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Let’s keep kids safe!

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Hands-On Bible Curriculum®, Toddlers & 2s, Fall


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Current Edition Credits

Authors: Julie Lavendar and Pat LaCosse
Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz
Project Manager: Owen Shattuck
Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Becky Helzer, and Andrea Zimmerman

Cover & Interior Art: Rebecca Swain and Steven Weinmeister
Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham and Randy Kady
Cover Photographer: Rodney Stewart
Production Manager: Pam Clifford

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Hands-On Bible Curriculum®

Group

Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry, it reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it’s

Relational

Learner to learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both learners and sharers of God’s Word.

Learning-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.
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UNDERSTANDING YOUR TODDLERS AND 2S

**Social/Emotional Development**
Toddlers and 2s
- play beside but not with other children (parallel play).
- are possessive about toys and are reluctant to share.
- have tantrums when they’re frustrated.
- can chew food well.
- can drink from cups and eat with spoons.
- need adult help in socialization.
- imitate adults.
- often say “no” in response to questions.

**Physical Development**
Toddlers and 2s
- pick up tiny objects.
- turn pages and point to pictures in books.
- put together 3- to 10-piece puzzles.
- build with blocks.
- move with lots of energy but lack coordination.
- pull wheel toys backward and forward.
- run, jump, and climb but aren’t always sure of their balance.

**Communication Development**
Toddlers and 2s
- engage in simple dramatic play.
- use 50 to 100 recognizable words.
- put together two or more words to make a sentence.
- constantly ask “What’s that?”
- refer to themselves by name.
- can point to and identify parts of the body and pictures of familiar objects.

**Spiritual Development**
Toddlers and 2s
- pray short, simple prayers.
- learn that God made everything.
- learn that the Bible is a book about God and Jesus.
- learn about God as a loving and kind Father.
- sing and talk about God.
Welcome to the Adventure!

The toddlers and 2s are your domain for this year! Whether this is your first year with them or your 30th, you will be blessed! These little ones are just learning about trust and the world around them. You can be the one who helps them trust Jesus and find him in the world they are discovering. What an adventure for you and for them!

Toddlers and 2-year-olds think very concretely. They pay attention for only a minute or two, and then they are off to satisfy their curiosity about something else. They are working on mastering their basic physical movements and are very proud of their accomplishments. They love consistency and repetition. They will listen to the same story about Jesus for weeks. The love of Jesus will become real to them through the love they experience from you. You will be an example of Jesus that they can touch firsthand!

Your children will learn best by hearing the story over and over again. They will want to touch, taste, smell, hear, and see what you are talking about. If you show them how to do things, they will imitate you. You will change their lives because you will be opening their minds and hearts to the most important person in their lives, Jesus.

Here are a few helpful do’s and don’ts to make experiential learning work best for you and your kids:

• **Do think outside the learning-space box!** Move tables so children can move around freely and work in groups. Use blocks and blankets to create unique spaces.

• **Don’t expect them to sit still.** Allow children to move through experiences—touching, manipulating, tasting, smelling, and making noise—all for the glory of God.

• **Do take advantage of teachable moments.** Watch how your children act, and weave what happens into the lesson. Look for ways to bring tastes, smells, and sounds into your classroom, and use them during the lesson.

• **Don’t show children the contents of the Learning Lab® before they are used in the lessons.** Keep them guessing what’s coming next!

• **Do get to know your children.** They are anxious to share what they are learning. They will look for you every week.

• **Don’t forget—experiential learning is fun and captivating!** Enjoy it! A positive experience learning about God within the safe boundaries of your classroom will lead to more positive experiences with God outside the classroom. What a great way to encourage your students to discover the joy of the Lord firsthand and to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ!
Welcome

Making the Most of Your Hands-On Bible Curriculum®

Module Introductions Within each quarter of Hands-On Bible Curriculum are three modules. Each module has a theme that runs throughout the lessons. The introduction to each module includes an overview of the lessons and a chart listing the Bible Point and Scripture used in each lesson.

Bible Point There's one point that you want your children to take home at the end of your lesson. That's the Bible Point. You'll see it referenced in the margin as well as italicized and underlined in the lesson. We've designed it to be repeated numerous times during the lesson so no one will miss it.

Bible Verse These words, taken from God's Word, show the biblical basis for the lesson. The Bible verse appears in boldface in the lesson.

Teacher Enrichment This part of the lesson is just for you. If you can, read it early in the week. It includes an explanation of the Bible passage and some suggested ways to pray during the week so you'll be prepared, heart and mind, for your important hour with your children.

This Lesson at a Glance This valuable chart shows you the big picture for your lesson. You can quickly see what supplies you'll need and what needs to be done before you begin. A minute on this page will save you 10 during your lesson!

The Jesus Connection To us, this is the most important thing—making the connection between the story and Jesus, the reason for the story. You'll find a Jesus Connection in every lesson, set apart in a box. We want children to find Jesus every week in your class, so don't miss this part of the lesson.

Teacher Tips You'll find these in the margin throughout the lesson. They're just to give you additional ideas to enhance what you're doing. They vary from alternative ideas for activities to age-level insights.

Parent Pages In each module introduction, there is a photocopiable Parent Page. These pages that you send home with your families will help reinforce the module's theme and encourage learning at home!
“There is only one thing worth being concerned about.”
—Luke 10:42

What is this one thing? It’s the whole reason for this curriculum—

It’s the whole reason for Sunday school. It’s what we (and you) want your kids to know! Check out what Thom and Joani Schultz (Group’s chairman and chief creative officer) have to say about the one thing and what it means in your life.

In Luke chapter 10, Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha. As Martha worries about preparing dinner and being a busy servant, she gets upset because Mary isn’t helping. But Jesus tells her, “There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Martha was doing good work. In fact, she was serving the Lord. But Jesus made his priority for us clear. He wants to have a loving relationship with us even more than he wants us to serve him.

Many might say Jesus is the one thing. But no, it’s a growing relationship with Jesus. Martha would have identified serving Jesus as the one thing. But Mary better understood the real one thing.

We believe that the church, like Martha, is often distracted by many things. It tends to de-prioritize the one thing. Many other well-intentioned things get in the way. Churches and Christians can get sidetracked with an emphasis on rules, political positions, appearances, social action, secondary goals, theological disputes, solemnity, rituals, and more. To the spiritually hungry, churches often seem more preoccupied with these distractions than the one thing.

If the church wishes to pursue a growing relationship with Jesus, it will need to rethink and reprioritize its ministry. A one-thing ministry emphasizes relationship. And we believe a relationship with Jesus resembles in many ways a human-to-human relationship—a friendship. The process of attraction, getting acquainted, enjoying one another’s company, having fun, growing closer, and forming a bond of love and devotion is a natural one that lends clues to how a one-thing relationship may form in the context of church ministry.

How can we build a church that becomes an incubator for a one-thing relationship, for real friendship with Jesus?

That’s what Hands-On Bible Curriculum is all about—helping kids grow their friendships with Jesus. As they experience the Scriptures and do the activities, they’re building that relationship in a real and relevant way.

What’s the most important thing your church can do for kids? Help them choose the one thing. And use tools like Hands-On Bible Curriculum to make it a reality.
Name Tag Pattern

Photocopy and cut out the family name tags.
Encouragement for Teachers

Father, thank you for the privilege of being an example of your love to the children I serve. Help me welcome them into your kingdom and teach them of your love. And help me to be more like you every day so children can see Jesus through me. In Jesus' name, amen.

God made the human family the most basic building block of human society. When families are strong, society tends to be strong. In Abraham’s day, the strength of the family unit depended significantly on having a viable male heir who would carry on the family lineage while also inheriting, managing, and defending the family’s wealth. Although Abraham was a wandering nomad, by the time he settled in Canaan, he had acquired great wealth and honor (Genesis 13:2; 14:17-24). In Abraham’s mind, however, all these blessings meant little without a son to inherit it all. In his despair, Abraham considered adopting one of his male servants to be his heir instead.

God had a different plan. He promised Abraham that he would have a biological son and more—more descendants than the stars in the sky! At the time, this seemed ridiculous to Abraham and his wife, Sarah. Both were beyond normal childbearing years, and Sarah had been barren all her life. But God was preparing Abraham to learn a special lesson and serve a special role. The lesson was that nothing is impossible with God. God is able to give a barren woman a child and build not only a family out of that child but an entire nation—the nation that would later be called Israel.

Abraham’s special role in human history, however, extends beyond being the patriarch of this special nation. By believing God for the impossible, Abraham would become not only the father of a huge and influential nation, but also of all people of the world who believe in Jesus for salvation (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:11; Galatians 3:26-29).

### Four Lessons on God Made Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Emphasis</th>
<th>Page</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>God made families, and he made my family, too.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>God made families, and families help each other.</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>God made families, and families can worship together.</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>I’m happy that God made families.</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
God Made Families

For the next four weeks, the toddlers and 2s class will be learning from the story of Abraham that God made families. The children will use their five senses to discover how families are similar and how they are different, and to celebrate the joyful knowledge that God gave us families because he loves us.

Use these Parent Page ideas to help reinforce the point that God made families.

Tips for Ts and 2s

A toddler’s world centers around family life. Often a child’s perception of God is strongly influenced by the way he or she relates to parents and other caregivers. Harsh and demanding or forgiving and loving—family dynamics help lay the groundwork for a young child’s relationship with God. This month, focus on the love God gives us through our families.

Together Time

- Declare this Family Fun Month! Plan unique “together times.” Visit a local children’s museum, go on a woodsy hike and collect natural “treasures,” toss rocks into a pond, and make time to snuggle up with colorful storybooks and a snack. Set aside one hour each day for this special family time, and end each together time with a thank-you prayer to God for your family.
- Do simple household chores together to reinforce the fact that families help each other. As your child helps you sort silverware, sweep the floor, rake leaves, or dry dishes, he or she will experience the joy of working together and the importance of helping one another.
- Sing this song from class with your toddler:

God Made Families (adapted from Genesis 1:26) (sung to the tune of “Frère Jacques”)

God made families (wiggle your fingers),
God made families. (Wiggle your fingers.)
Yours and mine (point to a friend, then to yourself),
Yours and mine. (Point to a friend, then to yourself.)
I will love my family. (Put your hands over your heart.)
I will love my family (put your hands over your heart)
All the time (wiggle your fingers),
All the time. (Wiggle your fingers.)
**Bible Point**

**God Made Families**

**Bible Verse**

God made families (adapted from Genesis 1:26a).

**Growing Closer to Jesus**

Children will

- realize that God made families,
- understand that God made their own families, and
- explore how families are alike and different.

**Teacher Enrichment**

**Bible Basis**

- God made families, and he made my family, too.

**Genesis**

- 15:1-6;
- 18:1-14;
- 21:1-7

In the first passage for this lesson, Abram had recently won a big military victory; he wasn't likely afraid of any foes. What was bothering Abram, and what God addressed, was Abram's continuing lack of a son to be his heir. So in response to God’s words of comfort, Abram poured out his heart. When God assured Abram by restating his promise that Abram would have his own son, Abram responded in faith.

In the second passage, it may seem strange that the three men were “standing nearby” (18:2), but this was customary for strangers in that time and place. They were not free to just approach someone else’s tent in the desert.

Many scholars believe that these men were angels, though the text doesn’t directly say so. The fact that they knew Sarah’s name may support the idea that they were angels, and in Genesis 18:10, it becomes clear that one of them was at least speaking for the Lord.

For many years, God had been promising a son to Abraham. Now for the first time, God predicted the time of the birth: Within one year, the son of the promise would be born. We see in the third passage that God keeps his promises!

**Prayer**

- Read Proverbs 3:5-6.
- When is it hard for you to trust God’s plans for your life?
- How can you trust God more?
- Pray: Dear Lord, help me to trust you every day of my life. And please help me to model that trust for the students I teach.

**Before the Lesson**

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
### Lesson 1

**This Lesson at a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Classroom Supplies</th>
<th>Learning Lab Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrival Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Time</strong>—Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.</td>
<td>Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1: Mommy and Daddy Dress-Up</strong>—Dress up as different family members.</td>
<td>Dress-up items such as coats, hats, dresses, ties, purses, and scarves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 2: Infant Isaac</strong>—Make a soft, pretend baby to cuddle and carry.</td>
<td>Socks or knee-high stockings, pillow stuffing or paper towels, facial tissues, tape, markers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pick-Up Time</strong>—Sing a song as they help clean up the room.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Story Time</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Song</strong>—Sing a song about the Bible.</td>
<td>Bible, CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>God Made Families</strong>—Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Abraham’s family from Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-14; 21:1-7.</td>
<td>Bible, bread and honey sandwiches, stuffed dolls from Option 2, wet paper towels, newspaper, tennis ball</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thank You, God</strong>—Sing a song thanking God for their families.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</strong>—Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.</td>
<td>Family patterns (pp. 24-25); scissors; tape; green, blue, and red construction paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sing It Out</strong>—Sing a song thanking God for their families.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Craft</strong>—Decorate soft baby blankets for them to wrap their dolls in.</td>
<td>Light-colored felt squares, markers, stuffed dolls from Option 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Game</strong>—Sing an action song, and care for their dolls.</td>
<td>Stuffed dolls from Option 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closing Family Fun</strong>—Say a prayer, and have a snack.</td>
<td>Jelly, bread, gingerbread-man cookie cutters, napkins, spoon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God made families.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

**Option 1: Mommy and Daddy Dress-Up**

**SUPPLIES:** dress-up items such as coats, hats, dresses, ties, purses, and scarves

Provide a variety of dress-up clothes that represent clothing different family members might wear. For example, set out dresses, purses, and scarves for mommies, grandmas, or sisters. Provide coats, ties, and hats for daddies, grandpas, and brothers. As children arrive, invite them to dress up as members of their families, and then encourage each child to tell who he or she is pretending to be. As children play, make comments such as “Families have lots of different people in them just as there are lots of different children in our room” and “I’m glad that God made mommies and daddies and grandmas and grandpas.”

Say that **God made families.** Tell children that they’ll hear a story today about a special family that God made.

**Option 2: Infant Isaac**

**SUPPLIES:** clean socks or knee-high stockings, pillow stuffing or paper towels, facial tissues, tape, markers

Set out markers and stuffing material such as pillow stuffing or paper towels. Hand each child a sock. Help children stuff their socks until each is about the size of a medium potato. Explain that they’re making pretend babies to hold and cuddle. As children work, tell them that today they’ll hear a Bible story about a family with a special baby. Explain that some families have babies and some don’t because each family is different. Explain that **God made families,** and every family is special.

After the socks have been stuffed, knot or rubber band each one at its open end, and then help children draw a face at the other end. Fold a facial tissue diagonally to make a “diaper”; then tape the diaper to the “doll.” Write each child’s name on the back of his or her doll. Encourage children to cuddle and care for their pretend babies.

The Lesson at a Glance chart gives you a quick overview of the lesson and lists the supplies you’ll need for each activity.
Lesson 1

■ Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

---

**SING**

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

---

**Bible Story Time**

■ Bible Song

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: **Who made families?** ➔ **God made families.** How do we know that? **The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God.**

**Let’s learn a song about the Bible.** Using the CD, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

---

**SING**

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!
**Bible Story: God Made Families**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, bread and honey sandwiches, stuffed dolls from Option 2, wet paper towels for cleanup, newspaper, tennis ball

Before class begins, prepare the StoryBoard by following the assembly instructions provided in the Learning Lab. The purpose of the StoryBoard is to provide an interactive, sensory learning opportunity for your toddlers and 2s. Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Before this activity, prepare bread and honey finger sandwiches for kids to eat later. Set the bread and honey sandwiches and the figure of baby Isaac behind the StoryBoard.

**Panel 1**

Fold back the StoryBoard so that children see Panel 1. Say: **God made families, and today we’ll learn about a special family.**

Point to the picture of Abraham. **This is Abraham. Let’s say hello and pat Abraham’s beard and headdress.** Let children touch Abraham’s beard and headdress. Lead them in saying, “Hello, Abraham!” Then ask:

- **How does Abraham’s beard feel?** (Soft; scratchy.)
  
  Say: Abraham loved God. Put your hands over your hearts to show how much Abraham loved God. Pause while children respond. But Abraham was sad. Show me a sad face. Make a sad face and encourage the children to imitate you. Abraham was sad because he didn’t have any children in his family. Abraham had a nice wife named Sarah. But they didn’t have a little boy or girl to love. Let’s learn a rhyme about Abraham and Sarah. Say the following action rhyme, and then encourage toddlers to follow along as you slowly repeat it twice.

  **Abraham and Sarah felt no joy** (make a sad face and shake your head);
  **They had no little girl or boy.** (Hold your hands palms up and shake your head)

  Abraham and Sarah wanted a family. They knew that **God made families.** Abraham prayed and asked God for a baby. God told Abraham to go outside and count the stars in the sky. Point to the stars on Panel 1. **Look at all the stars! We can’t touch real stars, but we can touch pretend stars!** Hold the StoryBoard down so the children can touch the stars.

  God told Abraham that he’d have as many children as there are stars. There are a lot of stars on our StoryBoard! Let’s count them. Point to the stars as you count aloud. Stop after you’ve counted to 5. **Oh, there are too many stars to count! God promised Abraham more children than he could count. What a big family that would be!** Spread your arms out to the sides, and have children do the action, too.

  God promised Abraham a baby, but when would God give Abraham that baby to love? Let’s see.
Lesson 1

Panel 2

Help children wash their hands. Open Panel 2. Say: This is Abraham and Sarah’s tent. Yoo-hoo, Sarah! Let’s peek in the tent and see if Sarah’s home. Let children lift the tent flap and peek inside.

Sarah’s cooking something yummy because Abraham has special visitors. Let’s taste what Sarah’s making.

Give each child a bread and honey sandwich to enjoy. Have wet paper towels handy for cleanup.

Ask: • What is Sarah making? (Bread.)
• How does the bread taste? (Good; yummy.)

Say: Sarah’s making bread for Abraham and the visitors. While the bread is baking, Abraham is caring for his sheep. Let’s pat one of his sheep.

Ask: • How do sheep feel? (Soft; fuzzy.)

Say: I’ll pretend to be Abraham, and you’ll pretend to be my sheep. Follow me! Encourage children to crawl after you and say “baa!” Pat your “lambs” and tell them you love them. Then return to the StoryBoard.

Now it’s time to turn back into boys and girls and listen to our Bible story. Point to the men on Panel 2. Abraham and the visitors sat under a shady tree. We can touch the tree and leaf. Let children touch the tree and leaf.

God sent the three special visitors to tell Sarah and Abraham that God made families and that God would give them a baby. Let’s clap! Pause. But Abraham and Sarah thought they were too old to have a baby. Sarah laughed! We can laugh like Sarah. Lead children in a hearty belly laugh.

Sarah didn’t think she could have a baby—but God can do anything! Let’s see if God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby to love.

Panel 3

Unfold Panel 3. Open Sarah’s arms. Say: Close your eyes. We’ll count to 3 and see if God gave them a baby. Have toddlers close their eyes. As you count to 3, slip the figure of baby Isaac into Sarah’s arms. One, two, three—open your eyes.

What do you see? A baby! God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy named Isaac! Sarah is holding the baby. We can hold our pretend babies, too. Hand out the stuffed dolls children made in Option 2. Encourage children to hold their babies gently.

Babies are so nice because they grow up to be boys and girls like you! Abraham and Sarah were happy to have baby Isaac to love. God made Abraham’s family, and God made our families, too. Let’s play a game to remind us that God made families.

Have children put their babies “to bed” against the wall until later. Then remove the porcupine ball from the Learning Lab. Gather a tennis ball or other ball of approximately the same size. Wad a piece of newspaper into a ball. Sit on the floor and have all three balls handy.

Have the children join you in a circle on the floor.

Say: I have three things on the floor in front of me. Look at them with me. Hand the balls to three different people. Encourage the children to pass the balls around so that other friends may feel and touch them.
Ask: • What three things did I just show you? (Balls; toys; paper.)

• What is the same about these three things? (They’re all balls; you can roll them; you can play with them.)

• How are these three things different? (They don’t look the same; they feel different; they’re different colors.)

Say: You know, the three things I showed you are the same because they are all balls, and we can roll and play with them. But they’re different in some ways, too. They look different and they’re used for different things. That’s kind of like families. Families are all the same because they have people in them. But families are all different, too, because they have different people in them! God made families, and God made my family different from your family.

I’m going to roll one of these balls to you. When you catch the ball, tell us the name of someone in your family. You might say, “Mommy,” “Daddy,” “Grandpa,” “Grandma,” “Sister,” “Brother,” “Cousin.” Then you can roll the ball back to me. I’ll roll it to someone else who will tell us the name of a family member. We’ll roll the ball lots of times to make sure we get to name lots of people in our families! Ready?

Roll the porcupine ball to a child. Encourage that child to name a family member. Then have him or her roll the ball back to you, and continue the process until everyone’s had a few turns to roll the ball.

Say: Our families are all different. But one thing is the same—God made all the people in all the families in the world. Listen while I tell you about a verse from the Bible. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:26a, and show children the verse. Say: The Bible says that God made families. God made us to be like him. I’m so glad that God made people and that God made families!

Let’s sing a fun song to thank God for making the people in our families!

Thank You, God

SUPPLIES: CD player

Using the CD, lead the children in singing “Thank You, God” (track 4) to the tune of “This Old Man.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

Thank you, God. (Point upward.)
I love you (cover your heart),
And I love my family, too. (Slowly open your arms out wide.)
Thank you, God, for everything you do. (Turn around in a circle.)
My family sends a kiss to you! (Blow a kiss upward.)
(Repeat.)

Say: God made families. Isn’t that wonderful? It’s good to thank God for our families. Another thing we can thank God for is Jesus. God sent Jesus to be our special friend. When we believe in Jesus, we can become part of God’s family. That’s great news!
Lesson 1

**Bible Activities**

- **Interactive Bible Bulletin Board**

**SUPPLIES:** family patterns (pp. 24-25); scissors; tape; green, blue, and red construction paper

Before class, cover the bottom half of the bulletin board with green construction paper and the top portion with blue construction paper. You may wish to add a few trees or clouds. Photocopy and cut out the family member patterns. Be sure there’s a family member pattern for each child. You’ll also need a small red construction paper heart for Cuddles to hold. Tape the heart to Cuddles’ foot. The family pattern pictures will be removed in Lesson 3, so use removable tape to attach them.

---

**Bring out Cuddles the Lamb.**

**Cuddles:** (Waving the paper heart) Hi, boys and girls! See what I have? Do you know what it is? Can you guess?

**Teacher:** My, you’re excited, Cuddles! You’re hopping up and down like a bunny. Children, what is Cuddles holding? (Lead toddlers to tell you that Cuddles is holding a paper heart.) Where did you get such a pretty heart, Cuddles?

**Cuddles:** My daddy gave me this heart. Isn’t that nice? My daddy loves me, and I love him, too.

**Teacher:** You have a nice family, Cuddles. We’ve been talking about families, and we learned that God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby for their family. That made them happy!

**Cuddles:** My daddy made this heart, but who made families?

**Teacher:** Children, can you tell Cuddles who made families? (Encourage children to tell Cuddles that God made families.) God made families, and our families are all different and are all special. Would you like to help us put a family on the bulletin board, Cuddles?
God Made Families, and He Made My Family, Too

**Cuddles:** Yes, I like being a helper! (Have Cuddles hand each child a picture of a family member.)

Ask for the following family members, and then help children tape each one to the bulletin board. Each time a child places a picture, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point.

**Teacher:**

Mommies are special. Who has a picture of a mommy? (Tape up the pictures of mommies.)

Daddies are special, too. Who has a picture of a daddy? (Tape up the pictures of daddies.)

Brothers are nice. Who has a picture of a brother? (Tape up the pictures of brothers.)

Sisters are nice, too. Who has a picture of a sister? (Tape up the pictures of sisters.)

Families are all different, but we know that God made families and he made our families, too. Let’s sing a song about families.

Set Cuddles out of sight.

---

**Sing It Out**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Lead the children in singing “Thank You, God” (track 4) with the CD. Sing the song to the tune of “This Old Man.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

♫ SING ♫

Thank you, God. (Point upward.)
I love you (cover your heart),
And I love my family, too. (Slowly open your arms out wide.)
Thank you, God, for everything you do. (Turn around in a circle.)
My family sends a kiss to you! (Blow a kiss upward.)
(Repeat)

---

**Bible Craft**

**SUPPLIES:** markers, light-colored felt squares, stuffed dolls from Option 2

Set out markers. Hand each child a square of craft felt. Let children use markers to decorate their “blankets” with colorful scribbles and designs. As children are working, ask questions such as “How do families care for babies?” and “Who gives families children to love?”

When the children have finished decorating their blankets, hand out the dolls they made in Option 2. Invite toddlers to wrap their pretend babies in the blankets and cuddle them. Say:

God made families, and families love their children and care for them just as Abraham and Sarah cared for baby Isaac. Let’s play a game and care for our pretend babies.
Lesson 1

## Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** stuffed dolls from Option 2

Say: **It’s a lot of work and a lot of fun for families to care for babies! Let’s sing a song and care for our pretend babies.**

Lead children in singing “Baby Bundles” to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush.” Sing the words without the CD, and use the dolls children made in Option 2 to act out the accompanying motions.

**SING**

*This is the way we hold the baby, hold the baby, hold the baby.* (Hold dolls against your shoulders and gently pat them.)

*This is the way we hold the baby in our family.*

*This is the way we rock the baby, rock the baby, rock the baby.* (Hold dolls and make rocking motions.)

*This is the way we rock the baby in our family.*

*This is the way we hug the baby, hug the baby, hug the baby.* (Give dolls gentle hugs.)

*This is the way we hug the baby in our family.*

If there’s time, sing additional verses such as “feed the baby,” “bathe the baby,” or “pat the baby.” When you’ve finished, whisper: **I think our babies are sound asleep. Let’s tiptoe to the wall and lay the babies in their pretend cradles. Shh. Don’t make a peep. Babies are nice family members, aren’t they?**

Abraham and Sarah were glad to have baby Isaac. And we’re glad that God made families.

## Closing

### Family Fun

**SUPPLIES:** jelly, bread, gingerbread-man cookie cutters, napkins, spoon

Help children wash their hands and then gather at the snack table.

**Ask:** • **Who made families?** (God made families.)

Say: **God made your family, and God made my family. We can tell God “thank you” for making families who love us. Let’s hold hands like a family.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for making families. We love our families, and we love you. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

We know that only God makes real families. But we can make pretend families! Hand each child a slice of bread on a napkin. Let toddlers use gingerbread-man cookie cutters to cut out family shapes. Help toddlers add dabs of jelly for eyes, noses, and mouths. As you enjoy the treats, encourage children to tell about their families.

When you’ve finished, have toddlers throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Let children take their pretend babies and blankets home.
Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Parent Page” handout (p. 12) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module’s topic.

Baby Bundles

Repeat the action song you learned in the Bible Game. Without using the CD, sing the song to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush.”

**SING**

This is the way we hold the baby, hold the baby, hold the baby.
This is the way we hold the baby in our family.

This is the way we rock the baby, rock the baby, rock the baby.
This is the way we rock the baby in our family.

This is the way we hug the baby, hug the baby, hug the baby.
This is the way we hug the baby in our family.

Giggles ’n’ Wiggles

Have children lie with each child’s head on the tummy of the child next to him or her. Remind children that Sarah laughed when God said he’d give her a baby. Explain that you can play a funny game and laugh like Sarah laughed. Gently tickle the children’s chins as you encourage toddlers to laugh. The movement of one toddler’s tummy under the next child’s head tends to cause contagious laughter. Remind children that God made families, and even though Sarah laughed, God gave her a baby to love.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
God Made Families, and Families Help Each Other • Lesson 2

God Made Families

Bible Verse
God made families (adapted from Genesis 1:26a).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- realize that only God makes families,
- explore ways that families help each other, and
- share chores with their classroom family.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- God made families, and families help each other.

Genesis
15:1-6;
18:1-14;
21:1-7

Barrenness is a recurring theme in the Bible. Wives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all suffered childlessness for years before God gave them children. In ancient culture, childlessness was often thought to be a curse. The childlessness we read about in the lives of the patriarchs had a special purpose. God used it to demonstrate in an unmistakable way that Israel was a nation brought into existence by God, not mere human procreation. Isaac was a double blessing to Abraham and Sarah. A son would grow to help his father govern the family affairs and inherit the family wealth—vital to the ancient world. But Isaac would also be the beginning of spiritual legacy that would literally change the whole course of human history. It is important to help children understand just how precious they are in their parents’ eyes and in God’s plan, big or small. Use these stories of the birth of Isaac to help them understand how special all children are.

Prayer
- Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, evidently struggled with barrenness before giving birth to John. Can you think of a time when God delivered you from a difficult situation? What was your response?
- Pray: Lord, thank you that you worked miraculously in the lives of the patriarchs to show them that you were working your plan according to your schedule. Thank you for the blessing that children are. Help the children I teach today feel valued and loved at home. Help them understand that you have a plan for each of their lives.

Before the Lesson
- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
## This Lesson at a Glance

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<th>Learning Lab Supplies</th>
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<td><strong>Welcome Time</strong>—Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.</td>
<td>Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1: Dish Detail</strong>—Help each other set the table for a family feast.</td>
<td>Paper cups, plastic spoons, tablecloth, paper towels, table</td>
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<td><strong>Option 2: Abraham’s Beard</strong>—Use beards to pretend to be Abraham.</td>
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<td><strong>Pick-Up Time</strong>—Sing a song as they help clean up the room.</td>
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<td><strong>Bible Story Time</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bible Song</strong>—Sing a song about the Bible.</td>
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<td><strong>God Made Families</strong>—Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Abraham’s family from Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-14; 21:1-7.</td>
<td>Crackers, flashlight, CD player, beards from Option 2, tape</td>
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<td><strong>I Love My Family</strong>—Sing an action song about families.</td>
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<td><strong>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</strong>—Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.</td>
<td>Helping-tools patterns (p. 39), scissors, tape, colored construction paper, crayons or markers</td>
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<td><strong>Sing It Out</strong>—Sing an action song about families.</td>
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<td><strong>Bible Craft</strong>—Decorate special “helping holders.”</td>
<td>Paper plates, scissors, tape, markers, stickers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Game</strong>—Play a game, and help pick up pretend leaves.</td>
<td>Helping holders from Bible Craft; orange, red, yellow, and brown construction paper</td>
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<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Family Feast</strong>—Say a prayer, and have a snack.</td>
<td>Instant pudding mix; milk; large plastic jar and lid; plastic spoons, napkins, and paper cups from Option 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God made families.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Dish Detail

**SUPPLIES:** table, tablecloth, paper cups, plastic spoons, paper towels

Set a small table in one corner of the room. As children arrive, invite them to help set the table. Let toddlers spread a tablecloth over the table and smooth out the wrinkles. Then have them set a place at the table for each person in class, using paper cups and plastic spoons. Show toddlers how to fold paper towels into triangles to use as “fancy napkins.” Lay a napkin under each spoon.

As toddlers work, circulate among them and make comments such as “I like the way you’re helping each other” and “Families like to help one another.” Remind children that **God made families,** and explain that in the Bible story, Sarah helped Abraham by cooking dinner for the special visitors. Tell children that later they’ll have a special treat, too.

Option 2: Abraham’s Beard

**SUPPLIES:** beard pattern (p. 38), tape, scissors, roll of quilt batting

Before class, photocopy the beard pattern for a cutting guide. Using the quilt batting and the beard pattern, cut a beard for each child.

As children arrive, invite them to grow a “beard” like Abraham’s. Gently tape the beards in place on the children’s faces. If some toddlers don’t like the mustache portion, simply trim it off.

Let children stroke their pretend beards. Tell children they’ll learn that **God made families** and that they’ll get to wear their beards to help tell the Bible story.

If some of the children choose not to do this option, ask adult helpers to make extra beards. You’ll use them later during the Bible Story.

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**Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Toddlers & 2s**

God Made Families, and Families Help Each Other

**BIBLE POINT**

Consider laminating the name tags so they’ll last all quarter.

**BIBLE POINT**

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

**BIBLE POINT**

**God Made Families, and Families Help Each Other**
Lesson 2

**Pick-Up Time**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

**SING**

Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things  
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things.  
It’s time to stop our play.

**Bible Story Time**

**Bible Song**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: Who made families? God made families. How do we know that? The Bible tells us. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let’s sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

**SING**

This is God’s special book.  
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!  
I learn about all God has done  
And his love for me!  
(Repeat.)

Bible!
God Made Families, and Families Help Each Other

Bible Story: God Made Families

SUPPLIES: crackers, flashlight, CD player, beards from Option 2, tape

Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1

Set a flashlight and the figure of baby Isaac behind you. Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Say: God made families, and today we’ll learn about a special family. Point to the picture of Abraham. This is Abraham. Let’s say hello and pat Abraham’s beard and headdress. Let toddlers touch Abraham and lead them in saying, “Hello, Abraham!” Then ask:

- How does Abraham’s beard feel? (Soft; scratchy.)

Say: We can wear beards to look like Abraham. Tape beards to children not wearing pretend beards from Option 2. Pat your beards. Ooo, they’re soft! Let’s play a game. When I say “Abraham,” pat your beards. Alternate saying Abraham’s name with other story words such as Sarah, baby, sheep, stars, and family. Lead toddlers in patting their beards each time you say “Abraham.”

Then point to Panel 1. Say: Abraham was sad because he didn’t have any children in his family. Abraham had a nice wife named Sarah. But they didn’t have a little boy or girl to love. Let’s say a rhyme about Abraham and Sarah. Repeat the following action rhyme twice.

Abraham and Sarah felt no joy (make a sad face and shake your head);
They had no little girl or boy. (Hold your hands palms up and shake your head.)

Say: Abraham knew that God made families. He prayed and asked God for a child. God told Abraham to look up and try to count the stars. Point to the stars on Panel 1. God told Abraham that he would have as many children as there are stars in the sky. Let’s make our StoryBoard stars really shine!

Let toddlers take turns shining the flashlight on the StoryBoard stars. Then shine the flashlight behind the holes on Panel 1. Say: Look at all the stars! Open and close your fingers like twinkling stars. Pause. We can sing a song about stars that twinkle and shine. Twinkle your finger-stars as we sing. Without the CD, lead toddlers in singing “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” That was fun! There are lots of stars in the sky, and God promised Abraham lots of children. Let’s see if Abraham and Sarah will have a baby to love.

Panel 2

Help children wash their hands. Unfold Panel 2 of the StoryBoard and point to the tent. Say: Here’s the tent where Abraham and Sarah live. Let’s peek inside to see if Sarah’s home. Let each child lift the tent flap and peek inside the tent. Encourage toddlers to say, “Hello, Sarah,” as they peek inside the flap.
Ask: **What’s Sarah doing?** (Cooking; making food.)

Say: Sarah is making dinner. Rub your tummies to show how yummy dinner is. Mmmm! Point to Abraham and the three men. Abraham has three special visitors. They’re going to eat dinner outside, just like a picnic. Let’s pretend we’re having a picnic, too. Hand each child a cracker to eat.

Ask: **How does our treat taste?** (Yummy; good.)

Point to the three visitors. Say: The visitors told Abraham exciting news. They said that God would give Abraham and Sarah a baby. Isn’t that wonderful? Jump up and say, “A baby! A baby!” Pause while toddlers cheer. Then whisper: Now quietly sit down, and let’s see if the baby has come.

Before revealing Panel 3, play track 5 of the CD and listen to the sounds of a baby crying.

Pause the CD. Say: Is that a baby crying? Close your eyes and say, “Don’t cry, little baby.” When children’s eyes are closed, open the StoryBoard to reveal Panel 3, and place the figure of baby Isaac in Sarah’s arms.

**Panel 3**

Say: Open your eyes. What do you see? A baby! God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby named Isaac. Let’s gently hold Isaac and say, “I love you.” Encourage toddlers to say, “I love you,” as they hold and pass the figure of baby Isaac. Then return Isaac to Sarah’s arms on Panel 3. Continue to play the CD (track 5) and listen to the sounds of a baby cooing. Then stop the CD player.

Baby Isaac sounds happy because you held him so nicely. Babies cry, babies smile, and babies sleep. Let’s learn a rhyme about sleepy babies. Slowly say the following rhyme twice. Encourage children to do the actions with you.

Here is a cradle (make a cradle with your arms)—
Shh, don’t make a peep! (Put your finger to your lips.)
The tiny baby (cup your hands)
Is fast asleep. (Lay your head on your hands and close your eyes.)

Whisper: Families like to help each other, and we helped baby Isaac fall asleep. I’m glad that God made families. Let’s sing a song about families.

Gently untape the toddlers’ beards, and set them aside.

Remove the fun foot from the Learning Lab. Have the children sit in a circle on the floor with you.

Say: Look at this foot I have here. We’re going to play a game with this foot to remind us of today’s lesson. First, we’re going to pretend that we’re all part of one family. We’ve been learning today that God made families to love and help each other. We’re going to help each other in this game. Here’s what we’ll do.

Instruct the children to use only their feet to pass the fun foot (textured side up) around the circle. The children can use both feet to pass the fun foot to the next person. Encourage the children not to let go of the fun foot until the next person has control of it.

Pass the fun foot around the circle. Then start the foot going around the circle in the opposite direction.
Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Toddlers & 2s

God Made Families, and Families Help Each Other

Say: Boy, our pretend family worked great together! We helped each other pass the foot around the circle. Families can do a lot of things to help each other. God made families to help each other.

Let’s pass the foot around the circle again, as fast as we can. When I say “stop,” whoever has the foot will tell something you can do to help your family by using your feet. For example, you might say that you could help Mommy carry trash to the trash can. That’s using your feet! Or you might say you could help feed the puppy. You’d use your feet for that, wouldn’t you?

Pass the fun foot around the circle again, and periodically call “stop!” Encourage the children who end up with the foot to share ways they can help their families by using their feet.

Ask: • What’s your favorite way to help in your family? (I give my mommy hugs; I pick up my toys.)

• How can you help today when you get home from church? (I’ll do what my dad says; I’ll take a nap when my mommy says to.)

Say: God made families, and families like to help each other. Let’s use our feet this week to help our families! But right now, let’s use our fingers to sing a fun song about families!

I Love My Family

SUPPLIES: CD player

Sit with the children on the floor. Say: The Bible says in Genesis 1:26a that God made families. Hold up your fingers and wiggle them. Pause. Your fingers look like little people! We’ll pretend our wiggly fingers are a family. Let’s sing a song and let our finger families play and wiggle with joy. Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) to the tune of “Frère Jacques.” As you sing, do the motions in parentheses.

SING

God made families (wiggle your fingers),
God made families. (Wiggle your fingers.)
Yours and mine (point to a friend and then to yourself),
Yours and mine. (Point to a friend and then to yourself.)
I will love my family. (Put your hands over your heart.)
I will love my family (put your hands over your heart)
All the time (wiggle your fingers),
All the time. (Wiggle your fingers.)
(Repeat.)

Say: Families are special. God made families to love and help each other. Let’s have the families on our bulletin board help each other rake pretty leaves.
Lesson 2

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: helping-tools patterns (p. 39), scissors, tape, colored construction paper, crayons or markers

Before class, photocopy the helping-tools patterns. Cut out the pictures of the rakes, wheelbarrows, and trees. Be sure there’s a picture for each child in the room. Color the trees, and then tape them to the bulletin board.

Tear a pile of colored construction paper “leaves” for Cuddles to hold. Make sure that there are enough leaves so that each child can have one.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding the torn-paper leaves.

Cuddles: Hi, boys and girls! Look what I have…(spills the leaves) Oops! Oh dear, my leaves are everywhere!

Teacher: We’ll help you pick up the leaves, won’t we, children? (Help children pick up the leaves and hand them to Cuddles. Have Cuddles thank each child and give him or her a warm hug.)

Cuddles: Thank you all for helping me!

Teacher: We’ve been learning about families, Cuddles. And families like to help each other. You’re part of our special church family. We know that God made families, and we’re happy to help each other.

Cuddles: I’d like to help, too! May I? Please?

Teacher: Yes, Cuddles. You can help us add pictures to our bulletin board to show how families help each other.

Have Cuddles give each child a torn-paper leaf and a picture of a rake or wheelbarrow. Help children tape their pictures and leaves to the bulletin board. As each child tapes a picture or leaf in place, encourage him or her to say the Bible Point.
God Made Families, and Families Help Each Other

Teacher: I think the families in our picture are having fun helping each other rake leaves. God made families, and families have fun together. Let’s have fun singing about families.

Place Cuddles out of sight of the children.

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Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) to the tune of “Frère Jacques.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

God made families (wiggle your fingers),
God made families. (Wiggle your fingers.)
Yours and mine (point to a friend and then to yourself),
Yours and mine. (Point to a friend and then to yourself.)
I will love my family. (Put your hands over your heart.)
I will love my family (put your hands over your heart)
All the time (wiggle your fingers),
All the time. (Wiggle your fingers.)
(Repeat.)

Say: That song reminds us that families are special. The most special family of all is God’s family! God sent Jesus to be our special friend forever. When we believe in Jesus, we can become part of God’s family.

I’m so happy that God sent Jesus and that God made families. Let’s make something special for our families.

Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: paper plates, scissors, tape, markers, stickers

Before class, cut a paper plate in half for each child. Tape the two paper plate halves around their curved edges to create a cuplike holder.

Set out markers and stickers. Hand each child a paper plate holder. Invite toddlers to use markers and stickers to decorate their helping holders.

As toddlers work, ask questions such as “How do you help your family?” and “Who made families?” Be sure to write each child’s name on his or her helping holder.
Lesson 2

When everyone has finished decorating his or her helping holder, say: **Your helping holders are so pretty. Hold them up so everyone can see how pretty they are.** Pause for children to display their handiwork. **Let’s play a game and help pick up leaves.**

### Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** helping holders from Bible Craft; orange, red, yellow, and brown construction paper

Before this activity, tear orange, red, yellow, and brown construction paper “leaves.” Be sure to tear a leaf of each color for every child in class and one set for yourself.

Say: **Let’s see if you know the colors of these pretty autumn leaves.** Hold up one torn-paper leaf of each color and identify its color. Keep one set of leaves, and toss the rest in the center of the floor. Have children hold their helping holders and stand at one end of the room. **I’ll say a color, and you hop to the leaves and pick up a leaf of that color.** Put the leaf in your helping holder, and hop back to your place. Hold up each leaf as you say its color.

When all the leaves have been picked up, say: **It’s fun to help our families. You can use your helping holders to pick up things at home.** Now lay your helping holders on the floor, and tiptoe like falling leaves to the snack table. Lead toddlers to the table they prepared in Option 1. If you didn’t do Option 1, simply lead children to your snack table.

### Closing

#### Family Feast

**SUPPLIES:** instant pudding mix; milk; large plastic jar and lid; plastic spoons, napkins, and paper cups from Option 1

Say: **We’ve been learning that God made families, and we’ve learned that families help each other.** We’re going to help each other make yummy snacks to enjoy.

Following the package directions on a box of instant pudding, pour cold milk and the instant pudding mix into a large plastic jar. Fasten the lid securely. Help each child count to 5 as he or she takes a turn shaking the jar of pudding. Then set the jar on the table to thicken. As you wait, say: **Our class is like a family. We love each other, and we help each other, too.** Let’s say a prayer and thank God for making families. **Fold your hands.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for making families to love. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Have children wash their hands. Fill the toddlers’ paper cups half full with pudding. After children have enjoyed their snacks, encourage them to throw their cups, napkins, and spoons in the wastebasket.

Let children carry their helping holders and wear their pretend beards home.
For Extra Time
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

- **Twinkling Stars**
  Without using the CD, sing a pretty little song called “Twinkling Stars” to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”

  **SING**
  Twinkling stars way up above  
  Help us think about God’s love.  
  God gave Abraham a son;  
  Isaac was the special one.  
  Twinkling stars way up above  
  Help us think about God’s love.

- **Family Finger-Fun**
  Lead children in a fun rhyme about people in families.

  Here’s the father. (Hold up your thumb.)
  Here’s the mother. (Hold up your index finger.)
  Here’s the sister. (Hold up your middle finger.)
  Here’s the brother. (Hold up your ring finger.)
  And here’s the little baby. (Hold up your little finger.)
  Thank you, God, for making families! (Wiggle your fingers.)
Pattern

Cut loosely around the pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outline.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
God Made Families, and Families Can Worship Together • Lesson 3

Bible Point

God Made Families

Bible Verse
God made families (adapted from Genesis 1:26a).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- realize that God made all families,
- learn that Abraham and his family worshipped God, and
- understand that families can worship God together.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

God made families, and families can worship together.


Living by faith means trusting in God’s promises even when earthly circumstances make things seem impossible. When Sarah got word of God’s intention to give her a child in her old age, she laughed out loud. In her laughter and her cynical reply we hear the resignation of one who long ago accepted her fate as a barren woman. Often in life we resign ourselves to circumstances which we view as unchangeable. But God is supremely able to change unchangeable circumstances.

Sarah laughed yet again on the day her son was born. This time her laughter was that of joy, wonder, and worship rather than cynical resignation. No matter what circumstances we face each day, we can know that God is working all things for the good of those who love him. He is capable of mighty acts on our behalf. And the appropriate response to God’s mighty acts is worship.

Prayer

- Read Ephesians 3:20.
- Do you think of God as one who is able to do above and beyond what you think possible? When you worship God, does his awesome power to do all things readily come to mind?
- Have you ever experienced a time when God met your needs in an unexpected way? Are there circumstances in your life now which call for trust in his ability to do so again?
- Pray: Lord, you are so powerful. You can do far beyond what I am able to comprehend. Thank you that I can depend on you even when things seem impossible. Help the children I teach begin to see that nothing is impossible with you!

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
# This Lesson at a Glance

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<td>Welcome Time—Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.</td>
<td>Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player</td>
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<tr>
<td>Option 1: Abraham’s Tent—Play in a pretend tent.</td>
<td>Bedsheet or blanket, Bible picture-books</td>
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<td>Option 2: Follow-Me Lambs—Make fluffy lambs to follow them.</td>
<td>Paper cups, black construction paper, yarn, cotton balls, glue sticks, markers</td>
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<td>Pick-Up Time—Sing a song as they help clean up the room.</td>
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<td><strong>Bible Story Time</strong></td>
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<td>Bible Song—Sing a song about the Bible.</td>
<td>Bible, CD player</td>
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<tr>
<td>God Made Families—Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Abraham’s family from Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-14; 21:1-7.</td>
<td>Tape, scissors, box of cookies, yellow construction paper, tent from Option 1, large towel, doll blanket or scarf</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Love My Family—Sing an action song about families.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board—Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.</td>
<td>Church pattern (p. 53), scissors, tape or pushpins, ribbon, lunch sack or shoe box, glue stick</td>
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<td>Sing It Out—Sing an action song about families.</td>
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<td>Bible Craft—Make an action picture, and “walk” the families to church.</td>
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<td>Bible Game—Pretend to be Abraham and take their lambs for a “walk.”</td>
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<td>Rolled Up in Love—Say a prayer, and have a snack.</td>
<td>Flour tortillas, plastic knives, napkins, red jam, wet paper towels</td>
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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: Today we’re going to learn that God made families.
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Abraham’s Tent

SUPPLIES: bedsheet or blanket, Bible picture-books

Before children arrive, drape a bedsheet or blanket over a table or across chairs to create a “tent.” Scatter a few Bible picture-books inside the tent.

As toddlers arrive, invite them to crawl inside the tent. If there’s enough room, join children inside the tent and look at the pictures in the books. Remind children that God made families and that Abraham’s family lived in a tent. Tell children that Abraham and Sarah loved God and worshipped him.

Let children enjoy crawling in and out of the pretend tent. Leave the tent set up to use later.

Option 2: Follow-Me Lambs

SUPPLIES: paper cups, black construction paper, yarn, cotton balls, glue sticks, markers

Before class, gather a paper cup and a 2-foot length of yarn for each child. Poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup, and thread the yarn through the hole. Knot the yarn so that the knot remains inside the cup.

Set out black construction paper, markers, glue sticks, and cotton balls. Invite children to make fluffy “lambs.” Have children glue cotton balls to the sides of the cups. Help children tear construction paper “ears” for their sheep and glue the ears near the bottoms of the cups. Use a marker to add eyes and smiling mouths. Be sure children’s names are written inside their cups.

As toddlers make their lambs, explain that Abraham took care of many sheep families. Remind children that God made families of people, and he also made families of sheep. When everyone has finished, encourage toddlers to pull their lambs around the room so that they “follow” the children.

Set the lambs aside until later.
Lesson 3

Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

**SING**

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

Bible Song

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: **Who made families? God made families!** How do we know that? The Bible tells us. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let’s sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

**BIBLE POINT**

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!

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Handson Bible Curriculum—Toddlers & 2s
**Bible Story: God Made Families**

**SUPPLIES:** tape, scissors, box of cookies, yellow construction paper, tent from Option 1, large towel, doll blanket or scarf

Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Cut a large star from yellow construction paper for each child. Tape the stars around the room in plain sight. Also, remove the sheet of blue cellophane from the Learning Lab. Cut a construction paper frame to fit around the cellophane. Tape the frame around the cellophane to create a “window” using small pieces of tape that can be easily removed.

**Panel 1**

Before you begin, be sure you’ve taped a big star within reach of each child somewhere in the room. Place a box of cookies beside the tent you made in Option 1. Have children wash their hands. Gather the children near the tent, and set tape, a towel, and the figure of baby Isaac behind you. Fold back the StoryBoard so children see only Panel 1.

In an “old” voice, say: I have a beard, and I’m very old. I don’t have any children to hold. Who am I? Hold the StoryBoard down so the children can point to Abraham. Encourage them to touch Abraham’s beard and headdress. Lead children in saying Abraham’s name. Then say: Abraham was very old. All of his life, Abraham loved God. Put your hands over your hearts to show how much Abraham loved God. Pause while children respond. Abraham loved God, and Abraham loved his wife, Sarah. But Abraham didn’t have any little children to love. Abraham knew that God made families, so he prayed and asked God for a child. God told Abraham to count the stars in the sky. Let’s touch the pretend stars on the StoryBoard. Allow toddlers to feel the stars on Panel 1.

Let’s find pretend stars in our room. Use your “telescopes.” Show children how to hold their hands like pretend telescopes. Look all around, up and down. Find a star and bring it back to the StoryBoard. Pause while children untape the stars and bring them back to the StoryBoard. Look at all the stars you found! God told Abraham he’d have lots of children, just as you have lots of stars. Hold your stars in the air and say, “God made families.” Lead children in repeating the Bible Point. Tape the stars to the children’s clothing. Then say: Let’s see if Abraham will have a family. But first, we’ll tiptoe inside our tent and sit down. Quietly lead the children to the tent you made in Option 1, and sit inside. Take the StoryBoard with you.
Panel 2

Say: We're inside a tent that's like the tent where Abraham and Sarah lived. Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2, which shows a tent. We can peek inside Abraham's tent and see what it's like. Let each child lift the tent flap on Panel 2 and peek inside.

Ask: Who did you see inside the tent? (Sarah; a lady.)

Say: Abraham and Sarah also worshipped God inside their tent. Abraham and Sarah told God how much they loved him. We can tell God how much we love him, too.

Have children say, “I love you, God,” and then blow a kiss upward.

Point to Panel 2 and say: Abraham had lots of animals. He took good care of them. Let's pat Abraham's sheep. Let toddlers pat the lambs. Then ask:

- How do sheep feel? (Soft; fluffy.)

Say: One day three special visitors came to see Abraham. Can you find the visitors? Lead children in pointing to the three men on Panel 2. Abraham and the visitors had dinner outside. We can have a treat outside our tent. Lead children outside the tent, and hand each child a cookie to eat. Then say: The visitors told Abraham exciting news! They said that God would give Abraham and Sarah a baby. Let’s clap for Abraham and Sarah! Clap with the children. Now we’ll see if Abraham and Sarah’s baby is here.

Unfold Panel 3, which shows Abraham and Sarah. Wrap the figure of baby Isaac in a doll blanket or scarf, then place the figure in Sarah’s arms.

Whisper: Oh! Who is Sarah holding? It’s the baby God gave to Sarah and Abraham. The baby’s name is Isaac. Would you like to hold him? Hand the figure of baby Isaac to each child. Encourage children to say, “I love you” or “Hello, Isaac” to the baby.

Panel 3

After everyone’s had a turn holding the figure of Isaac, return it to the StoryBoard. Say: Abraham and Sarah took good care of their little baby. See how they wrapped Isaac in a blanket? A blanket is like a hug. Let’s have baby-blanket hugs! Wrap the towel around each child and give him or her a hug.

Abraham and Sarah were happy to have little baby Isaac. And I’m very happy to have you here in church today!

Have the children sit in a circle with you on the floor. Show the children the framed cellophane window you made before class.

Say: This is my pretend church window. Lots of churches have very pretty, colorful windows, just like this pretend window. If your church has stained-glass windows, remind the children where they are located in the building. Look what happens when I hold the pretend window to my face. You can see me, can’t you? And I can see you, too!

Say: In our story, God made Abraham and Sarah’s family. Abraham and Sarah loved and worshipped God. We can come to church with our families and worship God, too.

Pass the framed cellophane around the circle. Encourage each child to peek through the “window” and see who he or she can see in church. The child may name a friend from class or a family member. After each child has had a turn, place the frame behind you.
God Made Families, and Families Can Worship Together

Ask: • Who brings you to church? (My mommy; my grandma; my neighbor.)
• What is your favorite thing about church? (The singing; the snacks; my teacher.)

Say: God made families, and God made my family and your family. God made Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac’s family, too. Our families can come to church and worship God, just as Abraham’s family worshipped God.

And one very special reason to worship God is because he sent Jesus to be our forever friend. When we believe in Jesus, we can become part of God’s family. That’s great news! Let’s give a cheer for God for sending Jesus! Lead children in a cheer for God.

Thanks for that cheer! Now let’s sing a song about families to show how happy we are that God made families.

I Love My Family

SUPPLIES: CD player

Say: The Bible says in Genesis 1:26a that God made families. Wiggle your fingers to make them look like little people. We’ll pretend our wiggly fingers are a “family.” Let’s sing a song and let our finger families play and wiggle with joy! Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) to the tune of “Frère Jacques.” As you sing, do the motions in parentheses.

God made families (wiggle your fingers)
God made families. (Wiggle your fingers.)
Yours and mine (point to a friend and then to yourself),
Yours and mine. (Point to a friend and then to yourself.)
I will love my family. (Put your hands over your heart.)
I will love my family (put your hands over your heart)
All the time (wiggle your fingers),
All the time. (Wiggle your fingers.)
(Repeat.)

Say: Families are special. God made families. And families can worship God just as Abraham and Sarah worshipped God. Let’s add a church to our bulletin board to show how families can worship God together.

BIBLE VERSE

God made families
Yours and mine
I will love my family
All the time

BIBLE POINT

Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children. Save the blue cellophane for use in a later lesson.
## Bible Activities

### Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

**SUPPLIES:** church pattern (p. 53), scissors, tape or pushpins, ribbon, lunch sack or shoe box, glue stick

Before class, photocopy the church pattern. Cut out the pattern. Glue the church pattern to the side of a lunch sack or shoe box, and then attach the church “building” to the bulletin board with removable tape or pushpins. Place the opening of the sack or box in such a way that children can put the family pictures from Lesson 1 inside.

Gently untape the family members from the bulletin board. Tie a ribbon into a bow around Cuddles’ neck.

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**Bring out Cuddles the Lamb wearing a bow.**

**Teacher:** My, that’s a pretty bow tie you’re wearing, Cuddles! Is it new?

**Cuddles:** My mommy made it for me to wear to church today. She made one for my grandpa, too.

**Teacher:** That was very nice of her, Cuddles. It’s fun to go to church with our families, isn’t it?

**Cuddles:** Yes, and I specially like sitting with Grandpa ’cause he sings like this: *(in a silly singing voice)* Laaa laaa laaa…BAAA!

**Teacher:** *(Hands covering ears)* Oh, my! That is quite a song. We’ll sing a little later, Cuddles. But right now, we’ve been learning that God made families and that families can worship God together. Would you like to help us with the bulletin board?

**Cuddles:** Yes, I like to help!

Have Cuddles hand each child a picture of a family member. Let children slide the family members inside the church on the bulletin board. Each time someone places a family member in the church, lead toddlers in saying, “We love God.”

**Teacher:** It’s fun to tell God we love him—especially when our whole family says it together. Let’s all say, “We love God.” Ready? We love God. Our classroom “family” can sing a song to worship God, too.

**Cuddles:** Can I sing, too?

**Teacher:** You can help us sing our family song, Cuddles!

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Sing It Out
SUPPLIES: CD player

Have Cuddles lead children in singing “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) to the tune of “Frère Jacques.” Do the motions in parentheses for extra fun. When you’ve finished, set Cuddles out of sight.

**SING**

- God made families (wiggle your fingers),
- God made families. (Wiggle your fingers.)
- Yours and mine (point to a friend and then to yourself),
- Yours and mine. (Point to a friend and then to yourself.)
- I will love my family. (Put your hands over your heart.)
- I will love my family (put your hands over your heart)
- All the time (wiggle your fingers),
- All the time. (Wiggle your fingers.)
(Repeat)

Say: We have a nice classroom family, and it’s fun singing together. Now let’s make a family that is going to church together.

Bible Craft
SUPPLIES: family pattern (p. 52), paper plates, glue stick, scissors, crayons

Before class, photocopy the family pattern for each child. Cut out the pattern.

Set out the family pictures, crayons, and a glue stick. (You’ll need scissors to finish this craft—but keep them out of the children’s reach.) Hand each child a paper plate.

Help children glue the family picture to the center of their plates, and then let toddlers scribble-color the pictures. Use the scissors to poke holes through the dotted lines on the figure of the child. Invite toddlers to poke their fingers through the holes and make the child in the picture “walk.” As they play with their pictures, make comments such as “The family is walking to church” and “I’m glad that God made families and that families take walks together.”

Say: We’ve had fun helping our families walk. Now let’s play another walking game. Set the “walking pictures” aside for children to take home.
Lesson 3

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: fluffy lambs from Option 2

Have toddlers stand in a circle, and hand them the fluffy lambs they made in Option 2. Say: Let’s pretend to be shepherds like Abraham. We can take our lambs for a walk. Have toddlers walk in a circle as they pull their lambs. After a few moments, say: Look! Our lambs are following behind us! Let’s say a fun rhyme as we walk with our lambs. Say the following rhyme as you walk around the classroom.

Abraham had a lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Abraham went,
The lamb was sure to go.

Repeat the rhyme but use children’s names instead of “Abraham.” Continue until you’ve used everyone’s name in the rhyme. Then say: Now quietly lead your lambs to the snack table.

■ Closing

■ Rolled Up in Love

SUPPLIES: flour tortillas, plastic knives, red jam, napkins, wet paper towels

Say: We’ve been learning that God made families. We’ve also learned that families can worship God just as Abraham did. Our class is like a family, and we can worship God together. Hold hands, and we’ll pray. Pray: Dear God, thank you for making families. Thank you that we can come to church with our families. We love you, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Have children wash their hands. Hand each child half of a flour tortilla on a napkin. Help children spread red jam into the shape of a heart on their tortillas. Then demonstrate how to roll up the tortillas. Say: This tortilla is like our family. There’s lots of love inside our families. Now gobble up your treats and feel that love inside your hearts—and tummies!

Have children throw their napkins in the wastebasket when they’ve finished. Use the wet paper towels for cleanup. Be sure children take home their fluffy lambs and walking pictures.
**Family Finger-Fun**

Lead toddlers in repeating the finger rhyme they learned last week.

- **Here’s the father.** *(Hold up your thumb.)*
- **Here’s the mother.** *(Hold up your index finger.)*
- **Here’s the sister.** *(Hold up your middle finger.)*
- **Here’s the brother.** *(Hold up your ring finger.)*
- **And here’s the little baby.** *(Hold up your little finger.)*
- **Thank you, God, for making families!** *(Wiggle your fingers.)*

**God Made My Family**

Without using the CD, sing “God Made My Family” with the children to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” Have older toddlers walk in a circle as they sing.

**SING**

- **God made my family** *(point upward)*
- **For giving love and care.** *(Hug yourself.)*
- **God made my family** *(point upward)*
- **To show me how to share.** *(Hold your hands palms up.)*
- *(Repeat.)*
Pattern

Cut around the square.
Pattern

Cut around the pattern.
I’m Happy That God Made Families • Lesson 4

Bible Point

God Made Families

Bible Verse

God made families (adapted from Genesis 1:26a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will
- recognize that God made families,
- learn that Abraham and Sarah thanked God for Isaac, and
- express their thanks to God for making families.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

I’m happy that God made families.


God keeps his promises. God does what he says he will do. For Abraham and Sarah, it was the miraculous fulfillment of an amazing promise: the birth of a son to 90- and 100-year-old parents who had never before been able to have a child! And it was really their child—the son of both Abraham and Sarah—as confirmed in Genesis 21:2-3. The shame of childlessness that had haunted them for decades was finally erased. God brought a kind of joy to Abraham and Sarah that they had never known.

Isaac, the name Abraham gave his son, means “he laughs.” Genesis 21:6 contains a play on words that’s pretty obvious even in English. Through the child named “he laughs,” God had brought laughter to Sarah and to all who knew her. In those days, any birth of a healthy child brought great joy, even more so if it was a boy. But a firstborn son, born to such elderly parents, was certainly a laughing matter! Sarah could hardly contain her happiness. Who could blame her?

Prayer

- Read Proverbs 15:15.
- Do you see life through a despondent or happy lens?
- Pray: Lord, help me to be happy in all circumstances, safe in the knowledge that you know best and that you’re working out my life for your purposes. And please help me to share that happiness with the children I teach.

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
**Lesson 4**

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<td><strong>Option 1: Family-Fun Toss</strong>—Toss beanbags and name the family members.</td>
<td>Family member patterns (pp. 24-25), beanbags, poster board, transparent and masking tape, markers or crayons, scissors</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Option 2: Home, Sweet Home</strong>—Build homes for pretend families.</td>
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<td><strong>Pick-Up Time</strong>—Sing a song as they help clean up the room.</td>
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<td><strong>Bible Story Time</strong></td>
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<td><strong>God Made Families</strong>—Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Abraham's family from Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-14; 21:1-7.</td>
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<td><strong>Thank You, God</strong>—Sing a song thanking God for their families.</td>
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<td>Tape</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sing It Out</strong>—Sing a song thanking God for their families.</td>
<td>Bible, CD player</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Craft</strong>—Create colorful family flags to wave.</td>
<td>Flag pattern (p. 66), crayons, markers, tape, scissors, drinking straws, ribbon or crepe paper</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Game</strong>—March in a family parade, and remember that God made families.</td>
<td>CD player, flags from Bible Craft</td>
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<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family Fare</strong>—Say a prayer, and have a snack.</td>
<td>Yogurt cups, cereal loops, mini chocolate chips, plastic spoons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time
SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: Today we’re going to learn that God made families.
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Family-Fun Toss
SUPPLIES: family member patterns (pp. 24-25), beanbags, poster board, transparent and masking tape, markers or crayons, scissors

Before this activity, photocopy the family member patterns. Color the pictures, and then cut them out. To make a game board, tape the cutouts to a large sheet of poster board. Be sure to allow at least five inches between each cutout.

Set the game board next to a wall. Stick a 12-inch piece of masking tape to the floor three feet from the game board. Place a few beanbags on the masking tape line. As children arrive, invite them to stand at the line and toss beanbags onto the game board. If a beanbag lands on a picture, have children tell what family member the picture shows. Tell children that today they’ll learn how Abraham thanked God because God made families.

Option 2: Home, Sweet Home
SUPPLIES: building blocks, variety of boxes

Set out building blocks and a variety of boxes. Encourage children to make “houses” for pretend families. Show toddlers how to place large blocks or boxes on the floor and then stack smaller ones on top to make pretend apartment buildings and two-story houses. You may wish to include small figurines or dolls to “live” in the homes. Explain that God made families and that families live in many different types of homes. Remind children that Abraham and Sarah’s home was a tent.

Pick-Up Time
SUPPLIES: CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”
Lesson 4

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let's put it all away.

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
It's time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

**Bible Song**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

**BIBLE POINT**

> Say: Who made families? God made families. How do we know that? The Bible tells us. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let's sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead children in singing “God's Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

This is God's special book.
Yes, it's God's book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!

**Bible Story: God Made Families**

**SUPPLIES:** foil or paper star

Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Cut a star out of paper or aluminum foil for use during the lesson.
Panel 1

Set the figure of baby Isaac, a paper or foil star, and the fun foot behind you. Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Say: **We’ve been learning that God made families. This is Abraham. You can pat Abraham’s beard and tell him hello.** Hold the StoryBoard down so that the children can touch Abraham’s beard and headdress. Encourage toddlers to say, “Hello, Abraham,” as they touch his beard.

**Abraham loved God, but Abraham was sad. Show me a sad face.** Pause for children to respond. Abraham was sad because he didn’t have any children in his family. Abraham had a nice wife named Sarah. But they didn’t have a little boy or girl to love. Let’s say a rhyme about Abraham and Sarah.

Repeat the following action rhyme, and encourage toddlers to follow.

**Abraham and Sarah felt no joy (make a sad face and shake your head); They had no little girl or boy. (Hold your hands palms up and shake your head.)**

Abraham and Sarah wanted a family. They knew that God made families. Abraham prayed and asked God for a baby. God told Abraham to count the stars in the sky. That’s how many people would be in Abraham’s family. Point to the stars on Panel 1. **Look at all the stars! We can’t touch real stars, but we can touch pretend stars!** Hold the StoryBoard down so the children can touch the stars.

Hold up the paper or foil star. Say: **We’ll use this star to play a game. Close your eyes and hold out your hands. If I put the star in your hands, jump up and say, “Here’s the star!”** Play until each child has received the star at least once. Then say: **Just as there are many stars in the sky, God said that Abraham would be the father of many children. Yea! Let’s clap for Abraham.** Pause for children to respond.

Panel 2

Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard, which shows the tent. Ask: • **What do you see in this picture?** (A tent; a tree; sheep; men.) • **Who lives in the tent?** (Abraham; Sarah.)

Say: **We can look in the tent and see who’s home.** Let each child lift the flap and peek inside the tent. Encourage toddlers to say, “Hello, Sarah.” Then ask:

• **What’s Sarah doing in the tent?** (Cooking; making food.)

Say: Sarah is making Abraham’s dinner. And Abraham is watching the sheep. Abraham has lots of animals. He takes good care of his sheep, just as your mommy and daddy take good care of you. They like to take care of you because they love you. **Let’s give Abraham’s sheep a “love pat.”** Hold the StoryBoard so the children can pat Abraham’s sheep. I’m going to give each of you a “love pat” on your head. Gently pat each child’s head and say: I’m glad that God made families, and I’m glad God made [name of child].

Point to the men sitting under the tree with Abraham. Say: Abraham has special visitors sitting under the tree. The leaves make cool shade. Let’s
touch a leaf. Have children touch the leaf. Then say: The three men were special messengers from God. They came to tell Sarah and Abraham that God would give them a baby. Sarah thought that was funny because she thought she was too old to have a baby. Sarah laughed. Let’s pretend to laugh like Sarah. Lead children in holding their tummies and pretending to belly laugh. Then say: It’s fun to laugh! I’m glad God made families so that we can laugh and be happy. Let’s see if Abraham and Sarah were happy with their new family.

Panel 3

Unfold Panel 3. Open Sarah’s arms. Say: Abraham and Sarah were excited. God said they would have a baby! Close your eyes, and we’ll count to three. Have toddlers close their eyes. As you count to three, slip the figure of baby Isaac into Sarah’s arms. One, two, three—open your eyes. What do you see? A baby! God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy named Isaac! Whisper: Would you like to hold baby Isaac? Let children gently cradle the figure of baby Isaac. Then return Isaac to Sarah’s arms.

Let’s say our rhyme about the sleepy baby. Slowly say the following rhyme twice. Encourage the children to do the actions with you.

Here is a cradle (make a cradle with your arms)—
Shh, don’t make a peep! (Put your finger to your lips.)
The tiny baby (cup your hands)
Is fast asleep. (Lay your head on your hands and close your eyes.)

Whisper: I think baby Isaac is asleep. He looks happy. Abraham and Sarah are happy because God made families.

Have children sit with you on the floor. Have everyone stretch out his or her legs in the middle of the circle, touching feet with the person on either side of them.

Say: Let’s look at our feet. Some of us are wearing shoes that tie; some of us have shoes with a buckle. Some of us have dark-colored shoes, and some of us have light-colored shoes. Our shoes are different partly because our feet are different from each other. Let’s think about the feet of the people in our story.

Ask: • How big do you think Abraham’s feet were? (Huge; big; the same size as my dad’s.)
• How big do you think Sarah’s feet were? (Like my mom’s; little; as big as Abraham’s.)
• How big do you think baby Isaac’s feet were? (Very small; tiny; like mine.)

Say: God made families. God made everyone in Abraham’s family, and he knew exactly what they would be like. God made our families, too, and he knew what each person would be like. He even knew how big everyone’s feet would be! Let’s play a game to thank God for everyone in our families.

First we’ll pass around the toy foot and thank God for making everyone in our family with little feet. If you have a brother or sister, you can thank God for that person in your family. And don’t forget to thank God for making you!
Pass the fun foot around the circle, encouraging children to name and thank God for the people in their family with “little” feet. Children can even include pets if they’d like!

Say: **Now let’s thank God for making the people in our family with bigger feet, like our moms and dads, aunts or uncles, or anybody you want to name in your family with bigger feet.**

Pass the fun foot around the circle, encouraging children to name and thank God for the people in their family with bigger feet. Then place the fun foot out of sight.

Ask: • **Who made your family?** (God did!)

• **How can we thank God for making our families?** (By saying “thank you”; by giving hugs to our family.)

Say: **God made families,** and I’m happy that God made families. I’m happy for something else, too. I’m happy that God sent Jesus to be our forever friend.

When we believe in Jesus, we can become part of God’s family—the best family of all!

Let’s sing a song to thank God for making families.

**Thank You, God**

**SUPPLIES: CD player**

Using the CD, lead the children in singing “Thank You, God” (track 4) to the tune of “This Old Man.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

Say: **Thank you, God.** (Point upward.)

**I love you** (cover your heart),

And I love my family, too. (Slowly open your arms out wide.)

Thank you, God, for everything you do. (Turn around in a circle.)

My family sends a kiss to you! (Blow a kiss upward.)

(Repeat.)

Say: **We like to thank God because God made families.** Now let’s visit the family on our bulletin board.
Lesson 4

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: tape

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

Cuddles: Hi, everyone! I’m so happy to see you, I want to hug you! (Races to give everyone a warm hug.)

Teacher: That was nice, Cuddles! We like hugs, don’t we, children? And we’re happy today, too. We’re happy that God made families.

Cuddles: I’m thankful that God made my family. I have a nice family, and we like to hug each other. That’s where I learned to cuddle! (Gives everyone another hug.)

Teacher: Hugs are nice! Cuddles, would you like to help us with the bulletin board?

Cuddles: Yes, I like being a helper! What can I do?

Teacher: We’re going to thank God for making families. You can pass out the family pictures. Have Cuddles hand each child a picture of a family member. Help children tape their pictures side by side on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a picture, help him or her say, “Thank you, God, for [mommies, daddies, or other family members].”

Cuddles: And I want to thank God for being a part of this special church family, too!

Teacher: Families are special gifts from God, aren’t they? Let’s sing a song to thank God for families.

Set Cuddles out of sight.

Before this activity, remove the family figures from the church “building” on the bulletin board. You’ll be replacing them on the bulletin board later.

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I'm Happy That God Made Families

Sing It Out

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Using the *CD*, lead the children in singing “Thank You, God” (track 4) to the tune of “This Old Man.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

---

**SING**

*Thank you, God.* (Point upward.)

I love you *(cover your heart)*,

And I love my family, too. *(Slowly open your arms out wide.)*

Thank you, God, for everything you do. *(Turn around in a circle.)*

My family sends a kiss to you! *(Blow a kiss upward.)* *(Repeat.)*

Say: Families are great! You know, God made the very first family, just like he made your family. Listen to what the Bible says about when God made the first people for the first family. Open your Bible to *Genesis 1:26a*, and show children the verse. Say: *The Bible says that God made families. God made the first family, and God made your family, too!*

Let’s make family flags to wave and show everyone how wonderful it is that God made families.

---

Bible Craft

**SUPPLIES:** flag pattern (p. 66), crayons, markers, tape, scissors, drinking straws, ribbon or crepe paper

Before class, photocopy the flag pattern for each child. Cut out the flags. Cut 6-inch lengths of ribbon or crepe paper for streamers.

Set out markers, crayons, streamers, tape, and drinking straws. Hand each child a flag. Invite toddlers to decorate their flags using crayons and markers. Then tape each flag to a drinking straw, and help children tape streamers at the top corner of their flags. Encourage children to wave their flags. Say: *Flags remind me of parades. Let’s have a marching parade and wave our family flags to show how happy we are that God made families.*

---

Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, flags from Bible Craft

Have children stand in a circle. Say: *Let’s march, march, march to some high-stepping music! Wave your flags. We’ll let God see how glad we are that he made families.* Play the “March Song” (track 7) on the CD and lead children in a lively march around the room.

After the parade, say: *You’re good marchers! It’s fun to show how happy we are that God made families.* Now let’s march to the snack table for a special treat.
Lesson 4

Closing

Family Fare

SUPPLIES: yogurt cups, cereal loops, mini chocolate chips, plastic spoons

Ask: • Who made families? (God.)

Say: Yes, God made families. God made all kinds of families. Let’s say “thank you” to God for giving us special families. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for our families. We love them so much. We love you, too. In Jesus’ name, amen.

We’ve learned that families help each other. We can help fix snacks for each other just as Sarah helped fix dinner for the special visitors. Have children wash their hands. Add a small scoop of cereal loops and mini chocolate chips to each yogurt cup, and have the children pass the cups around the table until everyone has one. Then hand out spoons and let toddlers enjoy their snacks. As children eat, encourage them to talk about what they like best about their families.

When the children have finished, have them throw their yogurt cups in the wastebasket. Be sure children take home their family flags.
For Extra Time
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Family on the Move

Set out the building blocks and boxes from Option 2. Help children put the blocks into the boxes, push them to the other side of the room, and then remove the blocks. Explain that Abraham and his family moved their tent and their belongings to a new home. Point out that families help each other.

Sing-Along

Without using the CD, lead children in singing “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) to the tune of “Frère Jacques.”

God made families (wiggle your fingers),
God made families. (Wiggle your fingers.)
Yours and mine (point to a friend and then to yourself),
Yours and mine. (Point to a friend and then to yourself.)
I will love my family. (Put your hands over your heart.)
I will love my family (put your hands over your heart)
All the time (wiggle your fingers),
All the time. (Wiggle your fingers.)
Pattern

God Made Families
God Keeps Us Safe

Bible Basis: Genesis 6:9–9:17

Like many natural disasters, the great flood described in Genesis prompted ancient people to ask the question Why? Why did such a disaster happen? Explanations that have survived from ancient Mesopotamian culture paint a bleak picture: Fickle gods become annoyed with the noise and chaos of human society. After numerous attempts to control human society through famine and plague, the gods decide to send a flood to destroy humanity. One lucky individual receives warning and manages to survive. These myths are the sad results of an idolatrous culture trying to make sense of the world.

The Bible sets the record straight. The one true God, the Creator of the universe, sent the Flood, and not for fickle reasons. Since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3), humanity had sunk deeper and deeper into moral decay and rampant wickedness. The Flood would purge the earth of this wickedness and provide an opportunity for a new start—one in which new legal parameters would help restrain the human tendency toward evil (Genesis 9:6).

This emphasis on a new start through Noah is what makes the Flood account in Genesis one of hope in the midst of darkness, life in the face of death. Noah had a close, personal relationship with God, and as a result, God saved and protected him from the Flood. Likewise, those who have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ enjoy the confidence that although we are sinners, we will be spared the punishment we deserve because of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Five Lessons on God Keeps Us Safe

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<td>God keeps us safe wherever we are.</td>
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<td>I’m glad that God keeps us safe.</td>
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</table>
God Keeps Us Safe

For the next five weeks, the toddlers and 2s class will be learning that God keeps us safe. The children will use their five senses to discover how God’s love protected Noah, his family, and the animals during the Flood. And they’ll learn the wonderful fact that God always keeps his promises. Use these Parent Page ideas to help reinforce the point that God keeps us safe.

Tips for Ts and 2s

Toddlers are fascinated by the idea of Noah caring for a “floating zoo”! But it’s easy for little ones to overlook the fact that it was God’s loving care that carried Noah, his family, and the animals safely through the Flood. It’s important for toddlers to understand God’s protective love for them. By allowing your child to help care for family members or a pet, he or she experiences and learns to express that same nurturing love.

Together Time

- Visit a zoo or animal shelter with your child. Talk about the ways people care for and protect animals, such as feeding them, keeping them clean, and giving them water.
- Have some “watery fun” with your toddler. Explore different uses for water, such as bathing, brushing teeth, washing dishes, watering gardens, and drinking. Point out that God gives us water for many things and that we need water to live.
- Sing this song from class with your toddler:

The Ark Song
(sung to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

Sail, sail, sail the ark
On the waves at sea.
Up and down and all around—
God takes care of me.

Sail, sail, sail the ark;
It’s like a floating bus.
Monkeys, zebras, kangaroos—
God takes care of us.
**Bible Point**

**God Keeps Us Safe**

**Bible Verse**
God keeps us safe (adapted from Psalm 4:8).

**Growing Closer to Jesus**
Children will
- learn that God kept Noah safe,
- experience what it's like to protect and care for something, and
- realize that God keeps us safe because he loves us.

**Teacher Enrichment**

**Bible Basis**
God keeps us safe because he loves us.

In any generation, God’s people have a choice to make: drift with the culture or follow God’s ways. In today’s passage, we read of a man who made the right choice. In the days when the world was plunging deeper and deeper into sin and rebellion, Noah took a stand. Genesis 6:9 says that Noah “walked in close fellowship with God.” Rather than gratify his sinful desires like the rest of the culture, Noah made a conscious choice to walk with a holy God instead.

Walking in fellowship with God is not about following rules. It’s about a love relationship. Out of that love relationship, obedience flows naturally from the believer, while blessing and protection flow naturally from God. In our world today, we have to make the same choice day by day. Not just adults; children, too, must learn to decide whether to merely follow their own desires (and eventually the desires of their peers) or to live in a way that honors God. Help them see from the story of Noah that to choose fellowship with the God who loves them is far better.

**Prayer**

- Read Deuteronomy 23:5.
- How did God show his love to the Israelites in this episode? In what ways have you experienced the benefits of God’s love?
- What are some issues today which present you with the same sort of choice Noah had—that is, drift with the culture or follow the God who loves you?
- Pray: Lord, I want to be like Noah. I want to walk with you rather than drift with the culture. Thank you that you love me and keep me in your love. Help the children I teach understand that you love them and want what’s best for them.

**Before the Lesson**

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
### This Lesson at a Glance

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<td><strong>Welcome Time</strong>—Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.</td>
<td>Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1: Fuzzy Friends</strong>—Make fuzzy, pretend animals to protect and love.</td>
<td>Felt, scissors, ribbon, white craft glue, construction paper, paper punch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Option 2: Build a Boat</strong>—Build a boat with boxes and pretend tools.</td>
<td>Medium-sized boxes, plastic spoons, craft sticks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pick-Up Time</strong>—Sing a song as they help clean up the room.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Story Time</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>God Keeps Us Safe</strong>—Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Noah from Genesis 6:9–9:17.</td>
<td>Bible, fuzzy friends from Option 1, animal patterns (pp. 81-82), scissors, markers or crayons, lunch sack, CD player</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Ark Song</strong>—Sing an action song and learn that God cares for them, and use sponges to remind them of the Bible story.</td>
<td>CD player, 2 small sponges, shallow tub of water</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</strong>—Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.</td>
<td>Animal patterns (pp. 81-82), scissors, grocery sack, blue construction paper, tape, markers or crayons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sing It Out</strong>—Sing an action song, and learn that God cares for them.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Craft</strong>—Create little “houses” to keep their fuzzy friends safe.</td>
<td>Paper cups, markers, crayons, stickers, fuzzy friends from Option 1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Game</strong>—Learn a fun finger rhyme about the animals on the ark.</td>
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<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Banana Boats</strong>—Say a prayer, and have a snack.</td>
<td>Bananas (one for every four children), plastic knife, chocolate chips, napkins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: *Today we’re going to learn that God keeps us safe.*
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Fuzzy Friends

**SUPPLIES:** felt, scissors, ribbon, white craft glue, construction paper, paper punch

Before class, cut a 3x7-inch piece of felt and a 5-inch piece of ribbon for each child. Also use a paper punch to punch out construction paper “eyes” for each child’s “fuzzy friend.”

Set out the paper eyes, white craft glue, felt pieces, and ribbon. As children arrive, invite them to make a fuzzy friend. Let them each choose a piece of felt and a ribbon. Tie ribbons loosely around the “necks” of the fuzzy pretend animals. Then help children glue paper eyes on their animal friends. As you work, encourage the children to think of names for their pretend animals. Let children cuddle and pat their fuzzy friends as you explain that they will care for the friends today and keep them safe. Tell children that God keeps us safe. Mention that today’s Bible story is about a man named Noah and how he cared for many different animals. Let toddlers carry their fuzzy friends by placing them on their shoulders.

Option 2: Build a Boat

**SUPPLIES:** medium-sized boxes, plastic spoons, craft sticks

Before class, collect five or six medium-sized boxes. Cereal boxes will also work well for this activity. Whichever type you use, it’s best if the boxes are all the same size.

Set out the boxes and a variety of pretend tools such as plastic spoons to use as “hammers” and craft sticks to use as “saws” or “screwdrivers.”

Encourage children to “build a boat” with the boxes and the pretend tools. Let children stack the boxes, “hammer” with plastic spoons, and “saw” with craft sticks. Explain that God told a man named Noah to build a very big boat. Tell children that today they’ll hear a Bible story about Noah and the big boat he built. Mention that just as God keeps us safe, God kept Noah safe in the ark. When the children’s boat is finished, invite them to hop aboard for a pretend sea voyage.

**teacher tips**

If some children choose not to do Option 1, have adult helpers make extra fuzzy friends. You’ll use them throughout the lesson.

If you have access to children’s play tools, they’re wonderful substitutes for the plastic spoons and craft sticks. Please be sure all of the play tools are large enough for toddlers to hold and have no parts smaller than a 50-cent piece.
Lesson 5

Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

SING

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

Say: Who keeps us safe? God keeps us safe. How do we know that? The Bible tells us. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

SING

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!
**Bible Story: God Keeps Us Safe**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, fuzzy friends from Option 1, animal patterns (pp. 81-82), scissors, markers or crayons, lunch sack, CD player

Before class begins, prepare the StoryBoard by following the assembly instructions provided in the Learning Lab. Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Photocopy the animal patterns. Color the patterns, and then cut them out. Be sure there is a cutout for each child. Place the animal cutouts in a lunch sack.

Panel 1

Set the CD player, the punch-out figure of Noah from the StoryBoard, and the lunch sack containing the animal cutouts beside you. Close the door flap on the StoryBoard ark. Turn the rainbow/cloud on Panel 3 so that the cloud side faces out.

Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Be sure all of the children are wearing their fuzzy friends from Option 1 on their shoulders. Say: **Today we'll hear a Bible story about a man named Noah. Let's say hello to Noah.** Pass the figure of Noah to the children, and encourage them to say, “Hello, Noah.” Then set the figure of Noah in front of the StoryBoard.

**Noah loved God very much. In fact, Noah was the only man in the world who obeyed and loved God. God was angry at the other people in the world because they were mean and wicked. God decided to wash the world clean with a big flood. But God loved Noah and wanted to keep Noah safe. God told Noah to build a big, big boat called an ark. The ark would keep Noah safe in the flood. Let's build an ark. First we'll saw the wood. Take out your pretend saws.**

Have children make sawing motions as you listen to the sawing sounds on track 8 of the CD. After the sawing sounds, pause the CD. Say: **Now we'll hammer the wood with our pretend hammers.** Play the CD and encourage children to make hammering motions to the taped sounds of the hammer. Then pause the CD again. **Good! We built a big boat just like the ark. When Noah's ark was finished, God sent animals to climb aboard. God wanted to keep the animals safe, too, just as God keeps us safe and you're keeping your fuzzy friends safe.**

Open the ark's door on Panel 1. **God sent the animals to the ark. Some animals came in groups of seven pairs (hold up seven fingers) and some came in twos (hold up two fingers). Let's pet the animals.** Have children take turns touching the alligator, the duck, the bunny, and the giraffe.

**We can help more animals go inside the ark.** Hand children the animal cutouts. Encourage children to make the appropriate animal sounds as they put their cutouts through the open door of the ark. Then say: **All the animals and Noah and his family were on the ark.** Slide the figure of Noah through the door on Panel 1. **Then God shut the door.** Close the StoryBoard door. **Listen—what do you hear?** Play the storm sounds on track 10 of the CD as you reveal Panel 2. Then stop the CD player.
Lesson 5

Panel 2

Say: That sounded like rain. God sent lots and lots of rain to wash the world clean. There was a big flood, and everything was washed away—but not Noah and his family or the animals. They were safe inside the ark as it floated on top of the water. God kept them safe just as you’re keeping your fuzzy friends safe. Let’s peek at Noah, shall we? Allow toddlers to take turns lifting the flap on Panel 2. Ask them to find and touch the following pictures:

- the elephant’s ear,
- the lion’s mane,
- the skunk’s tail,
- Noah, and
- Noah’s family.

Then ask:

**Who keeps us safe?** (God.)

Say: **God keeps us safe,** and God kept Noah and his family and all the animals safe inside the ark. While it rained for many days, the ark sailed up and down on the waves. We can pretend we’re sailing, too. Sit up straight. Pause. Make rocking motions as you say the following rhyme.

Rock, rock, in our boat.
God will help us stay afloat.
Rock, rock, over the waves—
God will keep us safe!

That was fun. As they sailed in the ark, Noah took care of the animals. He gave them food, water, and lots of love. God cared for Noah, and Noah cared for the animals. Everyone on the ark was safe. Noah didn’t need to worry because he knew that God would keep him safe. Listen to what the Bible says about God keeping us safe.

Open your Bible to *Psalm 4:8,* and show children the verse. Say: The Bible says that **God keeps us safe.** Noah could sleep on the ark because he knew God would keep him safe.

God loved Noah, and God loves us. **God keeps us safe** because he loves us.

Another way we know that God loves us is because he sent his Son, Jesus, to be our forever friend. When we believe in Jesus, he’ll live in our hearts and be with us wherever we go. I’m so glad God sent Jesus!
Panel 3

Fold the StoryBoard so children see Panel 3. Say: Look, God stopped the rain! The animals are coming out of the ark. Look at the monkey. Give the monkey a gentle push. The monkey is happy and swinging by his tail. We can pet the animals and tell them we’re glad they’re safe. Let each child touch the turtle and the caterpillar and give the swinging monkey a gentle push.

Ask: • How does the turtle’s shell feel? (Hard; bumpy.)
• What does the monkey’s tail feel like? (Soft; nice.)

Say: When God stopped the rain, he put something beautiful in the sky. Punch out the cloud and turn it over so the rainbow shows. Place the rainbow in the StoryBoard sky. Oh, what did God put in the sky? Pause for toddlers to tell you that it’s a rainbow. God promised never to flood the world again. God made the rainbow to remind us of his promise.

►God keeps us safe and cares for us because he loves us. You’ve done a good job caring for your fuzzy friends. You can wear your fuzzy friends while we sing a song.

The Ark Song

SUPPLIES: CD player, 2 small sponges, shallow tub of water

Using the CD, lead children in singing “The Ark Song” (track 11) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

SING

Sail, sail, sail the ark (stand and rock back and forth)
On the waves at sea. (Make wavelike motions with your hands.)
Up and down and all around (stand on tiptoe; then bend low and turn around)—God takes care of me. (Point to yourself.)

Sail, sail, sail the ark (stand and rock back and forth);
It’s like a floating bus. (Make steering motions.)
Monkeys, zebras, kangaroos (scratch your tummy; put your hands on your head like ears; hop)—God takes care of us. (Point to yourself.)

Say: What fun! I felt like we were sailing on the ark, didn’t you? God kept Noah and the animals safe inside the ark because he loved them. And ►God keeps us safe because he loves us, too. Let’s put our fuzzy friends away until later.

Have the children place their fuzzy friends against the wall until later. Then have the children join you on the floor in a circle. Have the two small sponges nearby plus a small tub of water.

Say: God kept Noah and the animals safe inside the ark because he loved them. And ►God keeps us safe because he loves us. Let’s play a game to remind us that ►God keeps us safe.
Lesson 5

Place the tub of water in the middle of the circle. Show children how the empty sponge “boats” float on the water. Say: God kept Noah’s boat on top of the water where it would be safe. Noah and all of the animals were safe. Let each child take a turn “sailing” a sponge boat and saying, “God keeps us safe.” After everyone has had a turn, place the water and sponges out of sight and reach.

Ask: • Who did God keep safe in our story? (Noah; Noah and his family; the animals.)

• Why did God keep Noah and his family and the animals on the ark safe? (Because he loved them.)

• Who in your family does God keep safe? (My mommy; my daddy; me.)

• Why does God keep you and your family safe? (Because he loves us.)

Say: ➤God keeps us safe, just as he kept Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark safe. God loved Noah, and God loves us. Let’s put animals on the bulletin board that are like the animals in Noah’s ark.

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: animal patterns (pp. 81-82), scissors, grocery sack, blue construction paper, tape, markers or crayons

Before class, cover the bulletin board with blue construction paper. Cut off the top two-thirds of a grocery sack. Attach the remaining third of the sack to the center of the bulletin board for an “ark.” Cut a long strip out of the top portion of the sack, and attach it to the ark as a “ramp” for the animals to “walk up.” Photocopy the animal patterns. Color and cut out the animal pictures. Be sure there’s an animal cutout for each child. The cutouts will be removed in Lesson 6, so use tape that can be removed. Also, cut a small construction paper rectangle and tape it to Cuddles’ leg as a “suitcase.”

Always be sure to have plenty of adult supervision when using water around toddlers. Never leave toddlers unattended near water.
God Keeps Us Safe Because He Loves Us

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding the paper suitcase.

Cuddles: Hi, boys and girls! I’m ready! When do we sail? I love riding on boats, don’t you? I want to give everyone a goodbye hug! (Have Cuddles give each child a warm cuddle.)

Teacher: Cuddles, why do you have that suitcase? Where are you going?

Cuddles: I’m going for a ride on the ark. You said animals sailed on the ark, and I’m an animal.

Teacher: That was in our Bible story, Cuddles. Yes, animals did sail on the ark with Noah. (Point to the ark on the bulletin board.) We’ve been learning that God keeps us safe. We’re not going for a sail on the ark, but we are going to put some animals on the bulletin board. Would you like to help?

Cuddles: Yes, I like being a helper!

Have Cuddles hand each child a paper animal. Help children tape their animals onto the ramp leading to the ark. Each time an animal is placed, encourage children to make the animal sounds and repeat the Bible Point.

Teacher: I’m glad that God keeps us safe just as he kept Noah and the animals safe on the ark. Now let’s sing “The Ark Song” and go for a pretend sail. You can come with us, Cuddles!

After the song, put Cuddles away.

Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player

Using the CD, lead children and Cuddles in singing “The Ark Song” (track 11) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

Sail, sail, sail the ark (stand and rock back and forth)
On the waves at sea. (Make wavelike motions with your hands.)
Up and down and all around (stand on tiptoe; then bend low and turn around)—
God takes care of me. (Point to yourself.)

Sail, sail, sail the ark (stand and rock back and forth);
It’s like a floating bus. (Make steering motions.)
Monkeys, zebras, kangaroos (scratch your tummy; put your hands on your head like ears; hop)—
God takes care of us. (Point to yourself.)
Say: It’s wonderful that God loves us and that God keeps us safe. You’ve all been doing a great job of keeping your fuzzy friends safe, too. Let’s make our fuzzy friends little “houses” to keep them safe and sound.

**Bible Craft**

**SUPPLIES:** paper cups, markers, crayons, stickers, fuzzy friends from Option 1

Set out markers, crayons, and stickers. Distribute paper cups and tell children they’re going to make little houses. Let children decorate the cups using the markers, crayons, and stickers. While children work, make comments such as “I’m glad that God keeps us safe” and “We can be safe in our homes just as Noah was safe in the ark.”

When the houses are finished, let children carefully place their fuzzy friends inside. Then say: Our fuzzy friends are safe in their little houses, just as the animals were safe in the ark. Now let’s put our fuzzy friends by a wall where they’ll be safe until later. Lead children to a wall and have them put the paper-cup houses against it.

**Bible Game**

**SUPPLIES:** none

Sit down, and gather the children around you. Say: God brought the animals to Noah. God brought most of the animals in twos. Let’s count to two. Hold up your fingers as you count and encourage children to follow. One, two. Let’s do that again. One, two. Good! Now that you can count to two, we’ll learn a fun finger rhyme. Slowly say the finger rhyme one time. Then encourage children to repeat the rhyme and motions with you a few more times.

God sent the animals—two by two (hold up two fingers on one hand and then two fingers on the other hand),
And the ark became a floating zoo!
God saved the animals—two by two. (Hold up two fingers on one hand and then two fingers on the other hand.)
Two—like me and you. (Point to yourself and then to someone else.)
The kittens said, “Me-ow, me-ow.”
The dogs said, “Bow-wow! Bow-wow-wow.”
The cows said, “Moo, moo,” two by two. (Hold up two fingers on one hand and then two fingers on the other hand.)
Two—like me and you. (Point to yourself and then to someone else.)

If you have older toddlers, invite them to suggest other animals to use in additional verses. When you’ve finished, say: God told Noah to bring the animals into the ark to keep them safe during the flood. That’s because God loved the animals and he loved Noah. God loves us, too, and God keeps us safe. Let’s pretend to be little mice going to the ark. Lead children once around the room and then to the snack table.
God Keeps Us Safe Because He Loves Us

Closing

Banana Boats

**SUPPLIES:** bananas (one for every four children), plastic knife, chocolate chips, napkins

Have children wash their hands. When the children have gathered at the snack table, ask:

- **Who keeps us safe?** (God.)

  Say: That’s right. **God keeps us safe.** He keeps us safe because he loves us. Isn’t that wonderful? God cares for us and protects us just as you’ve cared for your fuzzy friends today. Let’s say a prayer and thank God for keeping us safe. Fold your hands. Encourage children to say the following prayer after you, line by line, like an echo.

  “Thank you, God,”
  (Echo) “Thank you, God,”

  **We want to say,**
  (Echo) We want to say,

  **For keeping us safe**
  (Echo) For keeping us safe

  **Night and day.**
  (Echo) Night and day.

  **In Jesus’ name, amen.**
  (Echo) In Jesus’ name, amen.

Quarter bananas by cutting them once across and once lengthwise. Hand each child a banana “boat” and four chocolate chips on a napkin. Tell the children that the banana pieces are boats like the ark, and then show children how to put chocolate chip “animals” on their boats, two by two (side by side on the banana). Say: Just as the animals went on the ark two by two, we have pretend animals on our boats, too. Now let’s sail the boats to our mouths and gobble them up!

When children have finished, have them throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Remind children to take their fuzzy friends and paper-cup houses home.

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Parent Page” handout (p. 68) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module’s topic.
Animals on the Ark

Before this activity, cut a 3x7-inch rectangle from a grocery sack for each child in class. Cover a table with newspaper. Set out craft glue, markers, and a box of animal crackers. Hand each child a sheet of blue construction paper and a brown paper rectangle. Help children glue their rectangles to their blue papers and then glue two animal crackers on each of their paper “arks.” Remind children that God keeps us safe just as he kept the animals on the ark safe from the flood. Then let them munch a few animal crackers.

Finger-Rhyme Fun

Repeat the finger rhyme children learned earlier in the lesson.

God sent the animals—two by two (hold up two fingers on one hand and then two fingers on the other hand),
And the ark became a floating zoo!
God saved the animals—two by two. (Hold up two fingers on one hand and then two fingers on the other hand.)
Two—like me and you. (Point to yourself and then to someone else.)
The kittens said, “Me-ow, me-ow.”
The dogs said, “Bow-wow! Bow-wow-wow.”
The cows said, “Moo, moo,” two by two. (Hold up two fingers on one hand and then two fingers on the other hand.)
Two—like me and you. (Point to yourself and then to someone else.)
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
God Keeps Us Safe Wherever We Are • Lesson 6

Bible Point
God Keeps Us Safe

Bible Verse
God keeps us safe (adapted from Psalm 4:8).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- know that God kept Noah safe on the ark,
- explore places where God keeps them safe, and
- realize that God protects them everywhere.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- God keeps us safe wherever we are.

**Genesis 6:9–9:17**

Several times in the story of the Flood, we are told that Noah did exactly as the Lord had commanded him. People in Noah’s day had abandoned the Lord. They were not at all interested in following the Lord’s basic moral principles, much less following him in the details. Noah, however, is an example of what it means to walk closely with the Lord on a day-to-day basis.

Those who keep fellowship with God a top priority in their lives experience his guidance and blessing regularly. What a comfort to know that the Creator of the universe is willing to commune with us and lead us through life! God leads us and goes with us wherever we go, comforting and protecting us no matter what happens. We should be people whose primary goal in life is that it might be said of us what was said of Noah—namely, that we were obedient to the Lord in everything he instructed us to do. The children you teach today need to learn the importance of following wherever God leads and knowing that he is always there with them.

Prayer
- What does it mean to have God as your shepherd? How does it make you feel to know that God is with you as a shepherd is with his sheep?
- The psalmist says that God is with us even when we go through the darkest of places. When have you felt God’s special protecting presence?
- Pray: Lord, I want to be one who obeys your every command. Thank you that as you lead me you go with me, guiding and protecting me. Help the children I teach to understand that you are with them no matter what happens or where life brings them.

Before the Lesson
- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
# This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time
SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: Today we’re going to learn that God keeps us safe.
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Sailin’ Along
SUPPLIES: paper plate, tape, bell, blue crepe paper, string or yarn

Before class, turn a table upside down in the center of the room. Tape blue crepe paper “waves” around the outside of the table legs. Tie a bell on one table leg, and tape a paper plate to another leg for a “steering wheel.”

As children arrive, invite them to come aboard the “boat” for a pretend sea voyage. Encourage children to take turns ringing the bell and “steering” the boat with the paper plate “wheel.” As children play, remind them that God keeps us safe. Mention that they’ll hear a Bible story about a man named Noah and how God kept Noah safe sailing in a boat during a big flood.

Option 2: Funimals
SUPPLIES: modeling dough, white shelf paper, markers, tape, animal-shaped cookie cutters

Before this activity, cover a table with white shelf paper. Tape the corners of the shelf paper to the table to prevent it from slipping. Use markers to draw a large boat shape on the center of the paper, and draw a few waves around the “ark” and rain clouds in the sky. Purchase modeling dough or use the recipe below to make your own.

Set out the modeling dough and animal-shaped cookie cutters. Invite children to use the cookie cutters or their hands to create different kinds of birds, animals, or crawly things. As children finish, help them place their creatures on the drawing of the ark. Remind children that God kept the animals safe on the ark just as God keeps us safe. Tell children they’ll hear more about the animals in the Bible story.

Modeling Dough Recipe
Heat 1½ cups of water and ½ cup of salt almost to boiling. Remove the pan from the stove. Stir in 2 tablespoons of cooking oil, 2 tablespoons of alum, and, if you desire, a few drops of food coloring. Stir in 2 to 3 cups of flour until mixture forms a ball. Knead the dough until smooth and pliable. Store in an airtight container.
Lesson 6

**Pick-Up Time**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

---

**SING**

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

---

**Bible Story Time**

**Bible Song**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: **Who keeps us safe? God keeps us safe.** How do we know? The Bible tells us. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

---

**SING**

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!


**Bible Story: God Keeps Us Safe**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still securely attached so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1

Before this activity, set the figure of Noah beside you. Close the door flap on Panel 1. Be sure the rainbow/cloud on Panel 3 has the cloud side facing out.

Hold the StoryBoard open so children see only Panel 1. Say:

*Today we’ll hear a Bible story about a man named Noah.*

Set the figure of Noah in front of the StoryBoard. Noah loved God very much. In fact, Noah was the only man in the world who loved God. God was angry at the world because the rest of the people acted mean and wicked. God decided to wash the world clean with a big flood. But God wanted to keep Noah safe. God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark so Noah and his family would be safe during the flood. Let’s help Noah build the ark! Take out your pretend hammers. Make pounding motions as you slowly say the following rhyme twice. Encourage children to follow your actions.

*Rat-a-tat-tat!*
*Bang, bang, bang!*
*Whack, whack, whack!*
*Noah’s hammer rang!*

You’re good builders just like Noah! When the ark was finished, God sent the animals to climb aboard. God wanted to keep the animals safe just as God keeps us safe. Open the ark’s door on Panel 1. Here come the animals. I’ll pretend to be one of the animals in the picture, and you can find that animal. Ready? I like to swim in water. I say, “quack, quack!” Who am I? Have children touch the duck. My neck is stretched up v-e-r-y tall. I like to eat juicy leaves. Who am I? Have children touch the giraffe. I hippity-hop all day. I like to eat crunchy carrots. Who am I? Let children touch the bunny. I’m a crawly, scaly guy. I’m green and have sharp teeth, but I won’t bite you. Who am I? Have children touch the alligator.

It was fun finding the animals. God kept Noah and the animals safe inside the ark. And God keeps us safe wherever we are, too. Then God closed the door because it was going to rain! Close the door to the ark on Panel 1.
Panel 2

Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2. Say: The rain began to fall as God closed the door to the ark. Let’s be falling drops of rain. Have children stand on their tiptoes as you say “drip” and then bend low as you say “drop.” Drip, drop. Drip, drop, drip, drop, stop. Let’s sit on the ground like little drops of water. Pause. God cares for us wherever we are, and God cared for Noah and the animals inside the ark. Let’s peek inside the ark and see what’s going on. Allow children to take turns lifting the flap on Panel 2. Ask them to find and touch the following items:

• the elephant’s ear,
• the lion’s mane,
• the skunk’s tail,
• Noah, and
• Noah’s family.

Then ask:

• Who keeps us safe? (God.)

Say: God kept every one of the people and animals in the ark safe while it rained and flooded. We know that God keeps us safe, too. Do you think it has stopped raining? Let’s see.

Panel 3

Hold the StoryBoard so children see Panel 3. Say: Look! The rain has stopped, and the animals are coming out of the ark. See the monkey? Give the monkey a playful push. The monkey is happy that God stopped the rain. You can make the happy monkey swing. Have children take turns swinging the monkey by its tail. Then say: Now we’ll pretend that we’re monkeys with long, swingy tails. Have children squat low and romp around the room like monkeys. Encourage children to say “eep, eep” like little monkeys. Then say: Let’s be quiet little monkeys. Tiptoe to the StoryBoard and sit down. Pause while children return to their places.

That was fun, and you all look happy. I think you’re happy that God keeps us safe. Noah and all the animals were happy the rain had finally stopped. Punch out the white cloud and turn it over so that the rainbow shows. And when God stopped the rain, he put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Just look at the bright colors in the rainbow! Point to each different color as you name it aloud.

God promised never to flood the whole world again. God made the rainbow so we would remember his promise. God keeps his promises!

One of the greatest promises God makes to us is that if we believe in his Son, Jesus, we can have Jesus as our forever friend. I’m so glad that God sent Jesus to be our friend! Let’s throw God a great big kiss to thank him for Jesus. Lead children in throwing God a big kiss.
Now let's play a game to remind us that God keeps us safe wherever we are.

Have the children join you in an area of the room that will allow space to move about. Show the children how to hold their hands together to form a pretend boat.

Say: God kept Noah and the animals safe on a very large boat. Our pretend boats look a lot different from Noah's boat, but we're going to use them to remind us of some of the places that God keeps us safe.

When I say a place that God keeps us safe, show me that place with your boat. Here's what I mean. Who likes to slide down a slide? Pause. Let's hold our boats up high like they're on top of a slide. Show the children how to stand on tiptoe and stretch their boats high in the air and then swoop them down the imaginary slide.

Let's think of some other places that God keeps us safe. He keeps us safe in the bathtub! Let your boats splash around like they're in a bathtub. Show the children how to wave their boats up and down as if splashing in a tub.

God keeps us safe when we're running in the grass. Show children how to 'run' their boats on the floor. And he keeps us safe when we're swinging on a swing. Show children how to swing their arms back and forth in wide arcs.

Give the children opportunities to share other places that God keeps them safe. Help them use their boats to act out the ideas. For example, children might say God keeps them safe when they're in the car, when they're eating dinner, and when they're sleeping.

Ask: • Who kept Noah and his family safe? (God.)
• Who keeps you and your family safe? (God.)
• Why does God keep us safe? (Because he loves us.)

Say: God knows where we are all the time. God loves us and watches over us everywhere we go. God keeps us safe, just as he kept Noah safe. Noah didn't have to be afraid, because he knew that God would keep him safe.

Listen to what the Bible says. Open your Bible to Psalm 4:8, and show children the verse. The Bible says that God keeps us safe, so we don't need to be afraid.

Let's sing a song to show how happy we are that God keeps us safe.

### The Ark Song

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing "The Ark Song" (track 11) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

**SING**

Sail, sail, sail the ark (stand and rock back and forth)
On the waves at sea. (Make wavelike motions with your hands.)
Up and down and all around (stand on tiptoe; then bend low and turn around)—
God takes care of me. (Point to yourself.)

Sail, sail, sail the ark (stand and rock back and forth;)
It's like a floating bus. (Make steering motions.)
Monkeys, zebras, kangaroos (scratch your tummy; put your hands on your head like ears; hop)—
God takes care of us. (Point to yourself.)
Say: That's a nice song. And it’s nice to know that wherever we are, God keeps us safe. God keeps us safe when we’re at home, in church, or in school, just as God kept Noah and the animals safe from the flood. Let’s put animals inside the ark on our bulletin board.

**Bible Activities**

**Interactive Bible Bulletin Board**

**SUPPLIES:** none

Before class, gently untape the animals from the bulletin board. Hide the animals in easy-to-find places around the room. Remove the “ramp” that you placed on the board in Lesson 5.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

**Cuddles:** Hello, everyone! What have you been learning today?

**Teacher:** We’ve been learning that God keeps us safe. God keeps us safe no matter where we are, just as God kept the animals safe inside the ark.

**Cuddles:** (Looking at the bulletin board) Where are the animals? Did they run away?

**Teacher:** No, they’re hiding in the room, and we’re going on an animal hunt. Would you like to help us?

**Cuddles:** Yes, I like being a helper!

Have Cuddles help children find the animal cutouts and bring them to the bulletin board. Then help children place the animal cutouts in the paper ark. As each animal is placed, encourage children to repeat the Bible Point.

**Teacher:** The animals are all safely onboard the ark. They look like they’re having fun. We can have fun singing “The Ark Song.”

Have children tell Cuddles goodbye, and then set him out of sight.

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Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing “The Ark Song” (track 11) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

SING

Sail, sail, sail the ark (stand and rock back and forth)
On the waves at sea. (Make wavelike motions with your hands.)
Up and down and all around (stand on tiptoe; then bend low and turn around)—
God takes care of me. (Point to yourself.)

Sail, sail, sail the ark (stand and rock back and forth);
It’s like a floating bus. (Make steering motions.)
Monkeys, zebras, kangaroos (scratch your tummy; put your hands on your head like ears; hop)—
God takes care of us. (Point to yourself.)

Say: It’s good to know that God keeps us safe. God kept Noah and his family and the animals safe inside the ark. God kept them safe as they traveled on the water. Let’s make some fun things that we can “travel” in.

Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: paper plates, stapler, grocery sacks, crayons, scissors

Before class, cut two openings in the bottom of a grocery sack for each child. Make sure holes are big enough for a child’s legs to fit through.

Set out crayons and the paper plates. Hand out the grocery sacks, and invite children to scribble-color their “cars.” Then attach paper plate “steering wheels” by stapling them to the top inside edges of the sacks. Write children’s names on their cars.

Encourage children to climb inside their cars for a “spin.” Remind children that God keeps us safe no matter where we travel. Then say: Let’s play a traveling game with our pretend cars.

Bible Game

SUPPLIES: building patterns (pp. 93-94), markers, scissors, tape, pretend cars from Bible Craft

Before class, photocopy the building patterns. Color the four patterns, and then cut them out. Tape the pictures to the walls of the room at children’s eye level.

Say: We know that God keeps us safe wherever we go. Point to the pictures as you name each one. God keeps us safe when we go to church, when we go to school, when we go to the store, or when we go home. Let’s travel to different places in our pretend cars. I’ll say the name of a place, and you “drive” safely to that picture. Alternate saying, “church,” “school,” “store,” and “home.” Pause while children drive their pretend cars to each picture as you name it.

When you’ve finished, say: You’re all safe drivers. Isn’t it great that God keeps us safe? Now let’s drive over to the snack table and park our cars. When children reach the snack table, have them set their cars aside.

God Keeps Us Safe Wherever We Are
Lesson 6

Closing

### Special Thanks

**SUPPLIES:** animal crackers, paper cups, apple juice, napkins

Have children wash their hands. When children have gathered at the snack table, ask:

- **Who keeps us safe?** (God.)

Say: **God keeps us safe.** And God keeps us safe wherever we are, just as he kept Noah safe on the ark. Let’s say a prayer and thank God for keeping us safe. Fold your hands. Encourage children to say the following prayer after you.

“Thank you, God.” *(echo)* “Thank you, God.”

**We want to say,** *(echo)* We want to say,

**For keeping us safe** *(echo)* For keeping us safe

**Night and day.** *(echo)* Night and day.

**In Jesus’ name, amen.** *(echo)* In Jesus’ name, amen.

Hand each child a napkin with five animal crackers and a cup half-filled with apple juice. Encourage children to tell you what animal shapes they have, and then let them gobble up the animal crackers. When children have finished, remind them to throw their napkins and cups in the wastebasket. Let children take their pretend cars home.

### Animals in the Ark

Before this activity, photocopy the animal patterns from pages 81-82. Cut out the animals. Make stands by folding index cards in half, and tape the animal cutouts to the cards. Provide blocks, and have children build an “ark” and then place the animal pictures aboard. Remind children that **God keeps us safe,** just as he kept the animals safe inside the ark.

### Sailing Song

If you made the boat in Option 1, gather children “onboard.” Alternatively, you may spread newspaper on the floor to use as a pretend boat. Without using the CD, lead children in singing “The Ark Song” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” while sitting in your pretend boat. Lyrics and motions are on page 89.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
God Keeps Us Safe and Protects Our Families • Lesson 7

**Bible Point**

**God Keeps Us Safe**

**Bible Verse**

God keeps us safe (adapted from Psalm 4:8).

**Growing Closer to Jesus**

Children will
- learn how God took care of Noah and his family,
- realize that God protects their families, and
- thank God for keeping them safe.

**Teacher Enrichment**

**Bible Basis**

- God keeps us safe and protects our families.

**Genesis 6:9–9:17**

The sin begun by Adam and Eve, and then continued by Cain and their other offspring, must have multiplied even more in the generations that followed. The sin became so great, in fact, that the Bible describes the heart of humanity as “consistently and totally evil.”

God’s statement in Genesis 6:7 may seem as if it stemmed from anger or a desire for revenge, but instead it grew out of his pain. The people that God had created had so turned against him that he had to start over with the few who remained faithful.

Fortunately, one righteous man still loved God. The word translated righteous in verse 9 indicates that Noah sought both to worship and obey God and also to live in fairness with his human neighbors.

Consider the immensity of the task Noah undertook. The ark was half again the length of a football field, as wide as a basketball court is long, and as tall as a five-story building. There were to be three decks inside and many rooms to house all the different animals. All of this was to be built of a particular kind of wood (which we can’t identify precisely) in an arid area where wood was not likely plentiful.

Fortunately, God knew what he was doing. Modern shipbuilding experts have confirmed that the dimensions given in the Bible would be ideal to ensure that a large wooden vessel would remain intact and upright while adrift in heavy seas.

**Prayer**

- Read Philippians 4:13.
- Noah must have turned to God for strength as he prepared the ark. What’s happening in your life that you need God’s strength and wisdom to accomplish?
- Pray: Lord, help me to be like Noah, obeying you without question and relying on you for everything. Help me to teach these children how to follow you.

**Before the Lesson**

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
This Lesson at a Glance

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<tr>
<td><strong>Arrival Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Sing It Out</strong>—Sing an action song, and learn that God keeps them safe.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Craft</strong>—Make potato-print pictures of their families.</td>
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<td><strong>Bible Game</strong>—Play a game with real animal sounds.</td>
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<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Animal Snackers on the Ark</strong>—Say a prayer, and have a snack.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.
Arrival Activities

**Welcome Time**

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God keeps us safe.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

**Option 1: Load the Ark**

**SUPPLIES:** animal and Noah and his family patterns (pp. 81-82, 106-107), small box, scissors, tape, index cards, markers or crayons, heavy paper stock

Before this activity, use heavy paper stock to make two photocopies of each of the animal patterns. Using the same paper, make one photocopy of the Noah and his family patterns. Color the pictures, and then cut them out and tape them to index cards.

Set out a small box, such as a tissue box, to function as an “ark.” Challenge children to find the matching animal cards and place them in the ark. When all the animal cutouts are aboard, have children put the pictures of Noah and his family in the ark. Then let children push the box around the table or floor before taking the pictures out of the ark and playing again. Remind children that **God keeps us safe.** Explain that God keeps our families safe, too, and that today children will hear how God kept Noah and his family safe during the big flood.

**Option 2: All Aboard!**

**SUPPLIES:** tennis balls, markers, medium-sized box, masking tape

Before class, use markers to draw animal faces on two or three tennis balls. Fold in the end flaps on one end of a medium-sized box.

Set the box on its side against a wall with the opening facing the center of the room. Place a masking tape line 3 feet from the box. Have children stand at the line and take turns rolling the tennis ball “animals” into the “ark.” Remind children that God told Noah to build an ark so the animals and Noah’s family would be safe. Point out that **God keeps us safe** and also keeps our families safe. Tell children that they’ll hear more about Noah’s family and how God protected them.
Lesson 7

### Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

**SING**

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

### Bible Story Time

### Bible Song

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: Who keeps us safe? God keeps us safe. How do we know? The Bible tells us. How do we know? The Bible tells us. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

**SING**

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!
**Bible Story: God Keeps Us Safe**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still securely attached so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

**Panel 1**

Set the CD player beside you. Close the door flap to the ark on Panel 1. Be sure the rainbow/cloud on Panel 3 has the cloud side facing out.

Hold the StoryBoard open so children see only Panel 1. Say: *We're going to hear a Bible story about how God keeps us safe.* Hold up the figure of Noah.

Ask: **Who is this man?** (Noah; I don't know.)

Say: *This is Noah, and Noah had a very nice family.*

He had a wife and three sons, and each son had a wife.

Noah loved God very much. Put your hands over your hearts to show how much Noah loved God. Pause. But the other people in the world didn’t love God. They were mean.

Say the following action rhyme, and encourage children to follow the actions as you repeat the rhyme two more times.

The people acted mean and bad. *(Shake your finger.)*

It made God feel very sad. *(Shake your head sadly.)*

God decided to wash the world clean with a big flood. But God wanted to keep Noah and his family safe. God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. Noah and his family would be safe in the ark during the flood.

God wanted to keep the animals safe, too. Open the ark’s door on Panel 1. So God sent the animals to the ark. Let’s play an animal game. Listen, and tell me what animal you hear.

Play the animal sounds on track 12 of the CD. Pause the CD after each animal sound, and allow children to identify the animal. Then stop the CD player, and say: *God sent the animals to the ark so they’d be safe in the flood. God kept Noah and the animals safe, just as God keeps us safe.* When Noah and his family and the animals were aboard the ark, God shut the door. Close the flap door on Panel 1.

**Panel 2**

Open the StoryBoard to Panel 2. Say: *The rain began to fall as God closed the door to the ark. Let’s be falling drops of rain.* Have children stand on their tiptoes as you say “drip,” and then have children bend low as you say “drop.”

Drip, drop. Drip, drop, drip, drop, drip—God sent the ark on quite a trip!

The rain came down *(bend very low),*

And the flood came up. *(Stand and reach up high.)*

Drip, drop, drip, drop, drip, drop, drop, stop.
Lesson 7

Now quietly sit on the floor like little drops of water. Pause. Let’s peek inside the ark and see what’s going on. Allow toddlers to take turns lifting the flap on Panel 2. Ask them to find and touch the animals on Panel 2. Point out that God kept the animals safe just as he kept Noah’s family safe.

God kept Noah and his family safe in the ark, and we know that God keeps us safe. God keeps our families safe, too. Do you think it has stopped raining? Let’s see.

Panel 3

Fold the StoryBoard so children see Panel 3. Say: The rain has stopped, and the animals are coming out of the ark. Look at the funny monkey. Give the monkey a playful push. The monkey is happy that God stopped the rain. The monkey can come outside and play. Let’s give the monkey a swing. Have children take turns swinging the monkey by its tail. Then ask:

• What other animals are coming out to play?
  (Turtles; caterpillars.)

Have children touch the turtle and caterpillar. Say: We can pretend we’re turtles and caterpillars. Turtles and caterpillars are s-l-o-w. Let’s crawl slowly on the ground like turtles and caterpillars. Allow children to crawl around the StoryBoard one time. Then say: Now turn back into girls and boys and sit down. Pause.

God kept the turtles, monkeys, and caterpillars safe. And guess what Noah and the animals saw when they looked up in the sky? Punch out the white cloud, and turn it over so that the rainbow shows. God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky! Look at the bright colors in the rainbow. Point to each different color as you name it aloud. Encourage the children to repeat names of the colors after you.

God promised never to flood the whole world again. God made the rainbow so we would remember his promise.

And God also promises that if we believe that Jesus is our forever friend, someday we will live with him in heaven. God loves us so much, and he wants us to love him, too. We can show our love for God by praying and singing to him and thanking him for keeping us safe.

Let’s play a game to help us remember that God keeps us safe!
Bible Activities

Animal Toss

SUPPLIES: shoe box

Remove the porcupine ball from the Learning Lab. Place a shoe box on the floor. Have the children form a circle on the floor around the shoe box.

Say: Noah had a lot of animals to take care of on the boat, didn’t he? Let’s play a game to remind us of all the animals on the boat. Show the children the porcupine ball.

Ask: What animal does this remind you of? (A porcupine; my puppy; a lion.)

Say: This ball reminds me of a porcupine because it’s all spiky like a porcupine, but these spikes don’t hurt. We’re going to pretend our ball is an animal. When it’s your turn, I want you to think of an animal that was on Noah’s boat and make the sound of that animal. We’ll all try to guess which animal you’re thinking of. After we guess, I want you to place the animal ball into the box—we’re going to pretend that’s Noah’s boat. Ready?

Let each child take a turn acting out an animal and placing the ball into the box. If children struggle to think of an animal, whisper to them the name of an animal that hasn’t been named yet. Make sure you suggest animals that children can recognize and make the sounds of, such as pigs, horses, cats, dogs, elephants, chickens, ducks, and donkeys.

After children have each had at least one turn acting out an animal, say: Wow, Noah’s boat really was full of animals, wasn’t it? Noah had a lot of animals to care for. God kept all of those animals safe on the boat. And God kept Noah’s family safe.

God keeps us safe and protects our families. Let’s pretend that our families are going on a boat. This time when you place the ball in the box, I want you to name someone in your family.

Pass the porcupine ball around the circle. Each time a child holds the ball, have him or her name a family member and then place the ball into the box. Continue around the circle several times until children have exhausted their lists of family members.

Say: God sure has a lot of families to take care of! God loves all of us so much that he takes really good care of our families, just as he took care of Noah’s family. God keeps us safe.

Let’s sing a song to show how happy that makes us!

The Ark Song

SUPPLIES: CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing “The Ark Song” (track 11) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.
Lesson 7

**SING**

*Sail, sail, sail the ark* (stand and rock back and forth)

*On the waves at sea.* (Make wavelike motions with your hands.)

*Up and down and all around* (stand on tiptoe; then bend low and turn around)—

*God takes care of me.* (Point to yourself.)

*Sail, sail, sail the ark* (stand and rock back and forth);

*It’s like a floating bus.* (Make steering motions.)

*Monkeys, zebras, kangaroos* (scratch your tummy; put your hands on your head like ears; hop)—

*God takes care of us.* (Point to yourself.)

Say: *It makes us happy that God keeps us safe. And God keeps our families safe, too, just as he kept Noah and his family safe inside the ark. Let’s add Noah’s family to the bulletin board.*

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**Interactive Bible Bulletin Board**

**SUPPLIES:** Noah and his family patterns (pp. 106-107), scissors, tape, lunch sack

Before class, photocopy the Noah and his family patterns. Cut out the patterns, and color them if you wish. Last week you placed the animals inside the ark. This week you’ll place Noah and his family in the ark, too. Also tape a lunch sack on Cuddles’ front leg.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding a lunch sack.

**Teacher:** Hello, Cuddles! What’s the sack for?

**Cuddles:** Hi! Well, I’m going to put my family in this sack.

**Teacher:** Why would you want to do that, Cuddles?

**Cuddles:** To keep them safe.

**Teacher:** But they won’t fit inside your sack, Cuddles. And besides, paper sacks don’t keep families safe—*God keeps us safe!* Children, let’s tell Cuddles who keeps our families safe. *(Lead children in telling Cuddles that God keeps families safe.)*

**Cuddles:** Oh, God keeps our families safe just as God kept Noah’s family safe in the Bible story.

**Teacher:** That’s right! We’re going to add Noah and his family to the bulletin board right now, and you can help us.

Help children place the pictures of Noah, his wife, and the three sons and their wives in the paper ark on the bulletin board. Each time a picture is placed, encourage children to say *God keeps us safe.* If you have more than eight children in class, have some children find pictures that have already been placed on the bulletin board for review. When you’ve finished, continue.
God Keeps Us Safe and Protects Our Families

**Teacher:** Our bulletin board is looking wonderful. There's the ark, the animals, and Noah and his family—and God kept them all safe! Let's sing “God Keeps Us Safe” and pretend to go for a sail on the ark with Noah's family.

*Put Cuddles out of sight of the children.*

---

**Sing It Out**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

🎵 **SING**

**God keeps us safe.** (Cross arms over chest.)

**Through night and day** (cover eyes with hands; then uncover eyes),

**In every way** (clap twice),

**God keeps us safe.** (Cross arms over chest.)

(Repeat.)

Say: *The Bible says in Psalm 4:8 that God keeps us safe. God keeps our families safe just as he kept Noah and his family safe on the ark. Let's make pictures of our own families.*

---

**Bible Craft**

**SUPPLIES:** potatoes, knife, markers, white paper, tempera paint, old cake pans, paint shirts or grocery sacks, newspaper, water

Before class, cut large, medium, and small potatoes in half across the middle.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out the potato halves, markers, and old cake pans with a small amount of pink, yellow, and brown tempera paint in each one. Thin the paints slightly with a little water. Have children put on paint shirts or grocery sacks with holes cut out for children's heads and arms. Hand each child a sheet of white paper. Help children draw simple faces on their papers using markers. Then have toddlers dip potato halves in the thinned tempera paints and stamp “heads” over their drawings. Point out that the large potatoes make “daddy heads,” the medium potatoes make “mommy heads,” and the small potatoes make “children's heads.” Encourage toddlers to make faces for all the people in their families.
As children work, remind them that God keeps us safe, and God protects our families just as he kept Noah’s family safe on the ark. When children have finished, set the family pictures aside to dry.

Say: Noah’s family was safe on the ark. Animals were on the ark, too, and God kept them all safe. Let’s play a game with animals.

**Bible Game**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, animal patterns (pp. 81-82), masking and transparent tape, scissors

Before this activity, use masking tape to make a simple boat shape or a rectangle on the floor. Make photocopies of the animal patterns. Cut out the lion, the elephant, the monkey, and the cat, making sure there’s a pattern for each child.

Gather the children at one end of the room, and tape an animal picture to each child. Have each child say the name of his or her animal picture and make that animal’s sound.

Say: I’ll pretend I’m Noah standing in the ark. “Climb aboard” the “ark” outline on the floor, and hold the CD player. When you hear the animal sound that matches the picture you’re wearing, pretend you’re that animal and crawl to the ark.

Play “Animal Sounds #2” on the CD (track 13). Pause the CD after each animal sound to give children time to get to the ark. Encourage each child to make the appropriate animal sound and walk or crawl like his or her particular animal. Then play the next animal sound.

Continue until all the children are on the ark. Then say: That was fun. It’s great that God kept the animals safe, just as God keeps us safe! Now let’s have a special treat on the ark.

**Closing**

**Animal Snackers on the Ark**

**SUPPLIES:** animal crackers, apple halves, napkins, knife, spoon, wet wipes

Before class, cut apples in half, and scoop out the cores and seeds to form small “boats.” You may wish to rub a bit of lemon juice on the apple halves to prevent them from turning brown. Prepare an apple half for each child in class.

Remain sitting in the ark outline.

Ask: Who keeps us safe? (God.)

Say: God keeps us safe. And he keeps our families safe, too. Fold your hands, and let’s say our thank-you prayer.
Pray:

“Thank you, God,”
(Echo) “Thank you, God,”

We want to say,
(Echo) We want to say,

For keeping us safe
(Echo) For keeping us safe

Night and day.
(Echo) Night and day.

In Jesus’ name, amen.
(Echo) In Jesus’ name, amen.

Say: Noah and his family ate in the ark. We can enjoy a special snack in our pretend ark, too. Have kids clean their hands with wet wipes. Hand each child a napkin containing an apple half and three animal crackers. March your animals onto your apple “arks,” and after you eat the animals one by one, you may gobble up the ark.

When children have finished eating their animal crackers and apple arks, have them throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Remind children to take home their potato-print family pictures from the Bible Craft.

For Extra Time
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Animal Families

Before this activity, cover a table with newspapers. Let children make “thumbprint animals” by sticking their thumbs on water-based ink pads or in tempera paint and then stamping their thumbprints on paper. Help children use markers to add tails, legs, and faces to their thumbprints to create tiny “animals.” “Frame” the animal prints by mounting them on colored construction paper. Be sure each child’s name is on the back of his or her thumbprint animal.

Keep on Rollin’

Set out the tennis balls and the box from Option 2, and invite the children to roll the “animals” into the “ark.” If you chose not to do Option 2, let children roll paper-wad “animals” into a wastebasket “ark” that’s been turned on its side.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
God Keeps Us Safe and Provides for Us • Lesson 8

Bible Point
God Keeps Us Safe

Bible Verse
God keeps us safe (adapted from Psalm 4:8).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- realize that God kept Noah safe,
- explore the good uses God designed for water, and
- understand that God gives us what we need to be safe.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- God keeps us safe and provides for us.

Genesis 6:9–9:17

Noah’s decision to follow God when his friends and neighbors had rejected God took courage. Think, too, of the courage it must have taken to spend the many years (possibly 120) he spent building the ark while friends and neighbors may have looked on in disbelief and ridicule. Noah’s courage and perseverance were again seen as he entered the ark with his family while storm clouds loomed.

At the time, Noah had no idea how long they would be in the ark or whether it would hold together and float. But Noah was confident. Why? Noah’s confidence was based on his awareness of God’s provision for their needs. The ark did not have navigational instruments, such as a rudder or sails. God would be the captain, directing its path through the dark, turbulent waters. Furthermore, it was God who sealed the door after they entered (Genesis 7:16), thereby showing that he was present to protect.

Walking with the Lord in this world doesn’t mean we won’t encounter difficult times. Both children and adults need to develop the sense of God’s presence that Noah had, as well as his courageous faith in God’s ability to provide and protect.

Prayer
- Read Matthew 6:7-8.
- Can you think of a time when God provided for your needs before you even realized you had a need? How does it make you feel to know that God cares for you enough to be “thinking ahead” about your needs?
- How can you worship God today for already tending to needs you don’t even know about yet?
- Pray: Lord, I worship and thank you that you care enough to tend to my needs even before I ask. Help the children I teach to learn to have a quiet confidence in your goodness. Meet their every need, I pray.

Before the Lesson
- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
### This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: Today we’re going to learn that God keeps us safe.
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Boat Building-Blocks

SUPPLIES: masking tape, building blocks

Before class, use masking tape to make a simple outline of a boat on the floor. Provide building blocks, and as children arrive, invite them to “build a boat” by laying blocks along the tape outline. Join in the boat-building project, and encourage children to ask for blocks as they need them. Make comments such as “I like the way you ask for the blocks you need” and “It’s good when we have what we need.” Tell children that today they’ll learn how God gave Noah and his family and the animals what they needed on the ark. Remind children that God keeps us safe and that God gives us what we need to be safe.

Option 2: Wonderful Water

SUPPLIES: plastic tablecloth, dishpan, sponges, towels, plastic spoons and bowls, measuring cups, water

Before class, spread a plastic tablecloth on the floor. Set one or two dishpans partially filled with water on the tablecloth. Provide measuring cups, sponges, and plastic spoons and bowls. Have towels nearby to dry the children’s hands and to mop up any spills.

As children arrive, invite them to explore the ways water can be used, such as washing dishes and hands, making things grow, or causing things to float. Encourage children to “make it rain” by scooping water into a cup and then letting it trickle into the dishpan. Ask children questions such as “Who gives us water?” and “What’s your favorite thing to do with water?” Remind children that God washed the world clean and fresh and that God kept Noah safe during the flood. Remind children that God keeps us safe, too.
Lesson 8

**Pick-Up Time**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

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**Bible Story Time**

**Bible Song**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: Who keeps us safe? God keeps us safe. How do we know? The Bible tells us. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

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This is God's special book.
Yes, it's God's book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!
Panel 1

Gather the children in front of the StoryBoard, and set a box of animal crackers behind you. Fold back the StoryBoard so that children see only Panel 1. Say: We’re going to hear more about how God keeps us safe. Today we’ll learn that God gives us what we need to be safe. Hold up the figure of Noah. Noah and his family loved God. Let’s give Noah a pat and tell him we love God, too. Pass the figure of Noah to the children and encourage each child to say, “[Child’s own name] loves God.”

Set the figure of Noah in front of the StoryBoard. Say: Noah and his family loved God, but the rest of the world didn’t love him. God was sad because the people acted mean. Say the following action rhyme, and encourage children to do the actions as you repeat the rhyme once more.

The people acted mean and bad. (Shake your finger.)
It made God feel very sad. (Shake your head sadly.)

God decided to wash the world clean with a big flood. But God provided a way to keep Noah and his family safe. God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. Then Noah and his family would be safe during the flood.

Open the door flap on Panel 1. Say: God wanted to keep the animals safe, too, so he sent the animals to the ark. Let’s play an animal game. I’ll give each of you an animal cracker. When it’s your turn, make the sound that your animal makes and then put it through the door on the ark. Hand each child an animal cracker. Have children take turns making the appropriate animal sounds and then putting their animal crackers through the door flap on Panel 1. Catch the crackers as they’re put through, and set them aside. When everyone has put their animals “on the ark,” hand each child a fresh animal cracker to eat.

Place the figure of Noah through the flap door. Say: When Noah and his family and all the animals were on the ark, God shut the door. Close the door flap. Listen! I think I hear rain!

Panel 2

Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard. Say: God sent a big flood to wash the world clean. It’s a good thing God provided Noah and the animals with a boat, isn’t it? God kept Noah and everyone on the ark safe. And God made sure that Noah packed enough food for the trip. Let’s peek at Noah and the animals. Have children lift the flap on the ark and peek inside. Encourage children to “pet” the animals. Then say: Noah gave some of the animals good hay to
Lesson 8

We’ll pretend I’m Noah and you’re sheep on the ark. I can take good care

of you. Here, little sheep! Walk around the room and encourage the children to crawl

behind you. Pat their heads and say: Good sheep, I’ll take care of you. Then lead

children back to the StoryBoard, and say: I have delicious hay for you to munch.

Hand each child a few chow mein noodles to eat. Then say: Noah fed the animals and

helped keep them safe, just as God kept Noah and his family safe on the ark.

God kept every one of the people and animals on the ark safe while it rained

and flooded. Let’s see if it has finally stopped raining.

Panel 3

Unfold Panel 3. Say: Look! The rain has stopped, and

the water has dried up. See? The animals are coming

out of the ark. We can find the animals. After each

question below, have a few children point to the appropriate

animal on Panel 3.

Ask: • Where are the s-l-o-w turtles?

• Where is the happy monkey?

• Where are the crawly caterpillars?

Say: God kept the animals safe so they could live in the clean world. Punch

out the white cloud and turn it over so the rainbow shows. Oh look! What did God

put in the sky? Pause for children to tell you that there’s a rainbow in the sky. God

put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Can you name the colors with me? Point to

each different color as you say it aloud.

God promised never to flood the whole world again. God made the

rainbow so we would remember his promise. And God promises to keep us

safe and give us what we need. Isn’t that wonderful?

Let’s learn a fun new rhyme to help us remember today’s Bible story!

■ Storm Story

SUPPLIES: none

Remove the sheet of blue cellophane from the Learning Lab. Have

the children sit on the floor with you in a circle.

Say: When Noah, his family, and the animals were on

the ark, it rained and rained and rained. Lots of water

fell on that boat! But God gave Noah just what he needed

to stay safe and dry. God kept Noah and his family safe,

and God keeps us safe, too! God told Noah how to build a strong boat with

a good roof that would keep Noah, his family, and all of the animals safe and

dry. God gives our families what we need to be safe, too.

Ask: • What do you like to use when it is raining and you have to go

outside? (An umbrella; a raincoat; boots.)

• How would you feel if it rained for 40 days and 40 nights? (Bored because I

couldn’t go outside; sad; scared.)

Say: Noah knew that God would keep him safe during all that rain. And we

don’t have to worry, because God said he would never send a big flood to

cover the earth again. I’m so glad that God keeps us safe!
Let's learn a fun rhyme to remind us of our Bible story. Here's how it goes. Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Lead them in the following rhyme and actions.

**First it rained** (flutter fingers like raindrops),
**And then it poured.** (Flutter fingers more quickly.)
**It rained and it rained** (flutter fingers more quickly)
**And it rained some more!** (Flutter fingers more quickly.)
**But God kept Noah** (point upward)
**Safe and dry.** (Cross arms over chest.)
**He keeps us safe.** (Point to self.)
**Do you know why?** (Place index finger on chin.)
**God loves us!** (Jump up and wave arms in air.)

After children are familiar with the rhyme and actions, show them the sheet of blue cellophane. Demonstrate how to shake the blue cellophane to sound like rain. Explain that each time the class repeats the rhyme, one child will go around the circle and shake the blue “rain” above each child’s head. After everyone has had a turn, return the blue cellophane to the Learning Lab for later use.

Ask: • **Who kept Noah and his family safe during the flood?** (God did!)
  • **Who keeps you and your family safe?** (God does.)

**Say:** God kept Noah safe and provided everything he needed. ➤*God keeps us safe* and provides what we need, too. Sometimes that might be an umbrella, or maybe a roof over our heads, or maybe a nice mom or dad to hold us tight. The most important thing that God gives us is Jesus. Jesus is our forever friend who will always take care of us. If we love Jesus back, someday we can live with him in heaven. God sent Jesus for us because he loves us so much. We can be happy that ➤*God keeps us safe*!

Let’s sing a song to show how happy we are that ➤*God keeps us safe*.

**The Rainbow Song**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Use the CD and lead children in singing “The Rainbow Song” (track 14) to the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie?” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

**SING**

**Did you ever see a rainbow, a rainbow, a rainbow?** (Raise your arms in a circle above your head and sway.)

**Did you ever see a rainbow way up in the sky?**
**With yellow and orange and purple and blue—**
**Oh, God made the rainbow for me and for you.** (Make a circle above your head; then point to yourself and then to someone else.)
Lesson 8

Did you ever see a rainbow, a rainbow, a rainbow? (Raise your arms in a circle above your head and sway.)

Did you ever see a rainbow way up in the sky?
With red and yellow and orange and green—
Oh, God made the rainbow for me and for you. (Make a circle above your head; then point to yourself and then to someone else.)

Say: That’s a happy song. And I know that Noah was happy that God kept him safe in the ark while the clouds rained and rained. Let’s add clouds and rain to our bulletin board.

Bible Activities

- **Interactive Bible Bulletin Board**
  
  **SUPPLIES:** cloud patterns (pp. 120-121), aluminum foil or tinsel, tape, scissors, small umbrella, glue stick, marker, cotton balls, heavy-stock paper

  Before class, use heavy-stock paper to photocopy the cloud patterns, and cut them out. Make sure that there is a cloud picture for each child. You’ll also need several 6x¾-inch strips of aluminum foil or several strands of tinsel for each child. Use a marker to draw large waves on the blue paper under the ark.

  Have a small umbrella ready for Cuddles to hold.

  Set a glue stick, the cotton balls, and tape nearby. Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding an umbrella.

  **Cuddles:** Hi! Where are your raincoats? Where are your umbrellas? I heard you talking about lots of rain.

  **Teacher:** Yes, we were talking about rain, Cuddles. God sent lots of rain in our Bible story. But there isn’t any rain in our classroom. You don’t need an umbrella!

  **Cuddles:** (Putting down the umbrella) No rain? Guess I’ll put my umbrella down—it was getting heavy anyway. What have you been learning today?

  **Teacher:** We’ve been learning that God keeps us safe just like umbrellas keep us safe from the rain. We’re going to put rain and clouds in our picture. You can help.

  **Cuddles:** Oh, boy! I like to help!
God Keeps Us Safe and Provides for Us

Sing It Out

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, lead children in singing “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” For extra fun, do the accompanying motions.

**SING**

- **God keeps us safe.** (Cross arms over chest.)
- **God keeps us safe.** (Cross arms over chest.)
- **Through night and day** (cover eyes with hands; then uncover eyes),
- **In every way** (clap twice),
- **God keeps us safe.** (Cross arms over chest.)

(Repeat.)

Say: The Bible says in Psalm 4:8 that God keeps us safe. He protects us the way umbrellas protect us from rain. Let’s make pretty umbrellas to hold.

Bible Craft

**SUPPLIES:** umbrella-top pattern (p. 121); drinking straws; tape; red, blue, yellow, and green construction paper; crayons; scissors

Before class, photocopy the umbrella-top pattern onto red, blue, green, and yellow construction paper. Cut out an umbrella top for each child, and save the colored paper scraps for the next activity. Cut small slits in the ends of drinking straws.

Set out the drinking straws, crayons, tape, and the umbrella-top cutouts. Invite each child to choose a cutout. Have kids use crayons to scribble-color their umbrella tops. When the children have finished, help them slide their umbrella tops into the slits on the drinking straws to create “handles” for their “umbrellas.” Securely tape the paper umbrella tops to the drinking straws.

Teacher: There’s lots of water in our picture isn’t there? Rain is falling from the clouds, and there’s water under the ark. God sent the watery flood to clean the world, but he kept Noah safe. After the big rain, God put a rainbow in the sky and promised he’d never flood the whole world again. Let’s sing about God keeping us safe.

Set Cuddles away out of sight of the children.
Lesson 8

BIBLE POINT

Say: **Hold your umbrellas over your heads.** Pause. They look so pretty. **God keeps us safe** the way umbrellas keep us safe from the rain. And God always gives us what we need to stay safe—like umbrellas! We can play a fun game with our umbrellas and pretend raindrops.

**Bible Game**

**SUPPLIES:** umbrellas and colored construction paper scraps from Bible Craft, scissors

Before class, cut large raindrop shapes out of the colored paper left from the Bible Craft.

Have the children stand in a circle and hold their paper umbrellas. Stand in the center of the circle and say: **I have pretend raindrops. I’ll toss some of the raindrops in the air. If you have an umbrella that matches the color of the raindrops, hop to the center of the circle. Then pick up the raindrops and hop back to your place.**

Toss one or more colored raindrops at a time. Continue playing until you’ve tossed all the raindrops. Collect the raindrops, and play again. For older toddlers, let them name the colors as you toss the raindrops.

When you’ve finished playing, set the raindrops aside. Say: **God sends water to do lots of things. God gives us water to drink, and to help things grow, and to clean things. God sent the big flood to clean the world. But God kept Noah safe in the ark just as God keeps us safe. And just like umbrellas keep us safe from rain.** Whisper: **Now let’s tiptoe with our umbrellas over to the snack table.**

Closing

**Safe in God’s Heart**

**SUPPLIES:** heart-shaped finger gelatin, napkins

Before class, prepare finger gelatin, and use a cookie cutter to cut the gelatin into a heart shape for each child.

After children wash their hands, gather them at the snack table, and have them set their paper umbrellas under their chairs.

Ask: • **Who keeps us safe?** (God.)

Say: **We’ve been learning that God keeps us safe. And we know that God keeps us safe because he loves us. Let’s say the thank-you prayer we’ve been learning to tell God how thankful and happy we are for his protection. Fold your hands.** Repeat the prayer from last week’s lesson.
“Thank you, God,"
   (Echo) “Thank you, God,”

We want to say,
   (Echo) We want to say,

For keeping us safe
   (Echo) For keeping us safe

Night and day.
   (Echo) Night and day.

In Jesus’ name, amen.
   (Echo) In Jesus’ name, amen.

Say: Let’s enjoy some delicious hearts to remind us of God’s love and how much we love him, too. Hand each child a napkin with a heart-shaped finger gelatin on it.

   When children have finished eating, remind them to throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Have children take their paper umbrellas home.

For Extra Time
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

- **Drip, Drip, Drop**

   Repeat the action rhyme children learned in Lesson 7. For extra fun, wave the colored raindrops from the Bible Game.

   Have children stand on their tiptoes as you say “drip” and then bend low as you say “drop.”

   **Drip, drop. Drip, drop, drip, drop, drip—**
   **God sent the ark on quite a trip!**
   **The rain came down** (bend very low),
   **And the flood came up.** (Stand and reach up high.)
   **Drip, drop, drip, drop, drip, drop, stop.**

- **Playtime Ark**

   Invite children to play in the ark outline on the floor from Option 1. Encourage them to bring stuffed animals into the “ark” or pretend to be animals themselves and crawl aboard for a make-believe sail. If you chose not to do Option 1, turn a table upside down and use it as a pretend ark.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
I’m Glad That God Keeps Us Safe • Lesson 9

God Keeps Us Safe

Bible Verse
God keeps us safe (adapted from Psalm 4:8).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
• know that God kept Noah safe,
• realize that the rainbow is a symbol of God’s promise, and
• express their thanks for God’s protection and love.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
I’m glad that God keeps us safe.

Genesis 6:9–9:17
The story of the Flood is, on the one hand, very solemn. It is difficult to fathom the extent of human and animal loss brought upon the earth. On the other hand, the Flood story is clearly one of hope. The world needed a new start, and God made a way for that new start to happen. After Noah and his family left the ark for dry ground, the first thing God did was make a covenant promise to all humanity. Never again would God judge the world through a cataclysmic flood. And he gave the rainbow as a sign of that promise.

Imagine the joy Noah and his family must have felt to see the beauty of the first rainbow in the new world. It’s wonderful to see the wonder in a child’s eyes as he or she looks upon a big, bright rainbow. That wonder is greatly enhanced when the child learns the fascinating story of the rainbow’s origin.

Help the children you teach today understand not only the origin of the rainbow, but what it symbolizes. It reveals a God who is eager to give saving protection to all people. Through Jesus Christ, God has promised salvation from sin and death. And God keeps his promises!

Prayer
• Read Isaiah 65:17-25.
• Just as Noah and his family experienced a new beginning on earth, one day all of God’s children will experience a totally brand-new creation, free from sin and death. How can you live your life to thank God for the offer of a new heaven and earth?
• Pray: Thank you, God, that you are gracious to us. You’ve given me the greatest second chance of all—salvation. And you are ready to receive me again whenever I wander. Help the children I teach begin to see the magnitude of your grace.

Before the Lesson
• Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
• Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
# This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

■ Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

• Play “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) from the CD as children are arriving.
• Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
• Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
• Say: Today we’re going to learn that God keeps us safe.
• Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

■ Option 1: Color-Flutters

SUPPLIES: red, blue, yellow, purple, orange, and green construction paper; scissors; elastic thread; tape

Before class, cut red, blue, yellow, purple, orange, and green construction paper into 1x8-inch strips. Cut one strip of every color for each child. You’ll also need a 20-inch length of elastic thread tied into a loop for each child.

Set out the thread loops, tape, and the strips of construction paper. As children arrive, invite them to make pretty “color-flutters” to wear. Help children fold the top inch of a strip of every color over their thread and then tape the strips in the back.

Encourage children to name the colors of their “flutters” as they create their necklaces.

As children work, make comments such as “Our color-flutters look like rainbows, but only God makes real rainbows” and “Rainbows remind us that God keeps his promises.” Tell children that today they’ll hear about a special promise God made to Noah and that God keeps us safe.

Let toddlers wear their color-flutter necklaces during the lesson.

■ Option 2: Over the Rainbow

SUPPLIES: white poster board, crayons or markers, beanbags

Before this activity, draw a large rainbow on white poster board using crayons or markers. Make the colored bands of the rainbow each 3 inches wide.

Set the game board on the floor with the beanbags. When children arrive, invite them to toss the beanbags onto the game board. When a child’s beanbag lands on a color band of the rainbow, have the child name the color. As children play, remind them that God keeps us safe and that rainbows remind us of God’s promise not to flood the whole world again. Mention that they’ll hear more about a special rainbow and God’s promise during today’s Bible story.
Lesson 9

**Pick-Up Time**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

**SING**

Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things  
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things.  
Let’s pick up all our things.  
It’s time to stop our play.

**Bible Story Time**

**Bible Song**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: Who keeps us safe? God keeps us safe. How do we know? The Bible tells us. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

**SING**

This is God’s special book.  
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!  
I learn about all God has done  
And his love for me!  
(Repeat.)

Bible!
**Bible Story: God Keeps Us Safe**

**SUPPLIES:** card table, books, necklaces from Option 1

Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still securely attached so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1

Collapse the legs of a card table and turn it upside down over a few sturdy books so the table rocks slightly back and forth. Gather children at the opposite end of the room from the table. Be sure the cloud is showing on Panel 3.

Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Say: We’re going to hear a Bible story about how God keeps us safe. Hold up the figure of Noah and ask:

• **Who is this?** (Noah; a man.)

Say: This is Noah. Noah and his family loved God very much. But the rest of the people in the world acted mean. They didn’t love God at all. God was sad and decided to wash the world clean with a big flood. But God wanted to keep Noah safe. God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. We can build a pretend ark. First we’ll saw some wood. Make sawing motions and encourage children to follow. **Now let's pound the wood with pretend hammers.** Have children make pounding motions with their fists. Good job! The ark is done, now we can sit down and rest. Pause while children sit.

When Noah finished building the ark, God sent the animals to climb aboard. Open the door flap on Panel 1. **Let’s pretend we’re animals and crawl to the ark.** Take the StoryBoard along as you lead children to the upside-down table. Encourage them to make animal sounds and crawl on their hands and knees. **Climb aboard, little animals. God will keep us safe!** Have children find a place to sit on or near the table. Sit beside the table holding the StoryBoard, and say: **When Noah and his family and all the animals were aboard the ark, God shut the door.** Close the door flap on Panel 1.

Panel 2

Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard. Say: Then God sent the rain. It rained 40 days and 40 nights, and the whole world flooded! But Noah and his family and the animals were safe in the ark. The ark floated and sailed on the waves. It rocked back and forth and up and down. Gently rock the table back and forth as if it’s sailing on the waves. **Up and down, back and forth they sailed. But God kept them safe just as God keeps us safe. Let’s peek in the ark, shall we?** Hold the StoryBoard so children can take turns lifting the flap on Panel 2 and touching the animals. **We can play a game. I’ll point to an animal on the StoryBoard, and you can make a sound like that animal.** Point to the lion and then to the elephant. When you point to the skunk, encourage the children to hold their noses and say “phew!”

**I’m Glad That God Keeps Us Safe**
Everyone was safe and happy on the ark as it sailed over the water. Rock the table back and forth a few more times. Up and down and back and forth they sailed in the rain. But did it ever stop raining? Let’s see!

Panel 3

Unfold Panel 3 of the StoryBoard. Say: Look! God stopped the rain. The water dried up, and Noah and his family and the animals came out of the ark. See the silly monkey? Let’s give the monkey a swing to show how happy he is that it stopped raining. Allow children to each swing the monkey on Panel 3. Then ask:

- Who can find the turtles? Let children touch the turtle.
- How does the turtle’s shell feel? (Hard; bumpy.)

- Where are the caterpillars? Let children touch the caterpillar.
- What do caterpillars feel like? (Soft; nice.)

Say: Then God made Noah and us a special promise. God promised not to flood the whole world again. And God put a pretty rainbow in the sky so we would remember his promise. Turn the cloud over so that the rainbow shows.

Isn’t the rainbow beautiful? Look at all the colors. Let’s say the colors together. Point to each color in the rainbow as you say the color aloud. Help children find the color on their color-flutter necklaces.

God must love us a lot to make such beautiful rainbows. And God keeps us safe because he loves us, too. Let’s sing a happy song about God’s rainbow.

**The Rainbow Song**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, necklaces from Option 1

Use the CD and lead children in singing “The Rainbow Song” (track 14) to the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie?” For extra fun, do the actions in parentheses. Have older toddlers point to the colors on their color-flutter necklaces as they sing.

Did you ever see a rainbow, a rainbow, a rainbow? (Raise your arms in a circle above your head and sway.)

Did you ever see a rainbow way up in the sky?
With yellow and orange and purple and blue—
Oh, God made the rainbow for me and for you. (Make a circle above your head; then point to yourself and then to someone else.)

Did you ever see a rainbow, a rainbow, a rainbow? (Raise your arms in a circle above your head and sway.)

Did you ever see a rainbow way up in the sky?
With red and yellow and orange and green—
Oh, God made the rainbow for me and for you. (Make a circle above your head; then point to yourself and then to someone else.)

Say: Rainbows make us happy because we remember God’s promise. We’re also glad that God keeps us safe. Let’s make something to remind us of how much God loves us.
Bible Activities

Day or Night

SUPPLIES: index cards, crayons

Before class, fold in half enough small index cards for each child to have one. Open the cards slightly so they will stand on a table.

Give one card to each child. Set out crayons for children to share. Remove the sheet of glow-in-the-dark star stickers from the Learning Lab, and place them on the table.

Say: We've been learning a lot about Noah and his family. God kept Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark safe. After the rain, God put a rainbow in the sky to remind Noah and his family that he loved them. Let's draw a rainbow on one side of our cards.

Let children scribble-draw a colorful rainbow on one of the outside halves of the card.

Ask: • When do you usually see a rainbow? (After it rains; after a storm; during the day.)

• Have you ever seen a rainbow at night? Why or why not? (No, because it's dark; no, because there's no light in the sky.)

Say: We can see a rainbow sometimes after it rains. But we can only see a rainbow during the day, because it would be too dark to see it at night. A rainbow is God's way of reminding us that he loves us and that God keeps us safe during the daytime.

Ask: • Do you think God keeps us safe during the nighttime, too? Why or why not? (Yes, because he loves us; yes, because he watches us all the time; yes, because he doesn't need it to be daytime to see us.)

Say: We can't see a rainbow at night, but God keeps us safe at nighttime, too! At night, we can see stars in the sky. We're going to use these glow-in-the-dark star stickers to remind us that God keeps us safe during the night and the day!

Have the children place one or two star stickers on the other half of the index card. Let children use dark crayons to create a night sky around the stars. When standing, one side of the folded card should show the rainbow and the other side the stars in the night sky.

Say: God keeps us safe all the time, wherever we are, night or day. You can take your card home with you and put it by your bed to remind you that God keeps us safe all the time.

Right now, let's add a bright rainbow to our bulletin board!
Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: rainbow pattern (p. 134), scissors, markers, tape

Before class, photocopy the rainbow pattern. Color and cut out the pattern, and then cut out each color band on the rainbow. If you have more than six children in your group, cut the color bands into smaller pieces. Gently remove the foil or tinsel rain you added to the bulletin board last week. This week you’ll add a rainbow.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

Cuddles: (Looking at the children’s rainbow necklaces) Oh! Look at all the pretty rainbows!

Teacher: We made pretend rainbows to wear, Cuddles. But God makes real rainbows to remind us of a special promise. God promised never to flood the whole world again. We know that God always keeps his promises, and we know that God keeps us safe, too.

Cuddles: God makes pretty rainbows! But…(shaking his head) I wish I knew the colors.

Teacher: We’re going to put a rainbow on the bulletin board. We’ll help you learn the colors, won’t we, children?

Hand each child a color band from the rainbow picture. Help children tape the colors in place to create a rainbow. As each child places a piece of the rainbow on the bulletin board, lead him or her in saying the color and repeating the Bible Point. Continue until the rainbow is complete.

Cuddles: (Hopping up and down) Wheee! I know my colors now! Can we say them together? (Have Cuddles point to each color band as you say the color aloud.) That was fun! Thank you for teaching me my colors. And thanks for teaching me that God keeps us safe. I feel so happy!

Teacher: We’re glad that God keeps us safe, too. Would you like to sing a happy song with us, Cuddles?

Cuddles: Oh, yes!

Have Cuddles help lead children in the next activity; then put Cuddles away.

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### Sing It Out

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, have Cuddles lead children in singing “God Keeps Us Safe” (adapted from Psalm 4:8) (track 9) with the CD to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

**SING**

- God keeps us safe. (Cross arms over chest.)
- God keeps us safe. (Cross arms over chest.)
- Through night and day (cover eyes with hands; then uncover eyes),
- In every way (clap twice),
- God keeps us safe. (Cross arms over chest.)

(Repeat.)

Say: The Bible tells us in Psalm 4:8 that God keeps us safe. Let’s make a colorful window hanger to remind us of that!

### Bible Craft

**SUPPLIES:** colored construction paper from Option 1, scissors, newspaper, glue sticks, cotton balls, paper plates, tape, yarn

Before class, cut colored construction paper into 3-inch squares. Cut red, yellow, blue, green, orange, and purple squares. Cut paper plates in half. Also cut a 10-inch length of yarn for each child.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out glue sticks, cotton balls, and the paper squares. Hand each child a paper-plate half, and encourage the children to glue the paper squares to the curved edges of their plates. Show children how to stretch the cotton balls and then glue the cotton ball “clouds” below the colored squares. As children work, remind them that God makes rainbows. Tell children that the rainbow reminds us of God’s promises. Invite children to name the colors in their window hangers.

When children have finished, tape a loop of yarn on the back of the paper plate so it can be hung in a window.

Say: The rainbow was God’s promise never to flood the whole world again. Just like Noah, we’ve learned that God keeps us safe. And just like Noah saw God’s colorful rainbow in the sky, we can see lots of colors. Let’s play a game and find pretty rainbow colors.

### Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** colored construction paper from Option 1, tape

Before this activity, scatter half sheets of red, blue, yellow, purple, orange, and green construction paper on the floor, and tape them in place.

Say: There are lots of colors all over the floor. Let’s say the color names. Point to each colored square as you say the color aloud. Have children repeat the colors with you.
If I say a color, go stand beside that color of paper. If I say, “God’s rainbow,” sit down and put your arms in a big circle over your head like this. Demonstrate how to form a “rainbow” over your head.

Alternate calling out colors and “God’s rainbow.” If you have older toddlers, let them take turns calling out colors. Lead children in saying the Bible Point each time they make a rainbow with their arms.

When you’ve finished playing, say: I’m so glad that God keeps us safe. Let’s be pretty rainbows and quietly walk to the snack table for our yummy treats. Lead children to the snack table by holding your arms over your head like a rainbow arch.

**Closing**

### Pretty Promise

**SUPPLIES:** graham crackers, marshmallow creme, plastic knives, napkins, colored cereal puffs

When children are seated at the snack table, ask:

- **Who keeps us safe?** (God.)
- **Who always keeps his promises?** (God.)

Say: God always keeps his promises. That’s because God loves us. And God keeps us safe because he loves us. God showed us how much he loves us by sending his Son, Jesus, to die for us. If we believe in Jesus, someday we will live in heaven with him. We are so happy that God loves us this much!

Let’s thank God for his love and protection by saying our thank-you prayer. Fold your hands. Pray:

“Thank you, God,”

*(Echo)* “Thank you, God,”

**We want to say,**

*(Echo)* We want to say,

**For keeping us safe**

*(Echo)* For keeping us safe

**Night and day,**

*(Echo)* Night and day.

**In Jesus’ name, amen.**

*(Echo)* In Jesus’ name, amen.

Have children wash their hands.

Say: Now we’ll make colorful rainbow treats to gobble up. Hand each child a napkin with a graham cracker on it. Help children spread marshmallow creme on their graham crackers, and let them stick colored cereal puffs on top to make a rainbow.
I'm Glad That God Keeps Us Safe

After children enjoy their treats, have them throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Remind children to wear their color-flutter necklaces and take their window-hangers and index-card reminders home.

For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

**Love That Rainbow!**

Cut out red, yellow, purple, orange, green, and blue construction paper hearts. Hand each child a paper heart, and help him or her tell you the color. Without the CD, lead children in singing “The Rainbow Song” to the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie?” Invite children to hold up their paper hearts as you sing the colors.

**SING**

Did you ever see a rainbow, a rainbow, a rainbow?
Did you ever see a rainbow way up in the sky?
With yellow and orange and purple and blue—
Oh, God made the rainbow for me and for you.

Did you ever see a rainbow, a rainbow, a rainbow?
Did you ever see a rainbow way up in the sky?
With red and yellow and orange and green—
Oh, God made the rainbow for me and for you.

**Flashlight Fun**

Cover the ends of a few flashlights with colored cellophane squares and attach them with rubber bands. Let children take turns shining the “colored lights” on the ceiling, walls, and floor. If you have older toddlers, let them choose an object in the room to shine the light on, and have them tell you the color of that object.
We Thank God

Bible Basis: Deuteronomy 16:13-15

Like their neighbors, the Israelites relied heavily on local agriculture for survival. However, unlike their neighbors, Israel enjoyed a special covenant relationship with the Lord, the Creator of all things. As part of their covenant agreement, the Lord promised to provide for the nation’s needs, including their agricultural needs (see Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

Along with this promise came an annual schedule of festivals and feast days. Not surprisingly, many of these festivals were tied directly to times and seasons in the agricultural year, such as planting and harvest. The Festival of Shelters (traditionally referred to as the Feast of Tabernacles) was to mark the end of the agricultural year, when all final harvests had been gathered in (hence, in Exodus 23:16 it is called the Festival of the Final Harvest). It was one of three festivals requiring a pilgrimage to the central sanctuary to offer sacrifices (see Exodus 23:14-17).

Most of all, it was to be a time of great celebration and joy. In the midst of celebrating the provision of rain and crops, the Israelites observed a special ritual to direct attention to something even more important and worthy of celebration. They were to build boothlike huts out of branches and foliage to commemorate their living in makeshift shelters after God delivered them from slavery in Egypt (see Leviticus 23:42-43).

Believers in every generation have similar reasons to celebrate: God provides not only for the physical needs of his people, he provides a way for their salvation as well.

Four Lessons on We Thank God

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We Thank God

For the next four weeks, the toddlers and 2s class will be learning about thanking God. The children will use their five senses to discover some of the many reasons to thank God, and they’ll express their thanks in different ways. Use these Parent Page ideas to help reinforce the point that we thank God.

Tips for Ts and 2s

“Thank you” to a toddler can mean anything from “I’m glad I have a cookie” to “You’re nice.” But through the sensitive modeling of parents and other loving caregivers, young children soon learn that being thankful isn’t just saying words, it’s how we feel inside. For the next few weeks, encourage family members to look for reasons to be thankful and to express their thanks often. Soon your toddler will understand that thankfulness isn’t just something “nice” to say—it’s a way of life!

Together Time

■ Enjoy “together time” with your toddler outside in the beautiful fall weather. Point out things you’re thankful for, such as warm jackets to wear, bright autumn colors, and the happy crisp-crunch as you step on fallen leaves. If you live in a warmer climate, you may wish to visit the library and look through magazines with photos of autumn leaves. Remind your child that we can thank God for these special autumn gifts.
■ Invite your child to help create a special autumn treat. Let your toddler spoon applesauce into small bowls, and then put a tiny dollop of butter and sprinkle cinnamon and sugar on top. Microwave your applesauce treats for one minute. What a delicious way to take the chill off crisp autumn evenings!
■ Sing this action song with your toddler:

We Thank God (adapted from Psalm 107:1)

(sung to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me”)

Thank you, God, for food and friends
And your love that never ends.
Thank you for the clothes we wear
And for church where we can share.

We thank God.
We thank God.
We thank God,
And we love him, too.
We Thank God for Food and Clothing • Lesson 10

**Bible Point**

**We Thank God**

**Bible Verse**

We thank God (adapted from Psalm 107:1).

**Growing Closer to Jesus**

Children will
- understand that God wants them to thank him,
- discover that people can give thanks to God, and
- express their thanks to God for food and clothing.

**Teacher Enrichment**

**Bible Basis**

- *We thank God for food and clothing.*

**Deuteronomy**

16:13-15

The next time you encounter someone who wrongly thinks the Bible is a stodgy book full of nothing but do's and don'ts, direct their attention to today's passage. How often today do people have a party that lasts seven whole days? The Festival of Shelters was but one such festival in Israel's sacred year. After many months of planting, tending, and harvesting the nation's food supply, it was time to celebrate. However, it was not just a time to celebrate the fact that there was food. Rather, it was a time to celebrate the One who had ultimately provided the food—God.

In our lives today, we often ask God for things. And he faithfully provides. How often, though, do we spend purposeful time thanking God for his provision? Not just a prayer of thanks, but a true celebration of the heart. How might our view of things change if we took time to truly revel in the joy of being children of the God who so faithfully meets our needs?

Even young children love to celebrate. Help them see how God's wonderful provision is a reason for them to celebrate.

**Prayer**

- Read Matthew 6:25-30.
- Do you tend to worry about having the things you need? Think of times God provided for your needs.
- In your spiritual life, do you take time for joyful celebration of God's blessings? In what way—big or small—might you celebrate God's blessings in your life today?
- Pray: Lord, you have given me such good gifts in Christ Jesus. You bless me beyond my recognition. Help me demonstrate to the children I teach the joy that comes from knowing you take care of us and all of our needs.

**Before the Lesson**

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.
## This Lesson at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrival Activities</th>
<th>Classroom Supplies</th>
<th>Learning Lab Supplies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Time</strong>—Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.</td>
<td>Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1: Stop ‘n’ Shop</strong>—&quot;Shop&quot; and &quot;work&quot; in a pretend grocery store.</td>
<td>Variety of clean, empty food containers; medium-sized boxes; grocery sacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 2: Warm and Woolly</strong>—Dress up in warm outer wear.</td>
<td>Variety of scarves, mittens, jackets, and sweaters</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pick-Up Time</strong>—Sing a song as they help clean up the room.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
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### Bible Story Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bible Song</th>
<th>Sing a song about the Bible.</th>
<th>Bible, CD player</th>
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<td><strong>We Thank God</strong></td>
<td>Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they learn about being thankful from Deuteronomy 16:13-15.</td>
<td>Bible, scissors, tape, napkins, apple slices, cereal loops, bowl, a mitten from Option 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>We Thank You, God</strong></td>
<td>Sing a quiet song to thank God for the things he gives us.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
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### Bible Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper Plate Pictures</th>
<th>Decorate paper plates with pretend food, and remember that God gives them good food.</th>
<th>Paper plates, red marker, crayons</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</strong></td>
<td>Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.</td>
<td>Food patterns (pp. 148-149), tape, scissors, markers, apple slice, light yellow paper, brown construction paper or grocery sack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sing It Out</strong></td>
<td>Sing a quiet song to thank God for the things he gives us.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Craft</strong></td>
<td>Create wearable &quot;food.&quot;</td>
<td>Food patterns (pp. 148-149), scissors, crayons, tape or rubber bands, heavy-stock paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Game</strong></td>
<td>Learn an action rhyme while they dress in warm clothing.</td>
<td>Mittens and scarves from Option 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Closing

| Banana Buttons | Say a prayer, and have a snack. | Bananas, napkins, knife, fruit-flavored gelatin powder |

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.
**Arrival Activities**

**Welcome Time**

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) (track 15) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: Today we’re going to learn that ➤we thank God.<n
**Option 1: Stop ’n’ Shop**

**SUPPLIES:** variety of clean, empty food containers; medium-sized boxes; grocery sacks

Before class, collect a variety of empty paper or plastic food containers such as yogurt cups, cereal boxes, milk jugs, pudding boxes or cups, and juice cartons. Be sure the containers are clean.

Set out the empty food containers and several grocery sacks. Provide medium-sized boxes to use as “shopping carts.” As children arrive, invite them to set the food containers on tables and bookshelves to create a “grocery store.” Then encourage children to “shop” and take turns pushing the shopping carts. Let children bag the items in the grocery sacks.

As children play, make comments such as “I’m thankful God gives us good food to eat” and “I like lots of different foods. What foods are you thankful for?” Mention that children will hear a Bible story today about being thankful for all that God gives us and that ➤we thank God.<n
**Option 2: Warm and Woolly**

**SUPPLIES:** variety of scarves, mittens, jackets, and sweaters

Set out a variety of warm clothing for children to try on. Include items such as soft mittens, woolly wraparound scarves, snugly sweaters, and jackets.

Invite children to try on different articles of clothing. Circulate among the children and ask questions such as “Isn’t it nice to have warm clothes on chilly days?” and “What’s your favorite thing to wear outside?” Explain that God gives us many things to keep us healthy and warm. Tell children that ➤we can thank God for clothes that help keep us warm. Mention that today’s Bible story is about thanking God for all that he gives us.

**Pick-Up Time**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”
Lesson 10

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let's put it all away.

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
It's time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

**Bible Song**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

**BIBLE VERSE**

`track 3`

Say: Who do we thank for our food and clothes? We thank God. How do we know that? The Bible tells us so in Psalm 107:1. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let's sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead the children in singing “God's Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

**SING**

This is God's special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!

**Bible Story: We Thank God**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors, tape, napkins, apple slices, cereal loops, bowl, a mitten from Option 2

Before class begins, prepare your StoryBoard by following the assembly instructions provided in the Learning Lab. Also cut out and assemble the two baskets using the woven basket patterns in the Learning Lab box. The purpose of the StoryBoard is to provide an interactive, sensory learning experience for your toddlers and 2s. Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.
Place a folded napkin or paper towel in the bottom of each basket. Place several apple slices and cereal loops in the baskets. Have extra apple slices and cereal loops in a bowl for children to eat. (Make sure apple slices are thin so they don't present a choking hazard.) Set aside one apple slice for later in the lesson. Have children wash their hands.

Panel 1

Insert the shelves on Panel 2. Set the baskets and bowl containing the apple slices and the cereal loops behind you. Place a mitten from Option 2, a Bible, and the detachable Bible and Cuddles figures beside you. Hold up the Bible and say: **Our Bible story today is about thanking God.**

Ask: • **What do you say when someone gives you something?** (Thank you; thanks.)

Say: **We say thank you when someone gives us something nice. Let's practice saying “thank you.”** Hand the Bible to each child, and encourage him or her to say, “Thank you.” Then set the Bible down.

Long ago God wanted his people to tell him “thank you.” God wanted the people to have a special party to thank him for their food, clothes, and families. Then God said the people would be happy and he would give them even more good things. Isn't that wonderful? God gives us good things, too. Let's find some things to thank God for. Reveal Panel 1.

Ask: • **Do you see something good to eat? What is it?** (An apple.)

Say: **God gives us good food like apples.** Scratch and sniff the apple sticker. Mmm, this apple smells good, too. Let's all smell the apple. Have children scratch and sniff the apple sticker. ►**We thank God for apples. Let's see what else we can thank God for.**

Rub your arms as if you're cold. Say: **Brrr, it looks chilly in the picture. Rub your arms and say “brrrr.”** Pause. The children are wearing jackets and hats. Let's feel how soft and warm they are.

Let children touch the jacket and the pompom on the child's hat. Hold up the mitten. Say: **Cuddly mittens keep our hands warm. Let's thank God for warm clothes. When you hold the mitten, say, “Thank you, God.”** Help children pass the mitten to each other. Encourage each child to say, “Thank you, God” as he or she holds the mitten.

Then say: **God wants us to be happy and thank him for what he gives us.** The people long ago thanked God for food and clothes, and ►**we thank God, too.** Let's see what else we're thankful for.

Panel 2

Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard. Point to the foods and say: **Look at the pretty foods in this store! Yummy! Rub your tummies to show how delicious the food looks.** Let's play a game. I'll tell about a food, and you can find it on the StoryBoard. Point to the appropriate StoryBoard food pictures as you ask the following riddles. Have children touch the pictures of the foods as each is named.

• **I'm orange and crunchy, and bunnies can munch me. What food am I?** (A carrot.)
Lesson 10

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Toddlers & 2s

- I’m soft and white and make sandwiches right. What food am I? (Bread.)
- I grow in a bunch; I’m delicious to munch! What food am I? (Grapes.)

Good for you! Now we can find other foods that God gives us. Help children point to the purple eggplant, the potato, the pineapple, and the orange. Then set the baskets containing the apple slices and cereal loops on the shelves on Panel 2.

Let’s taste some food, shall we? When you take a snack, be sure to say, “Thank you, God.” Pass around the bowl of extra fruit and cereal you prepared before class, and let children each take an apple slice and a few cereal loops. Each time a child takes a piece of food, help him or her say, “Thank you, God.”

After the children have eaten their snacks, say: ►We thank God for food. Let’s see what else we can thank God for.

Panel 3

Unfold Panel 3 of the StoryBoard which shows children in a church setting.

Say: Oh, my! Here are children just like you! They’re in church with their friends. Can you smile like those boys and girls? Pause. They’re happy to learn about God. Who can find the StoryBoard in the picture? Have one or two children point out the StoryBoard. Then fasten the punch-out Bible to the teacher’s hand. Here’s the Bible. I’m thankful that God gave us the Bible and Bible stories. Let’s point to the Bible and say, “Thank you, God.” Help children point to the Bible and say, “Thank you, God.”

The teacher looks nice. We can touch his beard. Hold the StoryBoard so children can touch the beard.

Ask: • How does the beard feel? (Soft; tickly; nice.)
• What are the children sitting on? (Carpet squares; a rug.)

Say: We can touch the carpet square. Have children touch the square. Then say: Do you suppose Cuddles is there, too? Let’s call for Cuddles. Cuddles! Make the figure of Cuddles peek over the top of the StoryBoard. There’s Cuddles! We’ll give our friend Cuddles a pat. Remove the Bible and fasten the figure of Cuddles to the teacher’s hand. Give each child a turn patting the Cuddles figure.

It’s fun coming to church with our friends. ►We thank God for church. There are so many things we can thank God for and so many ways to thank him. Right now, let’s thank God with a nice song.

►We Thank You, God

SUPPLIES: CD player

Using the CD, lead the children in singing “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) (track 15) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” Encourage children to fold their hands while they sing.
We Thank God for Food and Clothing

**Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Toddlers & 2s**

We Thank God for Food and Clothing

Thank you, God, for food and friends
And your love that never ends.
Thank you for the clothes we wear
And for church where we can share.

We thank God.
We thank God.
We thank God,
And we love him, too. *(Nod your head.)*

*(Repeat.)*

Say: It’s nice to sing quiet prayer-songs to God. Singing to God is a good way to tell God “thank you.” The people in the Bible story had a party to tell God thank you. We have a party on a special day called Thanksgiving. That’s a good time to tell God how thankful we are for all that he gives us, especially good food! Let’s make some pretend good food right now!

**Bible Activities**

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**Paper Plate Pictures**

*SUPPLIES:* paper plates, red marker, crayons

Remove the food stickers from the Learning Lab.
Gather the children around a table. Give each child a paper plate. Set out crayons for children to share.

Ask:
- **What’s your favorite food to eat?** (Pizza; hot dogs; cereal.)
- **Who can you thank for good food to eat?** (God; my mommy; Daddy.)

Say: Let’s make our own pretend plates of food to help us remember that ►**we thank God** for our food. Pretend that the plate in front of you is your very own plate at dinner or dessert. In a minute, you can draw a picture of your favorite foods on that plate! But first, I’m going to draw a big red heart on each plate to help us remember that God gives us good food to eat and that ►**we thank God** for our food.

Go around the table and use a red marker to draw a big heart on each child’s plate. Then let children draw their favorite foods on the paper plates. (It’s OK if only *they* can recognize what they’re drawing.) Then distribute the food stickers, and let children use them to decorate their plates.

Say: God gives us good food to eat and clothes to wear to keep us warm.
►**We thank God** for food and clothes and everything!

Right now, let’s put a Thanksgiving table of good food on our bulletin board.
Lesson 10

**Interactive Bible Bulletin Board**

**SUPPLIES:** food patterns (pp. 148-149), tape, scissors, markers, apple slice, light yellow paper, brown construction paper or grocery sack

Before class, cover the bulletin board with light yellow paper. Cut a large rectangle from brown construction paper or a grocery sack. Tape the rectangle along the lower portion of the bulletin board for a tabletop. Photocopy the food patterns. Color and cut out a food picture for each child.

Have an apple slice nearby. Bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

**Cuddles:** (Holding his tummy and whispering to it) Shh—don’t be so loud!

**Teacher:** Hello, Cuddles! Who are you talking to? Who’s making noise?

**Cuddles:** I’m talking to my tummy.

**Teacher:** To your tummy?

**Cuddles:** Yes, my tummy’s making a lot of noise. It’s saying, “Urr…urrrRRR.” Listen.

**Teacher:** (Listening to Cuddles’ tummy) I know what your tummy is saying, Cuddles. Your tummy is saying you’re hungry!

**Cuddles:** I didn’t eat all my breakfast this morning. Guess I am hungry for some good food.

**Teacher:** We’ve been learning today that we thank God. And we can thank God for the food we eat. Would you like to help us put some pretend food on the Thanksgiving table?

**Cuddles:** Yes, I like to help. And I like to eat!

Have Cuddles distribute the food pictures to the children. Help each child identify his or her food picture and tape the picture to the table on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a food picture, help him or her repeat the Bible Point.

**Teacher:** Here’s an apple slice to thank you for helping us, Cuddles.

**Cuddles:** Wow, thank you all a lot! Now my tummy won’t talk so much.

**Teacher:** It’s fun to say thank you. Let’s sing a song and tell God thank you for all that he gives us.

Have children tell Cuddles goodbye. Set Cuddles out of sight.
**Sing It Out**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, lead the children in singing “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) (track 15) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” Encourage children to fold their hands while they sing.

Thank you, God, for food and friends  
And your love that never ends.  
Thank you for the clothes we wear  
And for church where we can share.

We thank God.  
We thank God.  
We thank God,  
And we love him, too. (Nod your head.)

(Repeat.)

Say: ➤**We thank God** for lots of things, like food and clothes. Now let’s make something fun to wear.

**Bible Craft**

**SUPPLIES:** food patterns (pp. 148-149), scissors, heavy-stock paper, crayons, tape or rubber bands

Before class, photocopy the food patterns on heavy-stock paper. Cut out two food patterns for each child.

Set out crayons. Hold up the food cutouts, and let the children identify each one. Then say: Just as God wanted the people long ago to thank him for their food, God wants us to be thankful, too. We can make “fun foods” to remind us how thankful we are for all that God gives us.

Let each child choose two food cutouts. Invite children to use crayons to scribble-color the cutouts.

When the children have finished, attach the fun foods to the children’s shoes with rubber bands or tape. Encourage children to model their special decorations and tell each other what “foods” they’re wearing.

Say: My, you look nice in your fun foods. But our food pictures aren’t real food, are they? ➤**We thank God** for real food and clothes because they help us. Food helps us grow healthy, and clothes keep us warm when it’s cold. Let’s play a game with warm, cuddly clothes.

**Bible Game**

**SUPPLIES:** mittens and scarves from Option 2

Sit with the children in a circle on the floor. Hand each child a mitten or scarf from Option 2. (If you chose not to do Option 2 or if you’re short on warm clothing items, you may want to provide clean socks for the children to wear on their hands as “mittens.”)
Lesson 10

Say: Let’s put on our warm, cuddly scarves and mittens. Then we’ll say a fun rhyme. Lead children in the following action rhyme.

I’m as warm as I can be (hug yourself)  
Because God gives nice clothes to me. (Turn in a circle; then raise your arms upward.)

After the rhyme, invite children to trade their “warm clothing” with a friend, and then repeat the rhyme. Have children switch mittens and scarves a few more times; then set the clothing aside.

Say: I’m so glad that God takes care of us. He gives us good food to eat and clothes to wear. It’s important that we thank God for all that he gives us. Now let’s put on pretend “tiptoe shoes” and tiptoe to the snack table.

Closing

Banana Buttons

SUPPLIES: bananas, plastic knife, napkins, fruit-flavored gelatin powder

When children have gathered at the snack table, say: In our Bible story today we learned that God wants us to tell him “thank you.”

Ask: • What can we thank God for? (Food; clothes; Mommy; Daddy.)

Say: We thank God for everything! We especially thank God for Jesus. Jesus came to earth and died for us so that we could know how much God loves us. Jesus wants to be our forever friend. If we love him back, we can live with him someday in heaven. Let’s thank God for all this with a prayer. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for all you give us. Thank you for our food and clothes. Thank you for Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Say: We can eat banana “buttons” to remind us how thankful we are that God gives us clothes to wear. Have children wash their hands. Hand each child a napkin with six banana slices on it. For a festive touch, sprinkle fruit-flavored gelatin powder on the slices before serving.

When children have finished, remind them to throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Be sure children wear their “fun foods” home and take their paper plate pictures with them.

Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Parent Page” handout (p. 136) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module’s topic.
We Thank God for Food and Clothing

For Extra Time
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

- **Thank You Very Much!**
  Have children spread out around the room and sit on the floor. Hand one child a toy or picture book, and then have him or her take the item to someone else. Encourage the person receiving the book or toy to say, “Thank you very much!” Then that person will take the item to another child. Continue until each child has had a chance to say, “Thank you very much” and deliver the item to someone else.

- **Musical Dress-Up**
  Use a musical CD of your choice, and let children play a game of musical dress-up using the mittens, sweaters, and scarves from Option 2. Have children form a circle and pass the clothing items around as the music plays. When the music stops, have children put on the items they’re holding and say, “Thank you!”
Patterns
Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
Bible Point

We Thank God

Bible Verse
We thank God (adapted from Psalm 107:1).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
■ learn that people in Bible times thanked God,
■ realize that God wants them to thank him, too, and
■ express thanks to God for their friends and families.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
We thank God for family and friends.

Deuteronomy 16:13-15
The Israelites were specifically told to celebrate the Festival of Shelters as families and as a whole community (Deuteronomy 16:14). Together they would share in the joy of experiencing yet another year of God’s faithfulness. Times of purposeful reflection on what God had done for them were necessary lest the people forget the central role God was to have in their lives. Many modern holidays have Christian roots. However, those roots are often eclipsed by busyness, parties, and presents. Christians should be careful to keep the focus on God during these times.

During the Festival of Shelters, the people constructed special booths to help them remember God’s rescuing them from Egypt. Similarly, it is often helpful for families today to develop certain traditions (such as the lighting of the advent candles at Christmas) in order to keep the focus on God during holidays. Adults and young children alike can often participate in such traditions, providing a special opportunity for the family to honor God together.

Prayer
• Read Exodus 12:24-27.
• Are there ways in which your celebration of the Christian holidays needs to be refocused upon God? What is one practical step you can take to do that for the upcoming holidays?
• Pray: Lord, thank you for the special times when we gather as family and friends to remember and thank you for what you’ve done for us. Help me, and help the children I teach, to keep the right focus during those seasons.

Before the Lesson
■ Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
■ Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
**Lesson 11**

### This Lesson at a Glance

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<td><strong>Arrival Activities</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Time</strong>—Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.</td>
<td>Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1: Home, Sweet Home</strong>—Play in pretend houses and take care of their “families.”</td>
<td>Blankets, dolls or stuffed animals, paper plates and cups, shoe boxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 2: Cuddly Cuddles</strong>—Make cuddly puppets that look like Cuddles the Lamb.</td>
<td>Lunch sacks, cotton balls, glue sticks, black crayons, scissors, black construction paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pick-Up Time</strong>—Sing a song as they help clean up the room.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Story Time</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Song</strong>—Sing a song about the Bible.</td>
<td>Bible, CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>We Thank God</strong>—Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they learn about being thankful from Deuteronomy 16:13-15.</td>
<td>Napkins, crackers, medium-sized box, bowl, lamb puppets from Option 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>We Thank You, God</strong>—Sing a song to thank God for what he gives us, and thank God for each other.</td>
<td>Eyeglasses pattern (p. 176), CD player, construction paper, tape, scissors, chenille wires, lamb puppets from Option 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</strong>—Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.</td>
<td>Friends and family patterns (p. 163), scissors, tape</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sing It Out</strong>—Sing a quiet song to thank God for the things he gives us.</td>
<td>CD player</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Craft</strong>—Make funny friends from leaves.</td>
<td>Leaf-friend finger puppet patterns (p. 162), leaves or construction paper, crayons, tape, scissors, heavy-stock paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Game</strong>—Use their leaf-friends in an action rhyme.</td>
<td>Bible, leaf-friend finger puppets from Bible Craft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Banana Bunches</strong>—Say a prayer, and have a snack.</td>
<td>Bananas in bunches, napkins, plastic knife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) (track 15) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: Today we’re going to learn that we thank God.
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Home, Sweet Home

SUPPLIES: blankets, dolls or stuffed animals, paper plates and cups, shoe boxes

Before class, drape blankets over tables or chairs to make “tents.” Provide shoe boxes to use as doll beds, paper plates and cups for dishes, and a variety of dolls or stuffed animals for children to “care for.”

As children arrive, invite them to set up “housekeeping” in one of the tents. Encourage them to take care of their doll families.

Tell children that today they’ll hear a Bible story about thanking God and that some people had a party to thank him. Mention that the people lived in tents during the special party and that they thanked God for their families. Remind children that we thank God, too.

Option 2: Cuddly Cuddles

SUPPLIES: lunch sacks, cotton balls, glue sticks, black crayons, scissors, black construction paper

Before class, cut a pair of black construction paper lamb ears for each child and for yourself. Make a Cuddles the Lamb puppet so you’ll have a sample to show the children. Glue cotton balls on a lunch sack, add construction paper ears, and use a black crayon to draw facial features.

Set out lunch sacks, cotton balls, glue sticks, and black crayons. Slip the homemade Cuddles the Lamb puppet on your hand, and invite children to make cuddly “Cuddles” puppets of their own. As children work, tell them that we thank God for our friends at church and that Cuddles is a special friend. Let toddlers pet their Cuddles the Lamb puppets and use them to say, “Cuddles likes his friends” and “Cuddles likes hugs.” Write children’s names on their puppets.

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.
Lesson 11

Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s pick up all our things.
And put them all away.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

Bible Song

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: **Who can we thank for our families and friends?**

**We thank God.** How do we know that? The Bible tells us.

Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let’s sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD (track 3), lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!
Bible Story: We Thank God

SUPPLIES: napkins, small crackers, medium-sized box, bowl, lamb puppets from Option 2

Before class begins, please make sure that the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Before this activity, place a napkin in each of the baskets you made in week 10. Put small crackers on the napkins. Have extra crackers in a bowl beside you.

Panel 1

Insert the shelves on Panel 2. Set the food baskets behind you. Place a medium-sized box and the paper leaves and cellophane from Sensory Packet 3 beside you. Set aside the lamb puppets children made earlier to use with Panel 3. Put the detachable Bible and Cuddles figures beside you. Make sure children have washed their hands.

Open the StoryBoard to Panel 1. Say: Our Bible story is about thanking God. Long ago God wanted people to thank him. God wanted everyone to have a “thankful” party. So families and friends and everybody had a party and thanked God for all he had given them. Our StoryBoard shows pictures of things we thank God for. Let’s see what we can find.

Ask: • Who can find the apple tree? Have toddlers point at the tree and smell the apple scratch-and-sniff sticker.

Say: God gives us trees that have good apples to eat. Trees also have leaves that fall in autumn. Point to the leaves in the picture. The leaves are so pretty. Oh, listen! Rustle the cellophane to make it crinkle like dried leaves. I hear crunchy leaves falling to the ground. We can pretend to be falling leaves.

We’re leaves in the trees (stand on your tiptoes and reach your arms high in the air),
But uh-oh—here comes the wind! (Make blowing sounds and sway back and forth.)
We’re fluttering down! (Wave your arms and crouch lower and lower.)
Flutter, flutter all around;
Leaves are falling to the ground. (Sit on the floor by the StoryBoard.)

What pretty falling leaves! The boys and girls in the picture are playing in leaves. And the children are dressed in warm clothes. Let’s touch the jacket and hat. Pause for children to touch the fabric and pom pom on Panel 1.

The children put leaves in their wagon. Can you make the wagon wheels spin around? Let toddlers turn the wheels on the wagon.

We can put leaves in a pretend wagon. Set the box near the StoryBoard. Hand children the paper leaves. Let’s count to three and then toss our leaves in the air. Ready? One, two...three! Wheee! Now we’ll rake the leaves and put them in our pretend wagon. Have toddlers “rake” the paper leaves with their fingers and put the leaves into the box.

It’s fun playing together, and we thank God for friends. What else do we thank God for?
Panel 2

Hold the StoryBoard so children see Panel 2. Be sure the shelves are attached. Say: **What colorful foods I see! God gives us good foods to eat. Let’s find some foods in our picture.** Ask the following questions, and allow children to find and touch each food.

- **Can you find the potatoes?**
- **Where is the purple eggplant?**
- **Can you find the carrots?**
- **Who can point to the pineapple?**
- **Can you find the bread?**
- **Who can point to the milk and eggs?**

Say: **You’re good food-finders! It’s fun to go shopping and pick out foods for our families to eat. Our class is like a big family, and we can eat together, too. Let’s taste some good foods.** Set the food baskets on the shelves, and pass the bowl with extra crackers for the children to share. Ask the children not to eat their snacks until everyone has some. When everyone has a cracker or two, say: **Let’s bow our heads and thank God for our food. Dear God, we thank you for food and families and friends to eat with. Amen.** Let children eat their treats.

**► We thank God for our food and families and friends. What else do we thank God for?**

Panel 3

Reveal Panel 3. Say: **Look! Here are people at church. They’re having fun just like we’re having fun with our friends.**

- **Who can find a child sitting on a carpet square?**
- **Where is the teacher?**

Allow each child to touch the carpet square and the teacher’s beard. Say: **The boys and girls are listening to their teacher tell Bible stories with the StoryBoard. They’re learning about God. Here’s the Bible.** Fasten the punch-out Bible to the teacher’s hand. **► We thank God for the Bible. Let’s touch the Bible and say, “Thank you, God.”** Hold the StoryBoard and have each child touch the Bible. When a child touches the Bible, lead him or her in saying, “Thank you, God.”

**Do you suppose Cuddles is in their room, too?** Have the punch-out figure of Cuddles peek at the children over the top and sides of the StoryBoard. **Oh, here’s Cuddles. We’ll put Cuddles in the teacher’s hand.** Fasten the figure of Cuddles on the teacher’s hand. Hand children the puppets they made in Option 2. **We each have our own Cuddles to play with. Pet Cuddles, then give him a warm hug.**

**Pause. Cuddles is our friend, and ► we thank God for friends. Let’s use our Cuddles the Lamb puppets to sing a song about thanking God.**

Put the StoryBoard away.

---

**BIBLE POINT**

**important:** Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.
We Thank God for Family and Friends

SUPPLIES: eyeglasses pattern (p. 176), CD player, construction paper, scissors, chenille wires, tape, lamb puppets from Option 2

Before class, use the eyeglasses pattern as a model and make a large pair of glasses from construction paper. Cut openings for the eyes. Attach chenille wire earpieces with tape. Fold the ends so that children can put the oversized glasses on their heads. Remove the blue cellophane from the Learning Lab. Cut the blue cellophane to fit over the eyes of the eyeglasses. Tape the cellophane in place, and place the remaining cellophane back in the Learning Lab.

Use the CD and lead children in singing “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) (track 15) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” Encourage children to use their Cuddles the Lamb puppets to do the motions in parentheses.

**SING**

Thank you, God, for food and friends (pet the puppets)
And your love that never ends. (Give the puppets a hug.)
Thank you for the clothes we wear (have the puppets nod their heads)
And for church where we can share. (Have the puppets hop up and down.)

We thank God. (Have the puppets bow their heads.)
We thank God. (Have the puppets bow their heads.)
We thank God (have the puppets bow their heads),
And we love him, too. (Have the puppets nod their heads.)

(Repeat.)

Say: God gives us families and friends, and **we thank God** for their love.

Have the children join you in a circle on the floor. Say: We’re going to use these giant, pretend glasses to look at all of our friends in this room. We’ll use the glasses to remind us that **we thank God** for our families and friends.

Hand the glasses to someone in the circle. Have that child place the glasses over his or her eyes and tuck the earpieces behind his or her ears. Let the child look around the room and then say, “I see [another child’s name].”

Say: Good. You see your friend [child’s name]. God gave [child’s name] for all of us to love. Let’s thank God for [child’s name]. Encourage the children to say with you: Thank you, God, for [child’s name].

Allow each child a turn with the glasses. Make sure each child’s name is called out at least once.

Ask: • Who made your friends? (God did.)
• How can you show your friends that you love them? (Play with them; share with them; give them hugs.)
**• How can you thank God for your friends?** (In my prayers; by telling them about God; by saying thank you.)

Say: God gave us our families to love and he gave us our friends to love. **We thank God** for our families and friends!

Say: Right now, let’s put family members and friends around the Thanksgiving table on our bulletin board. But first, we’ll let our puppet friends rest. Lead children to a wall and have them lay their puppets down for a “nap.”
Lesson 11

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: friends and family patterns (p. 163), scissors, tape

Before class, photocopy and cut out the friends and family patterns. Be sure to cut out a pattern for each child.

Lead the children to the bulletin board. This week you’ll add friends and family members to the Thanksgiving table.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

Cuddles: Hello, hello! Where are the sheep I just saw?
Teacher: Those were puppets we made, Cuddles. They weren’t real sheep.
Cuddles: They looked just like me! I thought I had friends to play with.
Teacher: You do have friends to play with, Cuddles. We’re your friends, aren’t we children? Let’s give Cuddles a hug to show that he’s our friend. (Have children hug Cuddles.) We’ve been learning that we thank God. And we thank God for our friends and families.

Cuddles: You’re all my friends, too.
Teacher: We’re going to add pictures of friends and family members to the bulletin board. Would you like to help us, Cuddles?
Cuddles: Oh, yes! I like helping my friends!

Have Cuddles hand each child a cutout. Help children tape the friends and family member figures around the table. As each child places a figure, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point. Then let children find and point to the food pictures you placed on the bulletin board last week.

Teacher: It’s fun gathering with friends and family members to tell God “thank you.” At Thanksgiving, we thank God for all that he gives us. Right now, we’ll thank God with a special song.

Set Cuddles out of sight.

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Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player

Using the CD, lead the children in singing “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) (track 15) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” Encourage children to fold their hands while they sing.

Thank you, God, for food and friends
And your love that never ends.
Thank you for the clothes we wear
And for church where we can share.

We thank God.
We thank God.
We thank God,
And we love him, too. (Nod your head.)
(Repeat.)

Say: God gives us so many things to be thankful for.
The most important thing we thank God for is Jesus.
Jesus wants to be our best friend and our forever friend. All we have to do is love him. Let’s shout a big “thank-you” to God for giving us Jesus. Lead children in shouting “thank you!”

Let’s make fun leaf-friends to remind us that we’re thankful for friends and families.

Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: leaf-friend finger puppet patterns (p. 162), leaves or construction paper, crayons, tape, scissors, heavy-stock paper

Before class, gather colorful autumn leaves. Be sure you have one or two small leaves for each child. If you don’t have access to real leaves, provide construction paper and let children tear leaf shapes. Using heavy-stock paper, photocopy the finger-puppet patterns. Cut out the patterns and then the finger circles at the bottom of each one. Cut a finger-puppet pattern for each child.

Set out crayons, tape, and the finger-puppet cutouts. Say: God gives us so many wonderful things like pretty autumn leaves and friends. Let’s make happy leaf-friends to play with.

Distribute the finger-puppet cutouts, and invite children to scribble-color them. Help children tape one or two leaves to the bodies of their leaf-friends. As children work, encourage them to name things that we thank God for, such as families, friends, food, clothes, and trees.

If the weather permits, take your toddlers for a short walk outside, and invite them each to choose two pretty autumn leaves to use in their craft project.
Lesson 11

When the leaf-friends are finished, invite children to slip their fingers through the holes and make their leaf-friends “walk,” “skip,” and “hop” around the table. Talk with children about the people who are special to them, such as best friends and family members.

Say: **Real friends are best, but we can have fun with our leaf-friends. We’ll use them to play a game.**

#### Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, leaf-friend finger puppets from Bible Craft

Lead children in the following action rhyme. Encourage toddlers to use their finger puppets to act out the motions. Repeat the rhyme twice and substitute the word *family for friend* the second time.

I like my friend. We have such fun!
We hop and walk and skip and run. *(Make puppets hop, walk, skip, and run along the floor.)*
And when it’s time to run along,
I hug my friend to say, “So long!”

It was fun playing with our leaf-friends. This time, let’s say the rhyme with real friends. We’ll walk, hop, and skip together. Then we’ll find a friend to hug. Lead children in saying the action rhyme once more and end with gentle hugs. Be sure each child gives and receives a hug.

**Friends and families are gifts from God.** Open your Bible to Psalm 107:1, and show children the words. *The Bible says in Psalm 107:1 that we thank God for everything! Now let’s quietly walk with our leaf-friends to the snack table for a delicious treat.*

#### Closing

**Banana Bunches**

**SUPPLIES:** bananas in bunches, napkins, plastic knife

Have children wash their hands. When children are seated at the table, ask them to place the puppets under their chairs. Say: **It was nice to get and give hugs in our Bible game, wasn’t it? Hugs are a good way to say “thank you” to someone. There are other ways to say “thank you.” We can thank God with special prayers. Let’s say a prayer to thank God for families and friends. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, we thank you for families and friends. We love them, and we love you. Thank you for all you give us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

**We have special snacks today.** Hold up bananas still in a bunch for kids to see. **Just like there are bunches of bananas, we have bunches of friends we’re thankful for.** Hand each child a napkin and a banana half. **Say the name of a friend or person in your family each time you take a bite of banana.**

When children have finished with their snacks, have them throw the napkins in the wastebasket. Be sure children take their Cuddles the Lamb puppets and leaf-friends home.
For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

- **Roll Along**

  Sit with children in a circle on the floor. Have children sit cross-legged so that their knees are touching to create a continuous circle. Let children wear their Cuddles the Lamb puppets. Roll a playground ball or paper wad to each child in turn. Encourage each child who receives the ball to have his or her puppet say, “Thank you, God, for [name of a friend in class].” If you have very young children, help them simply say, “Thank you, God.” Be sure everyone receives the ball at least one time.

- **Finger-Rhyme Fun**

  Have children repeat the action rhyme from the Bible Game. Encourage them to use their Cuddles the Lamb puppets or leaf-friends. End by having kids choose a real friend to hug.

  I like my friend. We have such fun!
  We hop and walk and skip and run. *(Make fingers or puppets hop, walk, skip, and run along the floor.)*
  And when it’s time to run along *(jog in place),*
  I hug my friend to say, “So long!” *(Hug a friend and then wave goodbye.)*
Patterns
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
Bible Point  We Thank God

Bible Verse
We thank God (adapted from Psalm 107:1).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- realize that God wants them to thank him,
- explore different ways to thank God, and
- express their thanks to God.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- We thank God in many ways.

Deuteronomy 16:13-15
Throughout the Old Testament, God’s love and mercy toward the disadvantaged is evident. God expected his people to have the same compassion for others. Even though Israel was his special chosen people, they were not to mistreat foreigners living in their midst.

Likewise, those who had fallen on hard times, such as widows and orphans, were not to be neglected. In ancient culture especially, losing one’s husband or parents meant certain poverty and severe hardship. This was not to be the case in Israel, where those who had benefited from God’s grace were to pass that grace on to others.

The Festival of Shelters was to be a joyous time for all in Israel—not just the well-to-do. Similarly, God wants each of us to include others in the overflow of blessing he has poured out on us. Obeying God with the material blessing he has given us is a form of thanksgiving. It is important for children to see adults modeling God’s love through generosity.

Prayer
- Read James 1:27.
- In your perception, what sorts of activities do people typically equate with “being religious”?
- Whether you know any widows or orphans, the principle taught here is to care for the disadvantaged. Is there anyone in your life today who needs you to demonstrate the kind of “pure and genuine religion” James speaks of?
- Pray: Lord, help me to share the wealth of blessing you’ve bestowed on me with those who need it. Help me to model generosity for the children I teach.

Before the Lesson
- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
# Lesson 12

## This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) (track 15) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that we thank God.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: A Tree for Me

**SUPPLIES:** small tree branch, duct or masking tape, string, transparent tape

Before class, attach a tree branch securely to the wall using duct or masking tape. Tape loops of string to the paper leaves in Sensory Packet 3, and then hang the leaves from the tree branch.

As children arrive, invite them to gently “pick” the leaves from the “tree” and then let the leaves flutter to the ground. When the tree is bare, encourage children to “rake” the leaves into piles of the same colors and hang the leaves back on the tree. As children work together, ask questions such as “Who do we thank for leaves and trees?” and “How can we thank God?”

Tell the children that today’s Bible story is about thanking God. Explain that there are many ways to thank God and that the people in the Bible story had a party to say “thank you” to God. Remind children that we thank God every day.

Return the paper leaves to the Learning Lab after this activity.

Option 2: Leap-in Leaves

**SUPPLIES:** medium-sized box, newspaper

Before class, set a medium-sized box in the center of the room. Crumple 15 to 20 sheets of newspaper, and pile them near the box.

As children arrive, invite them to play in the “leaves.” Encourage toddlers to hop up and down in the “leaves,” “rake” them into piles, and then put the leaves into the box. Let children toss the leaves into the air and say, “Thank you, God!”

Remind toddlers that we thank God for many things.

Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”
Lesson 12

**SING**

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

**Bible Story Time**

### Bible Song

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player

Say: **Who do we thank for all the good things we have?**

**We thank God.** How do we know that? The Bible tells us.

Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.

Using the CD (track 3), lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

**SING**

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!

### Bible Story: We Thank God

**SUPPLIES:** red construction paper, scissors, tape, napkins, thinly cut apple slices, bowl, tree branch from Option 1

Before class begins, please make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Before this activity, place napkins in the baskets you made in week 10, and put apple slices in each basket. Have extra slices in a bowl beside you. Cut a red construction paper apple for each child, and
tape the paper apples on the tree branch from Option 1. If you chose not to do Option 1, tape the apples to the walls. Save the paper scraps to use later in the Bible Craft activity.

Panel 1

On Panel 3, fasten the figure of Cuddles to the floor and the punch-out Bible to the teacher’s hand. Insert the shelves on Panel 2. Place the food baskets behind you.

Open the StoryBoard to Panel 1. Say: Our Bible story is about thanking God. Long ago, God wanted his people to thank him and told them to have a “thankful” party. God told them to live in special tents for seven days. They sang songs, prayed, and ate good food while they thanked God for all the things he gave them. ★ We thank God for many things, too. Our StoryBoard shows pictures of things we’re thankful for.

Ask: • Where is the apple tree?

Have toddlers find the tree and smell the apple scratch-and-sniff sticker on Panel 1.

Say: God gives us apple trees, and ★ We thank God for apples. Let’s pick pretend apples! Lead children to the tree branch and invite each child to “pick” an “apple.” Then return to the StoryBoard. Hold your apples in the air. Good! Let’s thank God for apples. Lead children in saying “Thank you, God, for apples.” Tape the paper apples on the children’s clothing to remind them that we thank God for fruit.

The children in the picture are wearing warm clothes. Let’s touch the jacket and hat. Pause while each child touches the fabric and pom pom on Panel 1.

★ We thank God for warm clothes. We also thank him for friends. The friends in our picture are playing with their wagon. Can you make the wagon wheels turn ’round and ’round? Let toddlers each have a turn spinning the wheels.

Let’s be like the wheels on a wagon. We’ll roll over and over. Have children lie on their sides and roll across the floor and back. That was fun! It’s lots of fun thanking God, too! Let’s see what else ★ We thank God for:

Panel 2

Have children wash their hands. Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard which shows colorful fruits and vegetables.

Ask: • Who do we thank for our food? (God.)

Say: ★ We thank God for the good food we eat. Can you find the good foods in this picture? Have toddlers find and touch the following foods:

- carrots and broccoli,
- potatoes and eggplant,
- pineapple and bananas,
- oranges and grapes,
- bread and rolls, and
- milk and eggs.

Say: God gives us good food to make us healthy and strong. Show me your muscles! Pause while children “flex” their muscles. Now stand up tall and strong. Good! The good foods God gives us help us grow healthy and strong. We can thank God for our food with a prayer. Fold your hands and we’ll pray. Pray: Dear God, thank you for our food. Amen. Now let’s taste some good food, shall we?
Place the food baskets on the shelves on Panel 2. Invite each child to take an apple slice from the bowl as you pass it around. Remind toddlers to say “thank you” when they take food from the bowl.

As children enjoy their snacks, say: **Saying prayers is a good way to thank God for all that he gives us. Let’s see what else **|\textit{we thank God} for:

### Panel 3

Unfold Panel 3 which shows children in a Sunday school room. Say: **Look at the boys and girls in this room. They’re listening to a Bible story just like you. Here’s the Bible. The teacher is holding the Bible and using a StoryBoard to tell the Bible story. Let’s touch the teacher’s beard and the StoryBoard.** Have children feel the beard and touch the StoryBoard on Panel 3. **Learning about God is a good way to thank him. And **|\textit{we thank God} for the Bible, too. Let’s pass the Bible and say, “Thank you, God.” Pass the punch-out Bible to each child and lead him or her in saying, “Thank you, God.”

**We also thank God for our special friends at church! Here’s a special friend we can pet.** Fasten the figure of Cuddles to the teacher’s hand. Invite children to pet Cuddles.

**|\textit{we thank God} for lots of things, and we can thank him in many ways. We can pray, listen to Bible stories, and learn about God. We can also sing songs to tell God thank you. Let’s sing a new song and learn different ways to thank God.**

Put the StoryBoard away.

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**We Thank God in Many Ways**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, lead the children in singing “We Thank God in Many Ways” (track 16) to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, form a circle and do the motions in parentheses.

**SING**

- **We thank God in many ways** (walk around in a circle)—
  - **We thank God in many ways** (walk around in a circle)
  - **We thank God in many ways** (walk around in a circle)
  - **We thank God in many ways** (walk around in a circle)

- **Because we love him.** (Cover your heart with your hands.)
  - **Because we love him.** (Cover your heart with your hands.)

- **Jump and hop; sing his praise.** (Hop three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)
  - **Jump and hop; sing his praise.** (Hop three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)

- **We thank God in many ways** (walk around in a circle)
  - **We thank God in many ways** (walk around in a circle)

Say: **There are lots of ways **|\textit{we thank God}. And it’s fun to thank God when we’re in church with our friends. We can sing, play, and pray together. Let’s play a fun thanking game!**

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**Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Toddlers & 2s**

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Bible Activities

The Thanking Game

SUPPLIES: none

Remove the porcupine ball from the Learning Lab. Have children sit in a circle on the floor with you.

Ask: • What kinds of things can we thank God for? (Food; families; clothes.)

• What are some ways we can thank God? (Praying; singing to God; saying “thank you.”)

• Where are some places we can thank God? (At home; at church; at the playground.)

Say: Let’s play a game to remind us that we can thank God for lots of things, in lots of ways, and in lots of places! I’ll roll this porcupine ball to each of you, and I’ll tell you how I want you to answer. First, let’s name things we can thank God for!

Roll the porcupine ball to a child, and let that child name one thing he or she can thank God for. Then have the child roll the ball back to you. Continue until each child has had a chance to answer.

Then begin again, this time letting each child say a way to thank God. Finally, play a third time, letting each child say a place to thank God. After the game, place the porcupine ball out of sight.

Say: That was fun! I’m so glad that we thank God for lots of things, in lots of ways, in lots of places!

Let’s see if our friend Cuddles knows a good way to thank God.

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: praying-hands and eyeglasses patterns (p. 176), scissors, tape

Before class, photocopy the praying-hands pattern. Cut out a pair of praying hands for each child. Make one photocopy of the eyeglasses pattern. Cut out the eyeglasses, and also cut out the inside circles. Tape the glasses onto Cuddles.
Sing It Out

SUPPLIES:
CD player

Lead the children in singing “We Thank God in Many Ways” (track 16). Use the CD and sing to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

We thank God in many ways—Clap our hands; sing his praise.
(Clap three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)

We thank God in many ways—Because we love him.
(Cover your heart with your hands.)

We thank God in many ways—Jump and hop; sing his praise.
(Hop three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)

We thank God in many ways—Because we love him.
(Cover your heart with your hands.)

Say:
I know God heard our happy thank-you song! And it makes God happy when we thank him. Another good way to thank God is to learn about him. Our StoryBoard time teaches us about God. Now let’s make pretend carpet squares to sit on just like the boys and girls on our StoryBoard.

Bible Craft

SUPPLIES:
newspaper, construction paper and scraps from Bible Story, stickers, crayons, glue sticks

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out glue sticks, construction paper scraps, crayons, and colorful stickers. Hand each child an 8½x11-inch sheet of construction paper. Say:
The children on the StoryBoard are sitting on carpet squares to listen to the Bible story and to learn about God. We can make mats to sit on.

Show children how to tear pieces of paper and then glue the pieces onto their “mats” to create pretty designs. Let children add stickers and pretty crayon scribbles. Write children’s names on the back of their mats.

As children work on their mats, say:
The Bible says in Psalm 107:1 that we thank God.
When children have finished decorating their projects, say:
There are many ways we thank God. Let’s use our new mats to play a thank-you game.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb wearing the eyeglasses.

Cuddles:
(Looking up, down, behind you, over your head, around the children)
Hmmm…hmmm…

Teacher: Hello, Cuddles! What are you looking for? And why are you wearing glasses?

Cuddles: (Still looking high and low) I’m looking for something very special. Hmm, where could it be?

Teacher: Tell us what you’re looking for, and maybe we can help you find it, Cuddles.

Cuddles: (Stops searching) I’m looking for a way to tell God “thank you.”

Teacher: But why are you wearing glasses?

Cuddles: I was hoping these glasses would help me see ways to thank God.

Teacher: We can help you, Cuddles—and you don’t need special glasses to find ways to thank God. We’ve been learning that we thank God. And there are lots of ways to thank him. Children, how can we thank God? (Encourage children to tell Cuddles that we can thank God with songs, by going to church, and with our prayers.) We can tell God “thank you” with songs, by being nice to people, and by saying prayers. We’re going to add prayer hands to the bulletin board today. Would you like to help us?

Cuddles: Sure! It’s nice helping my friends!

Have Cuddles give each child a praying-hands cutout. Help children tape the cutouts to the figures on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a pair of praying hands, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point. When all the praying hands have been placed, continue.

Teacher: Look! The people at the Thanksgiving table are saying a prayer. What do you think they’re telling God? (Pause for responses.) The people are saying, “Thank you, God.” We thank God in many ways, and one good way is through prayer. Another way to thank God is by singing him songs. Let’s sing our new thank-you song to God.

Set Cuddles out of sight of the children.
We Thank God in Many Ways

Supplies: CD player

Lead the children in singing “We Thank God in Many Ways” (track 16). Use the CD and sing to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

We thank God in many ways (walk around in a circle)—
Clap our hands; sing his praise. (Clap three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)

We thank God in many ways (walk around in a circle)
Because we love him. (Cover your heart with your hands.)

We thank God in many ways (walk around in a circle)—
Jump and hop; sing his praise. (Hop three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)

We thank God in many ways (walk around in a circle)
Because we love him. (Cover your heart with your hands.)

Say: I know God heard our happy thank-you song! And it makes God happy when we thank him. Another good way to thank God is to learn about him. Our StoryBoard time teaches us about God. Now let’s make pretend carpet squares to sit on just like the boys and girls on our StoryBoard.

Bible Craft

Supplies: newspaper, construction paper and scraps from Bible Story, stickers, crayons, glue sticks

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out glue sticks, construction paper scraps, crayons, and colorful stickers. Hand each child an 8½x11-inch sheet of construction paper. Say:
The children on the StoryBoard are sitting on carpet squares to listen to the Bible story and to learn about God. We can make mats to sit on. Show children how to tear pieces of paper and then glue the pieces onto their “mats” to create pretty designs. Let children add stickers and pretty crayon scribbles. Write children’s names on the back of their mats.

As children work on their mats, say: The Bible says in Psalm 107:1 that we thank God. When children have finished decorating their projects, say: There are many ways we thank God. Let’s use our new mats to play a thank-you game.

Bible Verse

Bible Point

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Toddlers & 2s
Lesson 12

### Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** mats from Bible Craft

Invite children to place their mats from the Bible Craft on the floor anywhere they’d like. Say: **We’re going to march around the room and say a rhyme together. But when I clap my hands, hop over to your mat and sit down. Then we’ll say, “We thank God!”**

Lead children in a high-stepping march around the room. As you march, repeat the following rhyme and encourage children to repeat the rhyme with you.

**March, march, one, two...**  
Thank you, God, we love you!

Clap your hands, and pause as children hop to their mats and sit down. Then lead everyone in enthusiastically repeating the Bible Point. Repeat the marching rhyme a few more times, and then have children bring their mats to the center of the room. Say: **You did a great job thanking God! And I can tell you had fun, too. We’ll sit on our mats while we eat a snack.**

### Closing

### Delicious Designs

**SUPPLIES:** variety of cereals, napkins, cupcake liners, mats from Bible Craft

Have children wash their hands and return to their mats. Say: **We’ve been learning that we thank God for all he gives us. One of the most important ways we tell God thank you is when we pray.**

Let’s pray together now. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for all the special things you give us. The most special thing you gave us was Jesus, our forever friend. We thank you so much for Jesus! Help us to always remember to thank you for everything. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Hand each child a napkin and a cupcake liner containing a variety of child-friendly cereals. Say: **Spread out your napkins. Then use your snacks to make a pretty “thank-you” design to God.** Pause while children lay their cereal pieces in designs on their napkins. Then say: **Let’s all say, “Thank you, God!” and gobble our goodies.**

Remind toddlers to throw their napkins and cupcake liners in the wastebasket. Be sure children take their mats home. Encourage toddlers to use the mats as a place to pray and sing to God.
**Thank You, Thank You**

Form a sitting circle. Hand the punch-out Bible from the StoryBoard to one child. Have that child take the Bible to a friend, and encourage the friend to say, “thank you” as he or she holds the Bible. Have the child taking the Bible sit in the place of the person receiving the Bible. Continue until everyone has taken and received the Bible at least once.

**Sing It Out**

Without using the CD, lead the children in singing “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” Have older toddlers do the actions in parentheses with a friend.

| **Thank you, God, for food and friends** (pat a friend’s shoulder) |
| **And your love that never ends.** (Cover your heart with your hands.) |
| **Thank you for the clothes we wear** (point at your clothes) |
| **And for church where we can share.** (Make a rooftop over your head.) |
| **We thank God.** (Fold your hands.) |
| **We thank God.** (Fold your hands.) |
| **We thank God** (fold your hands) |
| **And we love him, too.** (Nod your head.) |

(Repeat.)
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.
We Thank God for His Love • Lesson 13

Bible Point

We Thank God

Bible Verse
We thank God (adapted from Psalm 107:1).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
- realize that God provides for them because he loves them,
- look for things to be thankful for, and
- express their thanks for God's love.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
- We thank God for his love.

Deuteronomy 16:13-15

The Festival of Shelters was to be a time for remembering—not just what God had done to provide for the agricultural needs of the nation that year but also to remember the Exodus from Egypt. Both the physical and the spiritual were in view. God wanted these remembrances to bring joy—great joy—to the people (Deuteronomy 16:15).

It is too easy to let the cares of this world rob us of the joy God intends us to have. Often the cure for joylessness is to take better care to record and remember the things that God has done in our lives. Whether it be the ways in which he has met our physical needs, helped in times of distress, or brought us to a closer walk with him, these blessings are milestones of joy along life's way.

By looking back, we can increase our joy in the present and look with hope to what God has in store for us in the future. Christians have different times throughout the year when God's wonderful deeds are remembered. Help the children you teach see the value of these times but also see the value of remembering the little things God does for them on a daily basis.

Prayer

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.
- What sorts of things do you reflect upon during the Lord's Supper?
- What steps might you take to make the Lord's Supper a more meaningful spiritual time for you?
- Pray: Lord, as I look at my life, I see your hand of blessing at many different points. Thank you, most of all, for the love you showed me by giving me salvation through Jesus Christ. Help me grow deeper in my fellowship with you.

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.
# This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.
Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player

- Play “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) (track 15) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► we thank God.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

**Option 1: Deck the Walls**

**SUPPLIES:** sponges, scissors, newspaper or plastic tablecloth, white shelf paper, tape, paper plates, tempera paint, paint shirts or grocery sacks, marker

Before class, cut sponges into heart shapes.

Cover the floor in one corner of the room with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth. Roll out a 4-foot length of white shelf paper, and tape the ends of the paper to the floor covering. Set out a few paper plates, each containing a spoonful of colored tempera paint and a heart-shaped sponge. As children arrive, invite them to don paint shirts or grocery sacks with head- and armholes cut out of them. Let children use the sponges to stamp heart-shaped designs on the paper. As they work, make comments such as “We’re making a beautiful thank-you card to God” and “Look at our pretty hearts. They remind us that we’re thankful for God’s love.” Mention to children that they’ll hear a Bible story about saying thank you to God. Remind children that ► we thank God for his great love.

When children have finished painting, use a marker to title the poster “We Thank God.” Then tape it to the wall for everyone to enjoy.

**Option 2: Hidden Hearts**

**SUPPLIES:** pink and red construction paper, scissors, building blocks

Before class, cut a pink or red construction paper heart for each child.

Set building blocks on the floor, and hide the paper hearts under the blocks. As children come into the room, invite them to go on a “heart hunt” by peeking under the blocks. Let children make a long line across the floor with the paper hearts they find. Remind toddlers that ► we thank God for his love. Explain that we never need to hunt for God’s love because it’s always with us—God loves us all the time! When all the hearts have been found, have children hide and find the hearts again.

Save the paper hearts to use later in this lesson.

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.
Lesson 13

**Pick-Up Time**

*SUPPLIES: CD player*

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

**SING**

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

**Bible Story Time**

**Bible Song**

*SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player*

Say: **Who do we thank for his love?** —*We thank God. How do we know that? The Bible tells us.* Show children the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let’s sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD (track 3), lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

**SING**

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!
(Repeat.)

Bible!
We Thank God for His Love

Bible Story: We Thank God

SUPPLIES: napkins, apple slices, crackers, bowl, CD player

Before class begins, please make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Place napkins in the baskets you made in week 10, and add crackers and thinly cut apple slices. Have extra crackers and slices in a bowl beside you.

Panel 1

Place the paper leaves, cellophane, and food baskets beside you. Say: Our Bible story is about saying thank you to God. Long ago, God helped the Israelite people by saving them from a mean king. God gave the people food to eat when they were hungry. He loved the people and took good care of them. Then the people had a special party to thank God. They lived in tents for seven days and sang songs, prayed, and ate good food while they thanked God for his love.

Open the StoryBoard to reveal Panel 1. Say: God loves and takes care of us just as he loved and cared for the Israelite people. There are lots of ways to see how much God loves us in this picture. Let’s find some things to be thankful for. I’ll give each of you a paper leaf. When you find the picture I name, hold the leaves over your hearts like this. Demonstrate holding a leaf over your heart. Then ask children to find the pictures, and have them follow the directions given in parentheses.

• apple trees (sniff the apple sticker)
• leaves (have children rustle the cellophane and listen to the “rustling” leaves)
• wagon (turn the wagon wheels)
• jacket (touch the fabric)
• hat (touch the pom-pom)

When everyone has had a turn to touch one or more items on the StoryBoard, say: That was fun! There are so many things that God gives us. God gives us things like food and clothes and friends because he loves us. Let’s tell God “thank you” in a special way. We’ll count to three and then toss our leaves in the air and say, “Thank you, God!” Count to three, and then have children toss their leaves as you lead them in saying, “Thank you, God.” Then say: Let’s sing our thank-you song as we pick up the leaves. Using the CD, lead children in singing “We Thank God in Many Ways” (track 16) to the tune of “London Bridge” as you pick up the paper leaves. Place the leaves in a pile near the StoryBoard.

SING

We thank God in many ways—
Clap our hands; sing his praise.
We thank God in many ways
Because we love him.

When you’ve finished singing, say: It’s fun to thank God. What else can we thank God for?

We thank God in many ways—
Jump and hop; sing his praise.
We thank God in many ways.
Because we love him.
Panel 2

Open the StoryBoard to reveal Panel 2. Say: We thank God for delicious food! God made lots of yummy foods to eat because he loves us and wants us to grow healthy and strong. Let’s play our riddle game. I’ll tell about a food, and you find it on the StoryBoard. Ask the following riddles, and invite toddlers to find and touch the foods.

- I’m orange and crunchy, and bunnies can munch me. What food am I? (A carrot.)
- I’m soft and white and make sandwiches right. What food am I? (Bread.)
- I grow in a bunch; I’m delicious to munch! What food am I? (Grapes.)

Good for you! Now let’s find other foods that God gives us. Help children point to the milk and eggs, the broccoli and bananas, the eggplant and potatoes, and the pineapple and oranges.

Every day before we eat, we can tell God “thank you” for our food. Fold your hands, and let’s say a prayer. Dear God, thank you for good food to eat. Amen. Set the food baskets on the shelves. Now let’s taste some delicious foods.

Have children wash their hands. Let them each take a cracker and apple slice from the bowl. Remind them to say “thank you” as they take their food.

Panel 3

Unfold Panel 3 of the StoryBoard. Say: Oh, look at the boys and girls having fun at church! We can have fun, too. If I say “boy,” boys stand up and then sit down. If I say “girl,” girls stand up and then sit down. But if I say “Cuddles” (point to the figure of Cuddles), you say “baa.” Alternate saying “boy,” “girl,” and “Cuddles,” and help children with correct responses.

Then say: We hear exciting Bible stories at church. Place the punch-out Bible in the teacher’s hand and fasten the figure of Cuddles to the floor in the picture. The teacher is telling the children a Bible story. See how quietly they’re sitting? Let’s touch the teacher’s beard and the carpet square. Hold the StoryBoard so children can touch the beard and the mat.

God gives us lots of things, but the best thing is his love. And we thank God for his love! Let’s clap and say, “Thank you, God!”

Lead children in clapping and cheering. Then put the StoryBoard away.

Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.

BIBLE POINT

God gives us lots of things, but the best thing is his love. And we thank God for his love! Let’s clap and say, “Thank you, God!”

Lead children in clapping and cheering. Then put the StoryBoard away.
We Thank God for His Love

Bible Activities

Guessing Game

SUPPLIES: paper lunch sacks

Remove the fun foot, porcupine ball, and the piece of blue cellophane from the Learning Lab. Place each item in an individual paper lunch sack.

Say: Now we're going to play a “feeling and guessing” game. I'm going to let you take turns feeling one of the things we've used in our lessons, but you won't be able to see the item. I want you to try to guess what you're feeling.

Choose a child to place his or her hand inside one of the bags. Hold the bag closed enough so the child can't see what's inside. Depending on the size of your class, you can let each child try to guess what's in one bag, and then move on to the next bag. Or, you can let several children use one bag and the next group of children another bag, and so on. Either way, be sure each child gets at least one turn to guess.

After the game, praise children for their participation whether or not they guessed correctly.

Say: I let you feel the item in the bag, but I didn't let you see it.

Ask: • How could you guess what was in the bag? (Because of how it felt; I just knew; it was prickly.)

Say: You guessed what was in the bag because you could feel if it was thin like the fun foot, or squishy like the porcupine ball, or crinkly like the blue cellophane paper. You could tell by the way it felt, right?

God gives us lots of things that we can see or feel, like food, clothes, friends, and family. But the greatest thing that God gives us is his love. We can't actually see or touch God's love, but we know it's there.

Ask: • How do you know God loves you? (Because he takes care of me; the Bible says so; he gives me good things; he gave me a nice family.)

• How can you thank God for his love? (By saying “thank you”; by praying to him; by going to Sunday school.)

Say: We can't touch God's love, but we know it's there. We know God loves us when we feel the warm sunshine that he makes or when someone in our family gives us a hug. We know God loves us when we eat good food or have warm clothes to wear. God loves us so much!

That's why it's good when we thank God for his love. We can thank God by praying to him. We can come to church, sing to God, and give money to our church to thank God for his love. And we can be kind to others to say thank you to God.

Let's sing a song about thanking God!
Lesson 13

**We Thank God in Many Ways**

*SUPPLIES: CD player*

Using the CD, lead the children in singing “We Thank God in Many Ways” (track 16) to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, form a circle and do the motions in parentheses.

**SING**

*We thank God in many ways* (walk around in a circle) —
*Clap our hands; sing his praise.* (Clap three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)

*We thank God in many ways* (walk around in a circle)
*Because we love him.* (Cover your heart with your hands.)

*We thank God in many ways* (walk around in a circle)
*Jump and hop; sing his praise.* (Hop three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)

*We thank God in many ways* (walk around in a circle)
*Because we love him.* (Cover your heart with your hands.)

Say: There are lots of things we thank God for. We can thank God for his love. Let’s add a little “love” to our bulletin board.

**Interactive Bible Bulletin Board**

*SUPPLIES: heart patterns (p. 189), scissors, tape, pink or red construction paper*

Before class, photocopy the heart patterns onto pink or red paper. Cut out a paper heart for each child and one for Cuddles the Lamb. You may wish to use the hearts from Option 2, but make sure there is a paper heart for each child. Tape a paper heart to Cuddles’ nose.
**Sing It Out**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Using the CD, lead the children in singing “We Thank God in Many Ways” (track 16) to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

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**SING**

We thank God in many ways (walk around in a circle)—
Clap our hands; sing his praise. (Clap three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)

We thank God in many ways (walk around in a circle)
Because we love him. (Cover your heart with your hands.)

We thank God in many ways (walk around in a circle)—
Jump and hop; sing his praise. (Hop three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.)

We thank God in many ways (walk around in a circle)
Because we love him. (Cover your heart with your hands.)
Lesson 13

**BIBLE POINT**

Say: I’m so glad that God loves us. God gives us so many things to be thankful for. Let’s make a “thankful necklace” to remind us that we thank God for all that he gives us.

**BIBLE CRAFT**

**SUPPLIES:** “Thankful” patterns (p. 189), elastic thread, scissors, crayons, tape

Before class, photocopy the small church, food, clothing, and people patterns. Cut out one of each pattern for every child. You’ll also need to cut a 20-inch length of elastic thread for each child. Tie the thread into loops. Cut the cellophane from the Learning Lab box into a 2-inch square for each child.

Set out tape, crayons, the loops of thread, the cellophane squares, and the paper leaves from the Learning Lab box. Hand each child one set of cutouts. Invite children to scribble-color their cutouts.

When children have finished, help each child tape his or her pictures to their paper leaves. Then help children tape the leaves and cellophane squares to loops of thread to make “thankful necklaces.” Encourage toddlers to identify the pictures on their necklaces.

**BIBLE VERSE**

Say: The Bible says in Psalm 107:1 that we thank God for many things, such as church, food, clothing, and people. And especially we thank God for Jesus, our forever friend. Because of Jesus, someday we can live in heaven. What a wonderful gift God gave us! He loves us very much.

**BIBLE GAME**

**SUPPLIES:** paper hearts from Option 2

Place the paper hearts used for Option 2 in a pile in the center of the floor. If you chose not to do Option 2, cut out 10 paper hearts or use the hearts from the Interactive Bible Bulletin Board.

Say: We need some trees to play this game. If I tap your head, you can be a pretend tree. Tap half of the children gently on their heads and have them stand around the room. The rest of you can be pretend leaves. When I say, “Leaves on the trees,” run to gather a paper heart, and then go stand beside a “tree.” When I say, “Leaves off the trees,” run to put your paper heart back in the “leaf pile.” Demonstrate how to play until children are familiar with the game. After you’ve called “leaves on” and “leaves off” a few times, let children switch roles.

When you’ve finished playing, say: You were such good leaves and trees! Isn’t it great that we thank God for beautiful trees? Now let’s be tall trees and walk to the snack table.

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Closing

Hearts and Hugs

SUPPLIES: large pretzel twists, napkins, apple juice, paper cups

When children have washed their hands and gathered at the snack table, ask:

• Who do we thank for everything we have? (God.)
• Who do we thank for his great love? (God; Jesus.)

Say: It’s important to thank God for all that we have. We thank God because we love him. Let’s say a prayer and thank God and tell him how much we love him. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, we thank you for everything you give us, and we love you so much! In Jesus’ name, amen.

Say: Now let’s have some fun with hearts and hugs! Hand each child a paper cup with apple juice and a napkin with three large pretzel twists on it. Show children how to gently nibble or pick the center from one of the pretzels to make a heart shape. Then ask toddlers to look at another pretzel and notice how it’s wrapped around itself like a hug. Encourage children to give themselves a “pretzel hug.” Then invite children to munch their snacks and gobble them up.

Remind children to throw their napkins and paper cups in the wastebasket. Be sure children wear their “thankful necklaces” home.
**Action Rhyme**

Lead children in the following action rhyme.

- **When I stretch up high** *(stand on tiptoe and stretch arms upward)*,
  I thank God.
- **When I wave bye-bye** *(make waving motions)*,
  I thank God.
- **When I quietly pray** *(close eyes and fold hands)*,
  I thank God.
- **When I jump and play** *(hop up and down)*,
  I thank God.
- **There are many ways** *(hold arms out at sides)*
  That I thank God.

**We Thank You, God**

Without using the CD, lead the children in singing “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.”

**SING**

- **Thank you, God, for food and friends** *(pat a friend’s shoulder)*
  And your love that never ends. *(Cover your heart with your hands.)*
- **Thank you for the clothes we wear** *(point at your clothes)*
  And for church where we can share. *(Make a rooftop over your head.)*
- **We thank God.** *(Fold your hands.)*
- **We thank God.** *(Fold your hands.)*
- **We thank God** *(fold your hands)*
  And we love him, too. *(Nod your head.*)
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.