**The Sons of Israel**

**A Bible Story From**

**Genesis 35:16-29**

**Bible Story Number: 1010330**

Copyright © 2015 by Fox Ministries, Inc.

All Rights Reserved.

Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version®*. *NIV®.* Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

**The Sons of Israel**

**Bible Story**

Free guides and other free resources for presenting a Bible Story are available at: www.FoxMinistries.org

**Background**

God’s profound promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

**Story from the Bible**

**Genesis 35:16-29**

This is what the Bible says.

Jacob, also known as Israel, left Bethel and set out for Ephrath (also known as Bethlehem). While they were traveling, Rachel began to give birth to her second son. She had problems with the delivery. Her midwife told her not to be afraid; she had given birth to another son. With her dying breath, she named him, Ben-oni. Jacob called him Benjamin.

So Rachel died and was buried on the way. Jacob set up a marker on her grave, and it was still there when this part of the Bible was written down.

Jacob moved on from there and settled beyond the Tower of Eder. While Jacob was living in that region, Reuben (his oldest son) went in and slept with his father’s concubine Bilhah. Jacob heard about it.

Jacob had twelve sons:

* Leah had a total of six of his sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.
* Rachel had two of his sons: Joseph and Benjamin.
* Rachel’s slave Bilhah had two of his sons: Dan and Naphtali.
* Leah’s slave Zilpah had two of his sons: Gad and Asher.

Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had stayed. Isaac lived a total of 180 years. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* How did Rachel die?
* How many sons did Jacob have?
* How many sons did Jacob have by each of the following wives?
  + Leah
  + Rachel
  + Rachel’s slave Bilhah
  + Leah’s slave Zilpah
* How old was Isaac when he died?
* Why do you think it is noteworthy for the Bible to mention that both Jacob and Esau participated in the burial of their father?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.