

Sibling Position Case Study

Jacob had thirteen children, twelve sons and one daughter, by four different women (mother's name in parentheses)

1 = Reuben (Leah) -

- Tried to rescue Joseph from his brothers plotting to kill him. Genesis 37
- Blames brothers selling Joseph as reason they are in trouble.
- Later offers both of his sons to be killed if he does not return from Egypt with Benjamin. Genesis 42

2 = Simeon (Leah)

- Joseph (leader in Egypt) had him jailed while brothers went back to get Benjamin. Genesis 42

3 = Levi (Leah)

4 = Judah (Leah)

- Came up with idea to sell Joseph to Ishmaelites. Genesis 37
- Offers his life in return to his father if he does not return from Egypt w/Benjamin. Genesis 43
- Speaks on behalf of all the brothers, pleading for Benjamin to be allowed to return with them to their father. Genesis 44

**5, 6, 7 & 8 = Dan & Naphtali (Bilhah - Rachel's handmaid)
Gad & Asher (Zilpah - Leah's handmaid)**

9 = Issachar (Leah)

10 = Zebulun (Leah)

11 = Dinah (Leah)

12 = Joseph (Rachel)

- favorite of father, Jacob. Genesis 37

13 = Benjamin (Rachel - who died during labor)

- likely more than 6 years younger than Joseph
- he received 5 times as much food as other brothers at Joseph's feast. Genesis 43
- favorite of father, Jacob, after Joseph's presumed death. Genesis 42-44

Notes:

- * The children of Bilhah & Zilpah (#'s 5-8) could have overlapped in age
- * There was 12-16 years difference between Reuben & Joseph