

LESSON 3: FAMILY TREE RUMMY
ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB
GENESIS 15:5-7

4 weeks

Lesson 3-A: Genealogy - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

READING AND ACTIVITY:

Provide each child with the Word and a blank genealogy sheet. Give each child one of the following assignments (or group the children, if there are more children than assignments). Once they have found the information they need, they should share it with the rest of the class, so that everyone can fill in those blanks on their genealogy sheet.

Assignments

Note: To make things easier, photocopy this sheet, cut out the assignments, and hand these typed assignments to the children.

1. Read Genesis chapter 16, to find out one of Abraham's wives and her son.
2. Read Genesis chapter 21:1-3, to find out one of Abraham's wives and her son.
3. Read Genesis chapter 25:1-2, to find out one of Abraham's wives and her children.
4. Read Genesis chapter 24:1-28, to find out who Isaac married.
5. Read Genesis chapter 25:19-28, to find out who Isaac's children were.

- Now the whole group together will fill in the rest of the genealogy sheet.

*(Note to the Teacher: Explain that **Jacob** had traveled away from his home, to go to the home of his relatives in order to find a wife. He reached the home of Laban, his uncle, and agreed to work for him.)*

- Now the teacher (or students) will read aloud **Genesis 29, verses 15 to the end**. Then read **Genesis 30:1-24**. Have the children follow along, and when you read of a wife or child of Jacob, stop and write the name on your genealogy sheets.
 - To find out the name for the last blank, turn to **Genesis 35:16-20**.

Card Arranging

After the sheets are filled out, divide the children into four groups. Use the Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob playing cards. Give each group a stack of cards containing all the names that appear on the genealogy sheets. (Sons of Keturah are not included.)

On the floor, have each group try to arrange their cards in the same pattern that appears on their genealogy sheets. Allow them to use their sheets as a reference.

Lesson 3-B: Family Tree Rummy

1. Review on the chalkboard the family tree, seeing how much they remember. Leave the completed family tree on the board for reference.
2. Play “Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Family Tree Rummy.” (Please see the enclosed pages to assemble the game and the rules for playing the game.)

Lesson 3-C: The Lord’s Promise to Abram

(This Lesson accompanies the game “Family Tree Rummy” very nicely, but doesn’t come chronologically in the lesson series)

INTRODUCTION:

Back when the Lord first called to Abram, He made a promise. He told Abram to travel to a new land, the land of Canaan, and said He would give that land to all of Abram’s descendants. Abram obeyed the Lord, and packed all of his possessions to travel to Canaan with his wife, Sarai, and his servants.

When Abram arrived in Canaan, he saw that it was a good land. But time was going by. Abram was growing old, and he and his wife still had no children. Abram began to wonder how the Lord would fulfill that promise, to give the land of Canaan to all his descendants. How could Abram have any descendants, if he didn’t even have one child?

Our story from the Word today tells of a time when Abram was asking the Lord about this. He wondered what the Lord could give to him to pass down, when he had no child for an heir? Do you know what an heir is? [Discuss] Since Abram had no child, his heir was a man who worked for him, a man named Eliezer of Damascus. But Abram badly wanted a child to give his possessions to. Let’s read to find out what the Lord’s answer was.

READING:

Read Aloud Genesis 15:1-6, or have the children take turns reading it aloud.

DISCUSSION:

What was the Lord saying to Abram? “Don’t worry – you will have so many descendants that they can’t be counted, just like the stars above.”

The Lord was repeating his promise. Why had Abram started to doubt the Lord’s promise? (Because he was getting old, and still had no child. It seemed like time was running out.)

Could the Lord be mistaken about something that will happen in the future? (Never. The Lord knows all, and can see everything that will ever happen.) Abram had to realize that the promise would be fulfilled *when the time was right*, and only the Lord knows when the time is right.

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Did this promise get fulfilled? Yes! Soon after, Abram took a second wife, Hagar, and she had a son named Ishmael. Then, soon after the Lord changed Abram's name to Abraham, and his first wife Sarai's name to Sarah, a baby was born to Sarah, whom they named Isaac. Later it was from Isaac that descendants were born who eventually became the children of Israel, a nation who owned the land of Canaan. The Lord knew just when it was the right time for Isaac to be born, and later each of his descendants.

The Lord makes special promises to us. He promises that He will lead us to heaven, if we choose to follow. He promises that we will find someone to love and marry. He promises that we will find some way that we love to serve the world and other people. But sometimes it seems like those promises aren't being fulfilled. The Lord wants us to know that those promises *are* being fulfilled, and will come about *when the time is right*. Often there are other things that happen first, or things we have to learn. If we can trust in the Lord, and try to lead the life He wants us to, so many good and happy things will come to us eventually that we won't be able to count them. They will be like the stars of the sky, and like Abraham's descendants.

ACTIVITY:

We will now play a game about some of the descendants of Abraham.

(Assemble the game ahead of time. Set up the game and explain it to the students before playing "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Family Tree Rummy".)

Lesson 3-D: The Reunion of Esau and Jacob

Note to the Teacher: Use the enclosed genealogy to gradually make this chart on the chalkboard as you talk. Ask as you go if the kids know any of the names to be filled in, but if they don't, just quickly fill them in yourself. You don't want to spend too much time making this chart, unless you know you have a lot of time to fill.

INTRODUCTION:

When all knowledge of the Lord from the Ancient Church had all but disappeared, the Lord called a certain man to follow Him into a new land. The Lord wanted to teach this man about Himself, and to start a new church from the man's descendants that could know who Jehovah was. This man's name was Abram, which was later changed to Abraham.

Abraham had one wife whom he loved, but he later took two other wives. Does anyone know the names of Abraham's wives? (Sarah, Hagar, and Keturah)

When Sarah, his original wife, could not have any children, she told him to take her handmaiden, Hagar, for a wife, and Hagar had a son named... (Ishmael)

Then finally Sarah had a son of her own, and named him...(Isaac)

Abraham married Keturah after Sarah had died, and she had six sons. (Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, Shuah)

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Abraham's servant traveled back to the country of Abraham's relatives to find a wife for his son Isaac. And the woman who became Isaac's wife was...(Rebekah)
Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, and their names were...(Esau and Jacob)

Do you remember a story in which Jacob tricked his brother Esau out of something? Jacob took advantage of Esau's great hunger one day, and made Esau trade his birthright for some food. Then Jacob disguised himself as Esau while Esau was out hunting, and tricked his nearly blind father into giving him the blessing that was meant for Esau!

How do you think Esau felt about Jacob after Jacob had done these things? Esau was very angry! In fact, Jacob had to run away from home, because Esau angrily vowed to kill him!

So Jacob ran away, and traveled to a land where his uncle, Laban, lived. There he fell in love Laban's youngest daughter, but Laban tricked him into marrying his oldest daughter first! Each of Laban's daughters also gave their own handmaids to Jacob for wives, so Jacob ended up with four wives. Do you remember any of their names? (Leah, and Rachel, the daughters of Laban, and Bilhah and Zilpah, their handmaidens)

Jacob lived with Laban and worked for Laban for many years, and his wives bore him twelve sons and a daughter. Since Jacob's name would later be changed to Israel, these twelve sons would later multiply into a group of people known as the Children of Israel. Do you remember any of the names of the children of Israel?

(Children of Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dinah)

(Children of Bilhah: Dan, Naphtali)

(Children of Zilpah: Gad, Asher)

(Children of Rachel: Joseph, Benjamin)

After working for Laban for twenty years, Jacob felt that it was time to leave, along with his wives and children and all the servants and livestock he had earned. He started to travel back to the land where his brother Esau lived. He sent messengers ahead of him, to tell Esau that he was coming. He felt it was time to see his family again.

Do you think Jacob was nervous about seeing his brother again? By now he *knew* that what he had done to Esau was very wrong, and that his brother's anger was justified. Even though it had been twenty years, would *you* be nervous about meeting up with someone who had sworn to kill you? Let's read in the Word about what happened.

READING:

Have the children take turns reading aloud, or read aloud yourself, Genesis 32:3-11, and then Genesis 33:1-11.

DISCUSSION:

During the time that had passed, Esau had let go of his anger. He had forgiven his brother Jacob, and was very glad to see him. Jacob *could* have kept running away from his brother. He could have let his fear, and his knowledge that he had done wrong, keep him running and afraid for the rest of his life. But instead, he chose to face his brother, and to humbly try and make

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things right with him. And when he did, everything turned out all right. Esau wasn't angry any more, and had missed his brother. They learned that love was more powerful than anger.

Have you ever made a big mistake, maybe done something to make someone really mad, and then been terrified to face them? Doesn't it feel awful? You're always afraid of running into them, or of them seeking you out, and taking out their anger on you.

This fear can torture you on and on. But if, instead, you summon up your courage, and *find* this person and face them and say that you're sorry, the fear and the torture will disappear. Maybe they'll still be angry, but they'll know that you're sorry, and they'll soon get over it. Mostly people stay angry at those who have wronged them and *aren't* sorry. Even if they choose to stay angry a while, the anger will now be their own problem, because by apologizing and being determined not to do it again, you are free from past mistakes.

OR, maybe you'll find that they aren't even angry any more! Maybe that fear was all for nothing! In any case, always running away keeps the fear pursuing you. Facing your fear is the way to have it go away, and to learn that friendship and forgiveness are more powerful than anger.

ACTIVITY
Family Tree Rummy Game

ASSEMBLING THE FAMILY TREE RUMMY GAME

- Print 4 sets of the (two) game board pieces
- Fold the edge of the bottom part of the game board so that the two pieces can be taped together to make the full game board. (Note: You may want to mount the game board pieces on poster board or cover stock so that it is sturdier.)
- Print 4 sets of the family tree game cards and cut them apart.

For Ages 8 and Up

FAMILY TREE RUMMY
Game Directions

Object of the Game:

Be the first player to get rid of all your cards, and to become familiar with this family tree.

Set-Up:

1. Lay 4 game boards on the floor or on a large table and have all the players sit around them.
2. Shuffle cards, and deal five cards to each player. Place the remainder of the deck face down in a spot where everyone can reach.

How to Play:

1. The player to the left of the dealer goes first, and begins by drawing a card from the deck.
 2. The player then looks to see if he/she can lay down any cards on any of the four playing boards. In order to lay down cards, he must have two **different** cards that belong to the same category (i.e. Sarah and Hagar, which are two different cards that belong in the category of “wives of Abraham”). If he has two such cards, he can place them down on one of the playing boards in the correct spot. (**Teacher:** Check to see that the cards are in the correct spot to ensure that the mothers on the family tree match up with the correct children, etc. You may keep an answer sheet of the family tree handy while the students are becoming familiar with it.)
 3. If the player has a card marked “**single**,” it is the only card in its category, and he may lay that one down by itself in the correct spot.
 4. If any playing board already has two cards of a category laid down, the player may lay down on the same board any other cards from his hand that belong in that category. NOTE: Only *one* of each individual card belongs on each playing board.
 5. When the player cannot lay any more cards down, his turn is over. It is then the next player’s turn, who should first draw a card and then proceed as the first player did.
 6. If a player is accumulating several of one card, he or she may ask for a “trade” on his or her turn, instead of picking a card from the deck. He may pick one other player who wants to make a trade, and they may exchange one unwanted card. Then the player can proceed with his turn.
 7. The first player to get rid of all his cards **wins the game**.*
- *If the deck runs out before the game is over, players take turns picking from each other.

Teacher: Eventually children should begin to learn where each card goes without help. As you play, try to encourage this objective.

FAMILY TREE RUMMY

~Abraham, Isaac and Jacob~

For Ages 8 and Up

Game Assembly



Preparing the Game Board:

1. Print 4 copies of each half of the game board (resized to allow us to share this game online).
2. Trim the top edge of the bottom half (or fold it over) and then tape to the top part of the game board.
3. You should have 4 complete game boards when you are finished.
4. Note: Printing (or gluing) the game boards onto cover stock will make them more durable.

Preparing the Name Cards for the Game:

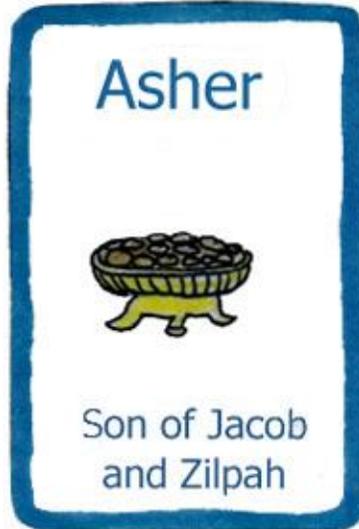
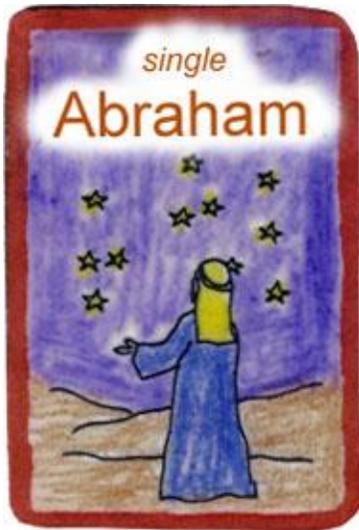
1. Print 4 copies of all 3 pages of cards. (Print them onto cover stock for greater durability.)
2. Cut apart all of the name cards and make 4 complete sets.

Set-Up:

1. Lay 4 game boards on the floor or on a large table. Have all players sit around them.
2. Shuffle cards, and deal five cards to each player. Place the remainder of the deck face down in a spot where everyone can reach.

Object of the Game:

Be the first player to get rid of all your cards and become familiar with this family tree!



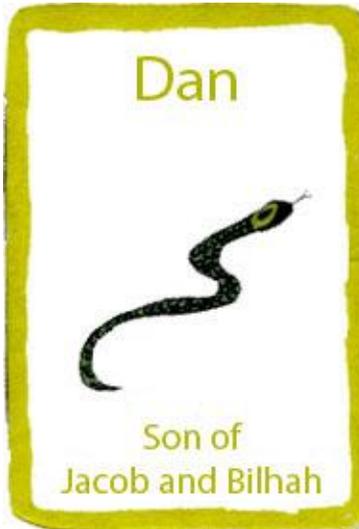
Son of Jacob
and Zilpah



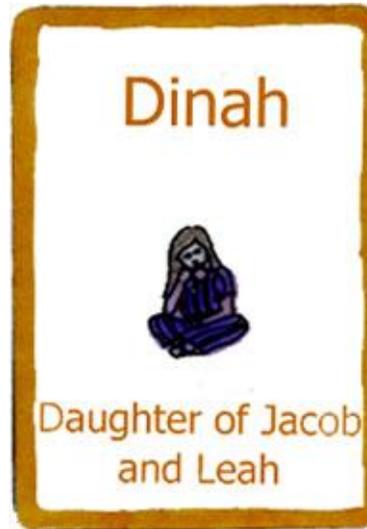
Son of Jacob
and Rachel



Maid of Rachel



Son of
Jacob and Bilhah



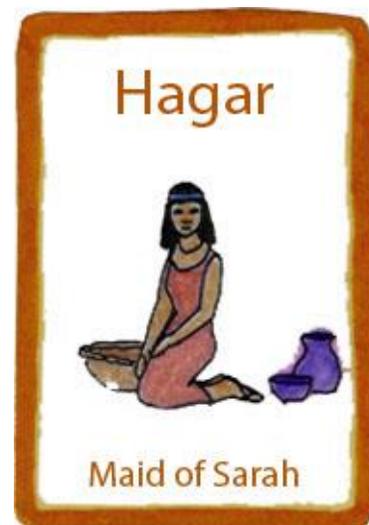
Daughter of Jacob
and Leah



Son of Isaac
and Rebekah



Son of
Jacob and Zilpah



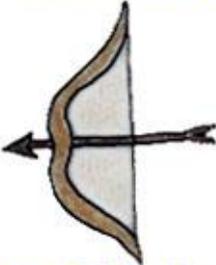
Maid of Sarah

Single
Isaac



Son of Abraham
and Sarah

Single
Ishmael



Son of Abraham
and Hagar

Issachar



Son of
Jacob and Leah

Jacob



Son of Isaac
and Rebekah

Joseph



Son of Jacob
and Rachel

Judah



Son of
Jacob and Leah

Keturah



Wife of
Abraham

Leah



Wife of Jacob

Levi



Son of Jacob
and Leah

Naphtali



Son of Jacob
and Bilhah

Rachel



Wife of Jacob

SINGLE
Rebekah



Wife
of
Isaac

Reuben



Son of
Jacob and Leah

Sarah



Wife of Abraham

Simeon



Son of
Jacob and Leah

Zebulun

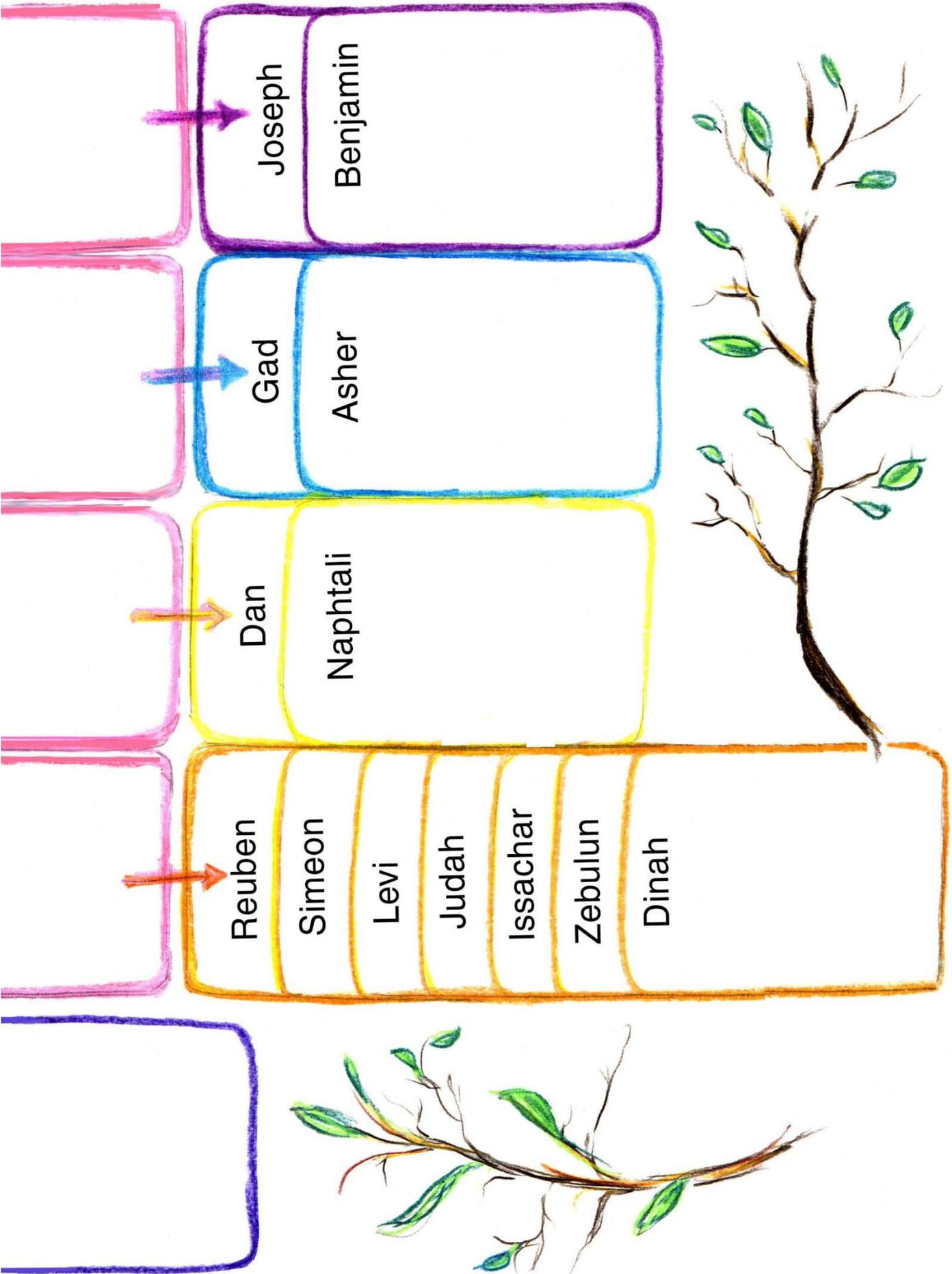


Son of
Jacob and Leah

Zilpah



Maid of Leah



Abraham

Sarah

Hagar

Keturah

Rebekah

Isaac

Ishmael

Esau
Jacob

Leah

Bilhah

Zilpah

Rachel



Family Tree

Rummy