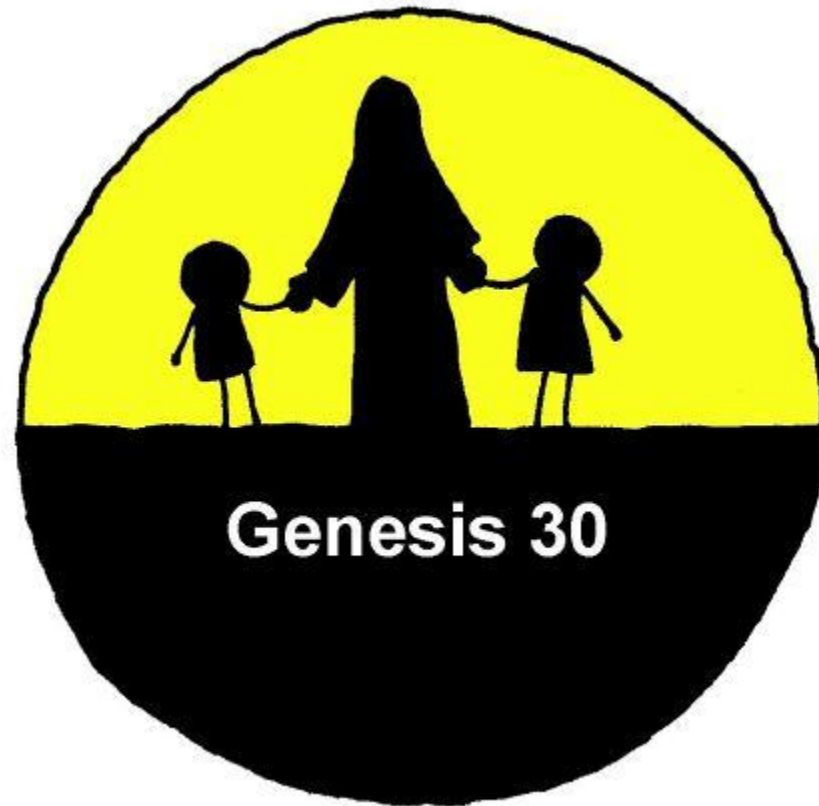
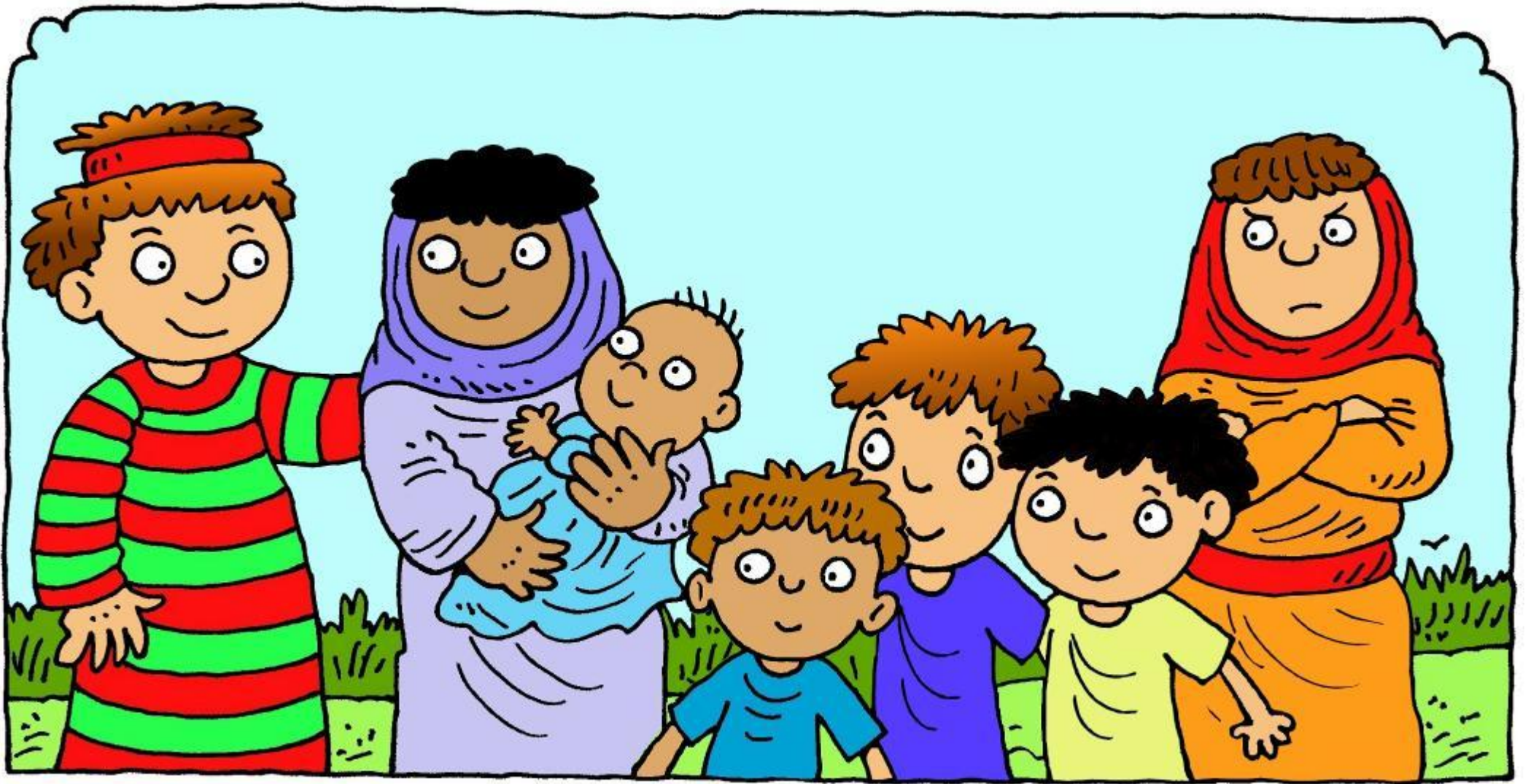


Jacob's Children

By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther





Jacob had two wives, sisters Leah and Rachel. Rachel was his favourite, but she had no children. Leah and Jacob had four boys, Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah.



Rachel was jealous of Leah's children.
She had an idea. She took her maid
Bilhah to her husband and said,
"Bilhah can have my children for me."



Rachel's maid Bilhah and Jacob had two sons, Dan and Naphtali. When Rachel saw how much Jacob loved his sons she felt very sad. She prayed to God for a child of her own.



But Leah wanted to be Jacob's favourite wife,
so she gave her maid Zilpah to Jacob.
Jacob and Zilpah had two sons, Gad
and Asher, which upset Rachel even more.



Leah and Jacob had two more boys,
Issachar, Zebulon and a daughter
named Dinah. Jacob really loved his children.
Poor Rachel still had no child of her own.



Then at last Rachel and Jacob had a baby boy. Jacob called him Joseph. God had answered Rachel's prayers. Joseph was the son who inherited God's promises.



Rachel was sick when her last son was born.
She handed the baby to Jacob and died.
Jacob called him Benjamin. Altogether
Jacob had twelve sons and one daughter