

## **Lesson 31**

### **Israel: The Great Family of God's People**

#### **God's Special Family**

Long ago, there was a man named Jacob, and God gave him a special name, Israel. Jacob had twelve sons, and their families became known as the twelve tribes of Israel. God made a promise to Jacob and his children, saying they would be His special family if they obeyed His rules (Deuteronomy 28:9–10). They were supposed to share God's teachings with others and be a blessing to the whole world.

#### **The Family Got Scattered**

Sadly, the people of Israel didn't always obey God's rules. They fought among themselves and broke into two groups: the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. Enemies came and took them away from their homes because they were not being good. Some of them even got lost and went to faraway lands (Deuteronomy 28:64).

#### **God's Plan to Bring Everyone Back**

God promised that one day, He would bring His family back together again (Jeremiah 23:3). He wants everyone to know about Him and His Son, Jesus Christ. He's gathering His family by sending missionaries to tell people about Jesus. When people learn about Jesus and join His church, they become part of God's family.

#### **How We Help Gather God's Family**

We can help gather God's family by sharing His teachings with others and being good examples. When we live like Jesus and show kindness to others, we're helping bring people closer to God. Even though we may live in different places, we can still be part of God's family by loving and helping each other.

## **One Big Family Reunion**

One day, when Jesus comes back, He will gather all of God's family together. People from every part of the world will come together to be with Him. It will be like a big family reunion! Until then, we can keep sharing God's love with others and being part of His wonderful family.

### **Questions to Think About:**

- How can you be part of God's family?
- How can you tell others about God's love?
- How does it feel to be part of a big family that loves God?

### **Additional Scriptures:**

- Genesis 17:1–8
- Romans 9:4–8
- Jeremiah 16:14–15

Title: "The Promise of Israel's Unity"

Once upon a time, in a land filled with rolling hills and fields of golden wheat, there lived a boy named Samuel. Samuel was part of a special family—a family with a history as vast as the sky above.

Samuel's parents often told him stories of their ancestors, the great patriarchs like Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel by God Himself. They spoke of the twelve sons of Jacob, each one destined to lead a tribe of God's chosen people.

But as Samuel listened to these tales, he couldn't help but feel a pang of sadness. For he knew that the family of Israel had been scattered, torn apart by strife and division.

"Why did this happen?" Samuel asked his parents one evening as they gathered around the flickering fire.

His father's eyes softened with understanding as he explained how the people of Israel had turned away from God's teachings, causing them to lose their way. "But," his father

added, his voice tinged with hope, "God has not forgotten His promise to bring His family back together."

Samuel listened intently as his parents spoke of God's plan to gather His scattered children, to reunite them as one family under His loving care.

"We can help gather God's family too," Samuel's mother said, her eyes shining with determination. "By sharing His teachings and living as examples of His love, we can bring others closer to Him."

Inspired by his parents' words, Samuel resolved to be a beacon of God's light in the world. He vowed to share the stories of his faith with all who would listen, to show kindness to those in need, and to live each day as a testament to the love of God.

And as Samuel looked up at the twinkling stars above, he imagined the day when God's family would be reunited—a glorious reunion where people from every corner of the earth would come together as one.

With a heart full of hope and joy, Samuel whispered a prayer of gratitude, knowing that he was part of something truly extraordinary—a family bound together by the promise of God's eternal love.