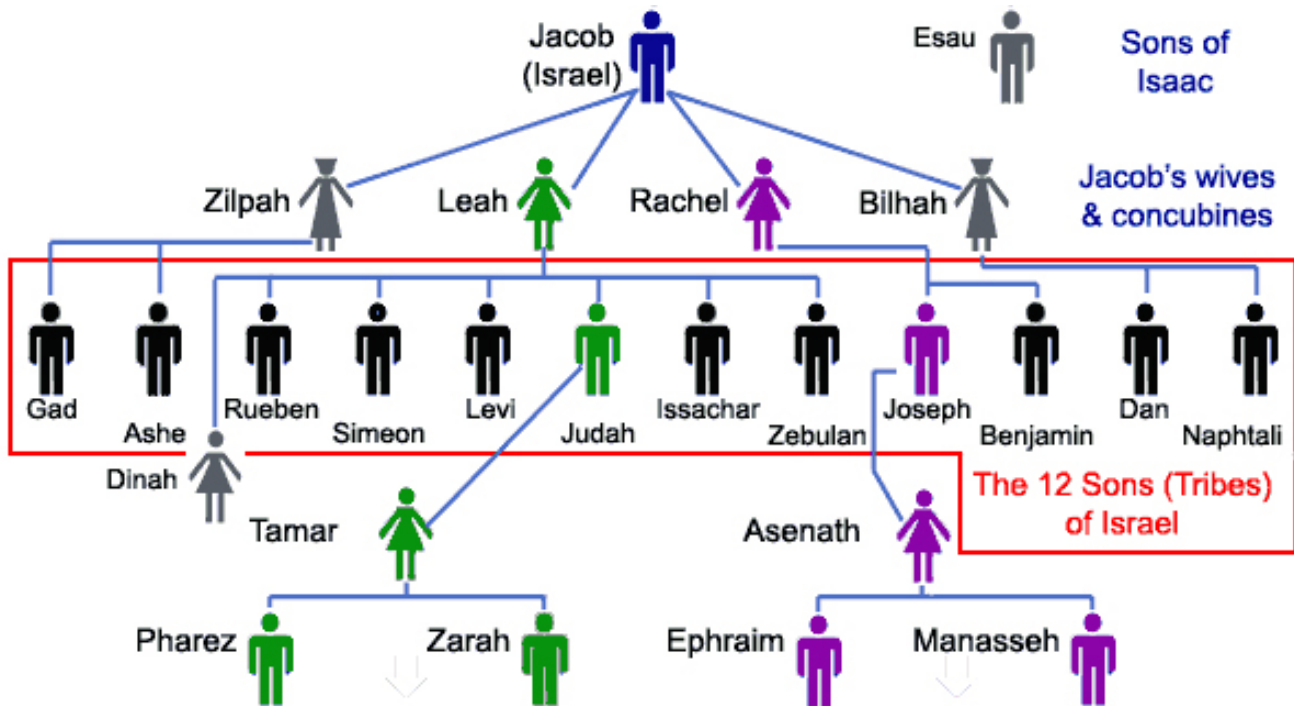


Please use this guide in your Life Group discussion to help glean the most from our Sunday morning teaching. These notes are also excellent for your personal study and growth.

Till [Get the soil ready]

- There is quite a bit of historical background here. As we continue Story Line or reading in the Old Testament, it may be helpful to keep a few things in mind.
- Jacob's name is changed to Israel. His sons become the fathers of the Twelve Tribes of Israel with a few quirks. But, Levi, for example, will grow to be the tribe of Levi. Judah will grow to be the tribe of Judah and so forth for all the sons of Jacob. Now, Israel starts to really grow into nation status.
- Look at the descendant chart below:



- Here are the quirks:
 - o There is never a tribe called "Joseph." However, Jacob adopts Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. These are sometimes called "half-tribes," but the result is Joseph essentially receives a double portion (Note: you do not see these tribes on the chart above).
 - o While Rueben is the first born, he loses this status. Judah gains firstborn status as decreed by Jacob. From Judah, kings will come including David, Solomon, and Jesus.
 - o Jacob declares that Simeon and Levi will be scattered in Israel because of their violent nature. Both are eventually scattered, but the tribe of Levi remains faithful to God at the Golden Calf incident. They are later given cities scattered throughout Israel. Simeon is given land but fails to settle it. That tribe fades away to obscurity.
 - o See Genesis 49 for more information about the individual tribes.



SOW [What God wants us to hear]

- Many ask, “Why did God not allow Abraham to possess the land of Israel in his lifetime?” Good question. God has plans for which he does not fully elaborate. There’s a small explanation at Gen. 15:16 (It’s God speaking to Abraham). Is God interacting with this other people group in some way?
- Many also ask, “Why did Israel need to be in slavery?” Another good question. Think more generally. For what reasons does God allow his people to suffer? Training, discipline, godliness?

Tend [Working the truth into our hearts]

- Israel’s slavery is a parable for mankind’s slavery. How so? Hint: think of what God has been addressing since the Fall.
- In a New Testament sense, we have freedom. Freedom from what? Check...
 - o Romans 7:21-25
 - o Romans 8:1
 - o Luke 4:17-19
 - o 1 Timothy 1:15-17
 - o Titus 2:11-14

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

- We all need freedom. No one is immune. Many Christ followers still follow their old master, sin. Is there someone with whom you can confide? Join with another for counsel and accountability to find victory in this area. It’s already defeated.
- And, the recommended book, Redemption is excellent!
- Easter is next week. Record in your journal and share in your Life Group those you plan to invite to the Easter Gathering. Pray for them now!

Preview: Pray for Easter invitees. And, review Moses’ origins for the April 7 message in Exodus 1 & 2. There will be no Life Group notes for the Easter message.

