

## VeZot ha'Bracha "And this the blessing"

Deuteronomy/Devarim 33:1–34:12

### "Blessing the Tribes"

#### Objective:

The purpose of this lesson is to instruct the children about receiving the blessing of salvation in Messiah Yeshua.

#### Items Needed:

- Red Construction Paper (For Primary Classroom Activity)
- Green Construction Paper (For Primary Classroom Activity)

#### Welcome/Opening Slide

- Welcome the children & organize as required
- Opening Prayer

#### Please Remember These Rules

**Say:** Here are the rules:

- Please don't talk when others are talking
- Please raise your hand if you would like to ask a question
- Please keep your hands, feet and other body parts to yourself
- You must ask to leave the room

#### Title Slide

**Question:** Who here likes to receive a blessing from someone, especially your parents or grandparents? (Wait for or encourage a response)

**Question:** What type of blessing do you like to receive? (Wait for or encourage a response)

**Question:** Why do you like to receive a blessing? (Wait for or encourage a response)

**Say:** Receiving a blessing from someone makes your heart feel good. It also can make your future very good too.

**Say:** A blessing is a special gift that God or others gives to us. It can be both physical; like money, food, and gifts; or spiritual, such as salvation or gifts of the Ruach.

**Say:** A blessing is a way God or others share that they care for you and to say that you are very important!

**Say:** Blessings are good!

### Parents Blessing Children

**Say:** Some people welcome in the Shabbat by lighting candles, eating challah and drinking wine or grape juice. Also, it is customary for the parents to lay their hands on the children's head and say a blessing over the children.

**Say:** Most of the time parents like to bless their children because they love them and want the best things for them.

### A Blessing for Sons

**Say:** The traditional blessing said for a son asks God to make him like Ephraim and Manasseh, who were two of Joseph's sons in the Bible.

**Say:** (Transliteration) Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe

**Say:** (English) May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.

### A Blessing for Daughters

**Say:** The blessing for daughters asks God to make them like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. These four women are the matriarchs of the Jewish people.

**Say:** (Transliteration) Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.

**Say:** (English) May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.

**Say:** Receiving blessings are very good things!

**Say:** Our Torah portion this week is about blessing other people.

### Deuteronomy/Devarim 34:1

**Say:** Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel with before his death

## Blessing the Tribes

**Note:** Today's parasha is pronounced "Vee-Zot Ha-Bracha"

**Say:** The parasha of V'Zot Haberacha, the final parasha in the Torah, is read on Simchat Torah.

**Say:** The name of the parasha means "and this is the blessing" because in it, Moses blesses the tribes of Israel before he passes away.

**Say:** Some of the tribes get their own blessing, just like Jacob blessed each tribe individually.

## Reuben, Judah, Levi, Benjamin

**Say:** Reuven is blessed with life

**Say:** Judah with success in battle.

**Say:** Levi with serving in the Temple and being teachers of Torah.

**Say:** Benjamin is "beloved" by God.

## Joseph, Zebulun, Issachar, Gad

**Say:** Joseph is blessed with sweet fruits on his land.

**Say:** Zebulun with success in trade.

**Say:** Issachar with success in Torah study.

**Say:** Gad with a lot of land.

## Dan, Naphtali, Asher

**Say:** Dan with the might of a lion.

**Say:** Naphtali with fertile land and sea.

**Say:** Asher with sons and olive oil.

**(Note:** You don't need to teach this but in the event a child asks, "Why did Moses not bless the tribe of Simeon when he blessed the other tribes of Israel" here is a possible answer.

Examination of the scriptures reveals a possible reason for this exclusion. Long before this, Jacob (Israel) had cut Simeon and Levi off from their inheritance due to their cruelty. Genesis

49 records, "Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not you into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honor, be not you united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they digged down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel" (vs. 5-7). These scriptures are in reference to their actions in Genesis 34:25-29. Joshua 19:1 explains that as a result, the Simeonites did, in fact, intermingle with the "inheritance of the children of Judah." The Levites were also mixed with the other tribes, and dwelt in the cities (Josh. 14:3-4). These Scriptures record how Jacob's words were fulfilled—the tribe Simeon was divided and scattered among the other tribes! Although they were not cursed, they missed out on the same blessing the others had received.)

### Moses a Great Blessing to the People

**Say:** After Moses finishes blessing the people of Israel, he goes up Mount Nebo and God shows him the whole Land of Israel.

**Say:** Then Moses, at 120 years old, passes away.

**Say:** He is buried by God, and until today, nobody knows his burial place.

**Say:** The Jews mourn Moses for thirty days, and then Joshua becomes the new leader, and all the Jews follow and respect him just as they did Moses.

**Say:** The parasha, and the entire Torah, ends by telling us what a great person Moses was: "There arose not a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom God knew face to face... and in all the mighty hand and the great awesome things which Moses did before the eyes of all Israel."

**Say:** Moses is not the only one who blessed others; Yeshua also blessed others, especially children. And Yeshua was greater than Moses.

### Mark 10:13-16

And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> But when Yeshua saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup> "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." <sup>16</sup> And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

## Yeshua Blessing the Children

**Say:** People soon found out Yeshua was in town and this got the people really excited. Some of the adults went home and got their children. They wanted to give their children a chance to see Yeshua and let Him bless them!

**Say:** But when the parents brought their children to Yeshua, the disciples stopped them. They were probably trying to protect Yeshua from the large crowd. They told the parents to take their children away from Yeshua.

**Say:** But when Yeshua heard what the disciples were saying, He was not happy with them! He knew that the disciples still did not understand what was important to Him.

**Say:** Yeshua said, "Let the children come to me. Don't keep them away." Then Yeshua told His disciples that it was important to believe and trust in Him the way a child would.

**Say:** He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.

**Say:** Yeshua wanted to bless these children because they were important to God. Actually, all people are important to God and God wants to bless all people. Yeshua came as God's greatest blessing to all people.

## Yeshua's Greatest Blessing - Salvation

**Say:** We see in this story how much Yeshua loved those children that came to see Him. Yeshua wanted to bless the children. Indeed, He wants to bless all people. The greatest blessing Yeshua has given to us is salvation.

**Say:** We need salvation because Yeshua knew that all people mess up. He knew that people would do bad things called sin.

**Say:** He also knew that our sins keep us from getting His blessings. He wants us to be with Him and see Him in Heaven. Yeshua wanted us to have a way to be with Him. Yeshua took the punishment for us and died on the cross for our sins.

**Say:** Then three days later He came back to life so that we could have our sins taken away.

**Say:** All you need to do to receive Yeshua's blessing of salvation is to have the faith of a child.

**Question:** Who here is a child?

**Question:** What does it mean to have the faith of a child?

## How to Receive the Blessing of Salvation - Trust

**Say:** Children trust their parents completely. They don't have any doubts about their parents not being right. This is how God wants us to trust Him—completely. We can come to Him the way a little child runs to their Mom or Dad. And God is always there for us.

**Say:** When we ask Yeshua to forgive our sin, he saves us and starts giving us many blessings.

**Say:** If you would like to let Yeshua take away your sins and let Him be part of your life, please talk with me or one of the adult helpers before you leave.

**Say:** As soon as we finish reading this parasha, we immediately begin again from the beginning, reading from Bereishit or Genesis about how God created the world.

**Say:** Next week we begin the parasha cycle again for another year of parasha adventures!

## What Did We Learn Today?

- A blessing is a special gift that God or others give us that is physical or spiritual.
- Yeshua came as God's greatest blessing to all people.
- We receive the blessing of salvation by trusting God like a child

## Let's Learn Hebrew!

**Say:** The Hebrew word of the week is **Barakh** which appears in the first verse of Parasha **Vezot ha'Bracha**:

בָּרַךְ

**Say:** This is a very common word. We start all our "blessings" with the word "Barukh" which comes from the same word.

**Say:** In English this word means to kneel, bless or praise.

**Say:** When we come to receive a blessing from the LORD, our attitude is to be one of thankfulness and not "give me, give me, give me"! God wants to bless us but we must trust Him to do so!

**Say:** The word gives us the idea of humbling ourselves (i.e., kneeling before the LORD in submission and obedience) and receiving a personal blessing from Him.

## Small Group Time

Break the children into two groups:

- Primary – Ages 4-7
- Elementary Ages 8-12

Distribute the self-directed learning handout to each child and let them work together or alone.

## Primary Handout Answer Sheet

### Classroom Activity:

Play a form of “Red Light, Green Light” to help the kids understand the story. Bring a green piece of paper (for the green light) and a red piece of paper or a stop sign (for the red light). Explain to the kids that they will tiptoe forward when they see the green sheet and tiptoe backwards when they see the red sheet. Share that the children were going to Yeshua (hold up a green light) when Yeshua’s friends told them to go away (red light). Yeshua saw this and asked them to come (green light). Play several times or take turns in letting kids hold up the sheets of paper.

### The Story – Page 1

It was a normal day for the children in the village. They would be at home spending time with their family and friends. The children had been playing together when their mother came rushing into the house. “Hurry children, hurry! Yeshua is here!” Mother said. The children jumped to their feet when they heard this. They had heard other people talk about Yeshua. He sounded like a very special and important person.

“I want Yeshua to touch you and bless you. He has done many amazing things for the other children that have been sick.” She said. They rushed out the door. They saw many other children with their mothers rushing in the same direction. As they turned the corner they saw Him. Many people were all around Him. They started to make their way up to Yeshua.

Suddenly some of the men around Yeshua started to turn people away. “Go away, Yeshua is too busy to see the children. Go away!” They said. Yeshua looked at those men and said, “Let the little children come to me and DO NOT stop them!”

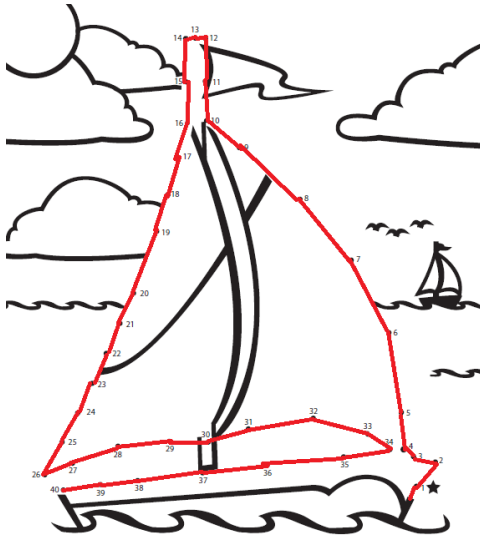
Then as if a door had been opened, all the children made their way up to Yeshua. He wrapped His arms around them and prayed for them. It was a very exciting day for the children. They were able to see how much Yeshua loved them. They got to see that Yeshua wanted to spend time with them.

Yeshua loves you boys and girls, too. He loves everyone so much that He died and came back to life so that you could spend forever with Him.



## The Blessings from the Sea – Page 2

Naphtali received a blessing of a fertile land and sea. Sailors from Naphtali are receiving the blessing that Moses gave the tribe. Connect the dots and color the picture.



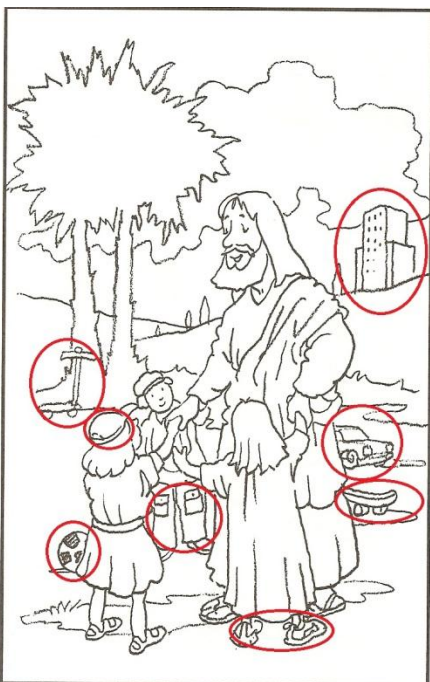
## A Shabbat Blessing – Page 3

In the past parents would bless children by laying hands on them. Can you find all the deliberate mistakes in the picture? Color the picture when you are finished.



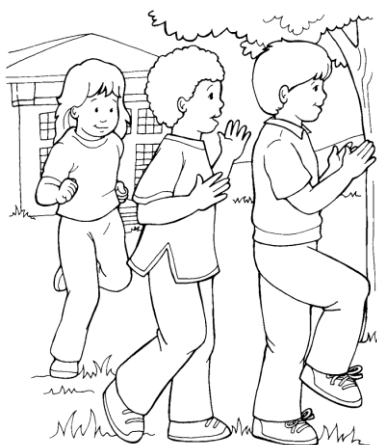
### Yeshua Blesses the Children – Page 3

The disciples tried to keep these children away from Yeshua, but Yeshua welcomed them. How many mistakes can you find in the picture? Color the picture when you finish.



### Coloring Page – Page 4

These children are eager to receive a blessing from their parents. Receiving a blessing from someone makes you feel good in your heart. But it also can make your future very good. The greatest blessing they can receive is salvation which is only found in Yeshua the Messiah



## **The Story – Page 1**

Have you ever seen a famous person’s body guards? They walk with them and protect them from anyone who tries to get too close. Yeshua’s disciples tried to be like His body guards, but Yeshua didn’t like that!

Yeshua took His disciples down to the area of Judea and across the Jordan River. People soon found out Yeshua was in town and this got the people really excited. Some of the adults went home and got their children. They wanted to give their children a chance to see Yeshua and let Him bless them! But when the parents brought their children to Yeshua, the disciples stopped them. They were probably trying to protect Yeshua from the large crowd. They told the parents to take their children away from Yeshua.

But when Yeshua heard what the disciples were saying, He was not happy with them! He knew that the disciples still did not understand what was important to Him. Yeshua said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t keep them away.” Then Yeshua told His disciples that it was important to believe and trust in Him the way a child would. He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.

Yeshua wanted to bless these children because they were important to God. Actually, all people are important to God and God wants to bless all people. Yeshua came as God’s greatest blessing to all people. We see in this story how much Yeshua loved those children that came to see Him. Yeshua wanted to bless the children. Indeed, He wants to bless all people. The greatest blessing Yeshua has given to us is salvation.

We need salvation because Yeshua knew that all people mess up. He knew that people would do bad things called sin. He also knew that our sins keep us from getting His blessings. He wants us to be with Him and see Him in Heaven. Yeshua wanted us to have a way to be with Him. Yeshua took the punishment for us and died on the cross for our sins. Then three days later He came back to life so that we could have our sins taken away. All you need to do to receive Yeshua’s blessing of salvation is to have the faith of a child.

What does it mean to have the faith of a child? Children trust their parents completely. They don’t have any doubts about their parents not being right. This is how God wants us to trust Him—completely. We can come to Him the way a little child runs to their Mom or Dad. And God is always there for us. When we ask Yeshua to forgive our sin, he saves us and starts giving us many blessings.

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This is a very common word. We start all our “blessings” with the word “Barukh” which comes from the same word. In English this word means to kneel, bless or praise. The word gives us the idea of humbling ourselves (i.e., kneeling before the LORD in submission and obedience) and receiving personal blessing from Him.

## Deuteronomy/Devarim 34:1 – Page 2

Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel before his death

## Mark 10:13-16 – Page 2

And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> But when Yeshua saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup> "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." <sup>16</sup> And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

## Moses Blesses the Tribes – Page 2

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Blessing</b>
Reuven	Blessed with life
Judah	Success in battle
Levi	Serving in the Temple and being teachers of Torah
Benjamin	"Beloved" by God
Joseph	Blessed with sweet fruits on his land
Zebulun	Success in trade
Issachar	Success in Torah study
Gad	A lot of land
Dan	The might of a lion
Naphtali	Fertile land and sea
Asher	Sons and olive oil

## Word Find Puzzle – Page 2

Find the hidden words within the grid of letters.

F M H G E F R L X N G I N A D  
J I A Z J A B R K Z V E R M O  
Q D T V B Y E Q Z D C V F I O  
N E M K W Q N A I O O I P U Y  
E U D U S X J E G Z K Z Z H K  
V O L Q X A A T H S Q C P U W  
U P G U A S M F X P Q E R C O  
E I A H B J L U I S Q N X D  
R W E S Z E N W S O J U D A H  
E G E H H B Z S J K L J E D N  
U D R N C E A I L A T H P A N  
X S Q G B C R S M K A E B X V  
A A V S H H F I I L G A A G O  
G F M A Q C T S L C N M K T G  
L E R O U E B D N S M V U Z T

Asher	Gad	Judah	Reuven
Benjamin	Issachar	Levi	Zebulun
Dan	Joseph	Naphtali	

## Questions – Page 3

1. Why did parents bring their children to Yeshua?

- A. So that He could bless them.
- B. So he could fuss that them.
- C. So he could immerse them in water.

**Answer:** A. So that He could bless them.

2. What did the disciples say to the parents?

- A. Go and eat lunch at McDonald's.
- B. They told the parents to send their children away from Yeshua.
- C. Come back tomorrow because Yeshua wants to take a nap.

**Answer:** B. They told the parents to send their children away from Yeshua.

3. What did Yeshua say to the disciples when He heard what they said?

- A. "Given them money and send them away"
- B. "Take them out to eat someplace."
- C. "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away."

**Answer:** C. "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away."

4. Complete the following verse, "Now this is the \_\_\_\_\_ with which Moses the man of God \_\_\_\_\_ the sons of Israel before his death." (Deuteronomy 34:1)

**Answer:** blessing, blessed

5. Complete the following verse, "Permit the \_\_\_\_\_ to come to me; do not hinder them; for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God belongs to such as these ..." Mark 10:14

**Answer:** children, kingdom

6. Is this statement True or False? "And He (Yeshua) took them (the children) in His arms and began pushing them away... Mark 10:16

**True or False**

**Answer:** False, blessing them, not pushing them away

7. Is this statement True or False, "Moses led the children of Israel into the Promised Land." (Deuteronomy 34:7)

**True or False**

**Answer:** False, Moses died before entering the land.

8. What was the blessing that Judah received?

- A. Success in battle
- B. Serving in the Temple and being teachers of Torah.
- C. "Beloved" by God.

**Answer:** A. Success in battle

9. What is the blessing that Gad received?

- A. Success in trade
- B. Fertile land and sea
- C. A lot of land

**Answer:** C. A lot of land

### Crossword Puzzle – Page 4

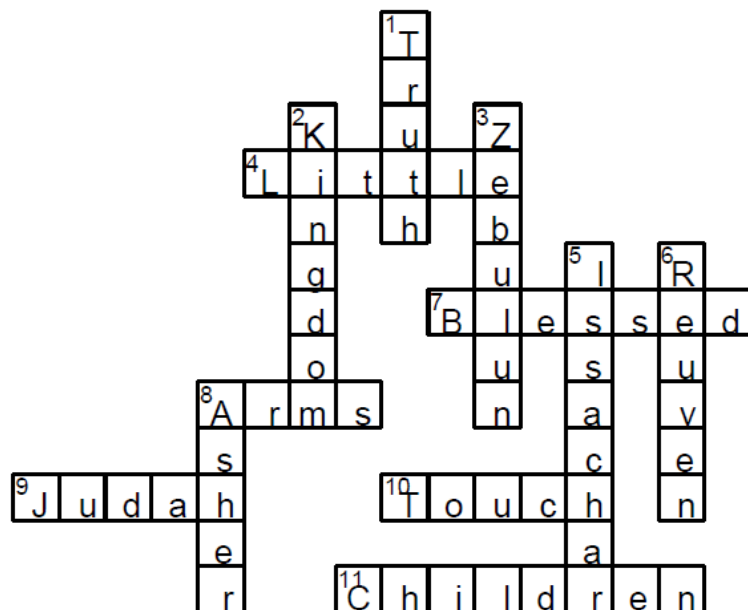
Complete the puzzle using the clues shown below.

#### Across

- 4. Small in size.
- 7. Bringing happiness, pleasure, or contentment to someone.
- 8. The parts of the body which connect the hands to the shoulders.
- 9. Given success in battle.
- 10. To come in contact with or to feel with your fingers.
- 11. Sons and daughters, young people.

#### Down

- 1. A statement accepted as fact.
- 2. A country or territory ruled by a king or queen.
- 3. Will have great success in trade.
- 5. This tribe will have success in Torah study.
- 6. Tribe that was blessed with life.
- 8. Receive a blessing of sons and olive oil.



## Just For Fun – Page 4

In the past parents would bless children by laying hands on them. Can you find all the deliberate mistakes in the picture? Color the picture when you are finished.



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All references are taken from the Jewish New Testament, David H. Stern, Publisher: Jewish New Testament Publishers and the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.