

Teacher Notecards Level 1, Quarter A— Family Life With God

Use these Teacher Notecards as a reference when teaching *Explore Scripture*. Choose the outline form or narrative form based on your teaching style and preference.*

Print on paper or cardstock. Fold in half, then fold again along the gray line. This will create a two-sided, notecard-sized piece for you to hold in your hand.

*The narrative form has been edited to fit on these cards. Please see the full *Explore Scripture* sections of each lesson for more interactivity, application, and content.

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Big Idea: God created families to love and care for each other.

Genesis 2:4-24 [outline form]

Intro: God created Adam and Eve and they formed the first family.

Ask: Who made all the people in the world?

1. God created everything. He made the entire universe and everything in it.
 - God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 2:4
 - God made the plants and the animals. 2:8-9,19
 - God is the Creator 2:7
2. God created all people. He made them exactly as He wanted them to be.
 - God formed Adam from the dust of the ground 2:7
 - God saw that Adam was alone 2:18
 - God created Eve from Adam's rib 2:21-22

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3. Adam and Eve became the first family. Families are God's own idea. He wants families to love and care for each other.

- Adam and Eve became husband and wife (picture 1A.1). 2:23-24
- God gave Adam and Eve children 4:1
- Cain and Abel were Adam and Eve's first sons (picture 1A.2). 4:1-2

Conclusion: God created the first family and every family since. Show your family that you love and care for them.

2

Big Idea: God created families to love and care for each other.

Genesis 2:4-24 [narrative form]

Intro: God created Adam and Eve and they formed the first family.

Ask: Who made all the people in the world?

Today we are going to talk about families. What activities do families participate in? (Eat, sleep, play games, work in the house and yard, go places, take care of each other, etc.) Families are God's own idea. The book of Genesis tells us God made the very first family thousands of years ago. We call God "Creator" because He made everything.

After God had designed the earth and all the stars and planets, He made the sun and moon to give us light. Then God created plants, animals, birds, and fish. How do you think God made each of those things? He just said the words and each thing was made. Wow!

The last thing God created was people. Does anyone know how God made the first man? God made the first person with dust from the ground! God just took a bit

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of dirt from the ground and shaped a man. He breathed His own breath into it, and instantly it became a living person!

God named this man, Adam. God said Adam was the best thing He had created. Then God did one more incredible thing. God saw that Adam was alone. He knew that being alone was not good. So do you know what God did? Right! God made a woman. God made Adam go to sleep. Then God took one of Adam's bones from this part of his body. Point to your rib area. It didn't hurt because Adam was sleeping very deeply. From that bone, God made the first woman (picture 1A.1). Adam named her Eve. Together Adam and Eve were the beginning of the first family ever. Later they had many children. They named their first two boys Cain and Abel (picture 1A.2).

How is this first family God made like the family God gave you? (They had parents, there were brothers, they lived together). How was this family different from yours? (They lived in a garden, they were the first people, God made Adam and Eve directly.)

God created Adam and Eve's family, and He created your family, too. He wants families to love each other and take care of one another. What are some ways you can show your families that you love them?

2

Big Idea: **God the Father shows parents how to love, protect, and teach their children.**

Exodus 2:1-10 [outline form]

Intro: *God cared for Moses and protected him.*

Ask: *How is God like a loving Father to us all?*

1. The Egyptians enslaved God’s people. But God had a plan to rescue them. His plan began with the birth of a slave.

- *Pharaoh feared the Israelites’ growth* *Exodus 1:10*
- *Pharaoh ordered his people to kill all boys born to slaves* *1:27*

2. Moses was born to a Hebrew family (picture 1A.3). He was in danger of being killed because of Pharaoh’s orders.

- *Moses’ mother was Jochebed and his father was Amram* *Exodus 6:20*
- *Moses’ sister was Miriam* *Numbers 26:59*
- *Moses’ brother was Aaron* *Numbers 26:59*



3. God protected Moses. God is our Heavenly Father, who loves, protects, and teaches us.

- *Jochebed wove a basket of reeds and placed Moses on the river* *Exodus 2:3*
- *Miriam watched as Pharaoh’s daughter found Moses* (picture 1A.4) *2:5-6*
- *Miriam asked the Princess if she wanted a Hebrew nurse* *2:7*
- *Jochebed raised Moses for a time* *2:9*

Conclusion: *God lovingly protected Moses and delivered him to his own parents’ care. God, our Heaven Father, loves us just as much!*



Big Idea: **God the Father shows parents how to love, protect, and teach their children.**

Exodus 2:1-10 [narrative form]

Intro: *God cared for Moses and protected him.*

Ask: *How is God like a loving Father to us all?*

Once long ago, God’s people—the Hebrews—lived in Egypt because they were slaves. A slave is someone who has to work without pay for someone else. God’s people worked hard for the Egyptian ruler, the Pharaoh. The Pharaoh didn’t like how God was blessing the slave families. He saw that the little girls and boys were growing up to be hard-working people. So Pharaoh made an evil plan. He decided that all the boy babies who were born as slaves would be killed!

One of the slave families had a new baby boy (picture 1A.3). Amram was the father’s name, and Jochebed was the mother’s name. They tried to keep their baby hidden in the house, but after a while his cries got too loud. How could they keep hiding their baby to keep him from being killed?



God gave Jochebed and Amram an idea to save their son. Jochebed wove leaves into a basket and painted it with sticky tar that would keep water out. Jochebed bundled up her baby and tucked him into the special basket. Have you figured out this baby’s name? He was Moses.

Amram and Jochebed didn’t want to let Moses go. But they wanted to save Moses from Pharaoh, so Jochebed took him in his waterproof basket down to the river. Then she put the basket into the water. It was like a boat—it floated!

Jochebed told Moses’ big sister, Miriam, to hide nearby and watch him. Miriam watched. She saw the Pharaoh’s own daughter, a princess, walking beside the river with her maid! The princess saw the basket in the water. She told her maid to bring it to her (picture 1A.4). The princess was surprised to find a baby boy inside! “Who can help me take care of this little boy?” she asked her maid. Moses’ sister came out of the bushes and walked right up to the princess. “Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to take care of that baby for you?” she asked. The princess said, “Yes!” So Miriam brought back her own mother, Jochebed, to take care of Moses!

God protected Moses. God wants all parents to love, protect, and teach their children. Isn’t it wonderful to know you have a Heavenly Father who will love and take care of you?



Big Idea: Children are God’s most precious gifts to parents.

1 Samuel 1:1–2:11 [outline form]

Intro: God gave Hannah a wonderful gift—a baby boy.

Ask: How do we know that God is kind to us?

- 1. Hannah and Elkanah loved God and served Him faithfully.
 - Hannah and Elkanah offered sacrifices every year at Shiloh 1 Samuel 1:3
 - Hannah had not been able to have a child. 1:5
- 2. God answered Hannah’s prayers. He gave her what she had been asking for—a baby.
 - Hannah prayed at the tabernacle (picture 1A.5) 1:10
 - Hannah promised to dedicate her son to the LORD’s service 1:11
 - Eli the priest asked God to hear Hannah’s prayer 1:17
 - God gave Hannah a son, whom she named Samuel (picture 1A.6). 1:20



- 3. Hannah kept her promise to God. She gave God’s gift to her—Samuel—back to God.
 - Hannah and Elkanah returned to Shiloh with Samuel 1:24
 - They presented Samuel to Eli the priest 1:25
 - Hannah gave Samuel to the LORD. 1:28

Conclusion: Samuel was God’s most precious gift to Hannah and Elkanah. You are a precious gift to your parents as well!



Big Idea: Children are God’s most precious gifts to parents.

1 Samuel 1:1–2:11 [narrative form]

Intro: God gave Hannah a wonderful gift—a baby boy.

Ask: How do we know that God is kind to us?

Once a woman named Hannah lived in a town called Ramah in Israel. Hannah’s husband was a man named Elkanah. They loved each other and loved God. Hannah knew God was kind. But Hannah was really sad. She wanted a baby more than anything, but she wasn’t able to have one. She prayed every day for a baby.

Every year Elkanah took Hannah to Shiloh, a city where God’s people gave offerings at the tabernacle to honor God. At the tabernacle, Hannah prayed again for God to let her have a baby. Hannah promised God that if He gave her a child, she would give her child back to God to serve Him in the tabernacle (picture 1A.5). What a nice gift Hannah was willing to give to God!

The priest, Eli, saw Hannah praying with all her heart. Hannah told Eli she was praying for God to give her a baby boy. God’s Spirit moved Eli to tell Hannah, “Go home in peace. May God give you what you’ve asked for.” Hannah returned



to Ramah with Elkanah, and before the next year was up—God gave Hannah a baby! She was so excited and pleased with this gift from God (picture 1A.6).

Hannah named her son Samuel because that name means “asked of God.” She had asked, and God in His kindness had answered her prayer. Samuel was the precious gift Hannah had always wanted.

When Samuel was three years old, Hannah knew it was time to keep her promise to God. She and Elkanah traveled to Shiloh again and they took Samuel, too. They offered their sacrifices to God to thank Him for the wonderful gift of their son.

Hannah and Elkanah brought Samuel to Eli the priest. Eli agreed to train Samuel to serve God, just as Hannah had promised. She told Eli, “I prayed to have this child, and God gave me what I asked for. Now I’m lending Samuel back to God for as long as he lives.” Then Hannah and Elkanah went back home. They knew they would visit Samuel every year.

How do you think Hannah might have felt about leaving Samuel with Eli? Encourage children to consider and share. She might have been a little sad and lonely, but she was also happy. God was kind to give her the precious gift she asked for, and now her son was serving God.



Big Idea: **God wants brothers and sisters to encourage and support each other.**

Genesis 25:19-34 [outline form]

Intro: *Jacob and Esau were brothers who did not get along.*

Ask: *Why does God want us to live in peace with each other?*

1. Jacob and Esau were twins.

- *Esau was born first.* Genesis 25:25
- *As the firstborn, Esau had the birthright.* 25:25
- *Jacob was born second, grasping Esau’s heel.* 25:26

2. Jacob and Esau were very different from each other, but they were still brothers (picture 1A.7).

- *Esau hunted and worked in the fields.* 25:27
- *Jacob was quiet and lived among the tents.* 25:27



3. One day, the two brothers treated each other very poorly. Sometimes the Bible shows us the wrong way to behave so we can avoid it.

- *Esau wanted some of Jacob’s stew.* 25:30
- *Jacob demanded Esau’s birthright for the stew.* 25:31
- *Esau agreed to trade his birthright (picture 1A.8).* 25:33

Conclusion: *Learn from Jacob and Esau’s example to avoid being selfish and greedy. Brothers and sisters should always encourage and support each other.*



Big Idea: **God wants brothers and sisters to encourage and support each other.**

Genesis 25:19-34 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jacob and Esau were brothers who did not get along.*

Ask: *Why does God want us to live in peace with each other?*

Today’s story is about two brothers who were twins. Their names were Jacob and Esau. Back in Bible times, being the oldest son was a big deal. The first son had certain privileges called a birthright. Esau was born a few minutes before Jacob, so he was older. The Bible says Esau was big and hairy and had red skin! Jacob was holding onto Esau’s heel as he was born!

Esau and Jacob liked to do different things (picture 1A.7). As they grew up, Esau became a hunter. He loved working and being outside. *What things might Esau have done?* Encourage responses. Jacob, the younger twin, stayed in and around the tents. In their time, God’s people lived in big family tents and moved around with their herds of animals. *What things might Jacob have done?* Encourage responses.



One day Jacob was making a tasty stew. Esau came home from working, and he was really hungry. Esau smelled the stew Jacob was cooking. Yum! Esau couldn’t wait to eat. “Let me eat some of that stew,” he said to Jacob. “I’m starved!”

“First sell me your birthright,” Jacob said. Jacob was asking Esau to trade the stew for the special privileges that Esau had because he was the first-born son. Esau would one day have twice as much family money, animals, and land, while Jacob would have a smaller part. Jacob was greedy and selfish to want Esau’s birthright.

Esau was thinking only about his stomach. “I’m so hungry I feel like I could die! I don’t care about my birthright. Just give me some of that stew.” Jacob knew better, but he made Esau promise to give up his privileges as the first son. Esau promised, and Jacob gave him a bowl of the stew and some bread (picture 1A.8).

So Jacob got the birthright that belonged to Esau, and Esau had a full stomach for a little while. Because both Esau and Jacob were selfish and not very wise, they hurt each other, and it was a long time before they made up. There was no peace between them, and that was hard on the whole family. These two brothers didn’t follow God’s idea of what makes a home happy. *How do you think God wants brothers and sisters to live with each other?* Encourage ideas.



Big Idea: **Grandparents rely on God’s wisdom to guide their children and grandchildren.**

Ruth 1-4 [outline form]

Intro: *God delivered Ruth and Naomi from hardship.*
 Ask: *How can we respect our grandparents and learn from them?*

1. Naomi and her family moved from Bethlehem to Moab.
 - *There was a famine in Bethlehem* Ruth 1:1
 - *Naomi’s husband died in Moab* 1:3
 - *Naomi’s sons married Orpah and Ruth* 1:4
 - *Naomi’s sons also died* 1:5
2. Naomi heard the famine in Bethlehem had ended. She decided to return. Ruth knew that Naomi and her God were both wise.
 - *Naomi urged Orpah and Ruth to return to their families* 1:11-13
 - *Orpah obeyed Naomi* 1:14
 - *Ruth refused to leave Naomi (picture 1A.9)* 1:14
 - *Ruth declared that Naomi’s God was her God* 1:16



3. Naomi and Ruth worked hard to support themselves, but God had a plan to care for them and advance His kingdom. Naomi became a grandmother.
 - *Ruth gleaned grain in Boaz’s fields* 2:3
 - *Naomi advised Ruth to keep working in Boaz’s fields* 2:22
 - *Boaz admired Ruth and married her* 3:10; 4:10
 - *Naomi’s grandson, Obed, was the grandfather of David (picture 1A.10)* . . 4:22

Conclusion: *Ruth pleased God by devoting herself to Naomi. God cared for them and led them to safety. We can listen to the wisdom of our grandparents as we follow God.*



Big Idea: **Grandparents rely on God’s wisdom to guide their children and grandchildren.**

Ruth 1-4 [narrative form]

Intro: *God delivered Ruth and Naomi from hardship.*
 Ask: *How can we respect our grandparents and learn from them?*

A long time ago, there was a famine in the town of Bethlehem. *Do you know what a famine is?* Famine means there is not enough food for all the people. One man was worried that his family might starve in Bethlehem, so he moved his wife, Naomi, and their two sons to another land where there was plenty of food. But then the man died. His wife, Naomi, lived with her sons. One son married a young woman named Ruth and the other son married a woman named Orpah. They took care of Naomi.

Before long, Naomi’s sons died, too. Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah were all alone. Naomi heard there was food again in Bethlehem, and she wisely decided to move back there. She said to Ruth and Orpah, “You don’t have to come with me and take care of me. We have relatives in Bethlehem who may help me. You stay here with your own families.” Orpah obeyed and stayed with her family.



But Ruth said, “I love you, Naomi. I will never leave you. Your family has become my family. Your God is now my God.” (picture 1A.9) Naomi had taught Ruth about the one true God. Ruth picked up her belongings and went with Naomi to Bethlehem.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, Naomi and Ruth were poor and needed food. Ruth picked up grain in the fields so Naomi and she would have food. God led Ruth to a field owned by a man named Boaz. Boaz was part of Naomi’s family. Naomi told Ruth to work only in Boaz’s field, because Ruth would be safe there. Boaz had heard that Ruth was trying to take care of Naomi. So he secretly told his workers to drop more grain so Ruth and Naomi would have more food.

One day Boaz said to Ruth, “You have left everything to help your mother-in-law. May the LORD bless you for what you have done.” Boaz saw that Ruth loved God and wanted to do what was right. Boaz decided to marry Ruth and care for her. Now Ruth and Naomi had a place to live.

Before long, God blessed Ruth and Boaz with a baby boy named Obed. Naomi helped care for him (picture 1A.10). She was a good and wise grandmother. Obed grew up and became the grandfather of David, the greatest king of Israel! God, in His wisdom, knew what was best for His people.



Big Idea: **As children grow up, they learn to listen to and respond to Jesus, their Savior.**

1 Samuel 3 [outline form]

Intro: *As Samuel grew up in the temple, he listened and responded to God.*

Ask: *How can we learn to listen to God?*

1. Samuel served in God’s house with Eli the priest.
 - *Samuel learned God’s Word and served under Eli.* 1 Samuel 3:1
 - *In those days, few people heard God directly.* 3:1
 - *Samuel and Eli slept in the tabernacle.* 3:2-3
2. The LORD called Samuel, only Samuel did not know who it was.
 - *God called Samuel three times* 3:4,6,8
 - *Samuel went to Eli three times (picture 1A.11).* 3:4,6,8
 - *The third time, Eli realized God was calling Samuel.* 3:8-9



3. Samuel listened and responded to the LORD.
 - *God called Samuel a fourth time* 3:10
 - *Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” (picture 1A.12).* 3:10
 - *God told Samuel what He was going to do* 3:11-14
 - *God was with Samuel as he grew up* 3:19-21

Conclusion: *Samuel learned to listen to God, and God was with Samuel as he grew up. Listen to God through His Word and God will be with you also!*



Big Idea: **As children grow up, they learn to listen to and respond to Jesus, their Savior.**

1 Samuel 3 [narrative form]

Intro: *As Samuel grew up in the temple, he listened and responded to God.*

Ask: *How can we learn to listen to God?*

Hannah took Samuel to live at the tabernacle in Shiloh. Eli the priest taught Samuel about the Scriptures and about working in God’s house. As Samuel grew, he learned to love God.

Priests like Eli slept near the most special part of the tabernacle where they worshiped God. Samuel slept in a different room than Eli. One night, after Samuel and Eli were asleep, Samuel woke up and heard a voice calling him. “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel ran into Eli’s room (picture 1A.11). “Here I am; you called me,” Samuel said to Eli. Eli was surprised. He didn’t call Samuel. Samuel was surprised, too. Eli told Samuel, “I didn’t call you. Go lie down again.”

Eli wasn’t calling Samuel. It was God. But Samuel didn’t know that yet. The LORD



called again, “Samuel!” Samuel heard the voice, so he got up and went back to Eli. Eli said, “I didn’t call, my son. Go lie down again.” Samuel went back to bed.

Samuel heard the same voice for the third time! He got up again and went to Eli. This time Eli understood, “God is calling Samuel.” So he told Samuel to go back and lie down. Eli said, “If you hear the voice again, say, ‘Speak LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went back to lie down.

Now the LORD called to Samuel again. This time, Samuel answered, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” (picture 1A.12) The LORD said to Samuel, “I’m going to do some important things in Israel. People’s ears will tingle when they hear about what I’m going to do!”

Wow! Samuel heard God speaking to him! The next morning Eli asked what God had said. Samuel told him everything. Then Eli said, “The LORD spoke to you. Let Him do what seems good to Him.”

Samuel continued to grow up and work in the tabernacle. Samuel trusted and served God with his whole heart, and God was with him. Everyone knew that God was helping Samuel grow up to be a faithful prophet who would tell God’s Word to the people.



Big Idea: God generously provides clothes to cover and protect our bodies.

1 Samuel 2:18-21 [outline form]

Intro: Hannah brought Samuel a gift every year as he learned about God.

Ask: How can our clothes remind us to be thankful for God’s generosity?

1. Samuel served God in the tabernacle at Shiloh. He was learning all about God from Eli the Priest.

- Samuel served the LORD wearing a linen ephod 1 Samuel 2:18
- Hannah and Elkanah came every year to make sacrifices 2:19

2. Hannah brought Samuel a special gift every year. She wanted Samuel to know how much his parents loved him.

- Hannah gave Samuel a little robe (picture 1A.13) 2:19
- Hannah sewed the robe herself (picture 1A.14) 2:19

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3. Hannah’s generosity pleased God. He gave Hannah and Elkanah more good gifts.

- Eli blessed Elkanah and Hannah for her gift to Samuel 2:20
- God blessed Elkanah and Hannah with more children 2:21

Conclusion: Clothes are a special gift from God. Praise Him for giving us all that we need and more!

2

Big Idea: God generously provides clothes to cover and protect our bodies.

1 Samuel 2:18-21 [narrative form]

Intro: Hannah brought Samuel a gift every year as he learned about God.

Ask: How can our clothes remind us to be thankful for God’s generosity?

Samuel was growing up in the tabernacle at Shiloh, learning how to serve God. Samuel would grow up to be a prophet who would tell God’s messages to His people.

Once a year his mother and father came to worship at the tabernacle, and they could visit with Samuel. The Bible says that Hannah didn’t just come to visit. She also brought Samuel a gift every year. Her gift was something she had made, and it was just for Samuel (picture 1A.13).

Every year Hannah made a new robe. It would have been really special because the priests who served in the temple wore special clothes. The robe was called an ephod, and it was made from a certain cloth called linen. It was tied around the middle with a sash, like a belt. Clothes in Bible times were made of linen or wool. Clothes were more simple—no zippers or buttons. They didn’t have many

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different kinds of shoes or coats like we do. They wore the same kind of clothes all year. Usually only kings and very rich people wore fancy clothes.

How special Samuel must have felt each year when his mother came with this handmade gift! No one else made him a new robe just his size. Imagine how much time and work it took to sew a shirt or dress when you had to make thread, weave the cloth, and then cut it out and sew it into the shape and size you wanted (picture 1A.14). Whew!

But Hannah loved Samuel and worked hard to make him new clothes so that he could honor God. Samuel was learning about God every day from Eli, the priest. He learned that possessions like his clothes were all gifts from his Heavenly Father, God. How does God give us the clothes we have? Encourage responses. That’s right! He provides money for our families to buy clothes. God gives us animals and plants that make the wool and cotton and other fabrics clothes come from. God gives us clothes to keep us comfortable and gives us nicer clothes so that we can honor Him, just like Samuel did with his ephod. God is happy to give us these things, and we should be thankful for all His wonderful gifts.

2

Big Idea: **The home is God’s safe place for children to learn and grow.**

2 Kings 4:8-37 [outline form]

Intro: *A woman opened her home to God’s prophet, Elisha.*

Ask: *How can God use our homes to help others?*

1. Elisha the prophet often passed through the town of Shunem. A prophet gives people God’s messages.
 - *A woman invited Elisha to eat with her and her husband 2Kings 4:8*
 - *She knew he was a holy man of God 4:9*
 - *She prepared a room in her home for Elisha to use (picture 1A.15). 4:10*

2. The woman shared her home with Elisha—that was a great gift. Elisha desired to repay the woman for her hospitality.
 - *Elisha offered to speak to the king on her behalf 4:13*
 - *Elisha promised she would have a son 4:16*
 - *God gave the woman a son. 4:17*

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3. Elisha continued to help the woman because of her great faith.
 - *One day the woman’s son died 4:20*
 - *The woman went to Mount Carmel to find Elisha 4:27*
 - *Elisha raised the woman’s son to life (picture 1A.16) 4:33-35*

Conclusion: *We please God when we use our homes to honor Him. It is our safe place to learn and grow!*

2

Big Idea: **The home is God’s safe place for children to learn and grow.**

2 Kings 4:8-37 [narrative form]

Intro: *A woman opened her home to God’s prophet, Elisha.*

Ask: *How can God use our homes to help others?*

Today we’re finding out about another prophet named Elisha. A prophet gives people God’s messages. Elisha traveled around Israel to do God’s work. Sometimes he traveled through a town named Shunem. A kind woman in this town would invite Elisha to her house to eat. She was always glad to share some food with him in her house.

Then this woman had an idea. She said to her husband, “This man who regularly passes through our town is a holy man of God. Why don’t we make a little room for him on our roof? We can give him a bed, a table, chair, and a lamp. Then he can stay with us whenever he comes this way!” (picture 1A.15)

Elisha was very happy to have a safe place to stay while he traveled. Elisha wanted to give this woman something for being so nice. Since this woman didn’t have any children, he asked God to give her a baby. Elisha told the lady that next year God

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would give her a son. She was surprised and afraid that it would not happen. But, what do you think God did? That’s right, God gave her a little boy the next year!

The woman and her husband loved their son. One day this boy had an awful headache. A servant carried him from the fields to his mother, and she held him and rocked her little boy in her lap. She tried to make him feel better, but the boy died. The mother carried him up to the room where Elisha always stayed.

The boy’s mother remembered that Elisha was a man of God. She got on a donkey and rode a long way to find him. The woman from Shunem fell at Elisha’s feet sobbing and told him her son had died. Elisha went back to the woman’s house. He saw the boy was dead, and he prayed to God. Then he lay over the boy and he felt him coming back to life! While Elisha watched, the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes (picture 1A.16). When the Shunammite woman saw that her son was alive again, she bowed in front of Elisha. She was so thankful and happy to have her boy back.

This woman was wise. She used her house to serve others, and gave Elisha a refuge when he traveled. We can show others our love for God by using our homes to serve and care for people. Safe homes are another gift from God.

2

Big Idea: **God gives food to nourish our bodies.**

Exodus 16:1-35 [outline form]

Intro: *God provided food for His people where there was none.*

Ask: *Why is food an important gift from God?*

1. God had rescued His people from slavery. They had been slaves in Egypt, but now they were free.

- *God led the Hebrews to the desert Exodus 16:1*
- *All the people began to grumble against Moses 16:2*
- *The people wished they were still slaves in Egypt. 16:3*

2. God heard His people. He provided food to nourish their bodies.

- *God sent quail in the evening 16:13*
- *God sent manna in the morning (picture 1A.17) 16:13-14*
- *Everyone had as much as they needed (picture 1A.18) 16:18*



3. Some people still did not obey God. They did not trust Him to keep giving them food.

- *Some people gathered more manna than they needed 16:20*
- *The extra manna became full of maggots and smelled 16:20*
- *The day before the Sabbath, they were to gather twice as much 16:23*
- *Some people disobeyed and went hungry on the Sabbath. 16:27*

Conclusion: *God provides all the food we eat, directly or indirectly. Praise Him for nourishing our bodies!*



Big Idea: **God gives food to nourish our bodies.**

Exodus 16:1-35 [narrative form]

Intro: *God provided food for His people where there was none.*

Ask: *Why is food an important gift from God?*

After God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, they had to walk across a huge desert to find the land God promised them. At first the people sang and danced when they left Egypt. “We’re free!” they sang. But after days of walking in the desert, they were unhappy and grumpy. They complained all the time. “We’re hungry.” “There’s nothing good to eat here.” Moses told the people not to worry—God would take care of them.

God said to Moses, “I have heard the grumbling of your people. Tell them that in the evening they will have meat to eat, and in the morning they will have bread to eat.” That night, as it started to get dark, God sent birds called quail that flew into their camp and dropped on the ground right in front of them!

Quail were good to eat. Everyone had meat that night. When God’s people woke up the next morning there were millions of tiny pieces of bread covering the



ground! The Hebrews called the bread “manna.” Manna means “What is it?” because they had never seen it before. The people gathered the manna in baskets (picture 1A.17). Moses said, “God says to take only the bread you need for today. He will give you bread like this every single morning.”

“We don’t believe Him,” some of the people thought. “Tomorrow we may be hungry again, so we are going to grab all the bread we can today, and keep it for tomorrow.”

When the people took more than they needed, the extra turned rotten—it was covered with worms. Can you imagine bread with worms squirming in it? Ugh! Moses said, “You must trust and obey God. He will provide what you need.” And God gave them fresh manna every day.

On the sixth day Moses said, “You should not pick manna tomorrow. The Sabbath is a day of rest. So today gather up two days’ worth of bread.” Some of the people disobeyed again, because they still didn’t believe. They thought the extra manna would get rotten and wormy. When they went out on the seventh day, there was no bread, so they grumbled and complained about being hungry. God was very upset when the people didn’t listen to Him. He wanted them to trust Him for what they needed (picture 1A.18). He wanted them to always remember how He had helped them.



Big Idea: Families work together to honor God as their Lord and Master.

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:34-37 [outline form]

Intro: God taught a young shepherd boy skills to become a great leader.

Ask: What kinds of chores is God using to teach you how to serve Him?

- 1. God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint a new king for Israel.
 - God had rejected Saul as king. 1 Samuel 16:1
 - Samuel arrived and gathered Jesse’s sons. 16:5
 - God rejected all of Jesse’s sons who were present. 16:10
- 2. God chose Jesse’s son, David, to be king of Israel.
 - God looks at the heart, whereas man looks at appearances. 16:7
 - Samuel asked Jesse if he had any more sons 16:11
 - Jesse sent for David, who was tending the sheep 16:11
 - God told Jesse to anoint David (picture 1A.19). 16:12



- 3. God was preparing David with his chores as a shepherd.
 - David tended his father’s sheep and goats (picture 1A.20) 17:34
 - David protected the sheep. 17:35
 - David learned to fight while doing his chores. 17:35
 - God helped David. 17:37

Conclusion: God helped David learn important skills through his chores. Imagine what God can teach you when you faithfully do your chores!



Big Idea: Families work together to honor God as their Lord and Master.

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:34-37 [narrative form]

Intro: God taught a young shepherd boy skills to become a great leader.

Ask: What kinds of chores is God using to teach you how to serve Him?

Have you heard of King David? Before he became the king of Israel, God taught him things he would need to know to be king. He started learning while he was still a young boy, doing something some of us don’t like to do—chores.

God spoke to His prophet Samuel. God told Samuel, “I am not happy with King Saul; it is time to choose the next king. Go to Bethlehem where a man named Jesse lives. One of his sons will become the next king.”

Samuel obeyed God. When he got there, Samuel asked Jesse to bring all his sons to meet him. The sons were strong and handsome. Samuel looked at the oldest. “This one must be the next king,” Samuel thought. “No,” said God. “I don’t care how people look on the outside; it’s who they are on the inside that makes them great.” Six more sons stepped forward, and six more times God said, “No, this is not the one.” Samuel scratched his head and looked at Jesse. “Do you have any more sons?”



“Only my youngest child, David. But he’s in the pastures tending the sheep.”

Jesse sent for David. This time God said, “Yes, he’s the one.” David was the one God had sent Samuel to choose as the new king (picture 1A.19). But David was not crowned king right away. He still had some things to learn. And he learned them by doing chores.

David took care of his father’s sheep and goats (picture 1A.20). He found them places to eat the best grass and clean water to drink. David kept them from falling off cliffs. He used his shepherd’s staff to protect the sheep. David even killed bears and lions that attacked his lambs! David was brave and hardworking.

Sometimes David practiced with his sling. He would put a rock in it, whirl it high above his head, and let the stone fly. Because he practiced, David learned how to sling a rock right on target. He thought he was practicing only to protect his sheep, but God was also preparing him to fight a giant!

David worked hard at shepherding. He wanted to protect the sheep and help his family. David didn’t know it, but while he trying to be the best shepherd he could be, God was giving him practice for his grown-up work. Chores help us learn how to work hard and how to help our families. Every time we do a chore right, we’re serving God.



Big Idea: **Playtime helps children develop skills and strength to serve the mighty God.**

1 Samuel 16:14-23 [outline form]

Intro: *David's play prepared him to protect his sheep and help King Saul.*

Ask: *What can God teach you as you play?*

1. God prepared David through practice and play. David would one day do great deeds for God.

- *David practiced with his sling and staff.* 1 Samuel 16:11
- *David fought off lions to protect his sheep* (picture 1A.21) 17:35
- *David played the lyre (harp)* (picture 1A.22) 16:18

2. A spirit from God tormented King Saul.

- *Saul's servants suggested harp music to calm him* 16:16
- *Saul commanded them to find someone who played well.* 16:17
- *One servant had seen David play the harp.* 16:18

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3. King Saul sent for David to come play for him. God had prepared David for this moment.

- *Jesse sent his son to play the lyre for the king.* 16:20
- *King Saul liked David very much and made him an armor bearer* 16:21
- *Whenever the spirit tormented Saul, David's music would soothe him.* . . 16:24

Conclusion: *God can use everything we do to prepare us to do great things! Remember that even when you play, you can honor God.*

2

Big Idea: **Playtime helps children develop skills and strength to serve the mighty God.**

1 Samuel 16:14-23 [narrative form]

Intro: *David's play prepared him to protect his sheep and help King Saul.*

Ask: *What can God teach you as you play?*

Before he became king, David was a shepherd. He took care of his father's sheep in the grassy pastures. David climbed up and down the hillsides and played in the streams. David never forgot his job, though. He was always keeping watch on the sheep. He knew exactly how many were in the flock and watched every one to keep them safe. Once, a roaring lion tried to get one of his sheep. David's arms were strong from all his practicing and swinging his sling. He killed the lion and saved the sheep (picture 1A.21).

What else did David do while he was shepherding? Maybe he collected rocks or tried to learn what birds made certain sounds. Maybe he watched the clouds and imagined pictures they made in the sky. The Bible doesn't say exactly how David played while he watched the sheep. But it does tell us some of the things he was good at.

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David liked to play music and make up songs. He played an instrument called a lyre (picture 1A.22). David practiced for a long time, and he became a good musician. David also loved to sing to God while he played the lyre. He made up his own songs about God's love and power.

While David was singing and shepherding, King Saul was in the palace stomping and yelling. Years before, this king was very close to God and followed His Word. But then Saul stopped listening to God. King Saul's servant wanted to help the king relax. He had heard about a young shepherd who played music. "Maybe his music will make you feel better," the servant told King Saul. So the king sent for David. David knew if God gave him courage to fight lions, He would help David sing and play the harp for the king. When David played his music, the frown on the king's face slowly went away.

David knew how to work hard taking care of his father's sheep. He worked hard to help King Saul relax. And David also knew he could enjoy himself and play when he had time. He probably liked to play as much as you do. God gave us time to play and made our world fun and interesting. He made our lives so we would have time to play and bring Him honor in everything we do.

2

Big Idea: **The ability to learn is an exciting and valuable gift from God.**

Deuteronomy 4:1-14 [outline form]

Intro: *God changed Moses from a student into a teacher.*

Ask: *How do we know that God thinks learning is important?*

1. As a boy, Moses learned from the Egyptians and his parents.
 - *Moses' parents taught him about God* (picture 1A.23) Exodus 2:9
 - *Moses received an Egyptian education* 2:10

2. Later God taught Moses in the desert. God knew Moses had much to learn before he could lead God's people.
 - *God revealed Himself to Moses* 3:5-6
 - *God taught Moses what to do and say* 4:11-12

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3. After rescuing God's people from the Egyptians, Moses became their teacher.
 - *God gave Moses laws to teach to His people* (picture 1A.24) . Deuteronomy 4:1
 - *Moses told the people to learn carefully* 4:2
 - *God wanted all Hebrews to remember what He had done.* 4:9-10

Conclusion: *God has so much to teach us! The ability to learn is an exciting and valuable gift from God.*

2

Big Idea: **The ability to learn is an exciting and valuable gift from God.**

Deuteronomy 4:1-14 [narrative form]

Intro: *God changed Moses from a student into a teacher.*

Ask: *How do we know that God thinks learning is important?*

Remember when we learned about Moses? Well, once he was a little boy, just like many of you. When Moses was a young boy, he left his mom and dad to live in Pharaoh's palace. Moses was a prince of Egypt. But no one knew then that God had chosen him for something even greater than being a prince.

In Moses' day, people didn't have pencils or crayons or chalkboards like we do today. Their pencils were more like nails and their tablets were slabs of slate rock with a thin layer of wax melted on the front side. Moses learned to write from a teacher just like children today. Sometimes he probably got a little bored in school. Other times school was very interesting.

If Moses had grown up in his own Hebrew family, he would have learned a different way (picture 1A.23). His mom and dad would have been his teachers at home. Most Hebrew children learned by hearing stories of how their parents, grandparents, and

1



great-grandparents followed God through the years. Grown-ups would tell amazing stories about what God had done for them and how God wanted them to live.

Moses went to school in the Egyptian palace for several years. He was a good student and learned about many important subjects. Later, when Moses grew up, his new classroom was a huge desert. And God became Moses' Teacher.

More years passed, but Moses was still learning. God brought him back to Egypt to practice what he had learned. After a series of miracles that showed God's great power, Moses brought God's people out of the land of Egypt where they had been slaves. God wanted His people to live in the land that He had promised to Abraham. Moses' job wasn't easy, but by now Moses knew that he could trust God to help him and teach him what was true (picture 1A.24).

When God brought His people out of Egypt, guess who became their teacher? Moses had finally become a teacher! He taught the Hebrews all about the things God had taught him. Moses, first a student in school—just like you—became one of the greatest teachers of all time. God used Moses to teach His people the Ten Commandments and many other truths.

2