

PreSchool



Sample Lesson

Includes Links to all related resources

Teacher's Guide

God Gives Us Families | God Gives Us Friends | God Gives Us the Church





Contents

Unit 1 — God Gives Us Families

Unit Value: Love

Lesson 1 Sept. 1	Specially Given Families 8 <i>1 Samuel 1:1-23</i>
Lesson 2 Sept. 8	My Caring Family* 15 <i>Ruth 1-4</i>
Lesson 3 Sept. 15	Families Share 22 <i>Genesis 13:1-12</i>
Lesson 4 Sept. 22	Loving Our Families 29 <i>Genesis 21:1-6</i>

Unit 2 — God Gives Us Friends

Unit Value: Friendliness

Lesson 5 Sept. 29	Friends Love 36 <i>1 Samuel 18:1-4</i>
Lesson 6 Oct. 6	Friends Help 43 <i>2 Kings 4:1-7</i>
Lesson 7 Oct. 13	Children Can Be Good Friends 50 <i>2 Kings 5:1-14</i>
Lesson 8 Oct. 20	Friends Learn about Jesus 57 <i>Mark 2:1-12</i>
Lesson 9 Oct. 27	God Gives Us Friends 64 <i>Luke 10:38-42; John 12:1-3</i>

Unit 3 — God Gives Us the Church

Unit Value: Worshipfulness

Lesson 10 Nov. 3	Learning from the Bible 71 <i>Luke 4:16-22a</i>
Lesson 11 Nov. 10	Learning about Jesus 78 <i>Acts 3:12-26; 16:4-5; 18:23; 20:20</i>
Lesson 12 Nov. 17	Together We Pray and Thank God 85 <i>Acts 1:13-14; 2:42-47</i>
Lesson 13 Nov. 24	Together We Share about Jesus 92 <i>Acts 20:16-38; Matthew 28:18-20</i>

Materials/Bring the Bible to Life 4-5
Supplies 6
Notes 7

** These lessons contain a food activity. Check with parents for any food allergies students might have.*

Custom-created videos accompany every Bible-in-Life lesson. Right before Step two, a three-minute video introduces each unit theme. Teaching notes, found with the videos, tie the unit theme to the day's lesson.

Depending on your church's equipment, you can download these videos to a computer to project on a screen or else download them to your own digital device.

Go [here](#) to find all of the videos.

Preschool Teacher's Guide

for ages 3 through pre-K

Can also be used for ages 4-5 or ages 3-5.

Editor

Lisa Tamayo

Designer

Nancy L. Haskins

To equip the Church with Christ-centered resources for making and teaching disciples who obediently transform today's generations . . . David C Cook is a nonprofit organization dedicated to international Christian education.

© 2019 David C Cook, 4050 Lee Vance Drive, Colorado Springs, CO, 80918, U.S.A. All rights reserved. Printed in South Korea. May not be reproduced without permission.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Cover Photo: © Imgorthand/Getty Images

Contact Us

Visit our website at www.DavidCCook.org

Contact us at 1-800-323-7543 (U.S. only)

In Canada visit www.parasource.com (Canada Only) or 1-800-263-2664 (Canada Only)

Teacher–Student Relationships

Establishing, in the classroom, an atmosphere of trust and love that makes a student want to return is just as important as teaching good information. Adults sharing God’s love and grace to children and youth can help them stay firm in their faith. Here are a couple of tips for building strong teacher-student relationships.



TRUST

As the teacher, you have the opportunity to be someone students can count on to be present on a regular basis. Children and youth need to feel that they can talk to you in confidence and without ridicule or criticism. And while you sometimes have to discipline, showing grace in that discipline helps them see God’s love in you. As part of trust, students expect that what you present in class is accurate and useful.

ATTITUDE

Students like teachers who are positive, upbeat, confident, friendly, and willing to help. Leave your personal problems at home and give the students and youth your undivided attention. Nod, lean forward, and make eye contact when a student is speaking. Smile frequently.

FUN

While the subject matter you present is serious in nature, the atmosphere of the room shouldn’t be dreary. You don’t have to act silly or let chaos reign, but you can enjoy games with students, find joy in their discoveries, and maintain a happy classroom environment.

ACCEPTANCE OF FEELINGS

Children and youth often respond to situations with emotions rather than rational logic. Their reactions may seem childish because they have not learned how to control their feelings or how to think through situations. While you don’t need to agree with everything a student says, you can be a sounding board and a sympathetic ear. Be open to the Holy Spirit’s guiding as students share their feelings—stopping to pray with a student, give an affirming pat on the back, or even a quick hug may be just what they need.

PRAISE AND AFFIRMATION

Compliment and encourage children and youth frequently, mentioning specific actions you have observed. When students feel valued, they are more likely to participate in learning, and they begin to understand how God loves and accepts them.



Materials for Your Preschool Class

Preschool Teacher's Guide

In every lesson you'll find Bible background information, tips on understanding and teaching preschoolers, and the Bible story complete with review questions and activities. In addition, you'll find meaningful activities for early arrivers and extra class time. Need one per class.

Preschool Creative Teaching Aids

This packet equips you with a quarterly attendance chart, posters, manipulatives, Bible figures, games, and PraisePac CD to enhance your teaching. Each PraisePac CD contains three

original [worship songs](#) that correlate with each unit. Also included on your PraisePac CD are downloadable song sheets, [lyric sheets](#), and [postcards](#). Need one per class.

Preschool Make-It/Take-It

With simple classroom supplies, the craft pages in this book become books, story puppets and action figures, pop-up cards, puzzles, and lesson reminders to help the Bible lessons learned at church be meaningful throughout the week at home. Need one per student.

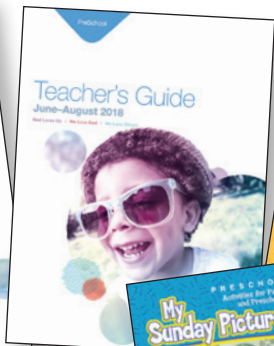
Bring the Bible to Life for Kids

1 Step 1: Bible Readiness

Scripture makes it clear that God is relational (1 John 3:1; 4:9-10). Our goal is to help students see this part of God's nature by interacting with you and one another. Your goal in Step 1 is to help your preschoolers build relationships with you and one another. This step gives your students a chance to share about themselves and their lives, and be active participants in your classroom. You'll be able to guide students to see the connection between their lives and what happens at Sunday school. These conversations will flow naturally into Step 2, your Bible lesson.

2 Step 2: Bible Story

God teaches us through His written Word how to live and relate with Him and one another (Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16). Through Step 2, your class will learn a Bible story and then review it together. You'll lead the class with relevant questions that guide your students to not only understand what they've just read, but begin to connect it to their lives. Your class will also have an opportunity to learn the memory verse for the day. Through this step, you'll be able to make sure your preschoolers engage in a fruitful conversation about the Bible at their age level.



My Sunday Pictures

These [take-home cards](#) connect the Bible stories and lessons taught in church to each child's home. Each card presents the Bible story and family activities to incorporate the Bible lesson at home during the week. Need one per student.

For the Noah's Park Children's Church that correlates with Bible-in-Life, visit our website at DavidCCook.org

Online Teacher Training!

To learn more about teaching and using the resources in a lesson, visit BibleinLife.com

3

Step 3: Bible Activity Choices

God asks us to internalize His Word so we can grow in relationship with Him (Psalm 1:2; 119:97). Step 3 turns your class into a laboratory, giving you a chance to guide your preschoolers to a deeper understanding of the Bible story they've just learned. Activity options including science, drama, games, crafts, and more allow students to explore the Bible story at their own levels, and with their own interests so that they can comprehend and implement God's Word into their lives in age-appropriate ways. Your students can actively work through the Bible story, finding the tangible treasure in the text for themselves.

4

Step 4: Bible Response

The Bible makes it clear that our faith is much more than a list of beliefs. It's also what we do—how we live out what we say we believe. Step 4 is a way for you to encourage life application with your students. Together you'll go over what you've learned and help your students carry the Sunday school lesson into the rest of their week. You'll be able to provide them with practical suggestions for ways to live out their faith in real life so that they can be doers of the Word, not just hearers (Luke 11:28; James 1:22-25).



Standard Supplies

- ☐ **Preschool Teacher Guide**
- ☐ **Preschool Creative Teaching Aids**
- ☐ **Preschool Make-It/Take-It**
- ☐ **My Sunday Pictures**
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Bible-time clothes
- ☐ Beanbags or foam balls
- ☐ Blocks
- ☐ Butcher or chart paper

- ☐ CD player
- ☐ Chenille wires
- ☐ Clear tape, masking tape
- ☐ Construction paper, scrap paper
- ☐ Cookie cutters
- ☐ Cotton balls
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Crayons and washable markers
- ☐ Dolls
- ☐ Dress-up clothes
- ☐ Flannel board
- ☐ Glue or glue sticks
- ☐ Paper clips
- ☐ Paper fasteners
- ☐ Play dishes and food
- ☐ Play dough (purchased or homemade)
- ☐ Poster paint (washable) and paintbrushes
- ☐ Rhythm instruments
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Talking object
- ☐ Yarn, string, or thread

Extra Supplies

LESSON 1

- ☐ Old magazines
- ☐ Plastic spoons

LESSON 2

- ☐ Four paper hearts
- ☐ Pieces of cloth
- ☐ Small cups and containers
- ☐ Variety of grains

LESSON 3

- ☐ Soft balls or large balls of wadded paper

LESSON 4

- ☐ Drinking straws

LESSON 5

- ☐ Puppets

OPTIONAL

- ☐ Fabric scraps

LESSON 6

- ☐ Bible storybook
- ☐ Cotton swabs
- ☐ Paint shirts
- ☐ Small containers
- ☐ Vanilla extract
- ☐ Vegetable oil

OPTIONAL

- ☐ Fabric or paper scraps
- ☐ Paper cups
- ☐ Pitcher

LESSON 7 - OPTIONAL

- ☐ Cloth scraps
- ☐ Sponge pieces
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Pairs of socks

LESSON 8

- ☐ Hopscotch pattern
- ☐ Stuffed animals

- ☐ Old tennis balls or paper plates
- ☐ Sharp knife

OPTIONAL

- ☐ Small stone

LESSON 9

- ☐ Large cardboard box
- ☐ Red paper hearts

LESSON 10

- ☐ Ball
- ☐ Large box
- ☐ Legal-size paper
- ☐ Scroll
- ☐ Unsharpened pencils

LESSON 11

- ☐ Action figures
- ☐ Musical instrument or hymnal

LESSON 12

- ☐ Clear self-adhesive paper
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Old magazines
- ☐ Stapler

OPTIONAL

- ☐ Ball
- ☐ Paper plates
- ☐ Stickers

Prayer Requests



Use this notes section to record prayer requests, what God has been teaching you, substitute contact information, or notes and helpful hints you'd like to remember.

Notes!

Birthdays!



Specially Given Families

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-23

Lesson Focus: God gives us families.

Memory Verse: “Love one another.” John 13:34



[Lesson Video for Step 2!](#)

1 Getting Ready for the Bible

To help the children connect their own experiences with the story of Hannah and Elkanah, they will talk about their families.

- Opening Activity: [Teaching Aid 2](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*) Sharing Time: No materials needed


2 Bible Story Time: 1 Samuel 1:1-23

The children will learn how God gave Samuel to Hannah and Elkanah.

- Bible Story: [Teaching Aid 3](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*), Bible
- Bible Story Review: No materials needed
- Bible Memory Verse: No materials needed

3 The Bible and Me

To understand that God gives them families, the children will explore activity centers.

-  Spoon Puppets: Old magazines, glue, plastic spoons
- Family Roleplay: No materials needed
- Family Block Play: Large and small blocks

4 Going Home with the Bible

By thanking God for their families, the children will apply the Bible story of Hannah and Samuel to their own lives.

- Page for [Lesson 1 \(from Preschool Make-It/Take-It\)](#), crayons, 12-inch length of yarn for each student, Bible, [My Sunday Pictures Lesson 1](#) and [Family Card A](#)



This symbol appears whenever preparation takes more than five minutes or includes supplies that are not listed on the standard supply list on page 6.

Understanding the Bible

Samuel's father, Elkanah, lived in the town of Ramah, a city located five miles north of Jerusalem. He had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Hannah probably was his first wife. Elkanah probably took a second wife because Hannah was unable to have children (1 Sam. 1:2). In those days, polygamy was tolerated under the law of Moses (Deut. 21:15-17).

In that culture, to be childless was regarded as a divine curse that supposedly made a woman's life virtually meaningless. Despite Elkanah's reassurances of his love for her, Hannah felt a deep longing to bear a son (1 Sam. 1:4-5, 8).

Hannah's prayer probably occurred during the Feast of Tabernacles, a festival which celebrated God's care for

His people while wandering in the wilderness, as well as God's blessings on the year's crops (Deut. 16:13-15). Hannah and Elkanah traveled to Shiloh, the religious center of the nation, for the festival.

Hannah's despair is seen in her prayer to God. Hannah prayed in silence, even though praying aloud is more usual in Hebrew praying. Her outpouring was very fervent, from her soul.

Hannah vowed to dedicate the child to Levitical service and make him a Nazirite for life—not the specific time frame usually served. This promise committed her son to a life of service to God. Hannah's prayer was answered. She gave birth to a son, Samuel, which may mean “asked of God” (1 Sam. 1:20).

Teacher Devotional

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-23. Hannah “[wept] bitterly” for a baby. Her vow was to give her child “to the Lord all the days of his life.” When God answered her prayer, she kept her promise and gave the child back to God.

Like Hannah, you may have wept bitterly for someone or a situation. It may have been a plea to have or adopt a child, a healing for a sick child, or revival in the heart of a child who has strayed from the Lord. Whatever your plea, God heard you.

Hannah weaned Samuel before she took him to serve the Lord: “I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever” (v.22, NKJV).

God gives us our children, our families, to care for and nurture. We should daily give them to the Lord.

Pray for strong families that lead our children to a great love for their God, and that one day they may appear before the Lord and remain there forever.

Welcome Time Activities

These activities are designed to engage your children in a fun and purposeful way while freeing you to interact with parents and children as they arrive. The centers require little or no supervision and can be set up before class. After greeting each child, direct him or her to a center and suggest a way to start or join the activity.

Moving and Doing

Preschoolers love to act out what they know about family roles. Invite the children to play house in the home living area using dolls, blankets, bottles, play food, and utensils to help them prepare for the Bible story of Hannah and Samuel from 1 Samuel 1:1-23.

Projects

To help children connect to the concept that God gives us families, have them make a family collage using pictures cut from magazines, glue sticks, and crayons. Cutting the binding off the magazines makes the pages easier for children to hold and cut.

Write the children’s names on the Fall [Attendance Chart \(Teaching Aid 1\)](#). Put the chart where each child can mark attendance with a sticker.

Teacher Tip

Some of your preschoolers may be anxious or fearful of leaving mom and dad. Help the transition by keeping the class routine similar each week and engaging the child in a fun activity.



[Attendance Chart](#)

Worship Time

Before you begin today’s lesson, you may want to have a short worship time.

- Have the children sit in a circle, either on a rug or in chairs. **Worship time is a time when we tell God how much we love Him. We worship by giving any offerings we brought, singing a song, and talking to God through prayer.**

- Choose a child to collect offerings. **Dear God, You give us many things. These offerings are one way we say thank You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

- Sing the following words to the tune “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.”

Oh, God gave each of us families.

Oh, God gave each of us families.

Oh, God gave each of us families,

Because He loves us so.

Let the children substitute family members for the word families such as mommies, brothers, etc.

- Close with prayer. Remind the children to bow their heads and close their eyes. That helps them think about God as they talk to Him. **Dear God, You give us everything that we have. Thank You for giving us our families. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**



1 Getting Ready for the Bible

To help the children connect their own experiences with the story of Hannah and Elkanah, they will talk about their families.

■ **Materials:** Creative Teaching Aids—[Teaching Aid 2](#)



Attention Grabber

If you have not yet gathered the children into a group or you need to focus their attention on you, ask them to silently copy your actions as you say this rhyme.

Wiggle your feet,
wiggle your hands.
Stretch up high,
like rubber bands.
Clap, clap, clap,
turn around.
Fold your hands,
now sit down.

Opening Activity

Once the children are seated in a circle and ready to listen, use the Teaching Aid 2 poster from your Creative Teaching Aids packet to talk about the different people in families. Identifying family members helps the children understand the Bible story from 1 Samuel 1:1-23, where God gave baby Samuel to Hannah and her husband, Elkanah.

I have a picture of a family that I would like to show you today. (*Show the poster, Teaching Aid 2.*) **This family is playing outside. Who do you see in the picture?** (Dad, mom, sister, brother.)



[Teaching Aid 2](#)

After the children have identified who is in the picture, point to a specific figure such as the man. **Who is this?** (Father) **What kinds of things does a dad do?** (The children may give a variety of answers including work, cook, mow the lawn, wash dishes, play, etc. Be aware that some children may not have a dad at home. If some of them talk about an uncle or grandfather, accept this as a perfectly reasonable answer.)

Point to the woman. **Who is this?** (Mom) **What kinds of things does a mom do?** (Again this will have a variety of answers. Most will probably have to do with caring for a child, working, telling stories, etc.)

Continue by pointing one at a time to the sister, the brother. Some of your children will not have siblings. Ask them what they think it would be like to have a sister or a brother.

(*Hold up the poster.*) **We talked a lot about this family. Let's talk about your families.**

Sharing Time

As you and your class talk, be sure to allow time for each child to say something. This gives every child an opportunity to connect to the Bible story through his or her own experience. Sharing about your own family may help the children begin the discussion.

■ **Who are the people in your family?** Children will have a variety of responses. They may include stepparents, grandparents, and even pets. Affirm their answers.

■ **What does your father do?** Give time for the children to answer. Be sure the children include home activities such as read stories, cook, mow the lawn, etc., as well as workplace ideas. "I don't know" is a perfectly good answer.

■ **What does your mother do?** As with the previous questions, try to get the children to give details that make their families unique.

Our families are special. Today we're going to learn that God gives us families. Our Bible story today will tell us about a family that had no children. As you hear the story, listen for the mother's name and how God gave her a baby.

2 Bible Story Time

1 Samuel 1:1-23

The children will learn how God gave Samuel to Hannah and Elkanah.

■ **Materials:** Creative Teaching Aids—[Teaching Aid 3](#), Bible

Bible Story

The children should still be gathered in a group ready for the story. Have your Bible open to 1 Samuel 1 to begin. Today's story comes from the Bible. It is found in the book, or part, of the Bible called 1 Samuel. *(Show the children where 1 Samuel is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to 1 Samuel 1 as you tell the story.)*

The Bible tells us that there once lived a woman named Hannah. *(Show Teaching Aid 3. Point to Hannah on the poster.)* She was married to a man named Elkanah [el-KAY-nuh]. *(Point to Elkanah and then set the poster aside.)* Hannah and Elkanah loved each other very much. But most of all they loved God.

God had made Hannah and Elkanah's family very special. But Hannah wanted their family to grow. She was sad that they didn't have any children.

One day, Hannah and Elkanah went to a special tent-church to worship God. While Hannah was there, she asked God for

something special. *(Fold your hands as if praying.)* Hannah prayed for a baby boy. She cried while she was praying because she was so sad. She promised God that if He gave her a baby boy, she would have the boy serve God.

Eli, the priest at the tent-church, saw Hannah praying and crying. He saw that while she was praying, not a sound came out of her mouth. He talked to Hannah about what was wrong.

Hannah said, "I've been praying here because I am very sad."

Eli told her, "Go in peace. God will give you what you have prayed for."

Early the next day Hannah and Elkanah worshiped God and then walked home. Hannah didn't feel quite so sad anymore.

Soon God answered Hannah's prayers. Hannah and Elkanah had a baby boy. They named him

Samuel. *(Point to Samuel on the poster.)* God had given them baby Samuel for their family.

Hannah and Elkanah liked to take care of little Samuel. They gave him food to eat. They gave him milk to drink. *(Have the children pretend to hold a baby. Then have them rock and feed the "babies.")* They dressed him every day and kept him safe. *(Let each child pretend to wrap a baby in a blanket.)* And they loved Samuel. *(Hug yourself.)*

(Point to each person on the poster as you say his or her name.) Hannah and Elkanah were happy that God had given them little Samuel. They thanked God for Samuel and took very good care of him. They were glad that God had given them a family. God gives us families too.

Bible Story Questions

■ Who wanted a baby in the story? Hannah.

■ Who did God give to Hannah? A baby boy named Samuel.

■ How would you feel if you wanted something as much as Hannah wanted a baby? Children may have a variety of answers. They may feel sad, want to cry, or be angry, etc.

■ Who gives us families? God gives us families.



[Teaching Aid 3](#)

Bible Story Review Activity

Use the following activity to further review today's Bible story from 1 Samuel 1:1-23. **Listen carefully as I tell you the Bible story of Hannah and Samuel one more time. If you hear the name Hannah, fold your hands.** Demonstrate folding your hands in prayer for the children. **When I say the word "baby," pretend to rock a baby.** Show the children how to rock a baby. As you read the story, pause to give the children time to do the action. Do the actions with them. Here's our story:

Hannah (*Fold hands.*)
wanted a baby. (*Rock a baby.*)
Hannah (*Fold hands.*)
prayed for a baby. (*Rock a baby.*)
God gave a baby (*Rock a baby.*)
to Hannah. (*Fold hands.*)
God gave Hannah (*Fold hands.*)
her family.

Repeat the activity to help the children understand the Bible story about Hannah and Samuel.



Bible Memory Verse

"Love one another." John 13:34

As children practice a Bible verse week after week, they will be able to understand and remember it. Have the children do either the practice or the rhyme, or both.

Practice

Say the Bible memory verse to the children and have them repeat it back to you. **"Love one another." John 13:34.**

Now let's sing our words. Setting words to music helps children remember them longer. Sing the words with the children to the tune of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Teaching the actions with the words will help the children learn the verse.

Oh, "love one another."
(*Hug self, then open arms wide.*)

Oh, "love one another."
(*Hug self, then open arms wide.*)

Oh, "love one another."
(*Hug self, then open arms wide.*)

John 13:34.
(*Hold hands open like a book.*)

Bible Rhyme Time

The Bible rhyme is another way to practice the Bible memory verse. The Bible verse is in the last line of the rhyme. Teach the words and actions a line at a time. Have the children repeat each line back to you. **Our new Bible memory verse rhyme helps us remember our memory verse from John 13:34. Let's say the words together.**

God made me.
(*Point to self.*)

God made you.
(*Point to someone else.*)

God made my family, too!
(*Hug self.*)

God loves me.
(*Point to self.*)

God loves you.
(*Point to someone.*)

He said, "Love one another," too.
(*Open arms wide.*)

3 The Bible and Me

To understand that God gives them families, the children will explore activity centers.

In today's Bible story, from 1 Samuel 1:1-23, your class learned that God gave Hannah her family. To help children understand that God gives them their families, choose one or more of the following activities. Before you let the children begin these activities, demonstrate each one you have chosen. This week the Family Roleplay needs the most teacher supervision.

Family Roleplay:

Materials: None needed

This activity helps children use dramatic play to further practice the Lesson Focus, "God gives us families."

Have the children spread out so they have room to move. **God gives us our families. He gives us fathers. Show me what a father does.** Give the children time to act out something a father does. Repeat for mothers, brothers, sisters, and grandparents. Give ideas for those children who have a hard time acting. Let the children use their imaginations to act even if you do not recognize what is being acted out. If you have a small group, have each child tell what he was acting.

Family Block Play:

Materials: Large and small blocks

In today's Bible story about Hannah and Samuel, the family had three members. To help children explore their own God-given families, set out several large and small rectangle or square blocks to represent male family members. Set out large and small cylinder blocks to represent female family members. Let the children create families out of the blocks. A family may have a father (large rectangle), a mother (large cylinder), and a girl (small cylinder). Have them take turns telling each other about their families. **God gives us families, just as He gave Hannah and Samuel their family in our Bible story.**

Spoon Puppets:

Materials: Old magazines, glue, plastic spoons

This activity ties the Bible story to the children's lives by allowing them to explore the families God gave them. **God gave Samuel to Hannah. God gives us families too.**

You can glue magazine pictures on spoons to make puppets of your family. Show the children how to glue a magazine picture on a spoon to make a puppet. Let children tear pictures of people out of the magazine pages used in the Welcome Time Activities, page 9. Have them glue pictures on plastic spoons to make members of a puppet family using the pictures. Invite the children to use their puppets to act out things families do.



When you are ready to move to the last step in your lesson, have the children clean up the centers and gather into a big group. You may want to use this rhyme to help attract their attention.

Clean up, clean up,
One, two, three.
Can you clean up
Just like me?

4 Going Home with the Bible

By thanking God for their families, the children will apply the Bible story of Hannah and Samuel to their own lives.

■ **Materials:** [Make-It/Take-It page for Lesson 1](#), crayons, 12-inch length of yarn for each student, Bible

Before class, remove the Lesson 1 page from the Make-It/Take-It books.



[Lesson 1 Make-It/Take-It](#)

After cleaning up, have the children sit around a table. Use this time to help the children thank God for their families. Show the children once again where 1 Samuel 1:1-23 is in the Bible.

In today's Bible story, God gave baby Samuel to

Hannah and Elkanah. God gave them their family. God gives us families too.

Who are some of the people in our families? (Children will give a variety of answers such as fathers, mothers, grandparents, brothers, sisters, pets, etc.) **Our families are special. How can we thank God for our families?** (Some possible answers are to pray, tell Him, show our families how much we love them, sing a song to God, etc.)

Another way we can thank God is to make a card thanking Him for giving us our families. Give each child a Make-It/Take-It frame. Let each child draw his or her family in the frame with crayons. Help write the names if children are not able to write. **As you color, think of something you can thank God for about your family.**

Help children punch out the holes on the top of the frame and add a hanger for the frame with a 12-inch length of yarn.

After the children are done with their frames, gather the children into a circle on the floor. Have each

child share what they would like to say to God about their family by using this prayer: **Thank You, God, for _____**. Be prepared to begin this sharing time. After each child shares, have the class say, **"God gives us families. Thank You, God."** Encourage the children to share their frames with their families.

Close the lesson with a class prayer. **Dear God, we learned in our Bible story that You gave Samuel to Hannah. You give us our families too. Thank You for each of our families. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

If You Have Extra Time

Birthdays are very important to preschoolers. You may choose to celebrate birthdays once a month or once a quarter. If you celebrate birthdays once a quarter, include children born in October and November in today's celebration. You may want to ask parents for birth dates if you don't already have a list.

Hannah celebrated when Samuel was born. Your parents celebrated when you were born. Several of you were born in September. Have each child stand next to you. _____ has a birthday this month. He/She will be ____ years old! Repeat for children born in October and November if you are including those birthdays.

As a class, sing "Happy Birthday" to each child. Finish with a prayer. **Dear God, thank You for (children's names). We're glad they are in our Sunday school class. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



Time to Go Home

- Let children make families using blocks to represent the different family members.
- As you say goodbye to each child, remind him or her of the Lesson Focus: **God gives us families.**

Send Home...

- [My Sunday Pictures for Lesson 1](#)
- [Family Card A](#) from *My Sunday Pictures*
- [Make-It/Take-It frame for Lesson 1](#)
- Projects made at centers



My Caring Family

Scripture: Ruth 1—4

Lesson Focus: People in families care for one another.

Memory Verse: “Love one another.” John 13:34

1 Getting Ready for the Bible

To help the children relate their own experiences to the story of Ruth, they will talk about ways their families care for them.

- Opening Activity: [PraisePac CD](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*), CD player
- Sharing Time: No materials needed

2 Bible Story Time: Ruth 1—4

The children will discover how the people in Ruth’s family cared for one another.

- Bible Story: [Teaching Aid 4](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*), Bible
- Bible Story Review: *Optional*: Bible-time clothes
- 🕒 Bible Memory Verse: Four paper hearts, four different colored markers

3 The Bible and Me

To understand that people in families care for one another, children will explore activity centers.

- 🕒 Bible Coloring Page: Page for [Lesson 2 \(from Preschool Make-It/Take-It\)](#), crayons; *optional*: pieces of cloth, glue sticks
- 🕒 Playing House: Dolls, play dishes, dress-up clothes
- 🕒 Grain Compare: Variety of grains, small cups and containers, paper, glue

4 Going Home with the Bible

By planning a way to care for a family member, children will show how the Bible story works in their own lives.

- Talking object, Bible, [My Sunday Pictures Lesson 2](#)

🕒 This symbol appears whenever preparation takes more than five minutes or includes supplies that are not listed on the standard supply list on page 6.



[Lesson Video for Step 2!](#)

Understanding the Bible

The story of Ruth takes place during the period when judges ruled Israel, perhaps sometime in the 1100s B.C. The story gives a look at Hebrew family relationships through three members: Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz.

Naomi was the widow of Elimelech. She and her husband had left the town of Bethlehem during a time of famine and traveled to the land of Moab, across the Dead Sea. While there, her husband died. She raised her sons as a single parent until they married. When her sons died, Naomi was without male protection and care. She returned to Bethlehem to find some means of support.

Ruth, one of Naomi’s Moabite daughters-in-law, decided to accompany Naomi to Bethlehem rather than

return to her own family. Her vow indicated that she had found faith in the Hebrew God (Ruth 1:16-17). Ruth provided food for herself and Naomi by gleaning fields. Fields were gleaned by gathering grain left behind during harvest. This practice followed the law of Moses to provide for widows (Deut. 24:19). Ruth eventually married Boaz, the owner of the field where she gleaned. Ruth’s actions provided care for Naomi the rest of her life.

Boaz was Naomi’s relative. He was a kinsman-redeemer, a person who would help out a needy relative. As such, he could buy back Naomi’s land and marry Ruth (Lev. 25:25; Deut. 25:5-10). Boaz fulfilled this duty showing love and care for people in his family.

Teacher Devotional

Read the heartfelt words of Ruth to her mother-in-law Naomi in Ruth 1:16-17. She was determined to be loyal to Naomi to the end.

Ruth demonstrated her loyalty to Naomi in choosing to follow Naomi to a foreign land and placing herself in difficult situations to help provide for her.

Loyalty involves commitment and faithfulness. It strengthens the ties that bind individuals together in families.

Read Ruth 2:11. Boaz was impressed with Ruth's loyalty. We read later that the Lord did indeed bless Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 4:13-16).

You will have the opportunity this week to teach your preschoolers how to care for one another, the way Ruth cared for Naomi.

Pray for the families of your Sunday school class, asking God to help them remain loyal to each other and most importantly, loyal to Him.

Welcome Time Activities

These activities are designed to engage your children in a fun and purposeful way while freeing you to interact with parents and children as they arrive. The centers require little or no supervision and can be set up before class. After greeting each child, direct him or her to a center and suggest a way to start or join the activity.

Exploration

Place dolls, chairs, and other home play items in the home living area. Encourage children to care for the dolls in their "house" to help them begin thinking about people in families caring for one another as Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz cared for each other.

Projects

Before class, punch out the house from page 3 of your Make-It/Take-It books. Put out crayons and the houses for children to color. As children begin to think about families living in houses, they will begin to relate to Ruth's family in the Bible story from Ruth 1—4.

Table Play

Set out play dough and cookie cutters. Invite children to make cookies for their family members using the play dough. Children can become involved in preparing "food" just as Ruth provided food for Naomi in today's Bible story.

Teacher Tip

To create a caring environment in your classroom, learn students' names. This makes them feel special and wanted. Greet them by name. Crouch down or sit on a chair so you are on their eye level. Remind insecure children their families love them, and you care for them.

Worship Time

You may want to have a short worship time before beginning today's lesson.

- Have the children sit in a circle either on a rug or in chairs. **Let us worship God, and tell Him how much we love Him.**

- Ask a child helper to collect offerings. Lead the children in singing the following words, to the tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb," as a prayer of thanksgiving.

**Let us give our thanks to God,
Thanks to God, Thanks to God.
Let us give our thanks to God,
For He loves us so.**

- Teach the chorus of the song ["A Special Gift"](#)

from the PraisePac CD found in your Creative Teaching Aids packet. Use actions to help children remember the words. After reading the words, let the children help you create gestures for each phrase.

- Pray for needs of family members, encouraging children to share prayer requests. Then pray: **Dear God, You give us people in families who care for one another. Help us learn to care for them. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



1 Getting Ready for the Bible

To help the children relate their own experiences to the story of Ruth, they will talk about ways their families care for them.

■ **Materials:** Creative Teaching Aids—PraisePac CD, CD player



Attention Grabber

If you have not yet gathered the children into a group or you need to focus their attention on you, ask them to silently copy your actions as you say this rhyme.

Wiggle your feet,
wiggle your hands.
Stretch up high,
like rubber bands.
Clap, clap, clap,
turn around.
Fold your hands,
now sit down.

Opening Activity

When the children are seated in a circle and ready to listen, introduce the game “Family Freeze.” Playing a game about families and discussing how their own family members care for each other helps children relate to the Bible story from Ruth 1—4, where Ruth cared for her family.

Today we are going to play a game called “Family Freeze.” I will play a song. When you hear the music, move around the room. When the music stops, I’ll say “freeze.” That means you stop just as you are, even if you only have one foot on the ground. Then I will ask you to tell me something.

Begin playing the Unit 1 song, [“A Special Gift,”](#) from the PraisePac CD found in your Creative Teaching Aids packet. Stop the music after 20 to 30 seconds. **Freeze! Now put both feet on the ground. Tell me one way your mother cares for you.** (It would work to have the children say their answers all at one time. Even though you can’t hear all the answers, the purpose of the game is to get children to think about caring. They may say things like cook, hug me, or play with me.) **Time to move to the music!** Play the song on the CD for another 20 to 30 seconds. **Freeze! Now put both your feet on the ground. Now tell me one way your father cares for you.** (There may be some children in your class who don’t have a father living with them. Encourage those children to talk about an uncle or grandfather, or what they think a father might do.) **Time to move!** Play the song for 20-30 seconds. **Freeze! Come by me and sit in a circle.**

Wait for all the children to sit down in a circle. **Our game helped us think about ways people care for us. Let’s talk more about people in families caring.**



Sharing Time

As you and your class talk, be sure to allow time for each child to say something. This gives every child an opportunity to connect to the Bible story through his or her own experience.

■ **How does your family care for you?** Affirm the children’s various answers. They may include hugging, cooking, working, etc. Some of the children will build on another’s responses. Give all the children time to answer.

■ **How do you care for others in your family?** Try to get the children to give details that make

their families unique. Some ideas may be picking up toys, making my bed, setting the table, calling my grandma, bringing in the mail. “I don’t know” is a fine answer too.

I’m so glad each one of you has caring people in your family. Today we’re going to learn that people in families care for one another. Today our Bible story will tell about a woman named Ruth. As you hear the story, listen for ways the people in Ruth’s family cared for one another.

2

Bible Story Time

Ruth 1—4

The children will discover how the people in Ruth's family cared for one another.

■ **Materials:** Creative Teaching Aids—[Teaching Aid 4](#), Bible, four paper hearts, four different colored markers; *optional:* Bible-time clothes

Bible Story

Show Teaching Aid 4 as indicated in the Bible story.

The children should still be seated in a circle ready for the Bible story. Open your Bible to the Book of Ruth to begin. Today's story comes from the Bible. It is found in the book, or part, of the Bible called Ruth. (Show the children where Ruth is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to the Book of Ruth as you tell the story.)

The Bible tells us about a woman named Ruth. Ruth had a very small family. She lived with an older woman named Naomi. Ruth loved Naomi, who was like a mother to her. Ruth had been married to Naomi's son. When he died, Ruth stayed and took good care of Naomi.



[Teaching Aid 4](#)

One day Ruth went to the grain fields. Wheat is one kind of grain. Rice is another. Grain is used to make food. (Show the poster, Teaching Aid 4. Point to the grain

field on the teaching aid, then set it aside.) Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh. The workers were cutting down the grain. It was time to gather the grain for food. Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh went the tools. (Have the children repeat the sound of the workers cutting grain while making a cutting motion with their arm.)

Ruth followed the workers. She picked up the leftover grain that the workers had missed. (Bend over and pretend to pick up grain. Ask the children to do the action with you.) Ruth took the grain home. She used the grain to make bread for her and Naomi to eat.

A man named Boaz owned the field and all the grain. One day he came to the field. He asked the workers, "Who is that young woman?"

The workers told him, "She is Ruth. She lives with Naomi."

Boaz told the workers, "Give Ruth some more grain." Ruth thanked Boaz. Now Naomi and Ruth would have plenty to eat.

Every day the workers cut the grain. Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh. (Children may repeat, including the cutting action with their arm.) Every day Ruth

followed the workers and picked up the leftover grain. (Pretend to pick up grain.)

One day Boaz came back to the field to see Ruth. Later Boaz married Ruth. Then Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz all lived together in one house. They were a happy family.

Later Ruth and Boaz had a baby boy. (Point to the baby on the poster.) They named the baby boy Obed.

(Have the children say the family names with you. Point to each family member on the poster as you say his or her name.) Now Ruth was a mommy. Boaz was a daddy. And Naomi was a grandmother. The people in Ruth's family cared for one another. People in families care for one another.

Bible Story Questions

- What did Ruth do to care for Naomi? She took care of Naomi and picked grain.
- Who were the people in Ruth's family who cared for her? Naomi and Boaz.
- How do you think Naomi felt about Ruth caring for her? The children's answers will vary. She may have felt happy, thankful, etc.
- What does God want people in families to do? People in families care for one another.

Bible Story Review Activity

Acting out the Bible story about Ruth helps the children review the story using dramatic play.

Choose a child to be Naomi, another Ruth, a third Boaz, and the rest of the children workers. You may have them dress in Bible-time clothes. Be prepared to prompt the children with details given in order. Give the workers plenty of time to cut down the grain with a whooshing sound. They can extend their arms to cut down the grain. Here are some details you may wish to include:

- Ruth lived with Naomi.
- Ruth went to a grain field where workers were cutting down the grain.
- Ruth followed the workers, picked up the leftover grain, and took it home to Naomi.
- Boaz told the workers to give more grain to Ruth.
- Boaz and Ruth got married.

Repeat with children changing roles.



Bible Memory Verse

“Love one another.” John 13:34

Before class, cut out four large paper hearts. Write one word of the verse on each heart and the reference on the remaining heart. Use a different color for each word. While the children won’t be able to read the words, they will associate a word with a color.

Practice

In this practice, the children will point to each word on a heart. Associating the words with a shape will help children remember the Bible verse.

People in families care for one another. Caring is a way to show love. Let’s say our Bible verse with me. “Love one another.” John 13:34. Point to the words, on the hearts, as they are said. Repeat several times with each child having a turn pointing at the words.

“Love one another.” John 13:34

Bible Rhyme Time

The Bible rhyme is another way you can practice the Bible memory verse. The verse is found in the last line of the rhyme. Say the words and do the actions with the children. When you feel they can say the rhyme on their own, try to clap a beat as the children say and do the rhyme. **Our Bible rhyme helps us remember our Bible verse, “Love one another.” Say our Bible rhyme with me.**

God made me.

(Point to self.)

God made you.

(Point to someone else.)

God made my family, too!

(Hug self.)

God loves me.

(Point to self.)

God loves you.

(Point to someone.)

He said, “Love one another,” too.


(Open arms wide.)

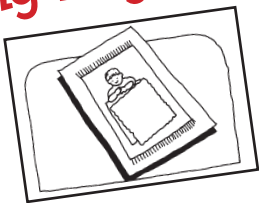
3 The Bible and Me

To understand that people in families care for one another, children will explore activity centers.

In today's Bible story from Ruth 1—4, your class learned that Ruth cared for her family. To help the children understand that people in families care for one another, choose one or more of the following activities. Demonstrate each activity you have chosen before allowing the children to begin. This week Grain Compare requires the most teacher supervision.


Bible Coloring Page:

 Materials: [Make-It/Take-It page for Lesson 2](#), crayons; optional: pieces of cloth, glue sticks



Today's craft reviews the Bible story about Ruth and her family. Remove the page for Lesson 2 from the Make-It/Take-It books. You may want to have the children glue a piece of paper or cloth over the printed baby blanket on the sheet as shown in the drawing. Then they can color the rest of the picture. Encourage the children to talk about how Ruth might have taken care of Obed as well as ways people in their own families care for them.


Playing House:

 Materials: Dolls, play dishes, dress-up clothes

Children use dramatic play in this activity to practice the Lesson Focus, "People in families care for one another." Dramatic play is a way that preschoolers use their senses to practice what they know about the roles different family members play.

Using the home living area, invite the children to play house. Let each child decide on a role to play, and where to sleep, eat, and play. You may need to help them decide who each child will be. Encourage them to show care for each other as they play at being a family.

Grain Compare:*

 Materials: Variety of grains, small cups and containers, paper, glue

To help children understand the grain referred to in today's Bible story from Ruth 1—4, provide an opportunity for children to explore and compare different types of grain.

Bring in a variety of grains from home such as oatmeal, rice, popcorn kernels, etc. Let the children use cups and containers to measure and move the grains. You may also give them a piece of paper and glue so they can take home small samples of the various grains.

*If you have children with a gluten allergy, watch carefully to make sure they don't eat any of the grain.



Before you move to the last step in your lesson, have the children clean up the activities and gather in a big group. You may want to use this rhyme to attract the children's attention.

Clean up, clean up,
One, two, three.
Can you clean up
Just like me?

4 Going Home with the Bible

By planning a way to care for a family member, children will show how the Bible story works in their own lives.

■ **Materials:** Talking object, Bible

Quick Teacher Tip: This part of the lesson uses a “talking object.” A “talking object” is a tool to help your children listen during a sharing time. It can be a simple classroom object such as a pencil. Pass the object around the circle. The child holding the object is the only one who can talk at that time. The others are quiet.

After cleaning up, have the children sit in a circle either on chairs or on a rug. Use this time to help the children plan one way to care for someone in their families.

Show the children once again where Ruth 1—4 is in the Bible. **In today’s Bible story, the people in Ruth’s family, Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, and Obed, cared for one another.**

People in our families care for one another, too. What are some ways people in your family care for you? (Children will have many answers. They may include love me, cook, clean up after me, play with me, etc.)

What are some ways you can show someone in your family that you care for them? (Some ideas could be picking up toys, making a bed, helping feed a pet, setting the table, calling a grandparent, giving a hug, etc.) **Those are all good ways to show someone in your family that you care. Choose one way to show care this week.** Give the children time to quietly think of an idea.

Today, as you share how you are going to care for someone in your family, you will use our talking

object. When you hold the talking object, it is your turn to talk. Everyone else will listen. Give each child a turn to tell his idea. You might want to start with your own suggestion. I’m planning to care for someone in my family by _____.

Close with a prayer: **Dear God, thank You that people in families care for one another. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

If You Have Extra Time

One way preschoolers can care for the other members of their families is through prayer. Spend time today praying for the needs of the families in your classroom.

Ruth cared for the people in her family. You care for the people in your family. One way you can show you care is by praying for your families. What are some things we can pray about your family? Encourage children to share any prayer requests. To help them begin sharing, tell a prayer request for your family. **Let’s fold our hands, close our eyes, and bow our heads in prayer. Then pray: Dear God, You give us special families. Please help these families.** (Include prayer requests here.) **Please show us ways we can care for the people in our families. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**



Time to Go Home

- Before children leave for the day, be sure to hand out the [My Sunday Pictures](#) cards for Lesson 2.
- Until parents come to pick up the children, let them care for dolls or make houses with blocks.
- As the children leave, remind them of the Lesson Focus as you say goodbye: **People in families care for one another.**

Send Home...

- [My Sunday Pictures for Lesson 2](#)
- [Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 2](#)
- [Make-It/Take-It house pattern](#)



Families Share

Scripture: Genesis 13:1-12

Lesson Focus: We can share in our families.

Memory Verse: “Love one another.” John 13:34

1 Getting Ready for the Bible

To help the children connect their own experiences with the Bible story from Genesis 13:1-12, they will talk about sharing.

- Opening Activity: [Teaching Aid 6](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*)
- Sharing Time: No materials needed



2 Bible Story Time: Genesis 13:1-12

The children will learn how Abraham and Lot shared.

- Bible Story: [Teaching Aid 5](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*), flannel board, Bible
- Bible Story Review: [Teaching Aid 6](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*)
- Bible Memory Verse: No materials needed

3 The Bible and Me

To understand that they can share in their families, children will explore activity centers.


-  [Bible Coloring Page: Lesson 3 page](#) and stickers (from *Preschool Make-It/Take-It*), crayons; *optional*: cotton balls, glue sticks
-  Ball Share Game: Soft balls or large balls of wadded paper
- Family Puzzle: [Teaching Aid 2](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*)

4 Going Home with the Bible

Choosing to share with someone in their families will show the children how Genesis 13:1-12 works in their own lives.

- [PraisePac CD](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*), CD player, Bible, masking tape, [My Sunday Pictures Lesson 3](#)



 This symbol appears whenever preparation takes more than five minutes or includes supplies that are not listed on the standard supply list on page 6.

Understanding the Bible

Abraham was a nomadic traveler. He was returning to the land of Canaan after being expelled from Egypt (Gen. 12:20). While living in Egypt, he had become a very wealthy man. Abraham moved his family back to a spot between Bethel and Ai, where he had earlier built an altar to God (Gen. 12:8).

Traveling with Abraham was his nephew, Lot, who possibly viewed himself as a potential heir to Abraham's wealth. Both men traveled with their families, servants, animals, and possessions. Abraham's and Lot's flocks competed with those of the Canaanites and Perizzites who lived in that area. With so much livestock, the area couldn't provide enough water and grass. This same problem occurred later with Jacob and Esau (Gen. 36:7).

Since the quarreling that resulted from the overcrowding disturbed Abraham, he offered Lot a choice of land. The land Lot chose was “the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar” (Gen. 13:10). Some scholars believe this plain was once fertile and heavily populated. Over time this area has been covered by the southern end of the Dead Sea. Even though Lot knew about its wickedness, he decided to stay near the town of Sodom. He would later pay for this when God destroyed the city (Gen. 19:1-29).

Abraham settled in Hebron after God appeared to him again and restated the promise made in Genesis 12:1-3. Abraham desired to obtain wealth only through the Lord's blessing (Gen. 14:22-24).

Teacher Devotional

In Genesis 13:1-12, Abraham valued his relationship with Lot more than ownership of the well-watered, fertile valley of the Jordan River. He was able to let Lot choose the better area for his family because Abraham understood the importance of sharing possessions and keeping strong relationships.

Abraham could certainly see the potential for personal loss. We can all see potential loss when we give up what we have. The children in your class also understand this.

It is a risk but Abraham shows us how to let go by focusing on the gain. Sharing leads, at minimum, to stability in relationships, if not stronger relationships. Sharing also pleases God.

Ask God to open your heart and eyes to opportunities to share what you have with people around you. Ask Him how He would have you act on those opportunities.

Let your sharing experiences equip you to teach your preschoolers to share.

Welcome Time Activities

These activities engage your children in a fun and purposeful way while letting you interact with parents and children as they arrive. The centers require little supervision and can be set up before class. After greeting each child, direct him or her to a center and suggest a way to join the activity.

Moving and Doing

Let the children use blocks to build roads. They may also “drive” toy cars or other blocks on the roads. Building roads helps them begin to think about moving as Abraham and Lot had to move in today’s Bible story from Genesis 13:1-12.

Projects

Today’s Bible story talks about Abraham and Lot sharing. Set out a large bowl of ring-shaped cereal. Let the children share the bowl of cereal as they string it onto two-foot lengths of yarn. Tape one end of each length of yarn to the table to make it easier for the children to string cereal.

Table Play

Set out two dishpans filled with rice, dried beans, or sand, along with small plastic containers. To prepare the children for the Lesson Focus, encourage them to share the containers as they measure and pour the rice, beans, or sand back and forth.

Teacher Tips

Preschoolers are learning how to share. A young child can feel like he is being asked to give away part of himself when asked to share a favorite toy. Help your students learn to share by quickly complimenting those who do it. Direct unhappy children to new activities rather than comment on negative actions. Set a timer for popular toys so everyone has a turn.

Worship Time

Before beginning today’s lesson, you may want to have a short worship time.

- Have the children sit in a circle either on chairs or on a rug. **Let’s worship God by singing, praying, and telling Him how much we love Him.**
- Choose one of the children to collect the offerings. Sing the following words to the tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb” to give thanks to God for the money they can bring.

**Let us give our thanks to God,
Thanks to God, thanks to God.
Let us give our thanks to God,
For He loves us so.**

- Review the chorus of the song “A Special

Gift” from the PraisePac CD in your Creative Teaching Aids packet. Then teach the verse to the class. Have the children stand up and skip in a circle as they sing. When the music stops, have the children sit back down in their circle.

- Pray with the children. Pause after every three or four words for them to repeat after you. **Dear God, You give us families that love and care for us. Help us show that love by sharing in our families. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**



1 Getting Ready for the Bible

To help the children connect their own experiences with the Bible story from Genesis 13:1-12, they will talk about sharing.

■ **Materials:** Creative Teaching Aids—[Teaching Aid 6](#)



Attention Grabber

If you have not yet gathered the children into a group or you need to focus their attention on you, ask them to silently copy your actions as you say this rhyme.

Wiggle your feet,
wiggle your hands.
Stretch up high,
like rubber bands.
Clap, clap, clap,
turn around.
Fold your hands,
now sit down.

Opening Activity

Before class, follow the directions on the back of Teaching Aid 6 to make the Woolly Lamb puppet or use the reproducible pattern and directions, found on the back side of the Fall Attendance Chart to make a fabric puppet for your class.

When the children are seated in a circle and ready to listen, introduce the Woolly Lamb puppet.

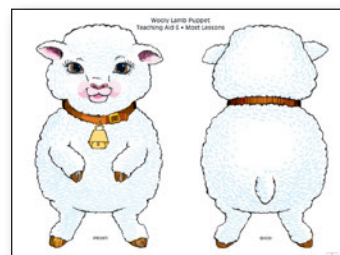
Using a puppet and talking about sharing helps the children connect to the Bible story from Genesis 13:1-12, where Abraham and Lot shared.

(Place the puppet on your hand and show him to the class.) I'd like to introduce you to a friend of mine.

He is a lamb named Woolly. Can you say hi to Woolly? Give time for the children to greet Woolly. *(Have Woolly nod to each child who greets him.)*

(Have Woolly whisper in your ear.) **Woolly was wondering if any of you have a little sister.** Encourage those children who have a little sister to raise their hands. **Woolly has a little sister too.** *(Face Woolly toward you as you interact with him.)* **What?** *(Bring Woolly up to your ear again for him to whisper.)* **That would be hard.** *(Turn Woolly to face the class as you talk to the children.)* **Woolly says he usually likes being a big brother.** *(Have Woolly nod.)* **But sometimes his little sister takes his favorite ball and plays with it without asking. Woolly says he has a hard time sharing his ball with his sister.**

Let's talk about sharing in our families. Maybe that would help Woolly share his ball with his little sister. *(Put Woolly in a place where he can "watch" the lesson without disturbing the children.)*



[Teaching Aid 6](#)

Sharing Time

As you and your class talk, be sure to allow time for each child to say something. This gives every child an opportunity to connect to the Bible story through his or her own experience. Talking about sharing in your own family may help the children begin the discussion.

■ **Who shares in your family?** (Children will answer using their own family experiences. Some possible answers they may have are father, mother, brother, sister, grandparents, etc.)

■ **What are some ways you share in your family?**

(Try to get the children to give details that make their families unique. Children may share a toy, share a room, share a bed with a family pet, share a snack, etc.)

Some children may not know the terms for some family members. Be sure the children understand nephew and uncle since those family members are covered in the Bible story of Abraham and Lot.

What good ways of sharing! Today we're going to learn that we can share in our families. In our Bible story, we will hear how two men in a family, Abraham and Lot, shared instead of fighting. As you hear the story, listen for what they shared.

2 Bible Story Time

Genesis 13:1-12

The children will learn how Abraham and Lot shared.

■ **Materials:** Creative Teaching Aids—Teaching Aids [5](#) and [6](#), flannel board, Bible

Bible Story

Punch out the Bible figures from Teaching Aid 5. Attach velcro, found in your teaching aids packet, to the back of the figures. Place the figures in the order they will be used.

The children should be seated in a circle ready for the story. Open your Bible to Genesis 13 to begin. Our story today comes from the Bible. It is in the book, or part, of the Bible called Genesis. *(Show the*



children where Genesis is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to Genesis 13 as you tell the story.)

The Bible tells us about a man named Abraham. This is

[Teaching Aid 5](#)
Abraham and his nephew Lot. *(Place Abraham and Lot, Figure 1, at center of flannel board.)* They are part of the same family. Abraham had helpers called servants. *(Add servants, Figure 2, at middle left side of the board.)* He had many sheep. *(Add sheep, Figure 3, near Figure 2.)*

Lot also had servants. *(Add servants, Figure 4, on the middle right side of the board.)* He also had many sheep. *(Put sheep, Figure 5, by Figure 4.)*

Abraham and Lot had moved their families, servants, and sheep to land near a place called Bethel. But the land didn't have enough food and water for both Abraham and Lot. They had too many servants and sheep.

(Remove Abraham and Lot. Place the well, Figure 6, at center of board.) This is a well. People and animals got their water at a well. One day Abraham's servants took his sheep to drink water at a well. *(Move Figures 2 and 3 to the well.)*

Lot's servants took sheep to get water at the same well. *(Move Figures 4 and 5 to the well.)* It was very crowded. All the sheep were thirsty. They bumped into each other. "Baa, baa," said the sheep. *(Have the children repeat noises.)*

The servants shook their fists and yelled at each other. *(Shake fists.)*

Abraham's servants said, "We were here first."

Lot's servants said, "Our sheep are thirsty too. It is our turn now."

(Place Figure 1 in the center of the board.) Abraham told Lot, "The land is too crowded. My servants shouldn't yell and fight with your servants. You and I shouldn't argue with each other. We're part of the same family. Let's share the land. Look at it. Which part do you want? If you go to the left part, I'll go to the right. If you want the right part of the land, I'll take the left."

Lot looked at the land. Then he said, "You're right. We should share instead of argue. I will move to the land on the left, the Jordan River valley."

So Lot moved to the Jordan River valley. *(Move Figures 4 and 5 to the left. Remove the well.)* Abraham moved to the other side of the land. *(Move Figures 2 and 3 to the right.)*

Everyone had plenty of room. Abraham and Lot shared the land in their family. We can share in our families too.

Bible Story Questions

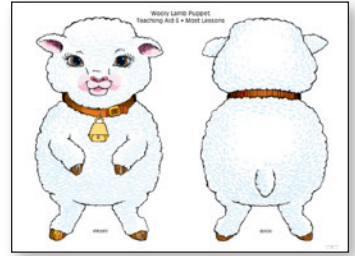
- Who were the people in the family? Abraham and Lot.
- What was the problem? The land was too crowded.
- How did Abraham and Lot share? They shared the land.
- What can we do in our families? We can share in our families.

Bible Story Review Activity

Today's activity helps the children review the story by retelling it to Wooly Lamb, Teaching Aid 6.

(Pick up Wooly from where he has been listening to the story and put him on your hand.) **Wooly, what did you think of the story?** *(Have Wooly whisper in your ear.)* **Wooly liked the story so much that he would like to help you tell the story. I'm going to pass Wooly around the circle. When you get Wooly, tell him one thing that happened in the story.** Pass Wooly around the circle. Let each child share part of the story. Some of the children will repeat what another has said. Accept that answer as valid. Try to get the children to tell the details of the story in order by asking questions such as "What happened next?" or "Then what happened?"

Some details the children need to include are: Abraham and Lot were from the same family; there were too many servants and sheep for the land; Abraham's servants and Lot's servants argued; Abraham and Lot decided to share the land.



Teaching Aid 6



Bible Memory Verse

"Love one another." John 13:34

As children practice a Bible verse week after week, they will be able to understand and remember it. Have the children do either the practice or the rhyme, or both.

Practice

This week's practice uses movement to connect the Bible story to the memory verse. Moving around the room will help children remember John 13:34.

Gather the children in a large group. **When Abraham and Lot shared the land, they showed that they loved one another. Lot moved to the land on the left. Let's pretend to visit Lot.** Walk the class to the left side of your room. **Let's say our Bible verse. "Love one another." John 13:34.**

Abraham moved to the land on the right. Let's pretend to visit Abraham. Walk with the class to the opposite side of the room. **Say our verse with me again. "Love one another." John 13:34.**

Have the class return to where you started and sit in a circle on the floor. Say the Bible verse a third time. **"Love one another." John 13:34.**

Bible Rhyme Time

Bible Rhyme Time is another way to practice the Bible memory verse. The Bible verse is found in the last line of the rhyme. Review the rhyme and actions with the children. Then say and do the rhyme slowly. Repeat the rhyme two or three more times, saying it faster with each repetition. **One way we love one another is to share in our families. Say our Bible rhyme with me.**

God made me.

(Point to self.)

God made you.

(Point to someone else.)

God made my family, too!

(Hug self.)

God loves me.

(Point to self.)

God loves you.

(Point to someone.)

He said, "love one another," too.


(Open arms wide.)

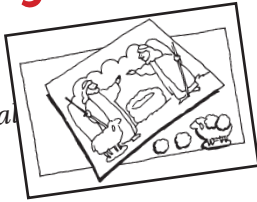
3 The Bible and Me

To understand that they can share in their families, children will explore activity centers.

Today's Bible story from Genesis 13:1-12 taught your class that Abraham and Lot shared the land. To help the children learn that they can share in their families, choose one or more of the following activities. Before you let the children begin these activities, demonstrate each one you have chosen. This week the Ball Share Game needs the most teacher supervision.

Bible Coloring Page:

 Materials: [Make-It/Take-It](#) e-It page and stickers for Lesson 3, crayons *optional*, cotton balls, glue sticks



Before class, remove the Lesson 3 page and stickers from the Make-It/Take-It books. This week's project is a coloring page that reviews the Bible story from Genesis 13:1-12. Have the children color the page and stick the four sheep to the grassy area. Children could glue cotton balls on the sheep for texture. Encourage the children to discuss how Abraham and Lot shared, and how they can share with their families.

Family Puzzle:

Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—[Teaching Aid 2](#)

Today's activity helps children practice the Lesson Focus, "We can share in our families," in the classroom setting. Cut the photograph of the family, Teaching Aid 3, into no more than 10 pieces. Ask the children to put together the puzzle of a family that shares with one another. Divide the pieces among the children. This will help them practice working together. Encourage them to discuss ways the family in the puzzle shares with one another.



[Teaching Aid 2](#)

Ball Share Game:

 Materials: Soft balls or large balls of wadded paper

In today's Bible story, Abraham and Lot shared the land. This game will help the children understand the concept of sharing.

Divide children into pairs. In our Bible story, Abraham and Lot shared the land. You will need to share the ball with your friend to carry the ball to the other side of the room. Have each pair find different ways to carry the ball around the room. Some suggestions are: carrying the ball between their stomachs, holding it in their hands, even between their heads. Encourage the children to "invent" ways to move the balls.



When you are ready to move to the last step in your lesson, have the children clean up the centers and gather into a big group. You may want to use this rhyme to help attract their attention.

Clean up, clean up,
One, two, three.
Can you clean up
Just like me?

4 Going Home with the Bible

Choosing to share with someone in their families will show the children how Genesis 13:1-12 works in their own lives.

■ **Materials:** Creative Teaching Aids—[PraisePac CD](#), CD player, Bible, masking tape

After cleaning up, have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Use this time to help the children choose to share with someone in their families.

Once again show the children where Genesis 13:1-12 can be found in the Bible. **Our Bible story today was about Abraham and Lot. Abraham and Lot didn't want to argue about land, so they decided to share it.**

Wooly learned that he can share his ball with his little sister. We can share in our families too. Who can you share with in your family? (Children will give many answers such as fathers, mothers, grandparents, brothers, sisters, pets, etc.)

What are some ways we can share in our families? (Let the children give a variety of answers. If the children are having difficulty thinking of a way to share, some ideas are sharing a toy with a brother, sharing a snack with a parent, sharing a job like helping to set the table, etc.) **Those are good ways to share. Choose one way that you can share with someone in your family this week.** Give the children time to quietly think of a way they will share in their families.

Let's tell each other how we will share in our families this week. Put a small line of masking tape on the floor. I'm going to play some music while you walk in a circle. When the music stops, the person closest to the tape will tell us how he will share in his family

this week. Invite the children to stand up. Have them walk in a circle as you play the song "[A Special Gift](#)" from the PraisePac CD found in your Creative Teaching Aids packet. Stop the music



after about 10 seconds. Ask the child nearest the tape how she will share in her family this week. Play the music in short time segments. Be sure each child has an opportunity to tell his or her plan for sharing.

With the children standing, close with a prayer.

Dear God, thank You for our families. Help us to share in our families this week. In Jesus' name. Amen.

If You Have Extra Time

Play a ball game with the children to help them connect today's Bible story of Abraham and Lot sharing with the Lesson Focus, "We can share in our families."

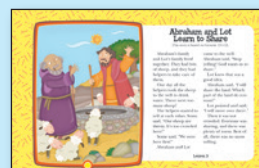
Have the children sit in a circle to play a short ball game. You will need a soft ball for this activity. **Our Bible story showed us that we can share in our families. Let's play a game about sharing. Roll the ball back and forth. When you catch the ball, tell us one way we can share in our families, then roll the ball to someone else.** Play the game until each child has had an opportunity to tell one way to share in a family. Encourage the children to give a variety of simple ways that they can share in their families such as sharing a hug.

Time to Go Home

- Until parents come to pick up the children, let the children roll the ball back and forth.
- As you say goodbye to each child, remind him or her of the Lesson Focus: **We can share in our families.**

Send Home...

- [My Sunday Pictures for Lesson 3](#)
 - [Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 3](#) ■
- Projects from centers



Loving Our Families

Scripture: Genesis 21:1-6

Lesson Focus: God wants us to love our families.

Memory Verse: “Love one another.” John 13:34

1 Getting Ready for the Bible

Sharing about who they love in their families will help the children relate their experiences to today’s Bible story from Genesis 21:1-6.

- Opening Activity: [Teaching Aid 6](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*)
- Sharing Time: No materials needed


2 Bible Story Time: Genesis 21:1-6

The children will learn about Abraham and Sarah having a new baby.

- Bible Story: [Teaching Aid 7](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*), Bible
- Bible Story Review: No materials needed
- Bible Memory Verse: No materials needed

3 The Bible and Me

To understand that God wants them to love their families, children will explore activity centers.

- [Family Card: Page and stickers for Lesson 4](#) (from *Preschool Make-It/Take-It*), crayons
- Music Time: [PraisePac CD](#) (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*), CD player, rhythm instruments
-  Family Collage: Construction paper, drinking straws, crayons, glue

4 Going Home with the Bible

Planning a way to show that they love their families will help children see how Genesis 21:1-6 works in their lives.

- Bible, [My Sunday Pictures Lesson 4](#)



This symbol appears whenever preparation takes more than five minutes or includes supplies that are not listed on the standard supply list on page 6.



[Lesson Video for Step 2!](#)

Understanding the Bible

As part of a four-fold promise, God promised Abraham that “a great nation” would come from him (Gen. 12:2; 17:4-8). Abraham laughed at the notion because of his age. He didn’t think the descendants of God’s promise would come through a child of Sarah. Giving birth at their age defied natural law.

Instead, Abraham asked God to give that blessing to his son Ishmael, who had been conceived with Sarah’s maid, Hagar. God did bless Ishmael, but not as part of the Hebrew people (Gen. 17:20). Ishmael would become the head of a great nation. This nation would also have 12 rulers (Gen. 25:16).

When Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was probably 90 years old, Sarah gave birth to a baby boy.

According to God’s command they named him Isaac, which means “he laughs.” This mirrored their reactions from when God told them they would have a child (Gen. 17:17).

Abraham circumcised Isaac when he was eight days old. While some Egyptians practiced circumcision, it was a new practice for Abraham’s household. It represented an oath affirming the covenant. Circumcision meant “May I be cut off if I am untrue to the covenant.” Circumcision was God’s sign of His covenant with Abraham. It was Abraham’s commitment that he and his household would have only the Lord as their God (Gen. 17:1-14). It also marked Abraham as the one with whom God had made a commitment (Rom. 4:11).

Teacher Devotional

Abraham and Sarah's childlessness may have tested their love. They remained together, and with one exception (Gen. 16), they looked to God in the challenge to love.

Life events (or the lack of events) may challenge our desire and ability to love each other. But we still are called to love our families. This goes for the children you teach, and it continues on throughout our lives. The good news is that we have help because God is gracious to us and keeps His promises.

Because of His grace we can be certain He is present with us in the situations that make it difficult for us to love our families. And because of His promises, we can take those challenging situations to Him—just as Abraham did. We can be honest with God. If hard questions of "Why?" and "How?" and "What do You want me to do about. . . ?" are sincere, then God is ready to listen and respond. Ask for His help to love. Then listen and love.

Welcome Time Activities

These activities engage your children in a fun and purposeful way while letting you interact with parents and children as they arrive. The centers require little supervision and can be set up before class. After greeting each child, direct him or her to a center and suggest a way to join the activity.

Exploration

The song "A Special Gift" from the PraisePac CD, found in your Creative Teaching Aids packet, talks about love in a family. Set out musical instruments or spoons and containers. Encourage the children to play along with the song to help begin thinking about today's Lesson Focus.

Projects

Have children draw the face of a family member on a paper plate. Tape the face to a craft stick. Children can use these as masks to be someone in their family. Thinking about family members will help them relate to Abraham's family in today's Bible story.

Table Play

Preschoolers often associate shaving cream with fathers. Spray piles of shaving cream on the table. Let the children discover and draw with the shaving cream. Playing with the shaving cream will help them relate to the father figure of Abraham in today's Bible story from Genesis 21:1-6.

Teacher Tip

Build a connection between your classroom and the families you serve by taking time to greet both children and parents. Become acquainted with each child's family. Let each family know on a regular basis what's happening in Sunday school. Encourage parents to visit or serve in your classroom.

Worship Time

You may want to have a short worship time before you begin today's lesson.

- Gather the children for worship by singing "Jesus Loves Me." Have them sit in a circle.
- Choose a helper to collect the offerings. **One way to show God we love Him is to bring our offering money to church. Our money can be used to help other families learn about God.**
- Teach the following song to the tune of "London Bridge." To help the children remember the words, teach the actions with the words.

God gave me a family, (*Point up, then to self. Hold hands out with palms facing up.*)

Family, family. (*Hold hands out with palms facing up.*)

God gave me a family, (*Point up, then to self. Hold hands out with palms facing up.*)
And I love them! (*Hug self.*)

Let the children add verses to the song by substituting names of family members for the word "family" such as mommy, daddy, sister, etc.

- Pray with the children.

Dear God, we have been learning about our families. Teach us to show love and care for our families. In Jesus' name. Amen.



1 Getting Ready for the Bible

Sharing about who they love in their families will help the children relate their experiences to today's Bible story from Genesis 21:1-6.

■ **Materials:** Creative Teaching Aids—[Teaching Aid 6](#)



Attention Grabber

If you have not yet gathered the children into a group or you need to focus their attention on you, ask them to silently copy your actions as you say this rhyme.

Wiggle your feet,
wiggle your hands.
Stretch up high,
like rubber bands.
Clap, clap, clap,
turn around.
Fold your hands,
now sit down.

Opening Activity

When the children are seated in a circle and ready to listen, use the Woolly Lamb puppet, Teaching Aid 6, to begin talking about family members the children love. Talking about loving people in their families helps the children relate to the Bible story from Genesis 21:1-6, when Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah.

(Put Woolly on your hand.) Good morning, Woolly! Encourage the children to greet Woolly. *(Have Woolly whisper in your ear.) Woolly says good morning to you. He's very happy to be at Sunday school with us today.*

(Again have Woolly whisper into your ear.) Do you know what Woolly just told me? Woolly wants to play a guessing game with us. He said he loves someone in this room. He wants to know if we can guess who it is. It is someone who is wearing . . . (Describe something one of the children is wearing such as a red shirt. Giving a specific clue for the children to look for helps focus their attention on finding who Woolly is talking about. Have the children ask Woolly who it is.) *"Is it _____?"* Insert a child's name in the blank. *(Have Woolly nod yes.) Woolly loves _____.*

Repeat this until everyone in the class has been included. Bring Woolly up to your ear to give you each clue. Continue giving clues to help the children discover who Woolly is talking about.

Woolly loves everyone! *(Have Woolly whisper in your ear.) Woolly says he also loves his family—his father, his mother, and even his little sister. How wonderful!* *(Set Woolly aside.) Woolly told us who he loves. Let's talk about who you love in your family.*



[Teaching Aid 6](#)

Sharing Time

As you and your class talk, be sure to allow time for each child to say something. This gives every child an opportunity to connect to the Bible story and Lesson Focus, "God wants us to love our families," through his or her own experience.

■ **Who do you love?** Children will have different answers. These may focus on father, mother, brother, sister, and pets. Because preschool children don't distinguish between reality and imagination, they may also include a favorite doll, toy, imaginary

brother or sister, or a stuffed animal.

■ **Who loves you?** Encourage the children to give answers unique to their families. Be aware of the different family situations in your class. Some children may talk about stepparents, grandparents, or foster parents. Accept these as perfectly reasonable answers.

It's wonderful to be loved. Today we're going to learn that God wants us to love our families. In our Bible story we will hear about Abraham and Sarah's family. Listen carefully to find out who God gave them to love.

2

Bible Story Time

Genesis 21:1-6

The children will learn about Abraham and Sarah having a new baby.

■ **Materials:** Creative Teaching Aids—[Teaching Aid 7](#), Bible

Bible Story

The children should still be seated in a circle ready for the story. Open your Bible to Genesis 21. **Our story today comes from the Bible. It is found in the book, or part, of the Bible called Genesis.** (*Show the children where Genesis is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to Genesis 21 as you tell the story.*)

Listen carefully as I tell you the story. When you hear the word *happy*, put your thumbs up. (*Hold your thumbs up. Have the children copy your actions.*) **When you hear the word *sad*, put your thumbs down.** (*Put your thumbs down. Ask the children to do the same.*) Put your own thumbs up or down at the appropriate times in the story. Your actions will help clue the children in to what they should be doing.



[Teaching Aid 7](#)

The Bible tells us that Abraham and his wife Sarah lived a long time ago. They were a family. One, two. (*Count on your fingers while the children count with you.*) **It was a small family. There were two grown-ups but no children.** (*Shake your head no.*)

Abraham and Sarah were sad because they had no children. (*Thumbs down.*) **They wanted a baby to love. They waited and waited until they were very old, even older than many grandparents, but still there was no baby. Abraham and Sarah were sad.** (*Thumbs down.*)

God knew that Abraham and Sarah were sad. (*Thumbs down.*) **He wanted them to be happy.** (*Thumbs up.*) **God promised that soon they would have a baby.**

So Abraham and Sarah waited a little longer. Finally they had a baby! Abraham and Sarah were happy! (*Thumbs up. Hold up Teaching Aid 7 to show Sarah and Abraham with Isaac.*) **Even after they were very old, God gave them a baby boy. Isn't that happy news!** (*Thumbs up.*) **Abraham and Sarah named the baby Isaac. They were happy to have a baby they could love as part of their family.** (*Thumbs up.*)

Now they were a special family. Abraham was the father. (*Have a child point to Abraham on the poster.*) **Sarah was the mother.** (*Ask a child to find*

Sarah on the poster.) **And God had given them the special child, Isaac.** (*Have a child point to Isaac on the poster.*) **Abraham and Sarah loved baby Isaac, and they were very happy.** (*Thumbs up.*)

Abraham and Sarah took good care of Isaac. Abraham taught Isaac just as God had commanded. Sarah was so happy that God had given them Isaac to love. (*Thumbs up.*) **She wanted everyone to be happy, just as she was!** (*Thumbs up.*)

God gave Abraham and Sarah baby Isaac to love. Abraham and Sarah loved baby Isaac. God wants us to love our families too.

Bible Story Questions

- **What did Abraham and Sarah want?**
A baby.
- **Who gave Isaac to Abraham and Sarah to love?** God.
- **How do you think Abraham and Sarah felt as they waited for a baby?**
Children may answer sad, mad, angry, scared, or even I don't know.
- **Who wants us to love our families?**
God wants us to love our families.

Bible Story Review Activity

This action game uses a variation on the children's game, "Mother, May I?" to review the Bible story from Genesis 21:1-6.

Have the class stand at the end of the room opposite you. **Let's play a game about our Bible story. I'm going to say something from the Bible story about Abraham, Sarah, or Isaac. If you think the answer is yes, I'll tell you to take a giant step toward me. (Show the children how to take a giant step.) If the answer is no, stay in your place. (Stand in one spot. This helps children who don't understand the concept of staying still understand the term "stay in your place.")** Play the game using the following statements as well as some of your own.

Abraham and Sarah had no children. (Yes)

Abraham and Sarah wanted a baby of their own to love. (Yes)

God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby girl. (No)

God gave Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac. (Yes)

Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac loved one another. (Yes)

God wants us to love our families. (Yes)

Let all the children answer more than one time. If you have a large group, you may want to divide the children into two smaller ones to play.



Bible Memory Verse

"Love one another." John 13:34

As children practice a Bible verse week after week, they will be able to understand and remember it. Have the children do either the practice or the rhyme, or both.

Practice

This week have your class sing the Bible verse to the tune "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." This song was taught in Lesson 1. The musical setting will help the children remember the words. **God wants us to love our families just as our Bible verse tells us. Let's sing our Bible verse together.**

Oh, "love one another."

(Hug self, then open arms wide.)

Oh, "love one another."

(Hug self, then open arms wide.)

Oh, "love one another."

(Hug self, then open arms wide.)

John 13:34.

(Hold hands open like a book.)

Bible Rhyme Time

Bible Rhyme Time is one way to practice the Bible memory verse. The Bible verse is in the last line of the rhyme. Have the children repeat each line of the rhyme after you. Let the children say the rhyme one time using whisper voices, a second time in talking voices, and a third time in loud voices. **God wants us to love our families. Say our rhyme with me.**

God made me.

(Point to self.)

God made you.

(Point to someone else.)

God made my family, too!

(Hug self.)

God loves me.

(Point to self.)

God loves you.

(Point to someone.)

He said, "Love one another, too."

(Arms open wide.)

3 The Bible and Me

To understand that God wants them to love their families, children will explore activity centers.

In today's Bible story, from Genesis 21:1-6, your class learned that Abraham and Sarah loved baby Isaac. To help the children relate the Bible story to loving their own families, choose one or more of the following activities. Demonstrate each activity you have chosen before letting the children begin them. This week the Family Collage requires the most teacher supervision.

Family Card:

Make-it/Take-It

Materials: Make-It/Take-It page and stickers for Lesson 4, crayons



Before class, remove the margins from the Make-It/Take-It page. Fold the pages on the dotted lines to create booklets. The picture shows the front cover.

This project helps the children connect the Bible story about Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac to the Lesson Focus. Let the children color the picture on the front cover. Have each child attach the stickers of families on the Xs inside the booklet and on the back. While working, talk with the children about how God wants us to love our families.


Family Collage:

 Materials: Construction paper, drinking straws, crayons, glue

Before class you will need to cut large paper hearts from construction paper. You also need to cut several drinking straws into one- and two-inch lengths. By creating a family collage, the children will begin to understand how the Bible story from Genesis 21:1-6 relates to their own families.

Give each child a paper heart. Encourage the children to use the crayons and straws to make their family members on the hearts. You may wish to show the children how to make a stick body figure out of straws. **God wanted the family of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac to love each other. God wants us to love our families.**

Music Time:

 Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—PraisePak CD, CD player, rhythm instruments



This movement activity will allow the children to experience the Lesson Focus, "God wants us to love our families," through music.

Set out rhythm instruments. Invite the children to play the instruments and move to the music as it is played. Begin the song "A Special Gift" from the PraisePak CD. Let the children play to the music as they sing along with the words. **As you play your instruments, listen for what the song says we should do with our families.**

Check back with this center to learn what the children have discovered. **What does God want us to do with our families?** (God wants us to love one another and our families.)



When you are ready to close your lesson, have the children clean up the centers and gather in a big group. You may want to use this rhyme to attract their attention.

**Clean up, clean up,
One, two, three.
Can you clean up
Just like me?**

4 Going Home with the Bible

Planning a way to show that they love their families will help children see how Genesis 21:1-6 works in their lives.

■ **Materials:** Bible

After cleaning up, have the children sit in a circle, either on chairs or on a rug. Use this time to help the children plan a way to show that they love their families.

Show the children once again where Genesis 21:1-6 is in the Bible. **Today our Bible story told how God gave Isaac to Abraham and Sarah. Their family loved each other.**

God wants us to love our families too. What are some ways we can love our families? (Some ideas to help them start thinking are give a hug, listen, and obey.) **Choose one way you can show love to your family this week.** Give the children time to think of an idea.

Have the children stand. **We're going to play a game to tell each other how we will show love to our families this week.** Show two children how to join hands and raise their arms to form a bridge. If you have a helper in class, he or she should be part of the bridge. Have the rest of the children form a line behind you. Lead the line of children under the bridge and in a circle while singing the following words to the tune of "London Bridge."

God wants us to love our families,
Love our families,
Love our families,
I can show I love my family,
In this way.

Have the "bridge" gently "capture" a child during the last line of the song. That child should tell how he

or she will show love to his or her family, then become one of the parts of the bridge. Continue until each child has had a turn.

Close with a prayer. **Dear God, You give us our families who care for us. Help us to love our families. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

If You Have Extra Time

Play a musical game with the children to help them think of ways they can show today's Lesson Focus, "God wants us to love our families."

Have the children stand in a circle. **We learned that God wants us to love our families, just as Abraham and Sarah did in our Bible story. Move around the room when you hear the music. When I stop the music, shout out one way to show love to someone in your family this week.** Play the song "[A Special Gift](#)" from the PraisePac CD. Stop the music after about 15 seconds. Let the children shout out a way to show love to a family member. It's okay if a child repeats another's answer.

Repeat playing and stopping the song several times.



Time to Go Home

- Until parents come to pick up their children, have the children march around and play rhythm instruments.
- As you say goodbye to each child, remind him or her of the Lesson Focus: **God wants us to love our families.**

Send Home...

- [My Sunday Pictures for Lesson 4](#)
- [Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 4](#)
- Projects made at centers

