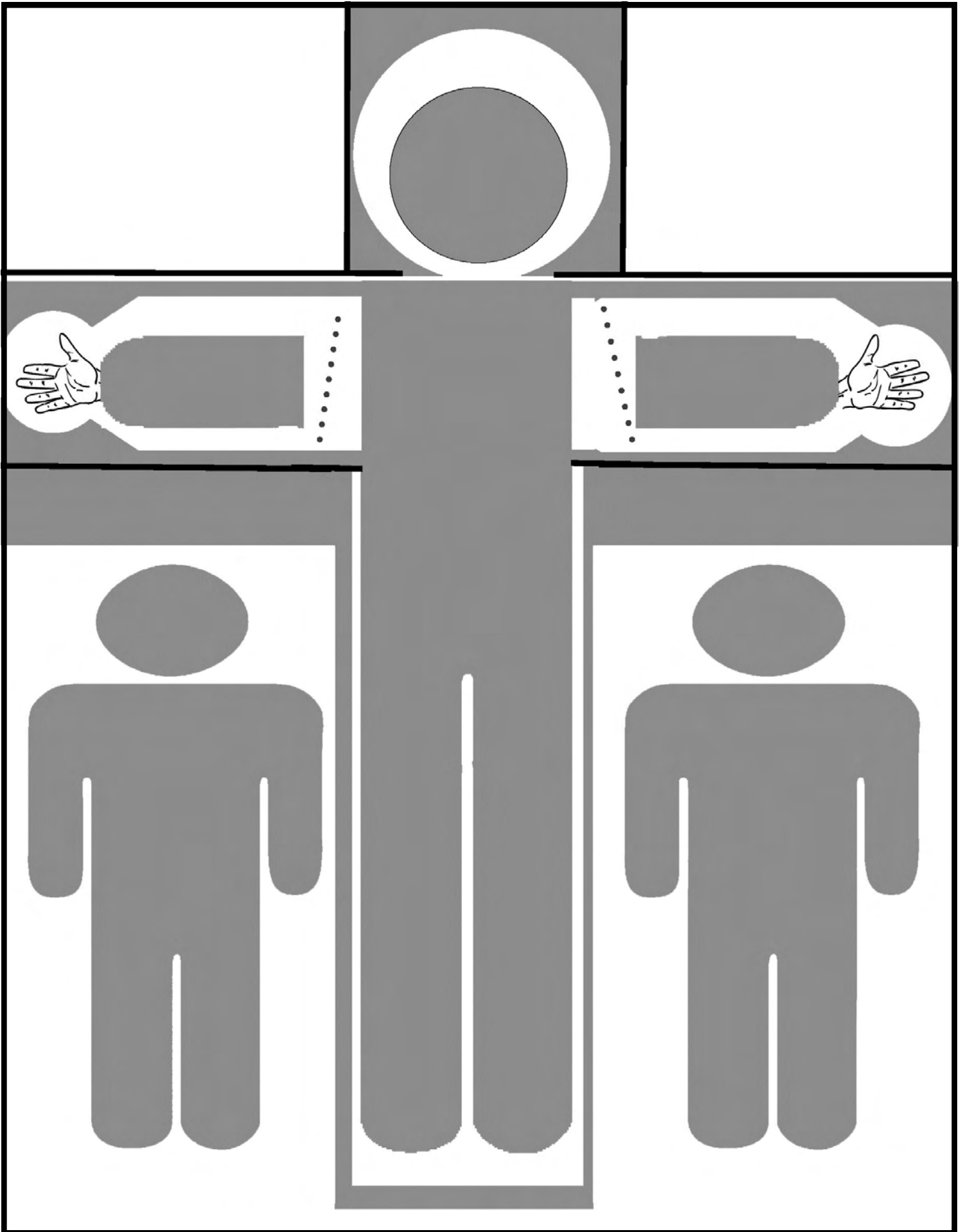
See a video of the song and actions at [www.bitly.com/BlessingSong](http://www.bitly.com/BlessingSong)

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







Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh





Parent Notes

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARENT NOTE</b></p> <p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Today’s lesson focused on Jacob blessing Joseph’s sons, Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 48:1-22). Ask your child what surprising thing happened during the blessing! Hear a <i>Blessing Song</i> online at <a href="http://www.bitly.com/BlessingSong">www.bitly.com/BlessingSong</a> and see <i>The Lord Blesses Me A c tion Rhyme</i> at <a href="http://www.bitly.com/TheLordBlessesMe">www.bitly.com/TheLordBlessesMe</a>. 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;"><b>Memory Verse</b></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;"><b>PARENT NOTE</b></p> <p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>Today’s lesson focused on Jacob blessing Joseph’s sons, Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 48:1-22). Ask your child what surprising thing happened during the blessing! Hear a <i>Blessing Song</i> online at <a href="http://www.bitly.com/BlessingSong">www.bitly.com/BlessingSong</a> and see <i>The Lord Blesses Me A c tion Rhyme</i> at <a href="http://www.bitly.com/TheLordBlessesMe">www.bitly.com/TheLordBlessesMe</a>. 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;"><b>Memory Verse</b></p> <p>“I had not thought to see your face, but in fact, God has also shown me your children!” Genesis 48:11</p>
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