



UNIT 1 | SESSION 3

# THE FIRST FAMILY

GENESIS 4

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save people from sin.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God made our wonderful world. Psalm 104:24

## **BABIES GOSPEL GEMS**

- God made families.
- Adam and Eve's family did not obey God.
- God sent Jesus because He loves us.

**BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:** Adam and Eve had a family. Their son Abel took care of sheep. Their son Cain grew food to eat. One day, Cain gave God some of his crops as a gift. Abel gave God some of his sheep. God was happy with Abel's gift, but He was not happy with Cain's. Cain was mad. God warned Cain not to make a wrong choice, but Cain hurt his brother. God punished Cain and sent him away. After Cain left, God gave Adam and Eve another son, Seth. Adam and Eve's family grew.



## LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide **handheld Bibles** for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Genesis 4. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the **key passage phrase card**. Pray for the babies.

### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“God made our wonderful world.  
God made our wonderful world.  
He made the heavens and the earth.  
He made it all so wonderful.  
God made our wonderful world.  
God made our wonderful world.”

**SAY** “Our key passage phrase says, ‘God made our wonderful world.’ Families are a part of that world! God makes families wonderful. Adam and Eve’s family did not obey God.”

### 2 SING A PEEKABOO FAMILY SONG

Place babies in leaders’ laps or in **horseshoe-shaped pillows**. Designate one leader to lead the song and sing a finger play to the tune of “Are You Sleeping (Brother John)?” Instruct the leader to begin with closed fists behind their back. “Where is mommy? Where is mommy? (Show hands and lift thumbs.) / There she is! There she is! (Wiggle thumbs.) / How are you today, ma’am? Very well, I thank you. Run away, run away.” (Move hands behind back.) Repeat with remaining fingers for daddy, brother, sister, and Jesus. If possible, allow all leaders to sing the song and do the motions one-handed with babies in their laps.

**SAY** “God sent Jesus because He loves us. God made families wonderful. He made the first family, but Adam and Eve’s family did not obey God.”

### 3 BUILD A HOME

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in **horseshoe-shaped pillows**. Provide **foam blocks** for babies to play with. Show babies how to stack the blocks to make houses. Review the gospel gems as the babies play.

**SAY** “Everyone lives somewhere, and we call that our home. Families live in homes together. God made families. Adam and Eve’s family did not obey God, but Jesus came from Adam and Eve’s family to save people from sin.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Genesis 4. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

### 2 MAKE A FAMILY CHAIN

Provide 2-inch construction paper strips. Invite toddlers to name the people in their families. Write the names on their strips (one name per strip). Show toddlers how to bend the strips as you staple the strips together to make a chain. Retell the story, counting the people in Adam and Eve's family (five). Focus on and celebrate how God makes all families different.

**SAY** “Who made families? Yes! God made families. Like Adam and Eve's family, we make wrong choices. Sin keeps us from God. God sent Jesus because He loves us and to save us from sin.”

### 3 ROLL AND MAKE CHOICES

Before the session, use a dry erase marker to write choices on a dry erase cube: 1 or 2, 2 or 3, 3 or 4, and so on (one choice set per side). Guide the toddlers to take turns rolling the cube. Read the choice set and let the toddlers choose a number. Instruct toddlers to do a specific motion that many times (1 hop, 2 claps, 3 arm circles, 4 stomps, and so on). Review the Bible story as toddlers play.

**SAY** “God gives us choices. We can choose to do what is right or wrong. Sin keeps us from God, but God sent Jesus because He loves us. Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save people from sin.”

### 4 PLAY A CLOSE AND FAR GAME

Show the toddlers a toy such as a ball or person figure. Instruct them to close their eyes while you hide the toy in the room. Ask children to find the toy. Provide guidance by saying “close” or “far” as they get closer to or farther from the toy. Rehide and replay as interest allows. Retell the Bible story, and explain how our sin keeps us from God.

**SAY** “Sin keeps us from God, but God sent Jesus because He loves us. Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save people from sin.”

### 5 CREATE A FAMILY TREE

Provide chenille stems. Show the toddlers how to twist the stems together to make a trunk and to bend the stems to make branches. Consider writing family members' names on 2-by-2-inch paper squares. Punch holes and thread squares on the stems for each family member.

**SAY** “Who made trees? God! Who made families? God! Families are like trees—they grow! Adam and Eve's family did not obey God. Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save us from sin.”

# THE FIRST FAMILY

## GENESIS 4

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save people from sin.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God made our wonderful world. Psalm 104:24

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: CRAFT PAPER PLATE FACES

Provide a paper plate for each toddler. Gather craft supplies (googly eyes, crayons, markers, and so forth) for the toddlers to draw and decorate the faces of the people in their families. Invite toddlers to show and tell about the faces they made. Review the story as toddlers work.

**SAY** “ Does God love your family? Yes! Every person in your family is loved by God. God made families, and He wants our families to know and love Jesus. Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save people from sin. ”

### 2 GIVE GIFTS

Provide heavyweight paper and watercolor paints for toddlers to make art for their families. Place painting smocks on the toddlers and show them how to dip paintbrushes into small cups of water before dipping the brushes into the paints. Set aside the art to dry. Let toddlers add mini self-adhesive bows to their art. Retell the story as toddlers paint.

**SAY** “ In our Bible story, Cain and Abel gave gifts to God. But Cain made a wrong choice. Sin keeps us from God, but God gave us the greatest gift ever. Who is the best gift ever? Yes, Jesus! Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save people from sin. ”

### 3 STAMP FAMILIES

Cut 4-inch people shapes from sponges to use as stamps. Pour a thin layer of washable paint onto paper plates. Clip spring-type clothespins onto the back each shape for toddlers to use as they paint. Provide painting smocks and help the toddlers dip the sponge shapes into the paint and then onto their papers. Encourage toddlers to stamp once for each person in their family. Keep paper towels and wipes handy for easy cleanup. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Who made families? Yes, God! God made everything, including families. Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save people from sin. ”

### 4 SHEEP ROUND-UP

Scatter cotton balls across the floor. Explain that when you say, “Go,” the toddlers should each bring you one “sheep.” Say, “Go,” and let the children gather and count the sheep. Replay as time permits. Retell the Bible story, focusing on how Abel took care of and offered God his sheep. Monitor closely so that no child puts any cotton balls in her mouth.

**SAY** “ In our story, who took care of sheep? Yes, Abel! His brother, Cain, grew food. Cain hurt Abel. Sin keeps us from God. Jesus came from Adam and Eve's family to save people from sin. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.