

Level 1, Quarter A

Additional Activities

Family Life With God

1. The Family

Creation Snack (5-10 minutes)

This snack allows students to be creators like God. **Supplies:** package cream cheese, non-fat dry milk, honey

Before class, make a batch of “edible play dough” on the following proportions: 1 eight ounce package cream cheese, ½ cup non-fat dry milk, 1 tablespoon honey. Make enough for each student to have a little. Refrigerate until ready to use. Make sure hands are clean, and give each student a portion. Allow them to create a small person which they can then eat.

Optional recipe: One part salt, two and one-half parts flour, one part water.

Family-Role Plays (10-15 minutes)

This drama activity illustrates how families can show love to each other. **Supplies:** Simple props, such as a broom, hat, baby toy, apron, etc.

Divide children into small groups of three or four. Explain that they’ll pretend to be family members. Give each group a situation to act out (Mom is sick, brother has a cast on his leg, baby is crying, grandma is visiting, younger sister is learning to read, etc.) Each child can choose an idea that shows love to someone in the “family.” Move between groups to help them make choices about how to help and love each other in these situations, and praise them for doing a good job. **When you do this with your real family, you’ll please God because He created us in love. He’s so glad to see us showing love to our families.**

2. Parents

Servant Basket Snacks (5 minutes)

This healthy snack reinforces the Bible lesson, KeyVerse and DiscipleSkill of serving. **Supplies:** woven wheat crackers (like Triscuits), spreadable cheese or cheese pieces, plastic knife

Pass out the crackers and ask children how they look like something in the Bible story. (They’re woven like a basket, which Moses was put into). In pairs, let children ask each other what they would like on their crackers, and have them prepare them for each other and eat together. Review the memory verse while they work and eat. Encourage them to serve by helping a friend, letting another use an item before they do, cleaning up, etc.

Making Moses’ Basket (10-15 minutes)

This craft activity shows students how to make a simple basket.

Supplies: strips of colored construction paper, glue, and scissors.

Teach the children how to weave strips of construction paper together to form a square (approximately eight inches). Glue the weaving in place and allow to dry. Next, cut slices in two opposite sides of the square and fold up, forming a basket. Glue or staple the sides together. Tell the children that a basket plays an important part in the story they are about to hear.

Story Mural (20 minutes)

This drawing activity reviews the Bible passage. **Supplies:** butcher paper, markers, crayons

Provide several large sheets of bulletin board paper. Divide children into groups of three or four. Assign each group a portion of the Bible story. Groups should draw and color a huge scene of that particular portion of the story. When all groups are finished, tape the murals on the wall in the order of the story. If time allows, have representatives from each group share their part. The retelling of this wonderful story will be an enjoyable review.

Parent Thank You (10-15 minutes)

This craft gives children opportunity to thank their parents for loving and caring for them. **Supplies:** construction paper cut into tie and purse outlines, hole punch, yarn, markers

Let children decorate the tie and purse shapes on one side. On the other side let them write a “Thank You” to their parents for all they do. Be sensitive to differing family situations and let them create notes to other family members if appropriate. Hole-punch the top corners and tie with yarn to make a “necklace” kids can give their parents.

Story Review (10 minutes)

This game reviews the Bible passage in a fun way. **Supplies:** basket, colored slips with review questions, CD player, fun music

Let's play a game to see how much you learned about Moses and his parents in the Bible lesson. With children standing in a circle, hand one child the basket, and start playing music. **Let's pass the basket around. When the music stops, if you're holding the basket, take out a paper.** Explain that you'll read the review questions for the children as they choose them. If a child can't answer a question have another child offer to help. See that each child answers at least one question. Add more of your own if you choose.

Review questions:

- Why did Jochebed put Moses in a basket?
- Why did Jochebed and Amram cry and pray for Moses?
- How did Moses' parents protect him?
- Who found Moses in the river?
- Who watched Moses' basket?
- How did Jochebed get Moses back?
- What was Moses' sister's name?
- How did God save Moses?
- Who is our Heavenly Father?

3. Children

Meanings of Names (10-15 minutes)

This discussion activity introduces children to the idea that names can have meanings. **Supplies:** a book with the meanings of names

Tell the children that when Hannah named her son Samuel, it was because it meant God had heard her prayer. People in Bible times often chose names for their children with special meanings, to show that they were unique gifts from God. Ask the children if they know what their own names mean. Bring out the book of name meanings and show it to the children. Explain that the book may not have everybody's name in it. Choose several children to look up their names in the book, and share the meanings with the rest of the class. End the activity reinforcing that every child is a special creation that God loves dearly, and that their names are one way their parents chose to show them that they are loved.

Bible Verse Hunt (12-16 minutes)

This game gets kids moving while they hunt for and practice the memory verse.

Write one to three words of the KeyVerse on pieces of cardstock or paper. Use pictures or symbols as well as words when possible. Hide them around the room. At your signal, children search for the papers and then reconstruct the verse. Help by reading the words as they work. Encourage teamwork and cooperation.

Gift Artistry (10-15 minutes)

This art project reinforces that children and their families are gifts from God to each other. **Supplies:** markers, tape, colorful gift-wrap, scissors, small gift bows, glue sticks

Give students cardboard, construction paper, or cardstock paper to draw on. Have children draw themselves and their families on the paper. Their pictures can be simple or elaborate. Help them gift wrap their pictures. If desired, glue a gift bow onto the wrapping. As they work, spend a moment with each child to verbally affirm that he or she is definitely a gift from God to that child's family, and his or her family is God's gift to that child. Be sure to speak of God's love to each child and share how God has been kind to you. Allow kids to take their gifts home to their families.

4. Brothers and Sisters

Peace Snack (8-10 minutes)

This tactile snack reinforces the theme of peace. **Supplies:** alphabet cereal

Hand out alphabet cereal and see if children can find the letters to spell PEACE. Once they have found the word, they may eat their handful. Keep extra cereal on hand for students that might be missing a letter or two.

Pipe Cleaner People (10-15 minutes)

This craft activity serves as a reminder of children's commitment to be peaceful with their brothers and sisters. **Supplies:** pipe cleaners of various colors

Show children how to bend and twist pipe cleaners into people shapes. Have them make the same number of pipe cleaner people as they have siblings. For only children, they can make close friends or their brothers and sisters in Christ. Join the pipe cleaner people at the hands and talk about how living together in peace is enjoyable and God-pleasing. Ask children how they will work to be at peace with their brothers and sisters.

Peace Bracelets (10 minutes)

This craft is a visual reminder to live in peace with one another.

Supplies: leather string, wood beads

Before class, prepare wooden beads by writing the letters to spell PEACE (or use pre-fab alphabet beads). Allow students to string the beads on a leather string in the correct order. Explain it should remind them to get along with peacefully with each other.

Sibling Booklets (10-15 minutes)

This craft creates booklets showing children's brothers and sisters.

Supplies: paper, construction paper, stapler, markers

Fold the regular and construction paper in half and staple half sheets together, using the construction paper as a cover. Have students make a page for each brother or sister or close friend (brother or sister in Christ). Ask them to draw something about that person and write his or her name.

5. Grandparents

Grain Snack (5 minutes)

This snack gives children a taste of Bible-times foods. **Supplies:** matzo crackers and/or pita bread, raisins (optional)

Give each child a serving of matzo crackers or pita bread. Explain that bread in the Old Testament was different than some of our bread today. Barley like Ruth might have gathered was the common grain for making a simple bread. If you offer raisins, explain that fruit was usually the dessert in Bible times.

Gleaning Game (10 minutes)

This active game underscores Ruth's task of collecting grain.

Supplies: packing peanuts or plenty of small balls of wadded up scrap paper, bags or baskets

Designate two areas of the room to be two fields. Fling the packing peanuts into the fields, and let two groups of children pick up the peanuts in a strict time limit, so that they cannot possibly gather all the peanuts. Then allow two children to play "Ruth". Give them a bag or basket. Explain that gleaning was the name of the work of collecting the food left in the field after a harvest, just like these peanuts are left over from the groups. Let children collect the rest of the peanuts. Repeat, allowing new children to play "Ruth."

Wisdom Chant (10 minutes)

This chant sets the Scripture firmly in the children's minds as they work together.

Refer to or rewrite the KeyVerse on the board. Ask the children to create a chant or rap using the verse. Let them take the lead in finding a rhythmic way to belt out the verse. If kids are confused or unproductive, give some direction about putting the words to a rhythm and using hands or feet to give emphasis. If possible, use rhythm sticks for even more fun.

Special Guest (10-20 minutes)

This guest connects students to someone from an older generation.

Invite an older person who works well with children as a guest speaker to share "wisdom of the past" and give tips for ways children can show love and respect to older people. This person could even provide the *Explore Scripture* part of the lesson if he or she has a knack for storytelling.

6. Growing Up

Bible-Times Trail Mix (10 minutes)

This snack teaches children more about how Bible-times kids lived.

Supplies: paper cups or napkins, large bowl, 2 cups raisins, 1 cup Cheerios, 2 cups almonds, 1 cup chopped dates

Bring ingredients for this trail mix in separate bags. After children have washed their hands, they can take turns adding and mixing the ingredients in a large bowl. Have the kids sit on the floor, as Bible-times children would, and serve a small portion to each child. Talk about other foods common in Bible times, like fish, simple bread, yogurt, lentils, roasted grains, meat, and milk. Discuss how Bible-times people had no microwaves, blenders, refrigerators, stoves, and so on. Have your students wash their hands again after this activity.

Musical Chairs (10-15 minutes)

This game reinforces the ways a child can grow spiritually.

Supplies: CD player, music, chairs

Briefly name ways to grow spiritually. Draw simple symbols on the board each growth methods (hands praying for pray, mouth singing joyfully for worship, book for reading the Bible, an 'O' for obey, dove for Holy Spirit). Arrange the chairs for musical chairs (one chair less than the number of kids) and have children circle the chairs while the music plays. Emphasize that they need to listen for the music to stop. When you stop the music, they should all sit down. The one left standing states one way to grow spiritually. The kids can use this sentence starter, "My Savior wants me to grow in my spirit by ____" and fill in the blank. When the game is over, encourage the children to choose one way this week they will ask God to help them grow spiritually. Let volunteers share their ideas.

Manners Practice (10+ minutes)

This interactive activity gives children practice with the DiscipleSkill they've been learning. **Supplies:** two or more DiscipleLand puppets

Using volunteers and two puppets, make up short puppet skits and conversations that center around the manners kids have been learning: respect, serving, giving gifts and listening. For example, one puppet asks what respect is and the other explains it; one puppet performs the skill well and the other does it badly, then the rest of the class decides who has learned the skill better; one puppet instructs the other how to show respect in a situation or how to serve. Be sure to "ham up" and improvise based on the students' responses. The children may have their own ideas how to demonstrate the skills.

7. Clothes

Bible-Times Clothes (10 minutes)

This discussion compares Bible-times clothing to modern clothing.

Supplies: crayons or markers, Disciple Guides, Teaching Picture 1A.13

Ask children for their ideas how Bible-times people dressed. After they share, show them [Teaching Picture 1A.13](#). Let kids compare how these people's clothing is alike and different from theirs. Talk about fabrics (mainly linen and wool) leather sandals and that there wasn't pattern, just solid fabric). Add that boys and girls dressed more alike in Bible times. **Back in the time when Samuel was a boy, people didn't have as many clothes as you may have today. They might have just one pair of sandals and one outer cloak. But even with less, people trusted God and thanked Him for being generous with the clothes they had. We should be even more thankful for the way God is generous with all our clothes and other possessions!**

Grooming Habits (20 minutes)

This motion activity reinforces the concepts of good grooming.

Supplies: articles of clothing that hang on hangers, clothes hangers, full-length mirror, camera or video camera, soap, water, paper towels

Hang several articles of clothing on hangers and place them on coat hooks in the classroom. Choose several children at a time to first wash their hands and then to each try on an article of clothing.

After the children look in the mirror and show the class how the clothes look, have them undress and hang up the clothes. As they do so, call them by name and praise them for doing a good job. Take pictures of the children washing their hands, wearing the clothes, and hanging up the clothes.

After the pictures are developed, show them to the children and perhaps display the pictures on a bulletin board. As you show the pictures, thank the children again for taking care of clothes in class and at home. If a video camera is available, videotape the activities for the children to watch.

8. Homes

Hospitality Skits (10-15 minutes)

This drama encourages children to become more hospitable at home.

Divide the children into groups of three or four. Pull skit ideas out of a box or bag: Someone is thirsty; someone has arrived with a heavy coat; someone needs to sit down; someone needs a toy to play with. Each group comes up with a way to show hospitality. After several minutes of brainstorming and practice, have the groups perform skits for each other. Compliment each group and tell the children that they can use all these ideas at home. Encourage them to involve their families more in hospitality.

Kid-Sized Village (20 minutes)

This group activity lets children create a Bible-times village they can then play in. **Supplies:** large appliance boxes, fat markers, box cutter (for teacher use only)

Have the children become home builders by creating Bible-times homes from the appliance boxes. Let children work in groups to decide where to put a door and a window, which you can cut out. They can decorate the homes with markers and “furnish” them with real or make believe furnishings.

Take a Walk (15-20 minutes)

This outdoor activity shows children real homes and houses.

Take your kids on a walk around a neighborhood. Encourage them to observe and talk about the different kinds of houses they see. Are there any homes that have features similar to Bible times homes? What things are very different?

9. Food

Bible Food Win, Lose, or Draw (10-15 minutes)

This drawing game familiarizes students with Bible-times foods.

Supplies: drawing surfaces, note cards

Before class, prepare note cards with modern and Bible-times foods: manna, quail, hamburger, orange, pomegranate, fig, pizza, melon, cupcakes, lamb, tacos, and so on. In teams or as a group, have children draw and try to guess these foods, and then guess whether the food was eaten today or during Bible times (or both). Reinforce that no matter what the food, we should be thankful to God for providing it.

Table Setting Contest (10-15 minutes)

This game encourages children to be careful and correct when setting the dinner table. **Supplies:** paper plates and cups, plastic utensils, napkins.

Show children a correct table setting and allow them a few minutes to study it. Then break it down and divide kids into two teams. Have a volunteer come up from each team and try to correctly set the table as quickly as possible. After he or she is finished, award points based on the following: +5 points for volunteering; -2 points for being pushy or grabby; +2 points for finishing first; +2 points for every correct placement; bonus points for neatness, etc.

Manners Practice (10+ minutes)

This interactive activity gives children practice with the Discipline Skill they've been learning. **Supplies:** two or more DiscipleLand puppets

Using volunteers and two puppets, make up short puppet skits and conversations that center around the table manners kids have been learning. For example, one puppet has good table manners and the other does it badly, then the rest of the class decides who has learned the skill better; one puppet instructs the other how to show respect in a situation or how to serve. Be sure to “ham up” and improvise based on the students’ responses. The children may have their own ideas how to demonstrate the skills.

10. Chores

Are Chores Fun? (10-15 minutes)

This discussion activity highlights the differences between helping with a fun project and completing a mundane chore.

Ask the children: **Which is more fun?**

- Helping your mom bake cookies or washing the dishes after the cookies are made?
- Helping your grandpa put up your new bunk beds or cleaning your room?
- Helping your dad paint the garage or cleaning out the brushes after the garage is painted?
- Helping your teacher put up a nice bulletin board or cleaning scraps off the floor of your classroom?

Why are some of these jobs fun and others sort of boring? Did you know that grown-ups feel the same way about doing work? From your personal experience, tell about work projects that are fun for you and some that are not.

What if your mom baked cookies but never washed the

dishes? What if your teacher put nice things on the wall of your classroom but nobody helped to clean the floor? What if everyone in the world only did the fun jobs? Allow time for discussion.

The Lord Says (5-10 minutes)

This game excites children about doing chores with a cheerful attitude.

Adapt “Simon Says” to “The Lord Says.” Kids do actions consistent with different chores only when your instruction is prefaced with “The Lord Says.” Intersperse “The Lord Says” directions with other directions not starting with those words. Make those directions not consistent with a pleasing attitude and hard work. For example, “The Lord Says” instructions could include: sweep the sidewalk; wipe a table; rock a baby; dry dishes; unload the dishwasher; put away groceries; pick up toys; take out garbage; and so on. Think up more active chores kids might do. Instructions not prefaced with “The Lord Says,” which the children would not perform, could be: have a bad attitude; look grumpy; work really slowly; hide when it’s time to do a chore; and so on. Kids who follow a direction not beginning with “The Lord Says” are out of the game.

Story Time (10 minutes)

This story illustrates what can happen when we do not do our chores.

Obtain a copy of the “Classic Starts” version of the book *Little Women* and read the excerpt called “Experiments.” This tells the story about what happens when the four March girls don’t do their chores for a week. Discuss with your students what similar thing might happen if they stopped doing chores in their family.

11. Play

Peanut Butter Dough (15-20 minutes)

This snack is a fun treat students can play with.

Before class, prepare peanut butter dough for your students to play with. After they have washed their hands well, allow them to play with their snack before eating it. Provide paper plates on which children may roll and shape their peanut butter dough. Milk would be a good beverage to complement this sweet snack.

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup corn syrup
- 1 1/4 cups powdered sugar
- 1 1/4 cups dry milk

Mix well until blended. Add more dry milk if mixture is sticky. Make Bible times items and then eat your creations! If allergies to peanuts are a concern, refer to “Creation Snack” from Lesson One: The Family.

Sportsmanship Toss (10 minutes)

This game reinforces good sportsmanship while giving children a chance to practice it. **Supplies:** up to three bean bags or balls of different colors, CD player, energetic praise music

Have kids create a circle. Designate one color of ball or bean bag as IT. As you play music, kids will toss IT to each other in random patterns. Tell kids they can’t hold onto IT, they need to toss IT right away. When the music stops, whoever is holding IT states one way to show good sportsmanship. If stuck, others can help. After a couple of rounds with one ball in play, add another. Only the person left holding IT when the music stops has to say something before play resumes. Depending on the size of your group, put up to three balls in play at a time.

My God is So Great (10 minutes)

This active song triggers the children’s creativity while encouraging praise to God. **Supplies:** music to the song, “My God is so Great, So Strong, and So Mighty,”* CD player

*Available in “The Christian Children’s Songbook” or “Great Songs for God’s Kids” (Word Music) Alternate music: “What a Mighty God We Serve”

Lyrics: **My God is so great, so strong, and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do. My God is so great, so strong, and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do.**

The mountains are His, the rivers are His, the stars are His handiwork too.

My God is so great, so strong, and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do.

Play the song and sing the words through once. Then have the children start putting motions to the lyrics. Once motions have been decided upon, sing the song through a couple of times using the motions.

12. School

Spelling Snack (5 minutes)

This academic snack makes food a learning experience. **Supplies:** alphabet cereal

After children wash their hands, give each a handful of cereal and ask them to spell their name. After they eat their name, have them spell “true” or “truth,” a description of God. They can eat that word, then spell other words or sort cereal into different letters before finishing the snack.

Lunch Sack Craft (10 minutes)

This craft reviews the Bible story and gives children a reminder to carry into the week with them. **Supplies:** brown paper lunch sacks, markers or crayons.

Direct kids to draw on their lunch sacks pictures from the Bible story, such as children learning in Bible times, parents talking to children while walking or sitting at a meal. Or have them write the memory verse. Ask about what they like to eat for school lunches and how they can share their new Bible knowledge with schoolmates and family using their sacks.

Run to Learn (10 minutes)

This active game gets the children moving and thinking about what they enjoy learning.

Gather the children in the center of the room. Explain that this game gives them a chance to show some things they like about learning. You’ll name four things, pointing to a different side of the room for each one. (Each of four different walls or parts of the room will stand for each of the four choices.) Kids choose the choice they like best and run to that location. If you find that four is too many choices, use two or three. You can also vary the way kids get there—skip, walk backwards, hop, shuffle, etc. For the choices, use learning-related topics such as school subjects (writing, math, science, reading), sports (soccer, basketball, swimming, biking), hobbies that involve learning (music, sewing, building a campfire, making models), ways to get to school (bus, walk, car, carpool), recess activities (monkey bars, swings, playing ball, playing tag), and lunch options (chocolate milk, regular milk, juice, smoothie).

After the game is finished, explain that all the choices had something to do with learning.

Shepherd and Sheep (10 minutes)

This movement-based game allows children to practice the skill of courtesy.

Adapt the game of “Follow the Leader” where you are the shepherd and the followers are your sheep. Lead your students between rows of chairs, through doors, and under tables. Have them imitate your actions and courteous phrases. For example, the students repeat “Excuse me, excuse me” as they squeeze sideways between a row of chairs; or they take turns holding the door open for another to pass by who in turn says, “Thank you!”; or have them ask each other “Please pass the…” and reply “Thank you” as they hand an object to each person down the line. If you have time, allow your students to take turns being the new shepherd. Give positive feedback when you observe kids showing courtesy to others.

Bible Times ABC Book (20-30 minutes)

This craft motivates students to associate learning with the Bible. **Supplies:** paper, construction paper

Before class, prepare blank books with at least one page for each letter of the alphabet. Make one blank book for each student. (Simply staple white sheets of paper inside a sturdy, colorful cover.) Write “My Bible times ABC’s” on the cover with permanent marker.

Allow students to start with “A” and write one letter of the alphabet on each page. Work together as a class to think of Bible-times objects, people, or words that start with each of the letters of the alphabet. Then allow children to illustrate individual pages with the objects they thought of. (Encourage your students to draw upon lessons and information you have learned together in class thus far. For instance, the “T” page may have a tunic drawn on it. The “S” page may show a scroll, and so on).