



Dear Family,

Talk to your child about God and His creation. Explain that long ago, except for God, there was only emptiness. God made creation out of nothing.

(Fold this strip back so your child can look at this big picture as you continue.) God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light; “Let there be water,” and there was water; and “Let there be dry ground,” and there was dry ground. All things God made were good!

(Fold this strip all the way forward so that the small picture on the back side will cover part of the big picture on the front. This will show the change in creation when God covered the dry ground with plants.)

Continue by explaining that God said the word and filled the earth with plants. These provided food and made a beautiful home for the many animals and the people that He created next. God is so good!

Read pages 21–25 in *The Story Bible* (CPH).



Week 2

God Made the World

Take an imaginary trip with your child around the world and look at the many different plants He created. Do motions for the travel suggested.

On Sunday, take a jet
To jungles lush and green;
So many vines and trees
Are waiting to be seen.

On Monday, drive a car
To grassy plains so wide.
They quiver in the breeze
And wave from side to side.

On Tuesday's camel ride
Across the desert sand,
See cactus, palms, and dunes
In this hot, arid land.

On Wednesday, sail a boat
Across the lake for fun.
See cattails near the shore,
Just growing in the sun.

On Thursday, wear your boots
As way up north we go.
We'll look for tundra grass
That lies beneath the snow.

Friday take a train trip
To forests thick with moss;
We'll see the trees so tall
And streams to jump across.

Then Saturday we'll hike
Up mountains reaching high,
View flowers pink and red
Beneath the clear, blue sky.

Our trip is over now.
That week went by so fast.
We traveled near and far,
And now we're home at last.

But wait! We can't forget!
There's something else to do:
Thank God for everything
He made for me and you.

Think about It

We know God made a perfect world. Read about it in Genesis 1. We also know that sin changed everything. But Jesus came to save us from sin. By faith in Him, we know that we will someday live in the perfect home He has prepared for us in heaven!

Bible Words

God saw that
it was good.

Genesis 1:10



Dear Family,

There are two important ideas to teach your child as you talk about the story of baby Moses. First, assure your child that God watches over us all. And God also blesses us with special people who help take care of us. For your child, it may be you as parents, other family members, babysitters, preschool teachers, or anyone else who assists in the well-being of your child. God gives us people who are a blessing to our lives.

Another key idea is that God had a good plan for that little baby Moses. Part of God's plan was that Moses would be raised in his early years to know the love of God and the traditions of the Israelite people. Another part of God's plan was that Moses would also live with his adoptive, Egyptian family. God knew this experience would help Moses in the future, teaching him the Egyptian language and culture.

God also has plans for you and for your child. We may not always understand His plans, but we can trust that He knows what is best. The Bible says, "I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Read more about the story on pages 98–100 of *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).



Week 9

Moses' Birth

Many, many years passed. Joseph and his brothers had families, and their families had families. It was not just a family anymore—it was now a whole nation with thousands of people. God had remembered His promise to Abraham. His family was huge—just like the number of stars in the sky!

Now, there was a new king, also named Pharaoh, in Egypt. The new Pharaoh was mean to the people of Israel. He made them all his prisoners and slaves. He ordered that all their baby boys be killed.

One family made a plan to save their new baby. The mother made a small, waterproof basket to hold the baby, and placed it in the river. The baby's sister, Miriam, watched from the tall river grasses growing near the riverbank. Then the mother prayed that God would watch over her child.

(*) Soon sister Miriam saw an Egyptian princess coming. Miriam was worried because the princess was the daughter of evil Pharaoh. But God was watching, and God was in control. The princess was kind to the baby and named him Moses.

Miriam bravely rushed to the princess and said her mother could help take care of the baby. Now, baby Moses was safe with his own family. His parents taught him about the love of God. After a few years, Moses went to live in the home of the princess. This was all part of God's plan to keep Moses safe and to prepare him for a much bigger plan that would help many, many people.

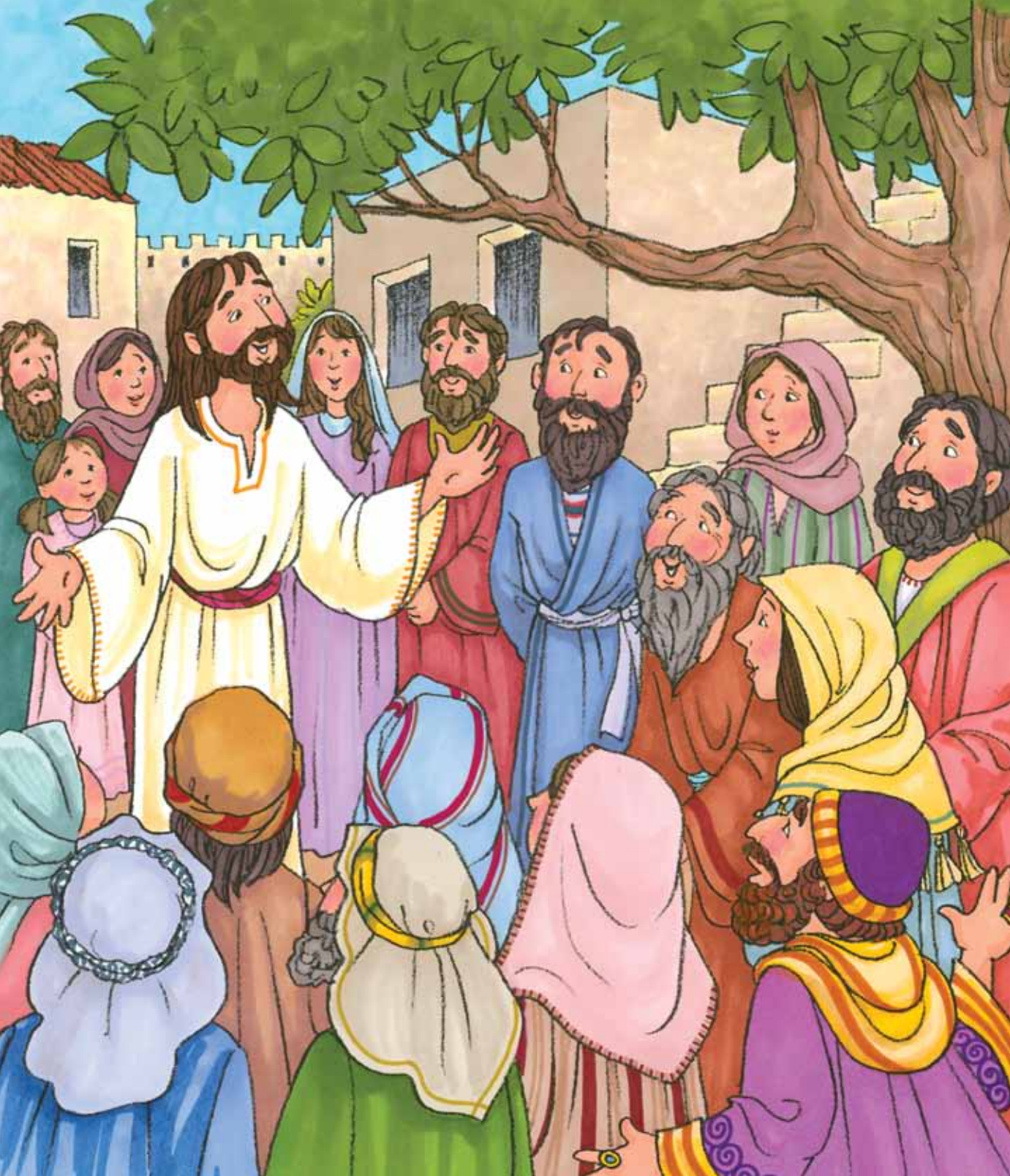
Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward. Talk about what has changed in the picture.*

Think about It

God had another plan that started with a baby—baby Jesus, who was placed in a manger. Because of Jesus, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation!

Bible Words

My times are in
Your hand.
Psalm 31:15



Dear Family,

The story of Zacchaeus teaches us about God's unconditional love. God does not tell us we have to be good enough or strong enough or brave enough before we can become His children. We are already His children through the mercy of Jesus. (Mercy is showing kindness to people in need.) God desires that we learn from Him and show unconditional love to others.

Draw a simple Zacchaeus tree by making a brown trunk and branches on a sheet of white paper. Trace your handprints on green paper and cut them out to make "leaves." Each time a family member sees another person showing love, he or she may glue a handprint leaf onto the tree. After several days, gather around the tree and thank God for helping your family show love and kindness.

Read more about the Bible lesson on pages 383–385 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).



Week 25

Jesus Forgives Zacchaeus

People always wanted to see and hear Jesus. A very small man named Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town. Zacchaeus had done many bad things. He had cheated and lied. Other people did not like him. But Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus.

A big crowd of people waited in the road. They waited to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was at the back of the crowd. He was too short to see over people's heads. He couldn't jump high enough. He couldn't wiggle his way through the crowd.

Then, Zacchaeus saw a tree. He ran to the tree and climbed it. (*) Now, Zacchaeus could see Jesus. Everyone was surprised to see Jesus walk toward the tree where Zacchaeus sat.

Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus and said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I'm going to your house today."

Zacchaeus was so happy. He knew Jesus had mercy on him and forgave him. Zacchaeus said, "Jesus, I will give back anything that does not belong to me. If I have taken more than I should have, I will give back four times as much."

Jesus said, "Today, a person in this house has been saved. I have come to help people who need forgiveness."

Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

Think about It

Read Luke 19:1-10. The fact is that none of us deserves God's blessings, for we are all sinners. We all need God's mercy and forgiveness. God's love is unconditional, not based on who we are but on who Jesus is. Jesus is our perfect Savior, who saves us from sin and changes our hearts and lives!

Bible Words

Have mercy upon us,
O LORD.
Psalm 123:3