

Just Us Little Guys

*A Series of Bible Study Lessons
For Children 4-7 Years Old*

Series 6

Old Testament: Genesis From Creation to the Patriarchs

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| Lesson 1 | Creation |
| Lesson 2 | Adam and Eve |
| Lesson 3 | Cain and Abel |
| Lesson 4 | Noah and the Ark |
| Lesson 5 | Abraham's Call |
| Lesson 6 | Isaac - The Son of Promise |
| Lesson 7 | Isaac and Rebekah |
| Lesson 8 | Jacob and Esau |
| Lesson 9 | Jacob Marries Rachel |
| Lesson 10 | Jacob is Renamed Israel |
| Lesson 11 | Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors |
| Lesson 12 | Joseph in Egypt |
| Lesson 13 | Joseph Forgives His Brothers |

Using these Lessons

Each of these lessons:

- Is designed to work with children, ages 4-7 years old
- May be used separately, or in a series of lessons
- Is Bible-based and Christ-honoring

Each of these lessons consists of 7 parts:

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| <u>Teacher Pep Talk:</u> | A few words of encouragement written especially for you, the teacher who will present the lesson. You'll also find a few Bible verses to review prior to teaching the lesson. |
| <u>What You will Need:</u> | A list of items you will need to present the lesson. Review over the suggested activities to see if you need any items for the ones you choose. |
| <u>Major Points:</u> | A list of the major points to be made during the lesson. |
| <u>Memory Verse:</u> | A verse of appropriate length for the age of the children. |
| <u>Lesson:</u> | Step by step ideas for presenting the Major Points to the children. Use your own words, embellish with your own stories or examples. |
| <u>Prayer:</u> | Pray with and for the children |
| <u>Suggested Activities:</u> | Games, crafts, or activities that allow the children to respond to the Lesson |

Teaching Tips:

Read over the **Teacher Pep Talk** and review the suggested **Bible Verses** in advance, so that the Bible truths will be in your own heart before you try to teach the children....

This is the secret of being a good teacher!

Suggested Activities are just that... **Suggestions!** You may think of even better games, crafts, drawings or activities to do with the children. If so, then **DO THEM!** Remember, you have different gifts and talents than anyone else. You may have different resources available. Ask God to help you be creative in ways to reach out to the children with His message!

The **Major Points** are the ideas that are to be conveyed to the children during the Lesson. These are stated in very simple terms, but they are vast concepts to propose. Children are **AMAZING** in that they can understand these very big things, even if they are stated in very simple words. Perhaps this is why our Savior instructed us that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to "such as these".

Each time you teach children **YOU SHOULD NOT FAIL TO DO THESE 3 THINGS:**

- LISTEN to them
- PRAY with and for them
- Let them see you READ from THE BIBLE

LISTEN: Sit on the floor with the children and ask them how their week went. Then LISTEN to the various children as they tell you something that is on their heart or mind. Often this takes time and effort, but the children NEED to be able to tell you about them, so that you can connect.

PRAY: At the beginning of your time together, pray with the children and for the children. You may wish to pray for some of their concerns or for your time together. Ask God to help you teach the lesson so that they will be blessed by it. Do this out loud. Children need to know that you pray and that they can pray as well.

READ from the BIBLE: Hold the Bible in your hands or in your lap and let the children SEE you read at least one verse from it. It is good for them to know that there is a reference where we may go to seek God's answers. If they see you read from it, they will learn that they may do so as well.

God bless you as you work with the children to present these great spiritual truths to them! May your work in the field bring a great harvest for the Kingdom of God!

With love in Christ,

Sharon

Special Note regarding the Old Testament Lessons: (Creation – Patriarchs, and Moses)

These are two great sets of lessons to help the children understand the sequence of the various events in the Old Testament Bible Stories. To help with this, plan a **TIMELINE** to be posted in your classroom.

The easiest way to do this is to stretch a piece of yarn, or clothesline, across one wall of your room. Explain to the children that it is a timeline, which begins at the beginning of time with creation and moves toward the present. (Many of them will know what a number line is; they are similar, as the time also increases as you go from left to right.)

As you learn the various stories, put up a piece of paper on the timeline for each one. Use one of the activity pages, if you like, for each lesson. This will help the children remember the story. Use clothespins to attach the paper to the timeline.

Each week or so, review the names of the stories on the timeline with the children. This will help them remember the stories and learn the order in which they occurred in history. You will be amazed at how much more they will learn if you use this method!

Creation

Teacher Pep Talk: Imagine darkness and emptiness and nothing else... except God. God in His own time decides that He is going to create something wonderful: something which will eventually cost Him all that He has, but which is worth it to Him. Then God speaks, and all Creation begins forming. Amazing!

This is a fun lesson to do with children. There are so many things in Creation to talk about, to draw, and to create! Have fun!

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| <p>NOTE: You may take more than one session to do this lesson, especially if you want to focus on the various days of the Creation Week. Be sure to plan different activities for each session.</p> |
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You will need: See various activities for items needed.

Major Points: At first, there was nothing except God.
Then God spoke and Creation came into being.
God formed everything: Creation Week
God called all that He had created good.

Scripture Ref: Genesis 1, John 1:1

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Lesson: **At first, there was nothing except God**

- Think back as far as you can think. What's the first thing you can remember? (*Wait for answers.*)
- Now, before you were born, there were your mom and dad. They can probably remember further back than you.
- And before them... were their parents, and their parents' parents... and on and on and on... all the way back... to... what? To the BEGINNING.
- At first, a long, long, long, long time ago, before people, before animals, before the earth, before the stars, and before anything else... there was God.
- God is eternal; that means He never starts and He never ends
- At first (In the Beginning) there was nothing except God
- That's seems hard to imagine doesn't it? But it's not really, is it? After all, God has always been there, and He will always be there, and He made everything else that there is.
- How did God make everything?

Then God spoke and Creation came into being

- The Bible (God’s Word) tells us that God spoke and things came into being
- God said “Let there be light” and there was light.

God formed Everything – Creation Week

- First God created light and divided the light from the darkness
- Next God divided the waters above from the waters below and made the heavens and the earth
- Then God separated the water from the dry land
- Then God made the sun, the moon, and the stars
- Then God made the birds of the air and the fish of the seas
- Then God made all the animals that walk on the earth
- And last of all, God made man, in His own image
- It had taken God 6 days to create everything and on the 7th day He rested from His labor.

God called all that He had created good

- God looked at all He had made and called it all good
- Let’s name some of the things we talked about that He made
(List some of the things God made when He created everything. Help the children with the list.)
- Yes, all these things that God made He called “good”
- And on the seventh day, after He had created everything, God rested from His labors.

Let’s pray and thank God for making everything!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for making everything!
Thank you that you made us!
Thank you that you love us!
We love you back!
Amen.

IDEA: Timeline for Series - *Create a timeline in your classroom of the various stories*
Before Class: Obtain a long piece of yarn or clothesline and stretch it (safely) across one wall of your classroom. Also obtain clothespins. Alternatively designate a place on the wall to tape up activity pages in order, or use a scrapbook. **Also consider having a folder in class for each child to decorate and to save their papers in.**
During Class: Each week, as you do the various lessons in the Old Testament series, create a page from one of the activities that the children do. It can be a sample prepared by you in advance, or one of their worksheets. Use clothespins to attach it to the timeline. Explain how a timeline works. Review the timeline each week. This will help the children learn the Bible stories and their historical sequence.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)*

What Has God Made? Children will go outside and find things God created

Before Class: Obtain permission for the children to go outside (preferably near some grass and/or trees) during class. The area where they go MUST be safe for them. Arrange adequate adult supervision. Obtain small paper sacks for the children. Also obtain pieces of paper, as well as tape and/or glue.

During Class: Escort the children on a tiny “field trip” outside. There discuss that God made everything. (Some things we see now, like cars, concrete and asphalt, are things that man has made out of stuff that God originally made.) Look around for things God made: leaves, blades of grass, bark from a tree, small rocks, pine cones, twigs, etc. Pick some of these up and put them in your sacks. (Be careful not to gather up live creatures... they prefer to stay outside!) Return to class. Tape or glue the things you found to a sheet of paper, or construction paper.

Alternatively: Return to the room and draw something you know that God has made: the sun, the clouds, trees, water, the ocean, mountains, the beach, animals, people, etc.

Light/Darkness The children will depict the separation of the light from the dark

Before Class: Obtain large pieces of dark and light paper: all about the same size. Also obtain glue, markers, and white chalk. Consider glue and silver or gold glitter.

During Class: Tell the children that the first thing God did was to say let there be light, and then there was light. Then God divided the light from the darkness. Tear a piece of either the light or the dark paper in half. Tape or glue one of the half pieces onto a whole sheet of paper of the other color. (i.e. Glue a half-sheet of dark onto a whole sheet of light or vice versa.)

Sun/ Moon and Stars OPTION: If you like, you may continue the activity by allowing the children to draw the sun on the light side and the moon and the stars on the dark side. Use markers or crayons to draw the sun. Use pieces of white chalk to draw the moon and stars. (Or, you may use glue and silver or gold glitter to do them.)

Sun, Moon and Stars The children will create hanging mobiles of the heavenly bodies

Before Class: Make templates of card board from Activity Sheets. Make copies of moon activity sheet pages. Also obtain tin foil, or glitter and glue. Use monofilament fishing line or yarn to display artwork by hanging from the ceiling, if possible.

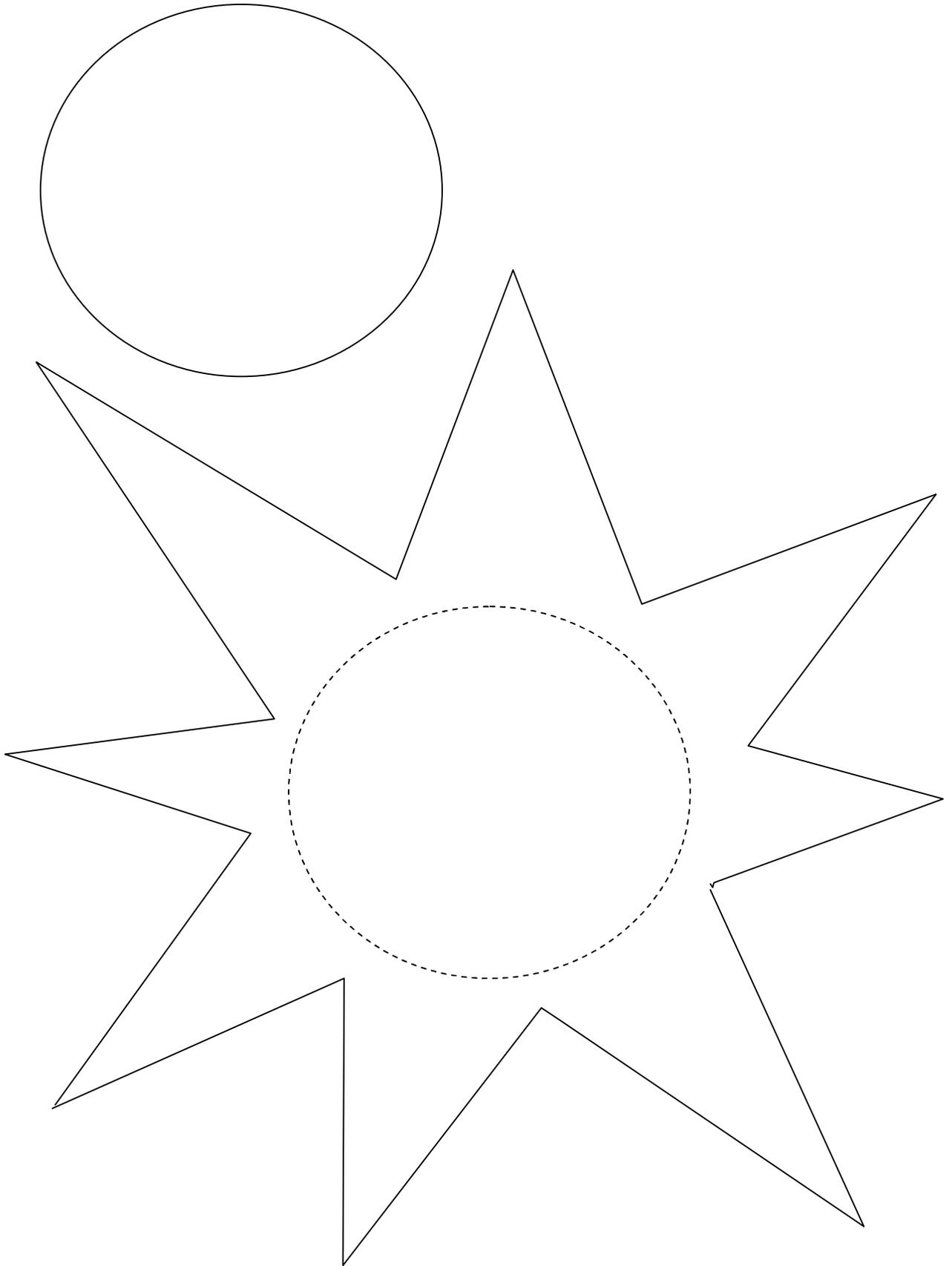
During Class: Discuss with the children how God created the sun, the moon, and the stars. **For Stars:** Cut out star-shaped pieces of cardboard for stars. Cover with tin foil.

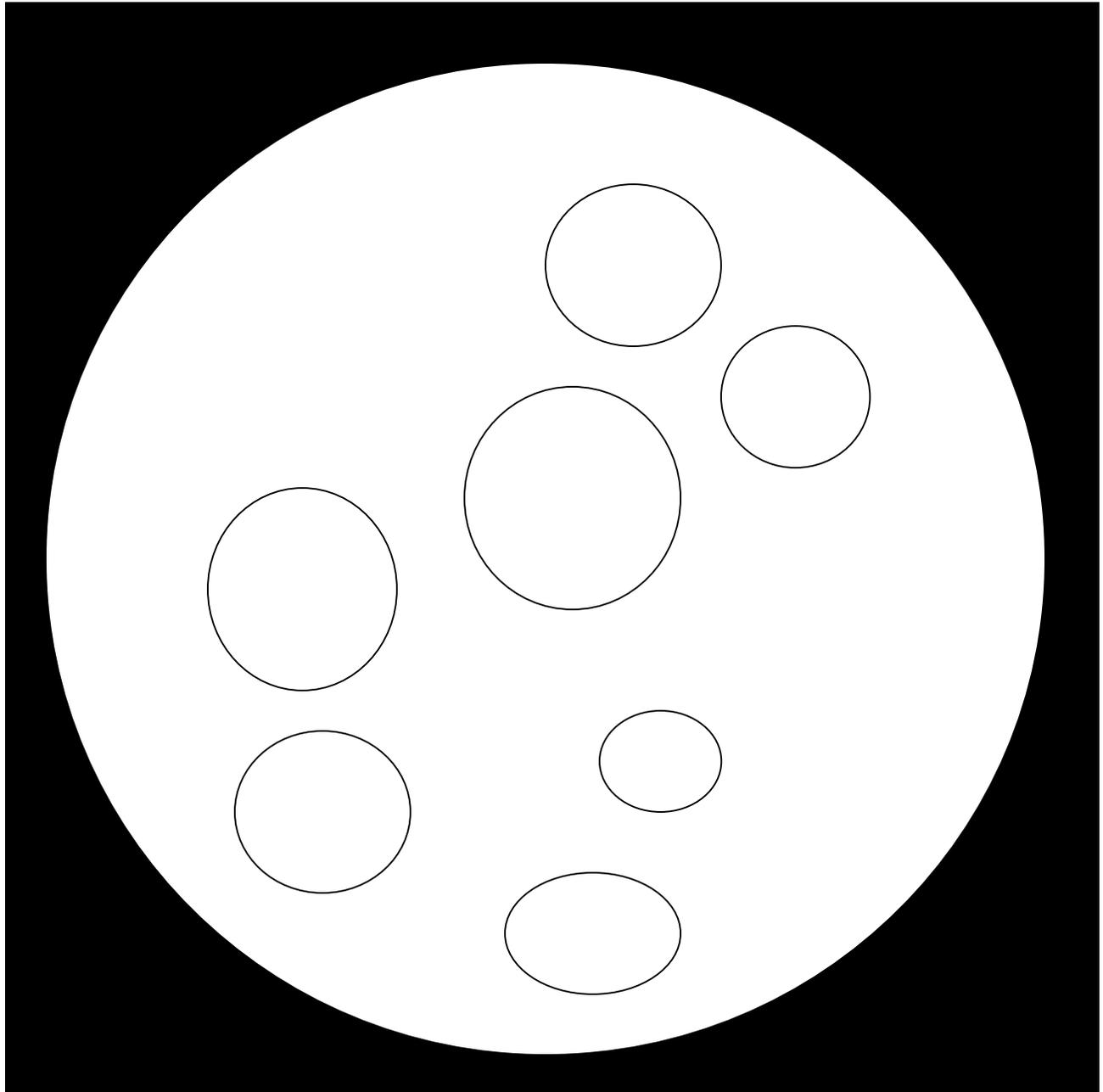
For Sun: Trace templates on construction paper. Cut out pieces. Glue parts of sun together. **For Moon:** Decorate or color moon pattern on activity sheet. Cut out and mount on cardboard or construction paper circle. Display all by hanging from ceiling with monofilament fishing line or with yarn.

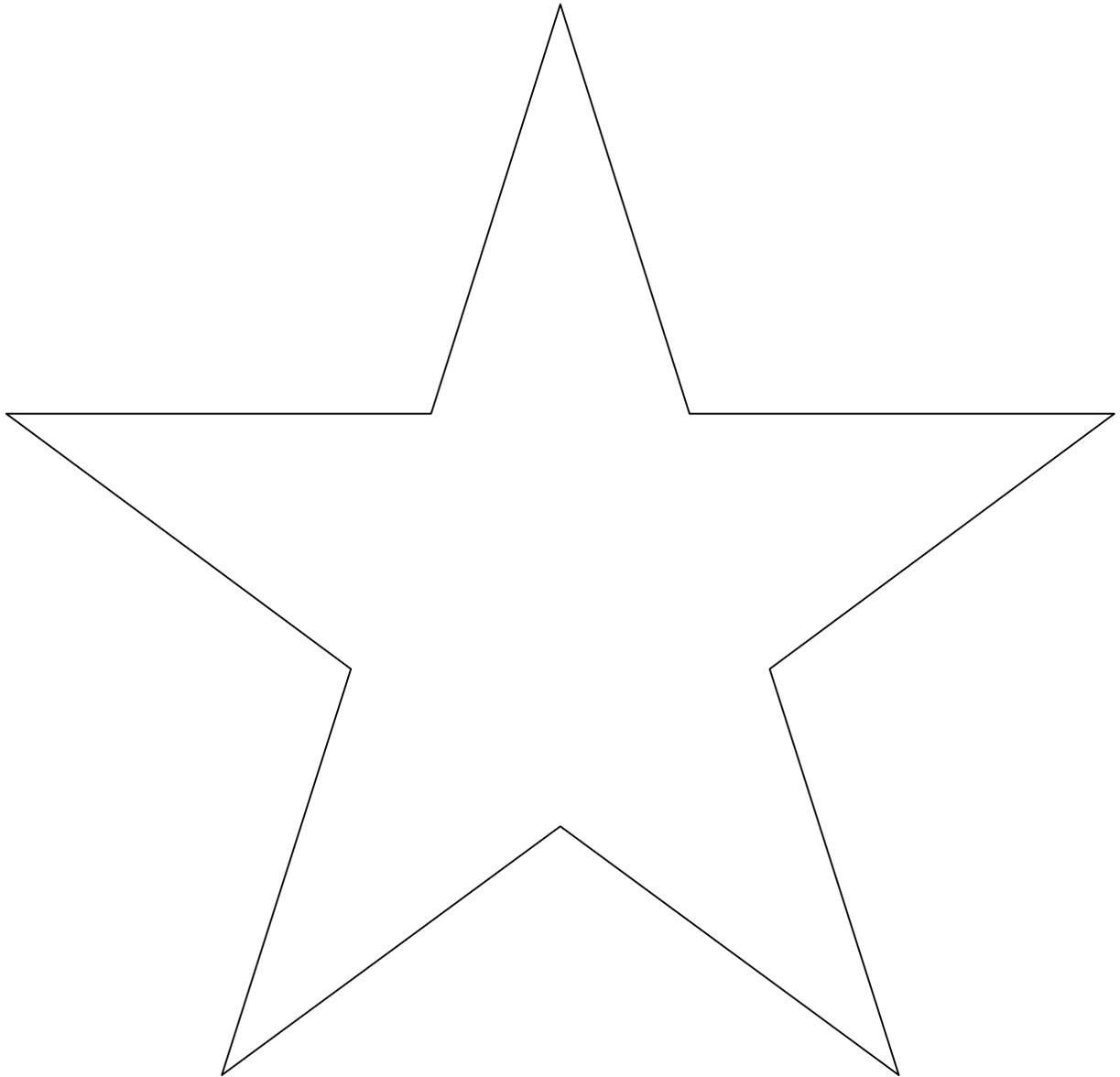
Animals The children will make representations of various animals. Display them all!

Before Class: Obtain items such as: paper, markers, fabric, leather, feathers, cotton balls, scissors, glue, and Play-Do, to help you make representations of various animals.

During Class: Talk to the children about the great variety of animals that God made. Recreate some of them by drawing, molding, or crafting them. Take time and have fun!







Adam and Eve

Teacher Pep Talk: Where did we come from? The origins of the Universe lie in God. He created all things and that includes the first human: Adam. Knowing God made us on purpose is a singularly important concept for children to have. Because of this, we each have infinite worth.

You will need: Bible
Popcorn in tiny bags – one for each child
A sheet for the children to sit upon
Paper, crayons, markers
Consider glitter

Major Points: God Made Us
Man Walked with God
Man Disobeyed God
Man was Sent Away from God
God Promised a Savior (Jesus)

Scripture Ref: Genesis: Chapters 2 and 3
1 Corinthians 15:21-22 *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

Memory Verse: Genesis 2:7 *...the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

Lesson: **God Made Us**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- Where did we come from? *(Wait for answers. You will probably get answers like “From home” or “From our parents” etc.)*
- Yes, we came from our parents, and they came from their parents. But where did the very first man and woman come from? *(Wait for answers... You will probably get all sorts! Depending on the age of your group, the answers will range from things like “From God” or maybe even “We evolved.” Don’t be surprised if you hear about dinosaurs! Just listen politely and then continue...)*
- God’s Word, the Bible, *[Show your Bible]* tells us that God **made** the first man out of the dust of the earth
- God gave the man a name: He called him Adam.
- Later *(from one of Adam’s ribs)* God made the first Woman: Eve
- God made us on purpose. That makes each of us VERY important. God made us and He loves us very much!

Man Walked with God

- To start with, God fashioned a beautiful garden (Eden) and put Adam in it.
- And in the Garden there were all pretty things (*like fruit trees*) and no “poke-y” things (*like thorns, etc*)
- There were also two very special trees: The Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- God told Adam to take care of the Garden (*or, to tend it.*)
- And God gave Adam one rule: *[Read from the Bible – Genesis 2:16-17] “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*
- Everything God had made was good.
- And God walked with them in the Garden in the cool of the evening.

Man Disobeyed God

- ***[For this section consider handing out tiny bags of popcorn. Allow the children to eat the popcorn and to throw popcorn when they hear the name “Satan” or about the evil things he did. Spread a sheet on the floor first!]***
- God had given Adam one rule: *“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*
- But... Satan (*boo hiss!*) came to talk to Eve in the form of a serpent (or a snake.)
- Satan (*boo hiss!*) lied to Eve about God’s one rule
- Eve ate some of the fruit and she gave some to Adam! He ate of the fruit too!
- Then their eyes were opened and they realized what they had done! They were ashamed!
- They also realized, for the first time, that they were naked! That made them ashamed as well. They tried to cover themselves with fig leaves.

Man was Sent Away from God

- Because Adam had broken the one rule (he sinned), God told him that he could no longer live in the Garden (neither could Eve)
- Now Adam would have to work for all of his food until the day he died – he had come from the dust and eventually he would return to the dust
- Also the ground was cursed because Adam had disobeyed God; now it would have thorns and thistles

- And Satan (*boo hiss!*) was cursed as well. From now on the snake would always have to crawl around on its belly
- This is all very sad... poor Adam... poor Eve... and what about God? He must have been sad too!
- But God did a grand and a glorious thing!

God Promised a Savior (Jesus)

- God didn't leave Adam and Eve without hope!
- God promised them a Savior!
- God told them that one day the "Seed of the Woman" would come (JESUS)
 - Satan would strike at His heel (*Boo Hiss!*)
 - But He would CRUSH Satan's head! (*Yeah!*)
- This was the first promise of the Savior who was to come: Jesus!

Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus as the Savior.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you made us!
Thank you that you love us!
Thank you that you sent Jesus to be our Savior!
Amen

Suggested Activities: (*Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.*)

The Forbidden Fruit – *The children will draw what they think the fruit looked like.*

Before Class: Provide lots of construction paper, paper, pencils, crayons, markers, glitter, glue and scissors. Consider making a large representation of a tree on the wall in your room. You could use a bulletin board covered with brown and green paper.

During Class: Tell the children that lots of people say that the fruit Adam and Eve ate was an apple... but the Bible doesn't say that. What kind of fruit do you think grew on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? What would it have looked like? Draw a picture of the tree with its fruit. OR...Draw a picture of just the fruit. Cut out the fruit and place it on a large representation of a tree in class. Consider decorating the fruit you draw with glitter or sequins, etc.

Before the Thorns – *The children will draw the Garden of Eden before the Fall of Man.*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the activity sheet for each child. Also provide crayons, markers and pencils.

During Class: Ask the children: "What was in the Garden of Eden to start with?" Make a list of the good things that were there. (*Fruit trees that were good to eat. The Tree of Life. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam, Eve. God walking with Adam and Eve. Lots of different kinds of animals. Pretty flowers.*) Remind the children that there were no thorns or thistles! Try drawing the Garden of Eden as beautifully as you can imagine it having been.

Fruit Tasting – *The children will cut up and taste different types of fruit!*

Before Class: Provide numerous types of fruit for the children to see, to touch and to taste. Consider allowing the older children to learn how to cut some of the fruit, such as bananas, with a plastic knife or butter knife. Check with parents about **food allergies!**

During Class: Explain to the children that God made many different types of trees, and lots and lots of different types of fruit. Show some of the examples you have brought for them to see. (*Show pictures if you don't have lots of fruit.*) Invite the children to touch the different types of fruit and have fun naming them all. How different are they? What colors are they? Which ones are the biggest? Which are the smallest? Which one seems the fanciest? Allow the children to help wash and prepare some of the fruit for snack time. Have an adult helper to supervise this work. Have a special area for the washing and cutting to be done. Make sure you wash your hands! *Have snacks!*

Play-Doh Animals – *The children will make animals out of Play-Doh.*

Before Class: Obtain enough Play-Doh or other modeling compound for the children to make small animals with... *especially a snake!*

During Class: Remind the children that God made all of the animals. Tell them that you are going to have fun making animals out of the Play-Doh. Teach the children how to roll out a long thin piece of dough to look like the snake which was in the Garden. How many different types of animals can you make?

Man in the Sand – *The children will have fun playing in sand.*

Before Class: Fill a large low container with sand. Cover the floor with a sheet and place the container in the middle of the sheet.

During Class: Allow the children to play in the sand in the container. Discuss how God formed the first man, Adam, from the dust of the earth. That would be really hard to do, wouldn't it? But it wasn't too hard for God. He made the first man and woman miraculously! He made us on purpose and that means we are very important to Him! God loves each one of us very much!

OPTION: After the children have played in the sand for a while. Place tiny items such as little plastic rings, stars, or "jewels" in the sand and mix them in so they are hidden. Allow the children to use their hands or small sieves to find the items during class.

Sing "Old Mc Donald" – *The children will have fun singing and naming the animals.*

Talk about some of the different types of animals God made. Name some of them. What kinds of sounds do those animals make? Have different people volunteer to make the sounds the animals make. Sing Old McDonald and name lots of animals!

Snack Suggestions:

Different types of fruit you and the children have washed and prepared
Animal Crackers
Fruit Juice

The Garden of Eden

Cain and Abel

Teacher Pep Talk: Everyone understands sibling rivalry. Even the youngest child can relate to being upset with a brother or sister. Cain and Abel are the first example of this enmity. Cain slew Abel. After that, there wasn't just death in the world... there was murder as well.

The children will hear that we can learn to love our brothers and sisters and to help take care of them.

You will need: Bible
Baby dolls or stuffed animals
Small blankets in which to wrap dolls

Major Points: Adam and Eve had Cain and Abel (2 Sons)
Cain Worked the Ground/ Abel Kept Sheep
Abel Offered a Sacrifice Pleasing to God/ Cain Didn't
Cain was Jealous and Killed Abel
God Banished Cain

Scripture Ref: Genesis: Chapter 4

Memory Verse: Genesis 4:9 "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Lesson:

Introduction

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- How many of you have brothers? How many of you have sisters? *(Wait for answers for both questions.)*
- Do you like them? *(Yes, No, Sometimes...)*
- Do you always get along with them? *(Wait for answers; take a short story or two.)*
- I'd like to tell you a story about two brothers. It's a true story that is found in the Bible. (Refer to Bible on your lap.)

Adam and Eve had Two Sons: Cain and Abel

- Remember earlier we talked about how God made the first man (Adam) and the first woman (Eve)
- Adam and Eve were man and wife
- God blessed their union with children
- First God sent them a son, who they named Cain. Can you say his name? *(Repeat with children)* Cain.
- Later God sent them another son; this one they named Abel. Let's say his name. *(Repeat with children)* Abel.

Cain Worked the Ground / Abel Kept Sheep

- Cain and Abel had different types of jobs.
- Cain worked the soil. (He grew plants... like a gardener!)
- And Abel kept flocks. (He raised animals... like a shepherd!)

Abel Offered a Sacrifice Pleasing to God/ Cain Didn't

- Cain and Abel both knew about God
- Eventually both brothers brought a sacrifice to offer to the LORD
- Cain brought some of the things he had grown from the ground
- But Abel brought the “best of the best” of his flocks
- God looked with favor on Abel and his sacrifice
- But on Cain and his sacrifice He did not look with favor

Cain Was Jealous and Killed Abel

- Cain was REALLY angry and his face looked very sad. (*Can you make an angry face? How about a sad face? Good job!*)
- God asked Cain why he was angry and why he looked sad. God reminded Cain that if he did good things, he too would be accepted. God also warned Cain that he must overcome sin.
- But Cain didn't listen to God. He was still VERY angry! (*Let's see those angry faces again... Oh... very good angry faces.*)
- Let's see what Cain did next... The Bible says that Cain talked to Abel and asked him to come out in the field with him, and then... while they were out there... Cain killed Abel! (*Scream!*)
- Boy... this is some story... I wonder what happens next.

God Banished Cain

- Then God said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” (*Uh, oh... Where was he?*)
- But Cain didn't tell God where Abel was or what had happened to him. Cain just said, “I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?”
- Do you know what that means? It means something like... “Hey... how am I supposed to know where he is? Am I in charge of watching him every minute?”
- But God wasn't fooled; in fact God ALREADY knew what had happened to Abel.
- God said to Cain, “What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.”
- Then God sent Cain away. He told Cain that from then on he would always be a restless wanderer on the face of the earth.
- And that is the end of the story... except for a nice ending. God gave Adam and Eve a new baby son; this one they named Seth.
- God cared about Adam and Eve, about Abel and even about Cain. But it is always important for us to do what is right.

Let's pray and thank God that He loves us and cares about us. Let's thank God that He gives us our parents and our brothers and sisters.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you love us.
Thank you that you care about us.
Thank you that you care for our parents, and for our brothers and sisters.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1-2 that will work with your group.)*

Pink and Blue – *Children will make a collage representing them and their siblings.*

Before Class: Provide pieces of blue or pink paper (or pink/blue stickers) for each child and all of their siblings. Also provide a large piece of poster board for a class collage.

During Class: Give each child a pink or blue sticker (or piece of paper) to represent them, and an additional one for each of their siblings. Let the children place them on the poster paper. Talk about the collage with the children. Discuss how each sticker represents a child in their families. Pray for all of the children together.

Prayer for a New Baby - *The children will pray for someone having a new baby and make a card for her. Additional cards could be made for other moms and dads.*

Before Class: Obtain the name and/or photograph of someone the children might know who is going to have a baby; maybe someone at church they would have seen or met. Provide a LARGE piece of paper or construction paper, on which you will write a note to the expectant mother, telling her that you and your class prayed for her baby today. Allow room for the children to all write their names on the card. Provide markers/pens.

During Class: Gather the children together and ask them the following questions.

Questions:

- 1.) Do we know anybody who is about to have a baby? *(The children may know someone. Listen to their answers. Tell them about the person you all know who is having a baby. Show the photograph if you have one available.)*
- 2.) Can we pray for a baby who is going to be born? *(Yes, we can.)*
- 3.) What kind of things can we pray to God about for the baby? *(Wait for answers. Potential answers might include: That the baby would be born healthy, be happy, come to know Jesus as his/her Savior.)*

Pray for the baby together. You might want to ask some of the children to participate, depending on the ages of your class. Have everyone say "Amen." Show the children the card you have prepared in advance. Write down some of the things you prayed about for the baby. Have all of the children take turns signing their names on the card. Deliver the card to the expectant mother. Next week bring back a photo of her holding the card. You might want to ask the mom to write your class a note in return.

Additional Idea: Copy the sheet provided to make additional pieces of paper for the children who know someone close to them having a baby. The papers say: "I prayed for your baby today." Have the child sign the paper and take it home to deliver it to the expectant mother.

Holding the Baby – *The children will practice holding a “baby” doll, like an infant.*

Before Class: Provide numerous stuffed animals and dolls for the children to see and hold. Also provide items such as small blankets, pretend bottles, cribs, baskets, etc.

During Class: Show the children how to hold one of the baby dolls. Explain that it looks like a new baby might look. Show how to wrap a baby in a small blanket so that it is warm. Show that you do not cover the face with the blanket. Demonstrate hugging the baby, feeding the baby with a bottle, and putting the baby down for a nap. Let the children practice holding the baby or stuffed animals, etc. Enjoy some quiet time rocking the babies, etc.

NOTE: *If a child seems particularly rough with a baby doll, say “No.” Take away the baby doll. Show how to set down the doll, and redirect the child to a different activity.*

“Love in Action” for Siblings - *The children will learn ways to show LOVE-in-Action!*

Before Class: Think of some age-appropriate ways that the children in your class might show “love-in-action” towards their various siblings. Write out some different ideas on slips of paper. (**Question:** *Mommy needs a new diaper from the bag for the baby. What can you do to show love-in-action?* **Answer:** *Get Mommy a diaper and hand it to her!*)

During Class: Tell the children that you are going to learn how to show LOVE-in-Action for a sibling (brother or sister.) Give different ideas from the slips of paper. Ask for answers to the questions. For older children you could choose to do some role-playing.

Other ways of Showing “LOVE-in-Action”:

Praying for brothers or sisters

Helping Mom or Dad take care of little brothers and sisters

Getting the towel ready for when the baby gets a bath

Being very quiet when baby is taking a nap

Listening when Mom or Dad needs to tell you something about your sibling

Folding the baby’s clothes after they are washed

Telling Mom or Dad when the baby is crying (especially if no one else hears the baby!)

Letting your siblings share your toys (...IF they are old enough to play with them!)

Talking nicely to your brother or sister

If you are angry with your brother or sister, talk to a parent about your feelings.

What are some other ways we can show Love-in-Action to our brothers and sisters?

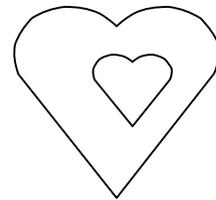
Memory Verse – *Children will discuss the memory verse and learn what it means.*

During Class: Discuss these ideas with the children...

Cain asked God “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (*Repeat – “Am I my brother’s keeper?”*)

Say this 2-3 times, like you are imitating Cain. Look more innocent, surprised, and shocked each time. Are you fooling anyone?) Was Cain supposed to be watching his brother all the time? (No, not really.) Was he supposed to care about his brother and watch out for him, for instance...NOT hurting him? (Yes.) We may not have the job of watching our brother (or sister) all the time, especially after they grow up and are adults, but we are to love them and care about them. And, we are ALWAYS to do what God says is right. Let’s pray for our brothers and sisters. (Pray together.)

I Prayed for
Your Baby Today!



Noah and the Ark

Teacher Pep Talk: Noah and the Ark may be the best known Bible Story of all time! But, it's more than just a story about the world's first floating zoo... Noah and his family (8 souls in all) were saved from the judgment of God (The Flood) which destroyed the rest of mankind. Noah, his family, and all of the animals were safe in the ark. Later, after they left the Ark, God promised that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. He put His rainbow in the sky as a sign of the promise He made between Him and every creature on the earth.

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| Teacher's NOTE: This lesson may be divided into 2 lessons: "Noah and the Ark" & "God Keeps His Promises." Divide the story at the Flood (or roughly in half) use appropriate activities for each lesson. |
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You will need: Bible (also various supplies depending on activities chosen)

Major Points: God Keeps His Promises
Noah was a Good Man/ Other People were Evil
God Decided to Send a Flood
Noah Built an Ark/ The Animals Came in 2 By 2
The Flood Came and Went
Noah, His Family, and the Animals were Safe in the Ark
God Sent His Rainbow as a Promise

Scripture Ref: Genesis: Chapters 6:9 – 9:17

Memory Verse: Genesis 9:13 "I have set my rainbow in the clouds..."

Lesson: **Introduction – God Keeps His Promises**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- Today we are going to talk about promises. What is a promise? *(Wait for answers, then give the definition.)* A promise is when you say you will do something, and then you do it.
- Have you ever made a promise? *(Wait for answers.)* Did you keep your promise? How long did you keep it?
- When God makes a promise, He keeps it FOREVER.

Noah was a Good Man/ Other People were Evil

- The Bible tells us that after Cain killed Abel, all the people on the earth got worse and worse and worse. Eventually all they did all day long was wrong and wicked.
- God looked down on the earth and saw all this wickedness.
- But God found one man who was good: Noah.

- Noah had a wife, and they had 3 sons. His 3 sons also had wives. So, altogether, there were 8 people in Noah's family. *(Show adding up all the people on your fingers. Have the children do the same and show you eight. Count to eight.)*

God Decided to Send a Flood

- Because of all the evil, God told Noah that He was going to send a flood to destroy everything on the earth that breathed.
- But God wanted to save Noah and his family.
- God also wanted to save 2 of each of the animals.
- So God told Noah to build an ark (a long wooden box-like boat)
- The Ark was to have rooms in it for the animals, and for Noah and his family. It was also supposed to carry all the food they would need during the time they would be in the ark.
- The Ark was going to be REALLY big! It was to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet tall *(That's 1 ½ football fields long, about half a football field wide, and about 4 stories tall.)*
- It was so big that it took Noah 100 years to build the Ark!

Noah Built the Ark/ The Animals Came in 2 By 2

- Noah built the ark, just like God had said
- When everything was ready, God told Noah and his family to go into the Ark.
- Then the animals came to Noah and went into the Ark.
- Two of each kind of animal came: One male and one female
- After Noah and the animals were in the Ark, God shut the door

The Flood Came and Went

- Then, the flood came... just like God had promised
- The Bible says that the springs of the deep broke open and water burst forth and that it rained for 40 days and 40 nights
- *[See Activity – Make rain sounds here.]*
- The water came higher and higher until finally it lifted up the Ark and carried it along on the top of the water
- Everyone and everything on the earth was covered with water
- But Noah and his family, and all the animals in the ark were safe
- After 40 days and nights the rains stopped
- Eventually the water began to go away and the Ark came to rest on the top of Mt. Ararat. Finally, the land became dry again.

Noah, His Family, and the Animals were All Safe

- God had kept Noah, his family and all the animals safe from the Flood in the Ark!
- At last it was safe for Noah and the animals to come out of the Ark. They had been inside the Ark for 1 year and 10 days!

(That's like from one birthday to the next... or from one Christmas to the next... That's a long time!)

- How happy they must have been to get out of the Ark! *(How do you think the animals would have acted as they got off the Ark? Would they have run out? Would they have made noises?)*

God Sent His Rainbow as a Promise

- Noah, his wife, his sons and all their wives came out of the Ark
- They were very happy! They were alive and they had the whole world to themselves! They had everything!
- Noah praised God and thanked Him for bringing them through the flood and saving them during His judgment of the world
- Then God made a promise. God promised that He would NEVER again destroy the world with a flood
- As a token of His promise, God put the rainbow in the sky
- Now, when we see the rainbow, we can always remember God's promise NEVER again to destroy the world with a flood
- God ALWAYS keeps His promises

Let's pray and thank God for always keeping His promises.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you always keep your promises.
Thank you that you love us!
We love you back!
Amen

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1-2 that will work with your group.)*

Big Picture Idea – *The children will recreate the Ark in your classroom*

Before Class: Gather up lots of stuffed animals and take them to the classroom. Clear an area of the classroom, except for some chairs.

During Class: Recreate the Ark with the children by setting up the chairs so that they create the shape of a boat. Point the seats towards the inside of the boat. (Leave the back end of the boat open.) Explain to the children that you are working with Noah, and that it is time to put the animals in the Ark. Have the children come and get the stuffed animals and bring them into the "Ark." (Quick, before it rains!) Place them on the floor or in the chairs. Now everyone get inside of the Ark! (Close up the back end.) Now you are all safe! Sing songs and have snacks as you weather the storm!

Snacks: Animal Crackers... (What else?)
Consider dipping them in little spoonfuls of frosting on a plate (Yummy!)

Exiting the Ark

Show how happy the animals would have been getting out of the Ark. Make believe you are an elephant, a tiger, a hippo... what sounds would you make?

Rain Noises – *The children will make sounds of a rainstorm. Do this during lesson!*

(Rain starts quietly and gets louder and louder)

At first, it is very quiet... then rub your hands together lightly; then begin to snap fingers; now pat hands on legs; finally, stomp feet really loudly!

(Rain dies down and stops)

The children are stomping their feet loudly, then change to patting hands on legs, next go to snapping fingers, and lastly rub hands together lightly... Gradually get quieter and quieter... Now silence....Shhh!

Song: **Oh, Noah, He Built Him an Arky-Arky-Arky***
(Sung to the tune of "Rise and Shine, and Give God the Glory")

Oh, the LORD said to Noah, "There's gonna be a flood-y, flood-y"
LORD said to Noah, "There's gonna be a flood-y, flood-y!"
"Get those children... out of the muddy, muddy!"
Children of the LORD.

So, Noah, He built him an ark-y, ark-y, ark-y.
Noah, He built him an ark-y, ark-y, ark-y
Built it out of... Hickory Bark-y, bark-y
Children of the LORD.

The animals they came in by 2's, by 2's, by 2's
The animals they came in by 2's, by 2's, by 2's
The elephants and... kangaroos-y, roo-sies
Children of the LORD.

It rained and rained for 40 days and days
It rained and rained for 40 days and days
It nearly drove those... animals crazy-crazy
Children of the LORD.

The sun came out and dried up the land-y, land-y,
Sun came out and dried up the land-y, land-y,
Everything was... fine and dandy, dandy
Children of the LORD.

So, rise and shine and give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine and... give God the glory, glory
Children of the LORD!

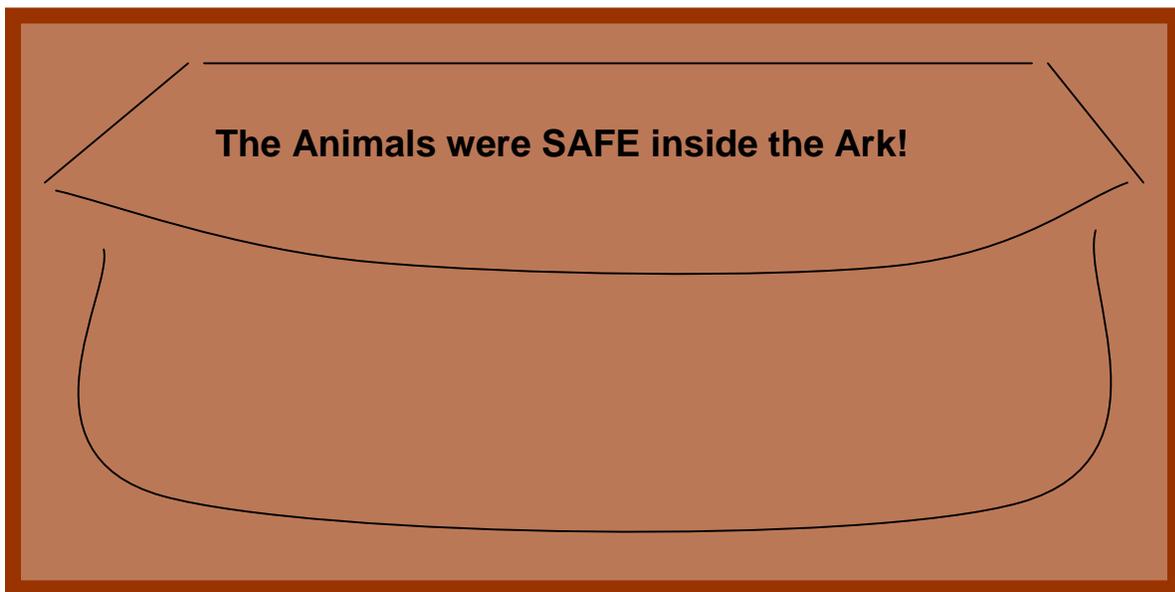
*There are various versions of this song... but this is the one I learned when I was little!

Make Animals – *The children will make various animals to put inside of the ark.*

Before Class: Obtain pictures of various animals; lions, and tigers, and bears (oh, my) as well as birds, deer, cows, horses, sheep, goats, cats, dogs, etc. Bring the pictures to class. Provide paper, cotton balls, glue, crayon, scissors, markers, feathers, and yarn. Consider providing a place in the room to display the finished animals.

During Class: Allow the children study the various pictures of animals. Identify them together. Let the children draw one of the animals they see, or one that they choose. Allow the option of using items to decorate their pictures: cotton balls for sheep, feathers for birds, yarn for lion's mane, etc. Cut out animals and display in the room.

IDEA: Create an "Ark" in your room by placing a large piece of brown paper on a bulletin board with the words "Inside the Ark" or "The Animals were Safe inside the Ark."



Make a Rainbow– *The children will color a rainbow using the activity sheet*

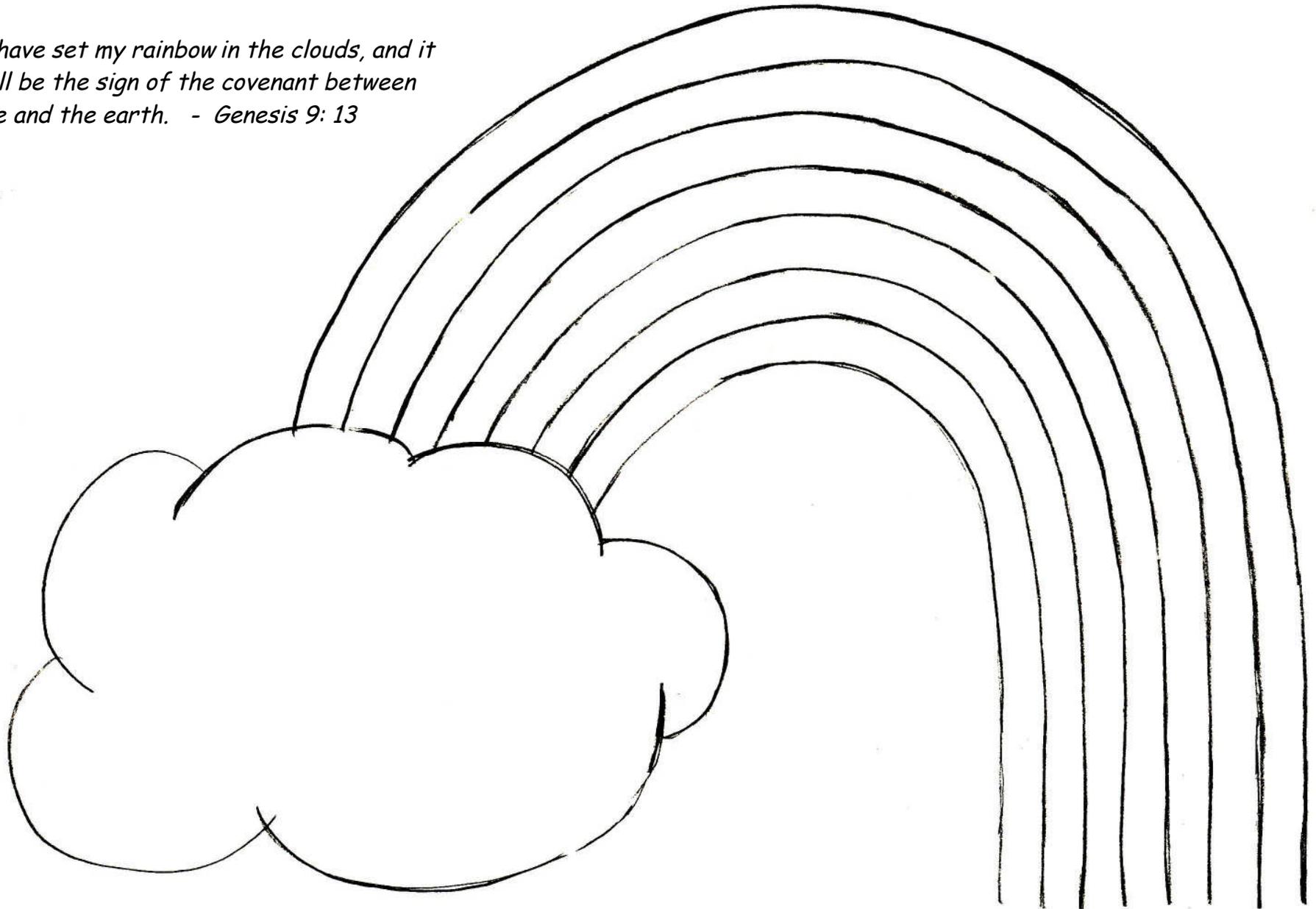
Before Class: Provide copies of the activity sheet for each child. Also provide colors, glue, and cotton balls. You might consider using watercolors for this activity.

NOTE: *If you are going to use watercolors, you will probably have to glue the cotton balls onto the paper after it has dried. If so, you might consider doing this activity over two different class periods: one to watercolor and one to glue on the cotton balls.*

During Class: Allow the children to color the rainbow and to glue cotton balls onto the cloud. Discuss how God always keeps His promises! (*Allow to dry and take home.*)

God Keeps His Promises!

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. - Genesis 9: 13



Abraham's Call

Teacher Pep Talk: God called a man named Abraham to leave his homeland and to go to the land He would show him. God promised Abraham that He would make him into a great nation; that He would bless him; and that all peoples on that earth would be blessed through him. Abraham stepped out in faith to obey God. He believed God would keep His promises. Believing in God sometimes means stepping out in faith to follow Him. In the next lesson we will learn that believing in God sometimes means waiting on God's timing.

You will need: Bible

Major Points: One of Noah's descendants was Abraham
God spoke to Abraham and asked him to go to a New Land
God Promised to Bless Abraham
Abraham Believed God
Abraham Obeyed God
God Kept His Promises to Abraham

Scripture Ref: Genesis 11 and 12:1-4

Memory Verse: Genesis 12:1 *"Leave your country... and go to the land I will show you."*

Lesson: **Introduction – God Keeps His Promises**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- Today we are going to talk about promises. What is a promise? *(Wait for answers; then give the definition.)* A promise is when you say you will do something, and then you do it.
- Have you ever made a promise? *(Wait for answers.)* Did you keep your promise? How long did you keep it?
- When God makes a promise, He ALWAYS keeps it! And He keeps it FOREVER!

One of Noah's Descendants was Abraham

- *(Review Timeline with the children- See series instructions.)*
- After Noah and the Ark, hundreds of years went by
- Noah's children had lots of children, and they had children and they had children, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren!
- One of Noah's descendants was a man named Abram (or Abraham as we will call him today.)
- Abraham was married to Sarah
- Abraham and Sarah had no children
- They lived in Ur of the Chaldeans

God Spoke to Abraham and Asked him to go to a New Land

- God spoke to Abraham and told him “Leave your country, your people, and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.”
- Wow! That was a big request, wasn’t it? Leave your country... your people... and your father’s household... That would be tough wouldn’t it? Leaving everything that was familiar, and even your family. *(Of course, Abraham was an adult; he was already 75 years old! Still... it’s tough.)*
- AND... Abraham didn’t even know where God was asking him to go. Remember... he’d never been there. All he knew was that God had asked him to go.
- What would you do? Would you go? Would you chance it?

God Promised Abraham that He would Bless Him

- God promised Abraham to make him into a great nation
- He also promised to bless him and to make his name great
- God also promised that all peoples on the earth would be blessed through him.
- Those are some pretty BIG promises, but Abraham knew that God always keeps His promises

Abraham Believed God

- Abraham believed God (What does that mean, to believe someone?) It means that you know that person will keep his promise. You know you can have FAITH in that person.
- Abraham knew that God ALWAYS keeps His promises
- Abraham believed God. Abraham had faith in God.

Abraham Obeyed God

- So since Abraham believed God, Abraham obeyed God
- This time obeying God meant going somewhere
- The Bible says that Abraham left his country and went to the land God showed him
- Sometimes obeying God means stepping out in faith

God Kept His Promises

- And, guess what?! God kept ALL of His promises to Abraham.
- He did make him into a great nation.
- He did bless him and make his name great.
- And all the peoples of the earth were blessed through Abraham, because Jesus eventually came from his family!

Let’s pray and thank God for keeping His promises and blessing us!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for keeping your promises!
Thank you for blessing us!
Thank you that through Abraham's family, Jesus came to the whole world!
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)*

Steps of Faith – *The children will trace their feet/shoes on to paper in this activity.*

Before Class: Obtain copies of the activity sheet for the children in the class. Obtain markers, crayons or colors for the children to use to trace their feet on the papers.

During Class: Remind the children that having faith in God, and obeying God, sometimes means stepping out in faith, just like Abraham did. *“We step with our feet. Abraham and his family walked a long way to the Promised Land. Let's trace our feet on to this paper to remind us that sometimes having faith means stepping out and doing something new.”* Allow the children to stand on the pieces of paper and trace the outlines of their shoes (or feet) on the paper. They may also color in the outlines.

Faith Walk – *The children will learn to depend on someone else to lead them.*

Before Class: Obtain a blindfold which can be used for the children

During Class: Clear an area of the classroom for the activity. While the children watch, place a few obstacles in the area, for example: a chair, a table, a basket full of toys, etc. Show the blindfold. Choose one child (or adult) to be the helper. Ask for a volunteer to wear the blindfold while the helper guides them across the room, missing the obstacles. Explain that we often have faith in other people. *We believe our parents will give us lunch. We believe our grandparents will remember our birthday. We believe the pilot will be able to fly the plane...etc. Having faith sometimes means trusting God, even when we may not be able to see where He is leading us... just like Abraham did when he traveled to the land God promised to him.* Demonstrate leading the blindfolded volunteer around the room. Let a helper try it. **Make sure the helper keeps the volunteer away from the obstacles they cannot see. God is worthy of our trust!**

“Mother, May I?” – *A fun game to practice “obeying” and hop around a lot!*

NOTE: *This is not the traditional version of “Mother, May I?” but I think it is more fun.*

Before Class: Clear an area of the classroom where the children can play

During Class: Choose one person to be “IT”. That person stands near one wall. The other children form a line along the wall on the far side of the room. The person who is IT gives commands such as “Take 2 giant steps” or “Take 4 baby steps.” Each time the group must ask “Mother, May I?” and receive a “Yes” before beginning. If someone fails to get permission, that person must go backwards instead of forwards. First one to the other side wins and is “IT.” Other steps may include: scissor steps, bunny hops, jumps, etc. If more than one person makes it to the other side all at once, choose one to be IT.

Review Timeline – *The children will get overview of when Abraham lived*

Before Class: Prepare a Timeline by stretching a line of yarn across a wall in the room. Place on the timeline the different activity sheets from lessons leading up to this one.

(OR, if you have not been doing the previous lessons, make sheets of paper with important stories on them: Creation; Adam and Eve in the Garden; Noah and the Ark.)

During Class: Take one of today's completed activity sheets and place it on the Timeline. Review the other events that have happened on the Timeline, to give some perspective of the passage of time. Explain that between Adam and Noah there were 10 generations. And that between Noah and Abraham there were 10 generations. Abraham was Noah's great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandson. That's a LONG time... but it does show a connection! And many, many, many years later after Abraham... way down the timeline... Jesus was born from Abraham's family! *(You may place a cross on the timeline further down the line)* God kept His promises to Abraham!

Sing "Father Abraham" – *The children will sing and have fun moving around!*

Father Abraham had many sons...
Many sons had Father Abraham!
And I am one of them, and so are you...
So, let's just praise the LORD!

Right arm!

(With each of following, repeat chorus and add one movement as described below.)

Right Arm, Left Arm!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot, Chin Up!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot, Chin Up, Turn Around!

Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot, Chin Up, Turn Around, Sit Down!!!

Right Arm – wave right arm

Left Arm – wave left arm

Right Foot – tap or step with right foot

Left Foot – tap or step with left foot

Chin Up – nod head up and down

Turn Around – turn around in circles

Sit Down – sit down in place... *(Carefully!)*

Obeying God is a Step of Faith

Isaac - The Son of Promise

Teacher Pep Talk: Waiting on God is hard. Abraham and Sarah waited a very long time (over 20 years) for God to fulfill His promise of sending them a son of their own (Isaac.) Isaac is the Son of Promise, and as such his birth foreshadows the birth of Jesus Christ many years later. This lesson focuses on how God cares about our families, but an underlying message is that we can rely on God to keep His promises, and that sometimes we must wait upon Him to do so. Sometimes, obeying God means waiting on His timing.

You will need: Bible
Paper and Pen (to write "Isaac")

Major Points: God Promised Abraham and Sarah a Son
Abraham and Sarah had to Wait on God
God Kept His Promise
God Cares about Us and Our Families
Sometimes Obeying God is Waiting on His Timing

Scripture Ref: Genesis 21:1-7

Memory Verse: Genesis 21:1 ...*the LORD did... what he had promised.*

Lesson: **Introduction – God Keeps His Promises**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- We have been talking about promises. What is a promise? (*Wait for answers; then give the definition.*) A promise is when you say you will do something, and then you do it.
- Has anyone ever made you a promise? (*Wait for answers.*)
- Did you ever have to wait a while for them to keep their promise? (*Yes/No*) How long did you have to wait? Did you ever have to wait to go on a promised vacation, or to get something on a birthday or at Christmas?
- It's HARD to wait; especially for something you really want... and especially if someone has promised it to you and you are ready for it NOW! After all, why not? You think you are ready... so, where is it? And why is it taking so long?
- If we aren't careful, we can get really impatient! Can't we?
- We already know that God ALWAYS keeps His promises, but today we'll learn that sometimes we may have to wait on Him to keep His promises at just the right time.

God Promised Abraham and Sarah a Son

- Abraham and Sarah were married, but they had no children

- God had promised them a son of their own
- Abraham and Sarah knew that God would keep His promise, but they had to wait a long time for God to keep that promise
- How many years do you think they had to wait? (*Wait for answers.*) They waited over 20 years! That's a long time!
- And, all the while they were waiting, they felt like time was running out. After all they were getting older and older!

God Kept His Promises

- But God ALWAYS keeps His promises
- At just the right time, God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy
- His name was Isaac (*Write down "Isaac" and show the children*)
- This was the baby through whom God would keep all of His other promises to Abraham
- Those promises were that He would bless Abraham and make him a great nation, and that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed
- Later on Isaac would have a son, and he had a son, and he had a son... and much later on... baby Jesus would be born!
- And through Jesus all the people of the earth were blessed!

God Cares about Our Families

- God knows who we are and He knows our families
- God cares about us and about everyone in our family
- God loves each one of us and He loves our family too
- Our family's job is to care for us and raise us
- Sometimes families do a good job... and sometimes they don't
- But, no matter what, God is always there!
- God is our Heavenly Father! He always cares about us!
- We can always count on God to love us and to care for us!

Sometimes Obeying God is Waiting on God's Timing

- We have already learned that sometimes obeying God is stepping out in faith and doing what He tells us
- Today we have learned that sometimes obeying God means waiting on God to keep His promise
- Both things can be hard to do
- Abraham and Sarah had to learn BOTH of these lessons
- First they learned to step out in faith (when they left their home and traveled to a new land that God showed them)
- Then they had to learn to wait on God (when they waited for Him to send them their baby boy, Isaac)
- Both times, God kept His promises to Abraham and Sarah!

Let's pray and thank God for always keeping His promises!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you always keep your promises.
Help us to learn that sometimes we have to wait on your promises.
Thank you for blessing the whole world through Abraham and Sarah!
Thank you for sending Jesus!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1-2 that will work with your group.)*

God Keeps His Promises – *The children will do an activity sheet about Isaac*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the activity sheet about Isaac for each child in class. Provide markers, crayons, or glue and glitter or sand, also newspaper to cover tables.

During Class: Use the activity sheet “God Keeps All of His Promises” to learn the name of Abraham’s promised son: Isaac. Ideas include: trace the letters in the name Isaac on the paper with your finger. Say the letters of the name out loud. Color the name with markers or colors. Use glue and glitter to write the name Isaac on the paper. *Be sure to cover the table with newspaper before trying the last suggestion!* ☺

Review Timeline – *The children will review the Timeline you are creating in class.*

Before Class: Have the Timeline visible in the classroom – *See Instructions for Lessons*

During Class: Briefly review the papers already present on the Timeline. Add a finished copy of today’s activity sheet to the Timeline. Discuss that Abraham and Sarah waited over 20 years for God to keep His promise regarding their son, Isaac. Remind the children that no matter how long it takes, God ALWAYS keeps His promises.

God Cares about Our Families – *The children will do a paper about their own families.*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the “God Cares about Our Families” activity sheets for each child. Also provide colors, markers, or pencils, along with scissors and yarn.

During Class: Remind the children that “*God knows each of us and our families.*” Also “*He cares about us and our families very much. God loves each one of us!*” Give each child an activity sheet. Ask them to write the names of the persons in their families in the circles on the paper. *(Help younger children.)* Allow the children to decorate the circles for each person. Add circles or use extra sheets as necessary! Cut out the circles, punch a hole in the top of each one, and string them on a necklace of yarn.

Draw a Family Portrait – *The children will draw a picture of their family.*

Before Class: Provide pieces of paper to draw on, also crayons or markers.

During Class: Ask the children to draw a picture of their family members. You may choose to write the names of the persons in the family on the piece of paper as well.

Wiggle Waters – *The children will have fun moving around to music.*

Before Class: Bring a device for playing music to class. Choose upbeat songs.

During Class: Choose someone to be “IT” who will turn the music on and off. The other children wiggle/ dance when they hear the music start. Then they “freeze” when the music is turned off. The one judged to be the stillest gets to be “IT” next. Play again!

Bible Research – *Older children will read the Bible to learn more about Isaac's birth*

Before Class: Have Bibles available for reference.

During Class: With a small group of older children look up the answers to these questions. Find the verses together. *Read the verses out loud together.*

How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? (100)

How old was Sarah when Isaac was born? (90)

Answers are found in Genesis 17:17 and Genesis 21:1-4

What promises did God make to Abraham?

Answer is found in Genesis 12:2-3

Announcement! Announcement! – *Older children will make a baby announcement!*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the Baby Announcement page (1/2 sheet per child)

Also provide pencils, blue construction paper, scissors, and glue. Bibles for reference.

During Class: Let the children write in the answers for the blanks on the announcement sheet. The answers are found in the Bible: Genesis 17:17 and Genesis 12:2-3. Have them decorate the sheet of paper as desired, cut it out and glue it on to a larger piece of blue construction paper. **(This activity goes well with “Bible Research” activity.)**

The answers to the questions are: Abraham = 100 years old, Sarah = 90 years old. 1) great 3) nation 4) blessed

Baby Dolls – *Younger children will enjoy snuggling with or playing with baby dolls/ stuffed animals, and remembering that every person is important to God.*

Before Class: Arrange to have several large dolls or lots of stuffed animals available in the classroom. Place them out where the children can see them. Provide small squares of fabric, or baby blankets, baskets, baby beds, small bottles, etc, so that the children can practice holding the “baby”, feeding the “baby”, & wrapping up the “baby”.

During Class: Remind the children that babies are very important parts of our family.

We all started off as babies!! We are to love and to help take care of the babies in our family. We can practice doing so with these baby dolls/ stuffed animals. Give the children some time to choose a “baby”, to hold it, rock it, feed it with the pretend bottle, and wrap it up in a blanket. Demonstrate for them the correct way to do these things.

NOTE: Some children may not want to do this. Allow them to participate in some other activity. Leave the dolls out so that those who wish to participate may do so.

“Mother, May I?” – *A fun game to practice “obeying” and hop around a lot!*

NOTE: *This is not the traditional version of “Mother, May I?” but I think it is more fun.*

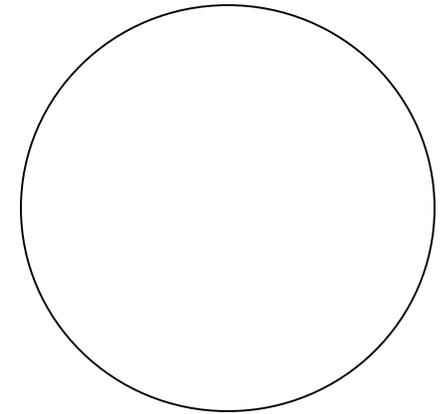
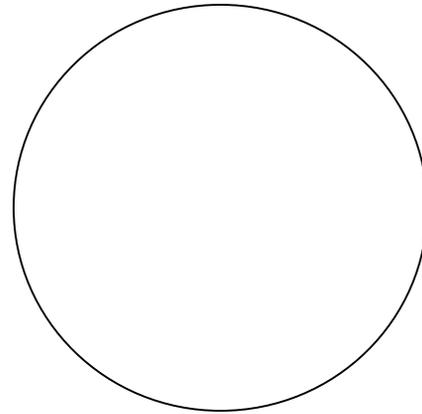
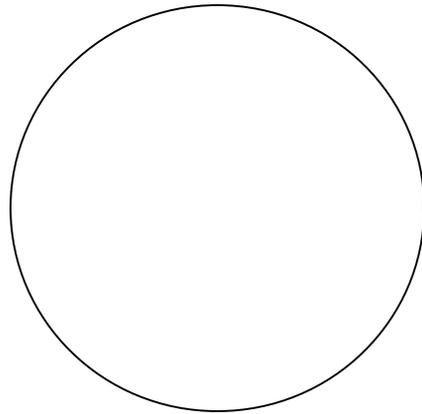
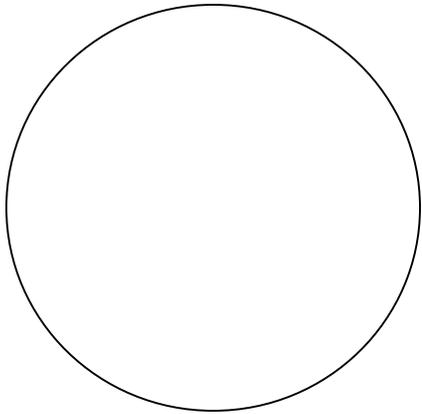
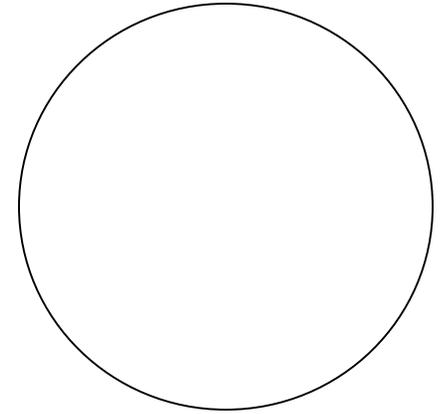
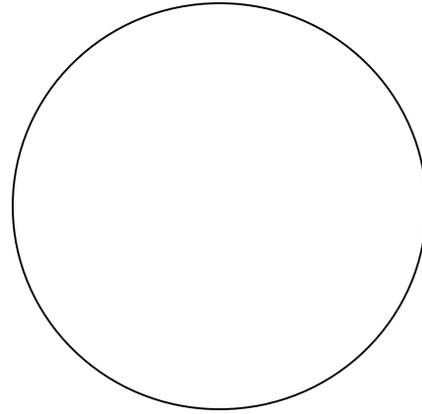
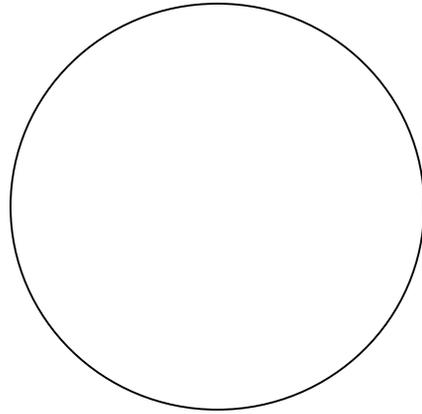
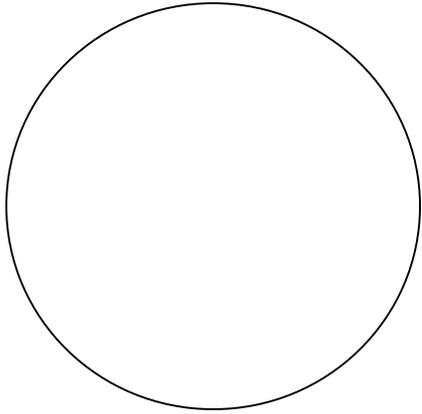
Before Class: Clear an area of the classroom where the children can play

During Class: Choose one person to be “IT”. That person stands near one wall. The other children form a line along the wall on the far side of the room. The person who is IT gives commands such as “Take 2 giant steps” or “Take 4 baby steps.” Each time the group must ask “Mother, May I?” and receive a “Yes” before beginning. If someone fails to get permission, that person must go backwards instead of forwards. First one to the other side wins and is “IT.” Other steps may include: scissor steps, bunny hops, jumps, etc. If more than one person makes it to the other side all at once, choose one to be IT.

God Keeps His Promises!

Isaac

God Cares About our Families!





ANNOUNCEMENT!
ANNOUNCEMENT!

ISAAC is born!

To Abraham at _____ years old!

And to Sarah at _____ years old!

God promised that Abraham
that He would:

- 1) Make his name _____!
- 2) Bless him!
- 3) Make him a great _____!
- 4) And that through him all the people
of the world would be _____!



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- 3) Make him a great _____!
- 4) And that through him all the people
of the world would be _____!

The answers are found in the Bible: Genesis 17:17 and Genesis 12:2-3.

Answers: Abraham = 100 years old. Sarah = 90 years old. 1) great 3) nation 4) blessed

Isaac and Rebekah

Teacher Pep Talk: Congratulations! Today you are a Storyteller... This is one of my favorite lessons... probably because of the fun camel parts! (*And the associated camel trivia!*) This is a clear story of how God brings two people together as man and wife. What a fun way to teach children about how God cares about (and makes plans for) all the BIG things in our lives, while taking care of all the LITTLE details.

You will need: Bible

Major Points: Isaac was Abraham's Son
Isaac was Ready to be Married
God Provided a Wife for Isaac
(*Story of How Abraham's Servant Found Rebekah*)
God Cares About Our Lives

Scripture Ref: Genesis 24

Memory Verse: Genesis 24:56 ...*the LORD has granted success to my journey.*

Lesson: **Isaac was Abraham's Son**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- We have learned that Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac. *[Review Timeline if available in classroom.]*
- He was a special son who had been promised to them by God
- Isaac was born miraculously in their old age! (Sarah had been 90 years old when he was born. And Abraham was 100 years old!) *[Count by 10's to 90 and then to 100. Have the children hold up their fingers to show 10, and count by 10's together.]*
- God had promised Abraham and Sarah a special son even in their old age, and He had kept His promise!
- We know that God ALWAYS keeps His promises!

Isaac was Ready to be Married

- Time had passed since Isaac was born, and now he was all grown up. In fact, Isaac was 40 years old!
- Isaac was ready to be married.
- His mother, Sarah, had died just a few (3) years earlier.
- His father, Abraham, was now VERY old... (*140 years old!*)
- It was time for Isaac to be married!

God Provided a Wife for Isaac

- Abraham wanted to get a good wife for his son, Isaac.
- Back then parents would help choose the bride for their son

- Abraham wanted a wife from his father’s family back home. He didn’t want a wife from the country they were living in at the time... because they didn’t worship God.
- Abraham sent his faithful servant back to his father’s homeland to find a wife for Isaac. **“And that is where the fun, camel part comes in!”** *(The children may ask, “What camels?”... Tell them “Wait just a minute and I’ll tell you! ☺)*

NOTE: Move to a different part of the room, if possible. Maybe take a little break. Gather the children around you. Maybe put on a special Storyteller’s hat, if you like. Get comfy... You are going to tell a really great Bible Story!

The Story of How Abraham’s Servant Found Rebekah

The Servant is Sent to Find a Wife for Isaac

- Abraham told his best servant to go and find a wife for Isaac
- But... Abraham didn’t want just ANY old bride for Isaac. He wanted a bride from his father’s family back home
- It was a LONG way there, and Abraham was too old to make the journey himself. So, that’s why he sent his servant.
- The servant knew that he had to go a long way, through the desert and over hills to get back to Abraham’s father’s home.
- And he knew that he had to carry a lot of stuff with him: Presents and things like that... because it’s just bad manners to show up at the bride’s house empty-handed!
- So...*(here’s the fun, camel part)*... the servant took with him 10 camels loaded down with fun things to eat and fun things to wear. Everyone hold up 10 fingers! **[Count to 10 together.]**
- Imagine 10 camels all in a row! *[Pretend your fingers are the camels and that they are traveling in a line along the road. Move your hands up and down like the camels trudging along.]*
- Trudge, Trudge, Trudge... Back to Abraham’s father’s home.
- While he was on his way there the servant began to worry about how he would know the right girl to choose as a bride for Isaac.
 - How would you pick a bride for someone else? *(Wait for a few answers – prettiest, smartest, nicest, richest?)*
 - How was the servant going to do it?
 - Which one would he pick?
 - Well... let’s wait and see...

The Servant Asks for a Sign from God

- Finally the servant arrived at the place where Abraham’s family lived. He and the 10 camels stopped at the well nearby.
- It was the time of day that the young girls came to the well to get water for their families.

- And now the servant did something really smart!
- He PRAYED!
- He asked God for a special sign/ something that would happen so that he would know which girl to pick for Isaac's bride.
- The servant prayed because he knew that God cares about all the Big and Little things in our lives.
- He knew that God cared about who Isaac had for a wife (and that He had the right girl picked out!) The trick was finding her!
- The servant asked God for this sign: He asked that the girl God wanted for Isaac would give him a drink of water, and that THEN she would offer to water ALL of his camels too!
- Wow! That's a great sign! How many camels did he have with him? (Ten!) *[Everyone count to 10 on your fingers.]*
- That's a LOT of camels! Let's see what happened...

God Gives the Servant a Sign

- A girl named Rebekah came to the well. She came to get water
- The servant asked her for a drink of water.
- She gave him a drink and THEN... she offered to draw water for all of his camels to have a drink as well.
- Wow! That was the sign, wasn't it?
- The servant watched as Rebekah went back and forth to the well, drawing all of the water that the camels would drink.
- How many camels were there? (Ten!) Ten, hot, thirsty camels!
- Do you know how much a camel can drink? Guess! Let's see who gets the closest. *(The answer is 20-40 gallons each!)*
- Twenty gallons each! Ten camels... at twenty gallons each... that's like a million gallons! Actually it's just 200 gallons. But that is a LOT of water! Especially when you are drawing it up out of the well for the camels to drink.
- The servant sat and watched. When the camels had had all of the water they would drink, the servant knew this was the girl!
- The servant praised God! He was happy because God had given him the sign he had asked for.
- Now he knew Rebekah was the girl God wanted for Isaac.

The Servant Returns with Rebekah

- The servant found out that Rebekah was from Abraham's father's family
- He went to her home, where he explained to her family why he had come and everything about the sign and the camels
- Then he gave presents to Rebekah and her family (these were the presents that the camels had been carrying!)
- Rebekah agreed to return with the servant and to marry Isaac.
- And so she did. *Maybe she rode home on one of those camels!*

- The servant said “...*the LORD has granted success to my journey.*” He said this because he knew that God had answered his prayer and shown him a sign. Rebekah was the one!
- When they arrived home at Abraham’s house, Isaac took Rebekah as his bride. He loved her very much. She was just the right one!

THE END

Epilogue and Discussion

- Do you think that God cares about the BIG things in our lives? (Yes, He does!)
- Do you think that God can take care of all the LITTLE things in our lives? (Yes, He can!)
- God does care about us!
- He cares about all of the BIG things and about all of the LITTLE things.
- In this story, God took care of Isaac, of Rebekah, of Abraham, and of the servant! He watched over all of them and answered their prayers.
- God is so good to care about us and the Big and Little things in our lives.

Let’s pray and thank God for caring about us!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you care about us!
Thank you that you care about the BIG things in our lives.
Thank you for taking care of the LITTLE things in our lives.
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)*

Isaac and Rebekah 4-Ever – *The children will make a valentine for Isaac & Rebekah.*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the valentine activity sheet for each child in class. Also provide colors, markers, or glitter glue. Optional: scissors, glue and paper doilies.

During Class: Give each child an activity sheet. Read what it says in the heart out loud. Allow the children to decorate the heart and the words. (Color letters, outline heart, color heart, or use glitter glue to outline heart and letters.) Allow to dry and take home.

OPTION: After decorating the heart, allow the children to cut out the heart and glue it on to a paper doily. Older children may want to create their own valentine’s for others.

Review Timeline – *The children will review the Timeline in the classroom.*

With the children, briefly review the Timeline in class. Add a paper for today’s lesson.

Camel Fun! – *The children will draw their own camel!*

Before Class: Obtain a picture of a camel to show the children. Provide crayons, markers and paper. Consider using light brown construction paper.

During Class: Discuss that the servant took 10 camels with him. Look at the picture of a camel. Discuss how the camel looks. How many humps does it have on its back? How long is its neck? Does it have legs and a tail? ...etc. Now ask the children to draw their own camel! Allow the children to refer back to the picture of the camel if they like. *(Note: Don't be too fussy about how many humps the camel has, or how many legs ☺... Be encouraging!)* Display the herd of camels in class. How many do you have?

Consider decorating your camel with a colorful harness: See next activity.

Braid a Camel Harness – *The children will learn to braid yarn or twine.*

Before Class: Obtain brown twine or yarn. You may consider using different colors of yarn or string. Also provide scissors, tape, and glue. For younger children cut 3 pieces of twine or yarn about 4-6 inches long and tie them together at one end.

During Class: Explain that camels often have fancy harnesses made of beautiful ropes and braided leather. Offer to help the children learn to braid some yarn, or twine, to make a camel's harness. Have each child cut three pieces of twine or yarn about 4-6 inches long and tie them together at one end. Tape the yarn or twine to the desk at the knot. Braid the three pieces together until you get to the end. Do it again, or tie off. *(Could use to decorate the camels they drew in **Camel Fun!**)*

Pin the Tail on the Camel – *A version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey*

Before Class: On a large sheet of brown colored paper, draw a side view of a camel. *(A brown paper sack cut open and laid out flat makes great brown paper!)* Cut out or decorate as desired, but do not include a tail on your picture of the camel. Cut 3 lengths of twine (about 10-12 inches long), tie together at one end. Braid the length of the twine and tie again forming a "tail". Put a large ball of "Sticky Tack" at one end of the tail. You will also need a blindfold, and a way of securing the camel to the wall or door.

During Class: Explain to the children that unfortunately one of the camels has lost his tail. (Oops!) You are going to try and pin it back on. Demonstrate where the camel's tail should go. Blindfold a volunteer. Allow the child to try and place the tail on the camel in the appropriate place. Play until everyone has had a turn. Who was closest?

How Much is a Gallon? – *The children will explore how much water is in a gallon.*

NOTE: There are lots of ways of presenting this activity. Take into consideration if you will let the children work with the water, or if you will have it already sealed in jugs.

Before Class: Provide clean gallon containers with lids. (Milk jugs work great!) Also provide cups, measuring cups, or pitchers. Have access to water, whether in a sink or in large pans. May want to fill gallon containers with water and seal them ahead of time. You could use duct tape to help close them. Have plenty of towels ready for clean-up!

During Class: Help the children discover just how much a gallon of water is. With cups/measuring cups or pitchers, fill a gallon container with water. Take turns pouring the water in and out. Carefully lift the sealed containers. How heavy is a gallon?



Isaac +

Rebekah

4-Ever!

Jacob and Esau

Teacher Pep Talk: Soup... Esau despised his birthright and sold it to Jacob for a bowl of soup! Twins... What can you say? These two boys were born on the same day to the same parents, but they were completely different from one another. Their story is one of dreadful divisions and tearful reunions. God gave both sons to Isaac and Rebekah, but even He said, "...I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated." It is through Jacob that God will bring about His promises to Abraham – The Messiah (Jesus) will come through Jacob and his line.

NOTE: In this lesson the children will learn about how Esau lost both his birthright and his blessing. These are very abstract concepts for Little Guys to understand... So, make up two fancy looking "tickets" (or "coupons") one for "Birthright" and one for "Blessing" to convey the idea that these things were important and valuable. Show the coupons during the lesson and afterwards during the activities.

ALSO...One of the suggested activities is to **make soup** with your group. If possible, take your class to the "kitchen" and start the soup before you begin the lesson. If no kitchen is available, consider bringing in hot water to pour over ramen noodles, or "cooking" the soup in a microwave. *Always check with your church regarding **Fire Safety** and watch for any **Food Allergies!***

You will need: Bible
2 Coupons or Tickets: One for Birthright and One for Blessing.
"Soup" to cook in class

Major Points: Isaac and Rebekah had No Children
God Gave them Esau and Jacob (Twin Boys)
They were Twins, But Different
Esau Sold His Birthright (for a Bowl of Soup)
Esau Lost His Blessing
Jacob Ran Away from Home
God was with Jacob

Scripture Ref: Genesis 25, 27 and 28

Memory Verse: **In Genesis 28:15 God said to Jacob:** *"I am with you and will watch over you..."*

Lesson: **Isaac and Rebekah had No Children**

- *[Before you start the lesson, start the soup! See Activity note.]*
- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap. Also have the 2 Tickets or Coupons: "Birthright" and "Blessing".]*

- *[Review Timeline if available in classroom.]*
- Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac.
- When Isaac grew up, he married a girl named Rebekah.
- Nearly 20 years had gone by, but still they had no children.
- Isaac prayed and asked God to give them children.
- Isaac knew that God had promised to make his father (and him) into a great nation! And you can't do that without children.
- And Isaac knew that God ALWAYS keeps His promises!

God Gave Them Esau and Jacob (Twin Boys)

- Isaac didn't have to wait long for God to answer his prayer!
- God gave Isaac and Rebekah twin boys!
- *(Rebekah asked God about the children she was to have. God answered her prayer. He told her that two nations were in her womb, and that they would be divided. He also told her that the younger one would rule over the older one.)*
- Soon the twins were born. The first one was hairy looking when he was born, so they called him **Esau**. *(which means "hairy")*
- Can you say "Esau"? *(Practice together.)*
- The younger one was holding on to the heel of the first. So they called him **Jacob**. *(which means "grasping the heel")*
- Can you say "Jacob"? *(Practice together.)*

They were Twins, but They were Different

- Jacob and Esau were twins. Do you know what twins are? Twins are two children born to the same mother at one time.
- Even though Jacob and Esau were twins, they were very different.
 - Esau, the older one, was ruddy and hairy looking, while Jacob, the younger one, was smooth skinned and fair.
 - Esau grew up liking to hunt and being outdoors, while Jacob liked living quietly at home.
- Esau was the oldest *(by a few minutes)* and because he was the oldest, he had some special privileges that came with that.
 - ***[Show the two tickets or coupons here! If you like, you can designate two of the children to be Esau and Jacob. In that case, give both coupons to Esau.]***
 - **Birthright** – He would get more of his father's inheritance
 - **Blessing** – He would get a special blessing from his dad
- These things were important, but Esau didn't necessarily respect them as being important.

NOTE: How is the soup doing? Consider taking the children and checking the soup. If possible, tell the next part of the story while you are stirring the soup.

Esau Sold His Birthright for a Bowl of Soup

- One day Esau went hunting.
- Jacob stayed home that day and made some soup.
- Esau came home really hungry! Have you ever felt really hungry? Your tummy may growl! (*Make growling sounds*)
- Anyway... Esau came home really hungry and smelled the soup that Jacob had made! It made him even hungrier.
- Esau asked Jacob for a bowl of soup.
- And he traded Jacob his birthright for a bowl of soup.
- **[Bring out the Birthright coupon. (If Esau has it, take it away from him and give it to Jacob.)]**
- Uh oh... Esau lost his birthright... Now it belonged to Jacob!
- Later on Esau lost his blessing too!

OPTION: If the lesson is getting too long, you may leave out this next section.

Esau Lost His Blessing

- Isaac was getting older, and his eyesight was poor. So, it was time for Isaac to give Esau his special blessing.
- But before he blessed him, Isaac asked Esau to go hunting and bring back some nice venison to make a good stew for him to eat. (*Are you seeing a theme here? They really liked to eat in this family!*) So, Esau went off hunting.
- Meanwhile, back in the kitchen, Rebekah ...who liked Jacob best... found out what was going on.
- Rebekah made some stew. Then she helped Jacob dress like Esau.
- Together, they tricked Isaac into believing that Jacob was Esau!
- Isaac gave Jacob Esau's blessing!
- **[Take away the Blessing coupon. If Esau has it, take it and give it to Jacob.]**
- When Esau got home and found out what happened, he was very upset and he cried. He asked his father to bless him too.
- Isaac did the best he could.

If you left the last section out, resume the lesson here.

Jacob Ran Away from Home

- Esau was really mad at Jacob, because he had taken both his Birthright and his Blessing. He wanted to hurt Jacob!
- Rebekah packed Jacob up and told him to go and live with her family in her old homeland, where he would be safe.
- Jacob left camp and headed to where Rebekah's family lived.

God was with Jacob

- While Jacob was on his way, God appeared to him in a dream.
- God told Jacob that He was with him and that He would take care of him.
- All the promises that God had made to Abraham and Isaac would be fulfilled through Jacob.
- Jacob knew that God ALWAYS keeps His promises!

Let's pray and thank God for always keeping His promises!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you always keep your promises!
Thank you that you were with Jacob.
Thank you that you took care of him!
Thank you that you love us!
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)*

Making Soup – *The children will make soup while they listen to the Bible story.*

NOTE: If you can pull this off, it makes the most wonderful impression on the children. Please follow your church's rules for **Fire Safety**. If there is a kitchen nearby, consider relocating the class so that you can be near the kitchen while you tell the story. If no kitchen, consider having someone bring in hot water and pour it over ramen noodles in class, so that the children can see you making "soup." Boiling macaroni and pouring spiced tomato sauce over it (after it's drained) is a great way of "making soup." And, of course, you will need to eat the soup during your snack! Don't forget that part! 😊
This reminds me that we are to talk to our children about God's word and His promises during our everyday lives; when we rise up and when we lie down, when we come and go, and during our everyday activities. Cooking soup makes this story come alive!

Before Class: Decide where and how you will cook "soup" during the lesson. (See NOTE for ideas.) Bring all necessary cooking items and utensils. **Watch food allergies!**

During Class: Before you start teaching the Bible Story, start the "soup." Be sure to go and check it a few times during the lesson, if possible. *(Or, send an adult helper to check on it and ask for a report on how it is doing, in front of the class.)* Tell part of the story while you are stirring the soup pot, if possible. Let the children watch later as you ladle it into soup bowls for them to eat, after it cools a little. **Enjoy the soup for snack!**

Review Timeline – *The children will learn the chain of Biblical events from the Timeline.*

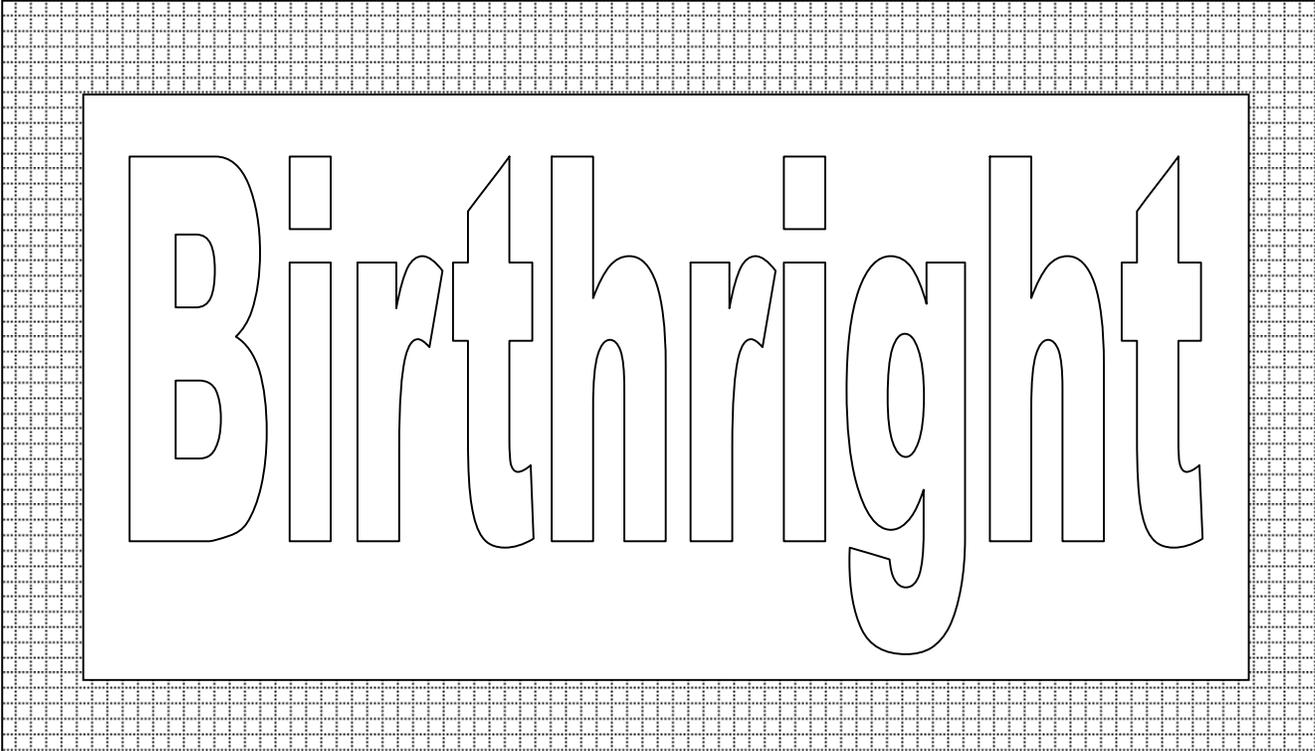
Before Class: Construct a Timeline with papers designating significant Biblical events. *See series lesson instructions for directions.*

During Class: Talk about the various things we have studied in this series so far. Place a page on the Timeline for today's story. *(Use the activity sheet if you like.)*

Birthright and Blessing – The children will create coupons for Birthright and Blessing.
Before Class: Provide a copy of the Birthright and Blessing activity sheet for each child. Provide crayons, markers, glue, glitter, scissors, and construction paper.
During Class: Allow the children to decorate the Birthright and Blessing Activity Sheet. Use markers, crayons, glue, glitter, etc. Allow to dry. Cut out the “coupons” and put each one on a slightly larger sheet of construction paper. Take the coupons home!

Re-enact the Stories – *Older children will enjoy acting out 1-2 of the stories told today.*
Before Class: Bring to class items that will help in telling the two stories: one of Esau selling his birthright for a bowl of soup, and/or the one of Jacob getting Esau’s blessing. Items might include: Pieces of fabric to create the idea of costumes or robes; a big bowl, a small bowl, and a wooden spoon for stirring; and some furry fabric in 3 wide strips.
During Class: Summarize the stories found in Genesis 25 and Genesis 27 (*or read them directly from the Bible.*) Allow the children to re-enact the stories. Discuss them with your class. Was Esau right to give away his birthright for a bowl of soup? Did Jacob and Rebekah trick Isaac into giving Jacob Esau’s blessing? *In the next few lessons in our series, we will learn that Jacob (the trickster) gets tricked himself.*

Talk about Tricks – *Older children will discuss if it is good to play tricks on others.*
Before Class: Familiarize yourself well with the stories told in Genesis 25 and 27. Be ready to answer some tough questions and discuss the idea of playing tricks on others.
During Class: Talk about playing tricks on other people, with the children. Tell them that Jacob pulled a trick on his father Isaac to get Esau’s blessing. Ask the children what they think about that. Is it alright to trick someone else? Are we supposed to lie? How close is a trick to a lie? (*There may be some gray areas here, but use your discernment to lead the discussion. A trick may be funny for a moment, if the person is told right away that it is a trick, and no harm is done. But it can be very hard to control the results; sometimes harm is done, even if you don’t mean to do any!*) Jacob’s name actually means “one who grasps the heel” or “trickster.” In the next 2-3 lessons in this series we will hear some stories about how Jacob (the trickster) got tricked himself.



Birthright



Blessing

Jacob Marries Rachel

Teacher Pep Talk: Jacob, escaping from the wrath of his older brother, Esau, traveled to the home of his mother's relatives. There Jacob, the trickster, who had gotten both Esau's blessing and his birthright, would meet an even bigger trickster; his uncle, Laban. The deceiver would soon find himself deceived! Desiring to marry Rachel, Jacob worked for Laban for 7 years. But after the wedding he realized he had been given Leah, her older sister, in marriage. In order to marry Rachel, whom he loved, Jacob would work another 7 years!

You will need: Bible
A chart showing all 12 of Jacob's sons' names

Major Points: Jacob Ran Away to His Uncle's House
Jacob Worked for His Uncle for 7 Years to Marry Rachel
Laban Tricked Jacob into Marrying Leah First
Jacob Worked another 7 Years for Rachel, Whom He Loved
Jacob had 12 Sons

Scripture Ref: Genesis 29:1-28, and Genesis 35:23-26

Memory Verse: Genesis 29:18 *Jacob was in love with Rachel...*

Lesson: **Jacob Ran Away to His Uncle's House**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap. Also have the chart showing all 12 of Jacob's sons' names.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available – See series lessons instructions.]*
- Jacob and Esau were brothers. Do you have a brother or sister? Do you ever get mad at them? *(Wait for answers.)*
- Jacob had bought Esau's birthright for a bowl of soup. And he had tricked his father, Isaac, into giving him Esau's blessing.
- Esau got mad, and Jacob got moving!
- Jacob ran away to his mother's old home.
- There he met his uncle, Laban, and his two daughters: Leah and Rachel. Rachel was very beautiful.
- Jacob fell in love with Laban's younger daughter, Rachel.

Jacob Worked for his Uncle Laban for 7 Years

- Jacob lived and worked with his uncle's family for a while.
- His uncle wanted to pay him. But what wages did he want?
- Jacob wanted to marry Rachel!
- He offered to work for Laban for 7 years to marry Rachel
- Laban agreed. And Jacob worked for him for 7 years.

Laban Tricked Jacob into Marrying Leah First

- The Bible says that the seven years seemed like just a few days to Jacob because he loved Rachel so much! Isn't that sweet?
- Finally the day of the wedding came! Everyone was very excited, especially Jacob, who had been waiting for 7 years!
- But Laban TRICKED Jacob. Laban traded Leah for Rachel!
- In the morning, after the wedding, Jacob realized he had married Leah instead!
- (Leah was not as beautiful as Rachel and she had weak eyes)
- Jacob was very upset. He went to talk to Laban.
- "What have you done to me? This isn't what we agreed!"
- Laban told him that it wasn't their custom to marry the younger daughter before the older one.
- Jacob (the trickster) had been tricked himself!

Jacob Worked another 7 Years for Rachel, Whom He Loved

- *(Back then people sometimes had more than one wife.)*
- Laban told Jacob that he could marry Rachel too, if he would agree to work for him for another 7 years.
- Jacob agreed because he loved Rachel so much
- So after spending his "honeymoon" (about a week) with Leah, Jacob was allowed to marry Rachel, too
- Then Jacob worked for Laban another 7 years!
- Let's count up how many years that was! First he worked for 7 years *(ask one child to hold up seven fingers)* and then he worked another 7 years *(another child holds up 7 fingers)*.
- $7 + 7 = 14!$ Jacob worked for 14 years to marry Rachel!

Jacob had 12 Sons

- During their lives, Jacob and his wives had many sons. Guess how many? *(Wait for answers.)* Jacob had 12 sons!
- *[Show the chart of the 12 sons names]*
- They had different sounding names back then. Let's try and read some of them together. *(Let the children point to some of the names on the chart that look easy to read. Let them volunteer to read some of them. Read the other ones to them.)*
- Of all these 12 sons, Rachel only had two. They were Joseph (her oldest son) and Benjamin (who was the youngest of all)
- We will hear about Rachel's oldest son, Joseph, next time!
- God was with Jacob and watched over him.
- Later, God would change Jacob's name to Israel.
- From Jacob's 12 sons would come the 12 tribes of the great nation that God had promised to make of Abraham
- God always keeps His promises!

Let's pray and thank God for keeping His promises!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you always keep your promises.
Thank you for being with Jacob and for watching over him.
Thank you for being with us and for watching over us!
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: (Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)

Chart of Jacob's Sons' Names – A chart of Jacob's sons' names is attached at the end of this lesson. It may help you in creating your own chart, or in writing the names on the board. For older children you may want to color code the names to reflect who their mother was. *For your reference, the sons' names are listed in Genesis 35:23-26.*

Match the Name – *The children will help match the names of Jacob's sons.*

Before Class: Make two copies of the chart of Jacob's sons' names. Color them to match each other. Attach one chart to a piece of poster board. Cut up the other chart; making pieces that have one son's name on each piece.

During Class: Make a game of taking the puzzle pieces and matching them to the names on the original chart. Consider using Sticky Tack on the backs of the pieces so that they will stay on and so that you can easily remove them and play again. Older children can try and say the names as they stick on the pieces each time.

Playing Favorites – *The children will discuss how it is best NOT to play favorites.*

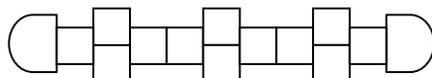
Before Class: Bring your favorite stuffed animal or doll to class.

During Class: Bring out the stuffed animal or doll. Explain that this is your FAVORITE stuffed animal or doll. Tell the children why it is your favorite. Explain that it is ok to have a favorite stuffed animal or doll, but it is never a good idea to have favorites when it comes to children. Jacob had 12 sons, but he loved Joseph more than the rest of them. Joseph was his favorite son, because he was Rachel's oldest son. It's not a good idea to play favorites, but in Joseph's case it had tragic consequences. We will hear more about Joseph in the next lesson.

Hopscotch to Twelve – The children will play hopscotch and count to 12.

Before Class: On the floor or carpet, use chalk or masking tape to mark off a hopscotch area. (You may want to provide a bean bag or an eraser to throw.)

During Class: Play "hopscotch", counting up to 12 (instead of the traditional 10). Throw the bean bag onto the "next" number and jump up to it. Pick up the bean bag and return. For faster play, do not use the bean bag. Simply stand at one end and hop all the way to the other end, saying the numbers as you hop. Then the next person goes.



Paper Doll Chain – *The children will learn to make and cut out paper doll chains.*

Before Class: Read the instruction sheet for Paper Doll Chains. Practice making and cutting out paper dolls on your own, until you are proficient enough to teach others how to do it. Review **Scissor Safety**. Provide paper and scissors. Consider cutting the paper into strips lengthwise before class. Each child will need 3 strips.

During Class: Show the children how to fold the strips to make packets of paper. Allow them to draw their own stick figures, or help them do so. Be sure the hands/arms go all the way to the edge of the paper packet. Supervise the cutting out of the stick figures. Carefully open the packets to reveal the paper doll chains. Display in the classroom!

Jacob Had 12 Sons – *The children will practice writing their numbers up to 12.*

Before Class: Make a copy of the activity sheet for each child in class. Provide pencils, and optionally crayons as well. Have a list of Jacob's sons' names available.

During Class: Explain that Jacob had 12 sons. That's a lot of sons! We'd better count them to see if they are all there! Ask the children to count the stick figures on the paper. Allow them to write numbers (up to 12) on the page; one near each stick figure. They may want to draw faces on the stick figures as well, or draw clothes and decorate the figures in some way.

Have some fun asking the children questions like:

Which one would you choose to be Joseph?

Which one would you pick to be Benjamin?

(Of course, there are no "right" answers... just which one they would choose.)

OPTION: Older children might choose to write the names of the sons on the paper.

Snack Idea for Today

12 of anything... (I vote for Cheez-Its or M & M's... oh... or those little bitty marshmallow things... I love those... but maybe not 12 of those... You decide!)

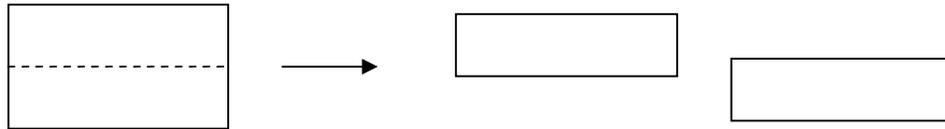
Jacob's Sons/ Israel's Sons:

| |
|----------|
| Reuben |
| Simeon |
| Levi |
| Judah |
| Issachar |
| Zebulon |
| |
| Dan |
| Naphtali |
| |
| Gad |
| Asher |
| |
| Joseph |
| Benjamin |

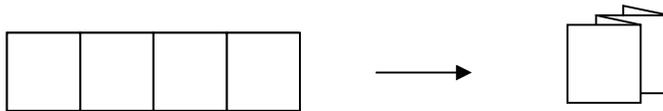
How to Make a Paper Doll Chain

Jacob had 12 sons. Your class can learn to cut out paper doll chains to represent all of Jacob's sons. Each chain will have 4 men, so you will each need 3 chains to make 12.

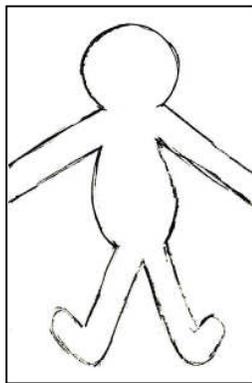
- 1) Take a sheet of paper (8 ½ x 11 inches) and cut it in half lengthwise, leaving 2 strips.



- 2) Fold each strip into 4 parts, accordion style, forming a packet of paper.

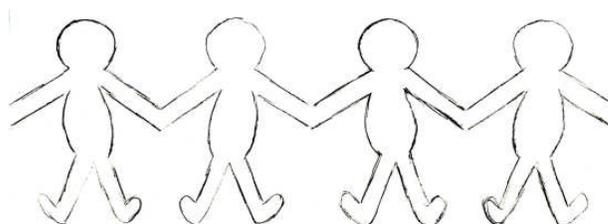


- 3) On the top of each packet of paper draw your own stick figure man.
(You may copy this cute little guy... if you like.)

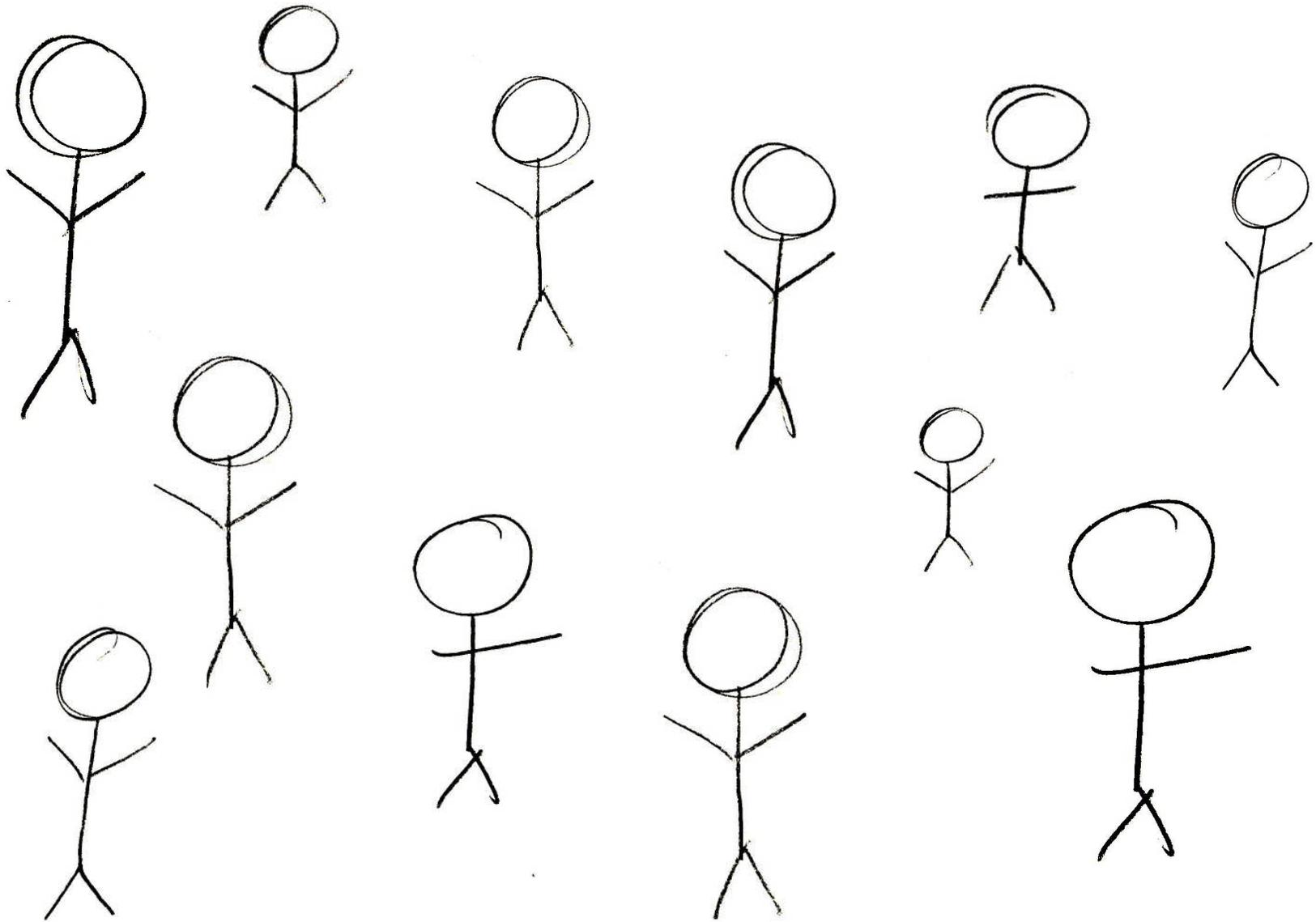


- 4) Carefully cut out the stick figure with scissors. (Cut through the whole packet.)

- 5) Gently unfold the packet of paper to reveal your paper doll chain.



Jacob Had 12 Sons. Can you count them? As you count them, write a number (1 to 12) next to each one. Are they all here? Which one would you choose to be Joseph? Which one would you pick to be Benjamin?



Jacob is Renamed Israel

Teacher Pep Talk: When momentous spiritual changes happen in the Bible, God often renames the individual involved. (Abram became Abraham, Simon became Peter, Saul became Paul, and Jacob became Israel.)

God told Jacob, “Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.” But doing so meant that Jacob had to face his brother, Esau, again; whom he had tricked and from whose anger he had fled. Jacob obeyed; but the night before he was to meet Esau, the Bible says that Jacob “wrestled” with God. Jacob, who had been the trickster, had no tricks up his sleeve this time. He had to face Esau in the morning and take whatever came.

God renamed this man of faith, who obeyed God solely on His promise that He would be with him. God changed his name from Jacob (the trickster) to Israel (He who struggles with God.)

You will need: Bible
A chart showing all 12 of Jacob’s sons’ names

Major Points: God Told Jacob to Return Home
Jacob had to Face Esau Again
Jacob was Worried, But He Obeyed God
Jacob Wrestled “with God and Man” and Overcame
Jacob got a New Name: Israel

Scripture Ref: Genesis 31-33

Memory Verse: Genesis 31:3 “**Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.**”

Lesson: **Introduction**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap. Also have the chart showing all 12 of Jacob’s sons’ names.]*
- Have you ever been to a family reunion? Ever had your whole family get together for something? (Maybe a wedding or a party)
- Usually getting your whole family together is a great thing and you have a lot of fun...
- Our story today tells of a family reunion when the people in it weren’t so sure if it would be fun or not!

God Told Jacob to Return Home

- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available – See series lessons instructions.]*

- Jacob had run away from his home when Esau was so mad at him.
- He had gone to live with his Uncle Laban.
- While he was there he married Leah and Rachel and they had many sons. (*Show Chart of Jacob's Sons' Names*)
- (*NOTE: They had already had 11 of their 12 sons! Everyone but Benjamin had already been born. He was born later.*)
- God told Jacob that it was time for him to go back home
- God said “Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.”

Jacob had to Face Esau Again

- But you know what that meant!
- It meant that Jacob had to face Esau again!
- Uh oh... Jacob had run away from Esau.
- Esau had been very angry with Jacob!
 - Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup
 - Jacob tricked Esau out of his blessing
- It had been a lot of years... but Jacob figured that Esau might be really angry!

Jacob was Worried, but He Obeyed God

- Jacob was really worried!
- How would you feel if you had to go and talk to someone who had been really mad at you? (*Wait for answers. Take some time here. Explore the question with the children and let them talk about any similar fears or concerns from the past.*)
- Yes, meeting up with someone who has been upset with you can cause you to worry
- But Jacob knew that God had told him to go back, and so he made plans to return to the land of his fathers
- Jacob knew that God had promised to be with him, and to bless him...
- Jacob knew that God always keeps His promises!

Jacob Wrestled “with God and Man” and Overcame

- So Jacob and his family started back home
- Jacob sent messengers and lots of presents ahead to Esau
- But as they all got closer to home, Jacob got worried again!
- The night before he was to meet Esau, he sent all of his family and possessions across the river ahead of him
- Then Jacob was left alone in the night and he wrestled with God
- The Bible says, “..a man wrestled with him until daybreak.” (*NOTE: This is quite likely a theophany; an appearance of Christ as a man, before He came as a baby in Bethlehem.*)

Jacob got a New Name: Israel

- As morning came, the man told Jacob to release him
- Jacob said he would not let him go unless he blessed him
- The man asked Jacob his name. What do you think Jacob said? Yes! He said his name was Jacob!
- Then the man said *“Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.”*
- Israel means “he struggles with God”

[You may omit this part of the story with younger children]

- Then Jacob/Israel asked the man “Please tell me your name.”
- What do you think the man said? *(Wait for answers.)*
- The man said... *“Why do you ask me my name?”* And then he blessed him there.
- Why would the man say something like that? *(I think because Jacob/Israel already KNEW who it was!)*
- Jacob/Israel had been struggling with **God** all night.
- In fact, Jacob/Israel named the place Peniel, which means “face of God”, because he said that he had seen God face to face and lived to tell about it... (His life had been spared.)

God was with Israel

- Jacob (now called Israel) went across the river and met his brother Esau again
- And, you know what... Esau was glad to see him!!
- God kept His promise to be with Jacob and to bless him!
- God always keeps His promises!

Let's pray and thank God for always keeping His promises to be with us!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you always keep your promises!
Thank you that you were with Jacob.
Thank you that you are with us!
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)*

Jacob Gets a New Name! – *The children will learn Jacob's new name: Israel.*

Before Class: Make copies of the activity sheet. Provide crayons, yarn, and tape.

During Class: Color in the letters of Jacob's new and old names. Fold the paper in half and tape the edges. Tape a loop of yarn at the top; creating a way to hang it up.

Wrestle Mania! – *The children will have lots of fun arm wrestling a visiting superhero.*

Before Class: Obtain a special outfit to wear in class. This can be for you, or another adult volunteer. Consider various “hero” or “wrestling” outfits. (Ex: Spiderman, Batman, Incredible Hulk, etc.) **OPTION:** Bring towels and clothespins to make capes for the children. You can bring masks too, if you like (*to protect their secret identity.*)

During Class: Wear your costume during the whole class, if you like, or change into it after the lesson. Alternatively, invite your adult volunteer, who will wear the costume, to join you after the lesson is over. Make up a pretend superhero, if you like.

Ask the children:

So...What do you think? Who would win?

Moose vs. Lion?

Batman vs. Spiderman?

Superman vs. the Incredible Hulk?

Sometimes we wonder if two superheroes wrestled each other, who would win.

Today we have a chance to do some arm wrestling with a superhero!

Let's see who wins!

Set up a low table where the children can take turns arm wrestling with the superhero. Make sure the superhero lets the Little Guys win now and then. Be careful not to let anyone get hurt! (Especially the superhero! 😊)

Let the children use the towels and clothespins as capes if they like. If you have masks, let them wear those as well. It's fun to stay dressed up during snack time, too!

You will need to supervise the children carefully so that they don't end up wrestling with each other. Let them use their superpowers for good for while around the classroom. Ask them not to be pouncing on each other, etc. **Serve snacks fairly quickly.** If/when things get too rowdy, explain that it's time to take off the superhero capes and masks.

Memorize the Bible Verse – *The children will memorize Genesis 31:3*

Before Class: Familiarize yourself with the Memory Verse: “Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.” Shorten the verse as necessary for the age group of children. 4-5 year olds: *Go back... and I will be with you.* 6 year olds: *Go back to the land of your fathers... and I will be with you.* 7 year olds: *entire verse*

During Class: Go over the verse with the children. Remind them that this was God talking to Jacob. Even though Jacob knew what God wanted him to do, he was afraid of Esau and what Esau might do. Jacob obeyed God, even though he wrestled with fear. God kept His promise and was with Jacob. God also blessed Jacob.

To practice the verse: Have Group 1 stand on one side of the room, and Group 2 stand on the other side. Group 1 walks across the room and Group 2 says “Go back!” Group 1 stops and goes back to their original side, and Group 2 says “And I will be with you!” Then Group 2 hurries to join Group 1 on their side. Switch teams and play again.

J
A
C
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B

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L

Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors

Teacher Pep Talk: Joseph was called a “dreamer” by his brothers. But are you really a “dreamer” just because God chooses to speak to you in a dream? Joseph’s brothers hated him, to the point that some of them wanted him dead: Jacob was their father’s favorite and he had a fancy coat of many colors to prove it. In addition, he had dreams which predicted that all of his brothers, and even his mother and father, would one day bow down to him. *(No wonder they hated him! 😊)*

‘Push came to shove’ as they say one day when they found him out away from the house and all alone. If it hadn’t been for a passing caravan, some of Joseph’s brothers would have left him to die in a hole. But what they intended for evil, God meant for good. Joseph, (as we will discover in our next few lessons) would become ruler over all Egypt, under Pharaoh. And he would save the lives of his whole family, and preserve the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; through which God would one day bring the Messiah (Jesus!)

You will need: Bible
A chart showing all 12 of Jacob’s sons’ names

Major Points: Jacob’s Favorite Son was Joseph
Joseph’s Brothers were Jealous of Him
God Talked to Joseph in Dreams
They Sold Him into Slavery in Egypt
Jacob Believed that Joseph had Died
God was with Joseph in Egypt (God Meant it for Good)

Scripture Ref: Genesis 37 and Genesis 39:1-6

Memory Verse: Genesis 39:2 *The LORD was with Joseph...*

Lesson: **Jacob’s Favorite Son was Joseph**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap. Also have the chart showing all 12 of Jacob’s sons’ names.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available – See series lessons instructions.]*
- Jacob had 12 sons. Here are their names. *(Show chart.)*
- Two of these sons were born in his old age (and of his beloved wife, Rachel). They were Joseph and Benjamin.
- Of all Jacob’s sons, Joseph (Rachel’s oldest) was his favorite.
- Wow. What do you think of that? When you are a parent, is it a good idea to have a favorite child? *(Probably not!)*
- Let’s remember that, no matter what, God loves each of us!

Jacob gave Joseph a Coat of Many Colors

- Jacob (their dad) loved Joseph so much that he had a special coat made just for him.
- It had lots and lots of pretty colors in it, which meant it was hard to make and probably very expensive.
- Wow! What do you think? Is it a good idea for a dad to give his special favorite kid a special favorite gift? That's tricky, isn't it? How do you think all of Joseph's brothers felt about that? (*Wait for answers. Answers might include: Angry. Jealous. Sad.*)

Joseph's Brothers were Jealous of Him

- Joseph's brothers (as you might imagine) were jealous of him!
- The Bible tells us that they even began to hate him!
- (*Uh oh! That's really bad! But wait... it gets worse...!*)

God Talked to Joseph in Dreams

- Joseph began to have dreams
- God was sending him dreams about the future.
- Joseph told his parents (and his brothers) about his dreams
- The dreams said that one day all of Joseph's brothers, and even his mother and father, would bow down to him and honor him!
- Now, how do you think Joseph's brothers felt? (*Wait for answers.*) Right! Now they were madder than ever at Joseph!
- The Bible says that they began to hate him even more!

They Sold Him into Slavery in Egypt

- When Joseph was about 17, his dad sent him to check on his brothers, who were far away taking care of the family sheep
- His brothers saw him coming down the road!
- They made a plan to kill him!
- They grabbed him, took off his pretty coat of many colors, and threw him into an empty cistern (*a deep hole with no water*)
- They were going to leave him there to die, but...
- Just then a caravan of merchants came by on their way to Egypt
- Joseph's brothers decided not to kill him, but to sell him into slavery in Egypt. So they sold him to the merchants in the caravan for ½ a pound of silver! (*In today's market, about \$280.*)
- Most of Joseph's brothers were really glad he was gone! "Now we'll see what comes of his dreaming" they said.
- But WHAT were they going to tell their father?

Jacob Believed that Joseph had Died

- The brothers took Joseph's coat of many colors and tore it
- Then they poured goat blood on the coat
- THEN they took the coat back home to their father, Jacob

- And THEN... they told their father, Jacob, that they had FOUND this coat and asked him to look at it to SEE if it was Joseph's Coat of Many Colors (*when, of course, they KNEW it was!*)
- Jacob, faced with this lie of a torn coat with goat blood on it, thought that his son Joseph must have met up with a wild animal on the road and been killed.
- Jacob was very, very sad. He cried for Joseph, his son, because he thought he was dead.

God was with Joseph in Egypt (God Meant it for Good)

- Meanwhile, back at the caravan... Joseph was being carried off to Egypt by the merchants who had bought him
- I wonder how Joseph must have felt. What do you think? (*Wait for answers.*) Maybe he felt sad, or angry, or even scared.
- But then... something wonderful happened. Even though Joseph had been betrayed by his brothers, and sold into slavery... Even though he was on his way to a foreign country, where he had never been before... Even though all of these bad things had happened... **God was with Joseph.**
- God (the One who had given Joseph all those dreams about the future) had not left Joseph.
- God was with Joseph... even though Joseph got hauled off to Egypt... and even though he got sold as a slave...
- The Bible says that God was with Joseph in Egypt and gave him success in everything he did!
- Later on we will learn that (even though Joseph's brothers meant all of this for evil) **God meant it all for good**
- Because through all of this, God would end up saving many people's lives (including the lives of all of Joseph's family – even his brothers!)

Let's pray and thank God that He can work through even the bad things in our lives to bring about good.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you can bring about good in our lives.
Thank you that you were with Joseph.
Thank you that you are with us!
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: (Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)

Joseph's Coat of Many Colors – *The children will color the Coat of Many Colors*

NOTE: This is one of my very favorite activities. I have seen some very colorful coats produced in class. I have always had the children use crayons, which work very well... but you might try watercolors! Be sure to display the pictures for a while. Have fun!

Before Class: Provide copies of the Coat of Many Colors activity page for the children in class. Provide a variety of crayons or markers. You may choose to use watercolors.

During Class: Hand out the activity sheets to the children. Explain that Joseph's Coat of Many Colors needs some color... Ask the children to use their markers, crayons or watercolors to make Joseph's Coat as colorful as possible. Display these in class or send home with the children.

Meanwhile Back at the Well – *The children will act out the parts of the Bible Story.*

Before Class: Bring items to class to help the children act out the parts of the Bible Story you heard today. You will need some "plain" outfits for the brothers and at least one "fancy" outfit for Joseph. Large pieces of fabric work well to drape across shoulders for robes. You may also use things like towels, pillowcases, or even sheets. Create an empty "well" by turning a card table upside down (with its legs up in the air). You can put paper (or a sheet) around the legs to make it seem more like a well. You will also need a small sack of silver coins (such as quarters, dimes or nickels) to pay for Joseph.

During Class: Retell the story of Joseph and his Coat of Many Colors. Read back through the lesson, if you like, or retell it in your own words. Allow the children to dress up as the different parts. Allow them to do different parts each time you do the skit.

Memorize the Bible Verse – *The children will learn today's Memory Verse.*

Before Class: Familiarize yourself with the memory verse. Genesis 39:2-3 **The LORD was with Joseph...** and gave him success in everything he did.

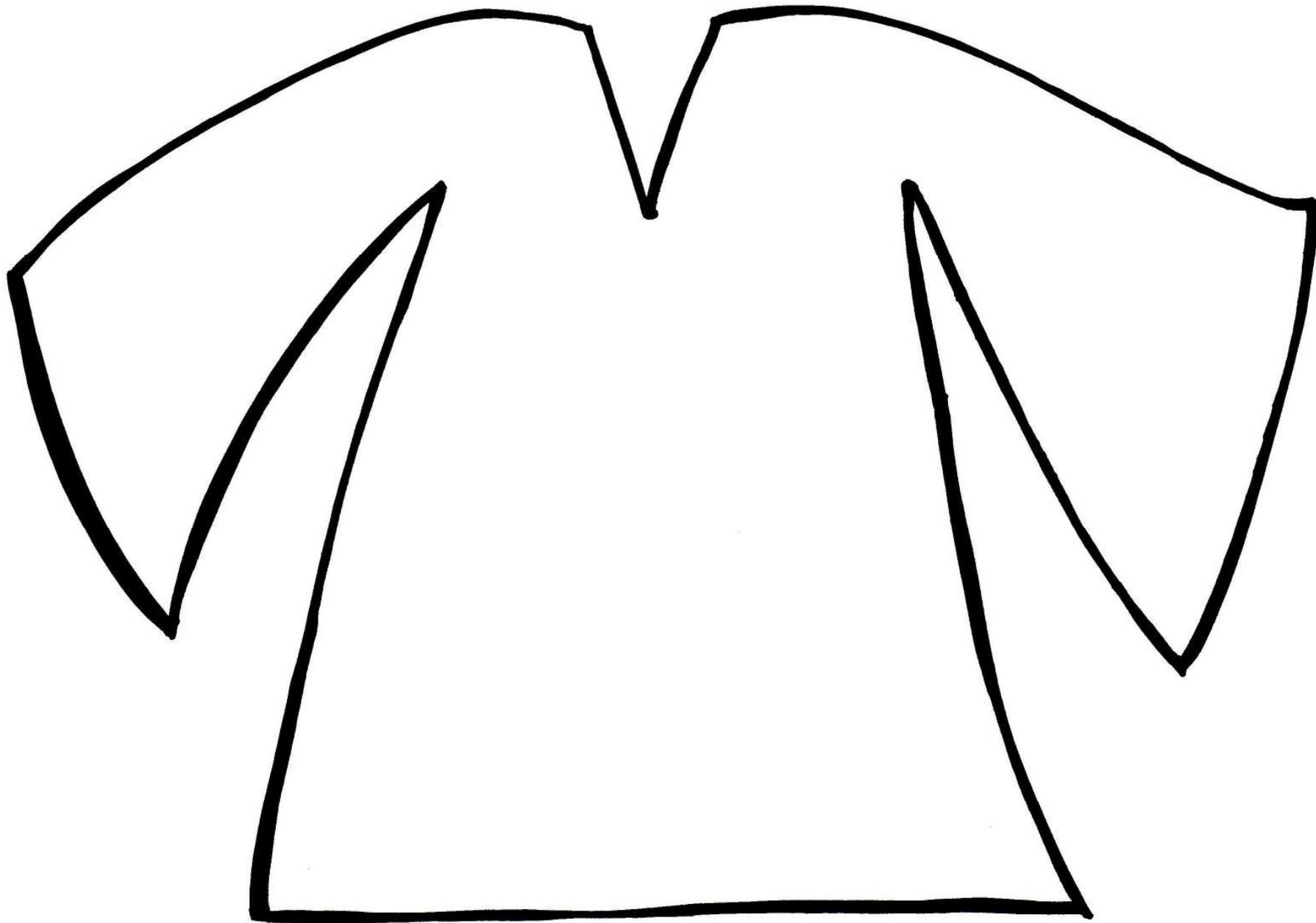
During Class: For younger children, help them learn the first part of the verse "The LORD was with Joseph." Older children may want to learn the entire verse.

Explain that even though Joseph was in Egypt, God was with him. God didn't abandon Joseph! And, even though it seemed like some pretty bad things had happened to him, God meant all of it for good! God had a plan to help Joseph and his whole family, and to save many lives! *We will learn more about that in the next few lessons.*

To help with memorization, say the first two words (The LORD...) and have the children repeat the next words back to you (...was with Joseph.) Practice saying Joseph's name

Say: The LORD... (Point to the sky)
Was with Joseph (Clasp your hands together)

And gave him success... (Shake your clasped hands together in front of you)
In everything he did. (Continue shaking your hands together overhead)



Joseph in Egypt

Teacher Pep Talk: Joseph's brothers had seen their chance to get rid of him and they did. They sold him into slavery in Egypt. But the LORD was with Joseph in Egypt and gave him success in everything he did. When sold to the captain of Pharaoh's guard, Joseph got put in charge of his household. When wrongly accused and incarcerated, he got put in charge of the jail. When brought before Pharaoh to interpret a dream, he got put in charge of all Egypt. God was definitely with Joseph, and He meant all of this for good and to save many lives.

During our day to day lives, bad things happen; but that doesn't mean that God has abandoned us! We need to remember that we are to do our best and to obey and serve God, no matter what!

You will need: Bible

Major Points: Joseph was Sold into Slavery in Egypt
God was with Joseph in Egypt
God Gave Joseph Success in Everything He Did
Joseph Interpreted Dreams
Joseph was Put in Charge of All Egypt
God Meant it All for Good

Scripture Ref: Genesis, Chapters 39-41

Memory Verse: Genesis 39:2-3 ...**the LORD was with Joseph** ...and gave him success in everything he did.

Lesson: **Joseph was Sold into Slavery in Egypt**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available – See series lessons instructions.]*
- Joseph's brothers had sold him into slavery in Egypt
- Poor Joseph. He hadn't done anything wrong! How do you think he might have been feeling? *(Wait for answers. Answers might include: angry, sad, or scared)*
- That's right; he probably felt all those things! And I wonder if he felt a little sorry for himself. After all, he hadn't done anything wrong! He wasn't a slave! His brothers had betrayed him!
- Sometimes when I feel sorry for myself, I want to get back at the people who have hurt me. If they aren't around, I might just be mean and grumpy to the people who are with me.
- Have you ever felt that way? I wonder if Joseph felt that way.

God was with Joseph in Egypt

- But if Joseph felt that way, he sure didn't act that way.
- Joseph didn't try and get back at those around him.
- He always did the best he could, all the time.
- He worked hard and tried to obey God.
- Because, you see, Joseph knew something... He knew that the God of his fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) was everywhere, all the time. And Joseph was going to serve Him!
- The Bible tells us that God was with Joseph in Egypt

God Gave Joseph Success in Everything He Did

- Not only was God with Joseph, but God also gave him success in everything that he did.
- Even though Joseph had been wrongfully sold as a slave, he always did the best that he could.
 - Joseph served his master well
 - Joseph chose to be very honest
 - Joseph behaved himself very nicely
- And God gave Joseph success in everything he did
- People began to notice! They put Joseph in charge of things!
 - His master put him in charge of his house
 - And it was probably a really big house!
- Unfortunately, Joseph was wrongly accused of a crime and was put into jail. (Once again, he hadn't done anything wrong!)
- He could have felt sorry for himself and quit trying to do what was right. But he didn't! He kept on doing the best he could!
- And, even in the jail, God was with Joseph and gave him success in everything he did
 - The jailor put him in charge of the jail!
 - Joseph was in charge of all of the prisoners!
 - (I wonder if he had a key!) ☺

Joseph Interpreted Dreams

- While he was in prison, two of Pharaoh's servants (*the king of Egypt was called the Pharaoh*), were there
- Each one of them had a dream that disturbed them, but they didn't know what the dream meant
- Joseph knew about dreams. God had told him about the future in some dreams, when he was younger and at home
- Joseph interpreted the dreams for the men (*interpreted means to tell you what they mean*)
- It was good news for one servant, and bad news for the other
- One servant got to go back to work in Pharaoh's court! Joseph asked him to talk to Pharaoh about him, and get him out of jail.
- But the servant went back to Pharaoh's court, and forgot Joseph

Joseph was Put in Charge of All Egypt

- Joseph could have been really angry that the servant forgot to tell Pharaoh about him. He could have quit trying to do good things. But he just kept on doing his best in every situation.
- Later on, Pharaoh had a dream that disturbed him. Now the servant remembered how Joseph had helped him!
- Pharaoh had Joseph come and interpret his dream
- Joseph told Pharaoh what his dream meant
 - There were to be 7 years of plenty (lots of food)
 - Then there would be 7 years of famine (no food)
- Pharaoh was so impressed that he thanked Joseph and put Joseph in charge of all Egypt!
 - Joseph was put in charge of everything under Pharaoh
 - He was to tell all the people what to do
 - They would store up the extra food for 7 years
 - And eat the food during the 7 years of famine

God Meant it All for Good

- Joseph could have felt really sorry for himself because of all of the bad things that had happened to him
 - Sold into slavery
 - Wrongly accused of a crime
 - Thrown into jail
 - Forgotten by the servant and left in jail
- But through it all, Joseph kept trying to do his best and to do what was right
- God was with Joseph in Egypt and gave him success in everything that he did
- In the end, Joseph (who had started as a slave and then been thrown in prison) was put in charge of everything in Egypt
- God meant all the things that had happened for good
 - People of Egypt would have food during the famine
 - Joseph's own family would be saved as well
 - And God would be able to preserve the family line of the coming Messiah, Jesus!
- God was keeping His promises!

Let's pray and thank God for being with us, even when bad things happen.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you were with Joseph in Egypt.
Thank you that you are with us, even when bad things happen.
Help us to always try and do what is right.
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)*

Review the Timeline – *The children will review the Timeline in the classroom.*

Before Class: Update the Timeline in your classroom. See Series Lessons Instructions for directions for making a Timeline.

During Class: Refer to the Timeline and discuss some of the events with the children. Remind them that we start on the left, with the beginning (Creation) and work our way down the Timeline, to the right, as time goes on. Read some of the names of the various persons you have studied in this series of lessons. Talk about some of your favorite stories. Look at the papers (completed activity sheets) that denote each story. Remind the children that these are real stories of things that really happened. Tell the children that we exist way down the Timeline, these things just happened long ago.

What Do You Do Well? – *The children will play Charades, showing things they do well.*

Before Class: Consider some of the things you class members do well. Write some of them down on a piece of paper for your reference during class, in case you need them.

During Class: Tell the children that you are going to play a game. Let them know that you **know** that each of them does many things well. Give some general examples: perhaps you sweep the floor well; maybe you paint very well, or sing very well. Perhaps you like to read, or play sports, etc. Ask them to think of something that they do very well. Ask volunteers to come up in front of the group and act out what they do well. (But no talking or making any noises!) Can the group guess what the child is acting out? Play until most or all of the children have had a turn. Encourage everyone to always do their best!

Memorize the Bible Verse – *The children will learn the Memory Verse. (This may be a review, since this is the same verse from Lesson 11.)*

Before Class: Familiarize yourself with the memory verse. Genesis 39:2-3 **The LORD was with Joseph...** and gave him success in everything he did.

During Class: For younger children, help them learn the first part of the verse “The LORD was with Joseph.” Older children may want to learn the entire verse.

Explain that even though Joseph was in Egypt, God was with him. God didn’t abandon Joseph! And, even though it seemed like some pretty bad things had happened to him, God meant all of it for good! God had a plan to help Joseph and his whole family, and to save many lives! *We will learn more about that in the next few lessons.*

To help with memorization, say the first two words (The LORD...) and have the children repeat the next words back to you (...was with Joseph.) Practice saying Joseph’s name

Say: The LORD... (Point to the sky)
Was with Joseph (Clasp your hands together)

And gave him success... (Shake your clasped hands together in front of you)
In everything he did. (Continue shaking your hands together overhead)

Jack of all Trades – *The children will learn about different types of jobs.*

Before Class: Find a book about (or obtain photos of) people who do different types of jobs. Be sure to include pictures of some professions that the children will recognize: fireman, doctor, minister, teacher, grocery clerk, etc.

During Class: Share the book (or the photos) with the children. Ask them to say what they think the person in the photo does for a job. Think through the various ideas with them. Perhaps some of them will tell what they'd like to be when they grow up. Discuss that all jobs are important, and that it's always important to try and do your best.

Picture This – *The children will cut out pictures of people and glue them on to paper.*

Before Class: Obtain magazines, or cut out pictures of people doing various work or hobbies. Provide large sheets of paper, scissors, and glue. (Glue sticks work best!)

NOTE: *Be sure to bring magazines with appropriate content for Little Guys!*

During Class: Allow the children to go through the magazines and find pictures of people doing work/jobs or hobbies. Pictures of children playing count too, because play is the “work” of children; they are learning when they play. Ask the children to tear out or cut out the pictures and paste them on the paper provided. You could write “Always Do Your Best!” on the top of the paper. Alternatively, use the provided Activity Sheet.

What about Joseph? – *Older children will discuss why Joseph always tried to do good.*

Before Class: Familiarize yourself with Colossians 3:23 quoted below.

During Class: Sit with the children and discuss these questions:

In our story, even though bad things happened, Joseph tried to do his best all the time.

Why do you think he did that?

Do you think you could do your best, if bad things were happening to you?

Does God want us to do good all the time?

Tell the children:

In a different part of the Bible, written a long time after Joseph lived, it says...

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...

Colossians 3:23

This means that, no matter what our job is, as believers in Jesus, we are to work at it with all of our heart. We are to work at it as if we are working for Jesus Himself, not as if we are working for just other people.

If we were to work like we were working for Jesus, do you think we might work harder?

What kinds of things do you work at? (school, chores, homework)

(Give the children examples of things that you work at as an adult, as well.)

Sometimes it can be difficult to work at these things. Perhaps if we remember that we are to work like we are working for Jesus, we would try and be happier about our jobs, or maybe we would just try and do better. *(I know I would!)*

Sing “This is the Day” – *Easy to teach and fun to sing!*

This is the day,
This is the day,
That the LORD has made,
That the LORD has made.

I will rejoice,
I will rejoice,
And be glad in it
And be glad in it.

This is the day that the LORD has made!
I will rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day,
This is the day,
That the LORD has made!

NOTE: This is a very good marching around song! Clap your hands as you march around! If you have access to bells, or other small music makers, consider allowing the children to shake (or bang) them to keep time to the song as they march around. Remember, the Bible says *“Make a joyful NOISE unto the LORD!”* Psalm 100:1 ☺

Play Wiggle Waters – *The children will play a “wiggly” game!*

Before Class: Gather together some fun fast paced songs and something on which to play them. Bring it all to class.

During Class: Begin the game with you turning the music on and off. When the music is on, the children wiggle and move to the music. When the music stops suddenly they have to stand perfectly still, just as they are. Choose the person who is the stillest! That person gets to turn the music on and off the next time. Take turns, have fun!

OPTION: Don't have any music? You can still play! Say: “1, 2, 3, Wiggle Waters.” Everyone wiggles until you say: “Still Waters.” Then choose the person who is stillest to take over your job starting and stopping the action! Take turns! Have fun!

Always Do Your Best!

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Teacher Pep Talk: Joseph hadn't seen his brothers since they sold him into slavery. He wasn't expecting them to see them on the day they showed up to buy grain. Now as ruler of all Egypt, second only to Pharaoh, Joseph looked different than he had 20 years earlier. His brothers did not recognize him. Joseph took advantage of the situation by putting them through some trials of their own over the next few months. Perhaps he was testing them to see if they had changed over the years. Finally Joseph couldn't stand it anymore. He told them, *"I am Joseph your brother...Come close to me."* His brothers were terrified, and rightly so... The "dreamer" they had sold into slavery was now ruler over Egypt, and they were at his mercy. But Joseph told them, *"Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."* God had been with Joseph in Egypt, and now God would save the lives of his whole family through him.

You will need: Bible

Major Points: Joseph was in Charge of All Egypt
Joseph's Brothers Came to Buy Grain
Joseph Recognized His Brothers/ But They Didn't Know Him
Finally Joseph Told Them Who He Was
The Brothers were Terrified
Joseph was Kind to His Brothers
God Meant it All for Good

Scripture Ref: Genesis, Chapters 41-45

Memory Verse: Genesis 45:4 *"it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."*

- Lesson: **Joseph was in Charge of All Egypt**
- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
 - *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available – See series lessons instructions.]*
 - Joseph's brothers had sold him into slavery in Egypt
 - But God was with Joseph, even in Egypt, and gave him success in everything he did
 - Eventually, the Pharaoh (the king of Egypt) put Joseph in charge of the whole country!
 - Joseph was in charge of selling all of the grain during the famine
 - They had saved up the grain during the 7 years of plenty!
 - It was Joseph's idea; that's why they put him in charge!

Joseph's Brothers Came to Buy Grain

- The famine was terrible! It wasn't just in Egypt.
- So people were coming from all over to buy grain in Egypt
 - Egypt was about the only place that had grain
 - Without grain the people and animals starved
- Joseph's father sent his brothers to Egypt to buy grain
- When they got there they had to meet with Joseph to buy grain
- Wow! What do you think will happen now? (Wait for answers.)

Joseph Recognized His Brothers/ But They Didn't Know Him

- Joseph's brothers came before him and they bowed down low
 - Just like Joseph's dream had foretold!
- When he saw them, Joseph instantly recognized his brothers
- But... Joseph's brothers did NOT recognize him. Why do you think they didn't recognize him? (Wait for answers.)
 - It had been over 20 years since they had seen him
 - He had been living with the Egyptians; so he looked and talked just like an Egyptian
 - His brothers were NOT expecting to see him there!!!

Finally Joseph Told Them Who He Was

- Joseph kept his brothers in the dark for a long time.
- Finally Joseph told his brothers who he was
- Uh oh... then what happened? I wonder... let's see...

The Brothers were Terrified

- Joseph's brothers were terrified.
- They were so scared they didn't dare move or speak!
- Why do you think they were so scared? (Wait for answers)
 - They had done terrible things to Joseph
 - They had sold him into slavery
 - They figured they were NEVER going to see him again
 - Now Joseph was a mighty ruler
 - They were at his mercy!

Joseph was Kind to His Brothers

- Joseph called his brothers over to him
- He told them not to be upset or angry with themselves for selling him as a slave in Egypt
- He told them "...because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.
- Joseph was kind to his brothers
- Joseph knew that God had sent him to Egypt!

God Meant it All for Good

- Joseph had figured it all out!
- God had sent Joseph to Egypt in order to save many lives... including the lives of all of his brothers!
- God had been with Joseph in Egypt
- God had given Joseph success in everything he had done
- Joseph had been put in charge over all Egypt!
- Now Joseph was in a position to help his family so that they wouldn't starve to death during the famine
 - Joseph moved his whole family to Egypt
 - There they would be safe
 - Joseph got to see his father, Jacob, again
 - Jacob, who thought Joseph was dead, was so happy!
- Joseph later told his brothers, that what they had meant for evil, God had meant for good!

Let's pray and thank God that He works to help us, even when things are bad.

Prayer: Dear God,
 Thank you that you work to help us, even when things are bad.
 Thank you that you were with Joseph and his family.
 Thank you that you are with us and our families!
 Thank you for loving us!
 We love you back!
 Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1 or 2 that will work with your group.)*

Draw a Picture of a Dream – *The children will choose one dream to draw or color.*

Before Class: Provide adequate paper, pencils, crayons, markers,

During Class: Distribute the paper and pencils. Ask the children to draw one of the dreams that Joseph had (Genesis 37:5-10). Say: *“For the sun, moon and star dream, it is ok not to have them bowing... that would be very hard to draw... But for the sheaves of wheat dream, see if you can make the sheaves look like they are bowing.”* Show the children how to draw a star. Have them practice by doing the activity sheet, if you like.

Sing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star – *The children will sing together.*

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, | <i>(open and close fingers)</i> |
| How I wonder what you are, | <i>(open and close fingers)</i> |
| Up above the world so high, | <i>(hold hands up high)</i> |
| Like a diamond in the sky. | <i>(wiggle fingers, and bring hands down)</i> |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Twinkle, twinkle, little star, | <i>(open and close fingers)</i> |
| How I wonder what you are. | <i>(slowly put hands in lap)</i> |

Joseph the Dreamer – *The children will review the story of Joseph's dreams.*

Before Class: Review Lesson 11 about Joseph and His Coat of Many Colors. Read the portions of the story in the Bible (Genesis 37:5-10) about Joseph's dreams of the future.

During Class: Remind the children that Joseph had two dreams that told about the future when he was living with his family. Both dreams made his brothers very angry. Either read the story of the dreams out loud from Genesis 37:5-10, or retell the story in your own words. Discuss the symbolism of the dreams with the children.

The Sheaves of Wheat Dream – In this first dream, Joseph dreams that he and his 11 brothers are out in the wheat field. Each brother has a sheaf (a stack) of wheat. Suddenly Joseph's sheaf stands up straight and his 11 brothers' sheaves bow down low to the ground to his sheaf. In this dream, the sheaves of wheat represent each brother. The symbolism is not lost on the brothers. They are angry and ask Joseph if he thinks that one day they will bow down to him. This is something they don't intend to do, but they end up doing it when they come to buy grain, and Joseph is ruler of all Egypt.

The Stars, the Sun and the Moon – In the second dream, 11 stars, as well as the sun and the moon, bow down to Joseph. In this dream the stars represent his brothers, the sun represents his father, and the moon represents his mother. The brothers are angry again, to think that they will bow down to him. And Jacob, his father, reprimands him for suggesting that Joseph's parents will one day bow down to him. But when Joseph's whole family, including his father, comes to live in Egypt, in reality they are putting themselves under his rule.

Review Timeline – *The children will review the Timeline and collect their work.*

Before Class: Determine if you will be continuing on to Series 7 (Moses) in the Just Us Little Guys curriculum. If so, then you may want to continue to use the Timeline during that series as well. *The two series were written to go together in this manner.* If you will not be continuing to Series 7, then this is the last of the lessons in this series. If you have been saving the children's work in the room or in a student notebook, then this may be the point at which you will want to send the materials home with the children.

During Class: Discuss the series of lessons with the children, review the Timeline. Let them tell you some facts about the different persons/events on the Timeline. Consider preparing a folder to take the work home in: a large piece of construction paper (11x17) folded over works well. Alternatively, use a manila folder or notebook.

Joseph's Dreams Came True – *The children will learn to draw either a 5-pointed or a 6-pointed star.*

Before Class: Provide copies of one of the Activity Sheets for the children. (*Choose either the 5 or 6 pointed star.*) Also provide pencils, markers or crayons.

During Class: Distribute copies of the activity sheet and ask the children if they know how to draw a star. Following the numbers, draw lines forming the big 5-pointed star. Make two big triangles to form the 6-pointed star. (One right side up and one upside down.) Practice a few more, by following the lines on the little stars. Who did the stars in Joseph's dreams represent? (His 11 brothers)

