

## **First Day Introduction and Overview: What is Bible Study & Why am I Here?**

**Verse:** *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."* Psalm 119:11

**The Point:** The Bible is God's word. We study it to learn about Him.

**Visual Aids for story:** A few well-known children's books, a Bible

**Songs:** The B\*I\*B\*L\*E, I Like the Bible

**Center suggestions:** paper, pencils and crayons for writing, play-dough (you can make letters for each child's name), magnetic letters, chalk and board.

**Craft: Name tags.**

**Need:** name tags (provided), stickers, crayons, markers, water colors, brushes, water.

**Two's:** Write each child's name on the paper tag. Have them decorate their tags w/crayons and stickers. **Three's and up:** Have child write their own name if they can. If not, write it for them. Have them decorate tags w/watercolors, stickers, markers, crayons, etc. Insert paper into plastic cover. Have children wear name tags each week. Don't forget to collect them as they leave.

**Circle Time/Attention Getter:** Play a "name game" to get to know each child's name. Repeat your own name often so they learn it too. Example: "My name is Mrs. Steiger and I like fish! What is your name?" First child says, "My name is Alice and I like dogs." You say, "It's nice to meet you Alice! (Look at next child in circle.) My name is Mrs. Steiger and I like fish. This is Alice, who likes dogs. What is your name?" Second child says, "My name is Bob and I like elephants." You say, "It's nice to meet you Bob! (Look at third child and say, "My name is Mrs. Steiger...This is Alice, who...and Bob, who likes elephants...What is your name?" and so on..."

**Lesson:** Does anyone here like books? Has anyone read these books to you? (Show and talk about some popular children's books you brought). Books are fun to read. I like books about... What kind of books do you like? But there is one special book that is different from any other book. Do you know what that is? (Let lots of children answer.) The book I am talking about is the Bible. How is the Bible different from any other book? It's different because it's the word of God. God used many different men to write down what he wanted us to know about him.

What does it mean to study the Bible? Studying the Bible means reading it. When we read the Bible carefully, we begin to understand who God is and how he wants us to live. Do you think we can understand the Bible if we read it once or twice?

No! God wants us to read the Bible often. That is why our moms (aunts, grandmothers, friends) come here each week—so they can study the Bible and learn about God. We are going to study the Bible too! That way you can learn about God too.

When we study the Bible, we start to remember God's word. The bible says we are to hide God's word in our heart. That means we study it so much, that we can remember what it says for a long time. Then, we can use God's word to help us grow and make choices that honor him.

There is one other reason why we come to Bible study. We come to make friends! The Bible tells us it is good to have friends. John 15:12-13 says (read from the Bible), "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Look around this circle. When you come to Bible study each week, we are going to learn about God. And, we will make lots of friends too!

## Lesson 1, Genesis 1:1-25 Creation, Days 1-6

**Verse:** *“The earth is full of his unfailing love.”* Psalm 33:5

**The Point:** God created the world out of nothing, and it is very good!

**Visual Aids:** one piece black construction paper, real, colorful photographs to go with as many days of creation as possible, such as clouds, planets, stars, moon, oceans, mountains, plains, birds, fish, insects, etc.

**Songs:** My God is So Big, He’s Got the Whole World

**Center suggestions:** Things for creating—blocks, playdoh, Lego’s, tinker toys, etc., photographs, anybody have any Viewmasters laying around?, puzzles.

**Craft: Vegetable Prints.** Need: Several fruits and vegetables, sharp knife, paint, shallow bowls, water and paper towels for clean up, large white paper. Use x-large pieces of white construction paper and fluorescent paint. Put paint in shallow dishes. Have one or two fruits or vegetables sliced in half for each color. Potatoes, apples, thick carrots, cucumbers, lemons work well. Have kids dip end of veggie into paint and then gently stamp it on the paper to make a print. Have them use multiple colors to make multiple prints on the paper. Two’s can use one or two different veggies. Three and up can use more. Relate blank paper and finished print to Creation—making something beautiful and colorful out of nothing.

**Circle Time/Attention Getter:** Plastic Fruit Hideaway—Lay out a few pieces of plastic fruit in front of you. Have kids identify them. Start w/two or three—cover them w/a blanket and take one away. Lift blanket and ask kids which piece is missing. Then, add another piece of fruit and repeat. Keep going until you have many fruits in front of you and kids can’t keep track.

**Story:** Last week, we talked about how special the Bible is. Remember, the Bible is the word of God. Today, we are going to learn about the very first part of the Bible called the book of Genesis. The first words in the book of Genesis say, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” That means there was a time when there was nothing! Can you believe it? It’s hard to imagine nothing. What’s on this paper? (Hold up black sheet.) This is kind of like what the world was like before Creation. There was nothing. Not even light!

Then God got to work making the world that we know. The first thing he made was light. How did he make it? He just said, “Let there be light.” How do we know this? No one was there to see how God made light, but the Bible tells us that God just said it. God is so amazing that he can simply say, “Let there be light” and there it was! Have

you ever made anything? How did you do it? We can create many things ourselves, but not in the way that God can. We always start with something, but God started with nothing.

God created other things in the world the same way. He created day and night. He created the sun, moon and stars. He created the land and the sky. He put water on the earth and in the sky. (Show some real, colorful pictures from the Internet, magazines or library books). How did he make these things? He simply said it and they were there.

God made even more things in the beginning—he separated the water he put on earth, which made dry land and oceans. He filled the oceans with fish and plants and the sky with birds. Then, he filled the land with plants and animals! (Show more pictures). How did he make these? You got it! He just said it and there they were. Let's play a game—can you name five kinds of plants? How about five kinds of animals (4s and 5s can name more). That's great! But God made so many more plants and animals! Let me show you some pictures. Let's thank God for the beautiful heavens and earth that we enjoy.

## Lesson 2, Genesis 1:26-2:4a God Makes Man!

**Verse:** *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."* Psalm 139:14.

**The Point:** God made man in his own image. We are like him, but we are not him. We can do great things with our minds and bodies!

**Visual Aids:** Large mirror, small plastic animal, pictures of our bodies—children's books of the inside of our bodies would be good, photographs of all kinds of people, all ages, photographs of people doing amazing things with their bodies—sports, recreation, reading, computers, etc., and a small baggie of dirt.

**Songs:** Our God is an Awesome God, He's Got the Whole World

**Center Suggestions:** crayons and paper for self-portraits, small plastic animals and people (farms, playmobile, etc.), Colorforms, play-doh, hand-held mirrors, dress up.

**Craft:** Need: Ink pad for 2's, black paint, large brushes, large paper for 3's and up, small paper for 2's, bucket of warm, soapy water, paper towels and wipes for clean up.

**Two's: Thumbprint Prints**—Give each child a white sheet of paper with his name on it. Talk about how God made them in a special way—everyone in the world has a different thumb print. Take turns having them put thumbprints on the paper. One ink pad is provided—you can also color their thumbs with a magic marker. Use baby wipes for clean up. **Three's: Hand Prints.** Do the same as above, but do hand prints instead—take turns painting each child's hand with black paint and have them gently make hand prints on the paper. (Use large paper). Use a bucket of warm, soapy water and towel for clean up. **Fours and Fives: Hand and Foot Prints.** Do the same as three's, but make hand and footprints—yes, you will actually paint their feet and have them make footprints. We've done this before several times and the kids like it. Putting their feet in warm, soapy water is fun too! It helps to demonstrate first!

**Circle Time/Attention Getter:** Hold up a mirror—show kids your reflection and ask, "What do you see in the mirror?" Mrs. Smith, they'll say. Tell them it looks like you, but it is not actually you. It is a reflection of you, or an image of you. Hold up a plastic animal and ask what it is. A cow, they'll say. Tell them it looks like a cow, but it is not actually a cow. A real cow would be much bigger and much smellier, LOL! It is an image of a cow. A lot like a cow, but not really a cow.

**Story:** Last week, we talked about how God created the heavens and the earth. This week, we are going to learn about something very special God created. Let's open our Bible and read Genesis 1:26, "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the

livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” God made man after he made everything else in the heavens and on earth.

Do you remember what God did to make earth, the skies and the animals? That’s right, he just said it. God said, “Let there be dry land,” and there it was! But when God created man, he did it differently. He didn’t just say, “Let there be man.” He created man out of the earth! Look at this soil I have in this baggie. This is what God used to make man. And after God made man’s body, he blew life into his nose, and man came alive! Isn’t it amazing to know that God created you in a special way?

What is even more amazing is that God knows each one of us. God says he knew you before you were born! He knows what we like and don’t like. He knows what makes us happy and what makes us sad. The Bible even says God knows how many hairs are on our heads! Do you think you can count how many hairs are on your head? Of course not! But God made you in a special way, and he knows you in a special way. The Bible says you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Look at your hands. Do you see all the lines in your hands? No one’s hands are the same. God made them all differently.

Just like God made our bodies differently than the plants and animals, God also gave us a soul, or a part of us that we can’t see. This is how we are made in the image of God. We are not God, but we are like him in some ways. With our souls, we have the ability to love, like God loved us. We have the ability to love God and worship and praise him. How can we thank God for giving us life? We can honor him with our bodies and minds (show visual aids) and we can honor him in spirit, by reflecting his goodness and holiness in our lives and thoughts.

## Lesson 3, Genesis 2:4b-25

### Eden and Eve

**Verse:** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* John 3:16

**The Point:** God gives us good gifts.

**Visual Aids:** Wrapped box with ribbon, photographs of gardens, wedding photo, picture of stop sign.

**Songs:** Praise Him, Praise Him; Jesus Loves Me

**Center Suggestions:** Leaf prints—put leaves under paper, rub with crayon, see print, beans on the blanket, puzzles of flowers, Candy Land game

**Craft: Mini Gardens.** Need: big bowl of dirt (potting soil), spoons, watering can, grass seed, 2 popsicle sticks per child, cups, Sharpie pen. Put out large bowl of dirt and a bowl of grass seed with spoons. Have watering can available and full. Have children decorate one popsicle stick as Eve and one as Adam with markers (demonstrate). If 2's can't do this, just put smiley faces on them w/Sharpie. Then, have children do a layer of dirt in cup, then sprinkle seeds, then another layer of dirt. Water. Then put Adam and Eve in garden. Tell them and parent to put garden in window and watch grass grow!

**Circle Time/Attention Grabber:** Hold up wrapped gift. What is this? Yes, a present! Why do we give people presents? (birthday, they are special, we love them, celebrate, etc.). Do you like to get presents? Who gives them to you? What do you do with your presents after you open them? (Take good care of them)

**Story:** Last week, we talked about how God created man in a special way. We've also talked about how God created the earth and everything in it. Today, we are going to talk about some special gifts God gave man after he created him.

Our lesson today comes from the word of God, the Bible. In the book of Genesis, we learn that after God gave man the gift of life, he gave him another special gift—the gift of a home. God planted a special garden for the first man he created, named Adam, in a place called Eden. Does anyone here have a garden at home? What is in it? Let me show you some very pretty gardens (show visual of garden). The garden God gave Adam was a beautiful, very large garden. It had a river in it. It had trees and animals, and plants and food. It was a nice place to live.

Next, God gave Adam the gift of work. Yes, work was a gift! Adam didn't have to spend his days doing nothing—his job was to take care of Eden. He was to rule over the plants and animals and eat the green plants. God also gave him the job of naming the animals. That's a big job—there are lots of animals!

When Adam was done naming all the animals, God gave him another precious gift, the gift of a helper. God made Adam go to sleep, and when he did, he took a bone out of his body and made another person. Not another man, but a woman! God gave Adam the gift of a wife, and Adam was very pleased. (Show wedding photo, talk about the gift of marriage).

God gave Adam another very special gift—the gift of rules. Rules help us know what is wrong and right. Rules keep us safe. Can you think of any rules your mom or dad have for you? (Show a stop sign.) Rules are like stop signs. Stop signs help protect us on the roads. They help make the roads safe. They keep us from crashing into other cars. God gave Adam one very important rule—there was a tree in the middle of garden that Adam could not eat from. God warned him that it was very dangerous. God told Adam if he ate from that tree, he would die. God said, “you must not eat from that tree.” He wanted to protect Adam.

God still gives us good gifts today. He still gives us rules to help protect us. He gives us special people in our lives who love us. And he gives us the gift of Jesus and eternal life with him. He gives us these gifts because he created us and he loves us. Let’s thank God for the good gifts he gives us.

## Lesson 4, Genesis 3:1-15

### The Serpent and the Fall

**Verse:** *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* James 4:7.

**The Point:** Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They sinned. When we sin, we disappoint God.

**Visual Aids:** pictures of snakes, paper plate with happy face on one side, sad face on the other, stop sign from last week.

**Songs:** My God is So Big, My God is an Awesome God

**Center Suggestions:** Animal puzzles, matching game, opposite cards, bean boxes, playdoh snakes, dress up with costumes, masks, plastic snakes

**Craft: Fruit Loop Snakes.** Need: Masking tape, string, large bowl of Fruit Loops. Tie large, thick knot on one end of yarn so Fruit Loops won't fall off. Put tape around other end to help yarn go through hole in cereal. String Fruit Loops on yarn. Make a long enough string so you'll have a snake. Tie other end with large knot. Viola! A serpent!

**Circle Time:** Today, we are going to pretend we are animals. Let's be dogs! Can you bark like a dog? How about a lion. Let's roar like lions! Let's be frogs. Can you hop like a frog? How about a snake? Let's hiss and slither like snakes.

**Story Time:** Have you ever seen a real snake? Snakes come in all different sizes and colors. There are green snakes and yellow snakes. Black ones and red ones. (Show pictures) Snakes live in trees and in water. They live in jungles and deserts! Snakes even lived in the garden of Eden. The garden of Eden was a very special place God had made for Adam and Eve to live. Adam and Eve were the first man and woman God created. They lived in the garden of Eden with all kinds of plants and animals and were very happy. God was very close to them. He gave them one rule to protect them: he told them not to eat from one tree in the garden. He told them they would die if they ate the fruit from that tree.

But, there was someone who did not want Adam and Eve to be happy. There was someone who did not want them to be close to God and live forever. This was Satan. Sometimes we call Satan the devil. Satan wanted to trick Eve. He wanted Eve to sin. What does it mean to sin? Sin means to disobey God. When you obey someone, you do what they tell you to do. When you disobey, you don't do what you are told to do. You do what you are not supposed to do.

One day, when Eve was by herself in the garden, Satan pretended he was a serpent, or a snake. Do you know what pretend means? Do you ever get dressed up as

something, like a princess or a king? You make yourself look like something else. Well, Satan “dressed up” as a snake. Eve wasn’t afraid of snakes. They were part of God’s good creation. So Satan pretended to be something that was supposed to be good. He sneaked into the garden pretending to be a snake, and he found Eve when she was alone. He asked her if God really told her not to eat from the special tree. He already knew the answer, but he was trying to trick Eve. Then, he lied to her. He told her that if she ate from the tree, she would not die.

It was a sad day, because Eve listened to the snake. She ate from the tree. Then, she gave some of that fruit to Adam, and he ate it too. They both knew they were not supposed to, but Satan tricked them. They listened to Satan and disobeyed God. That is called sin. When we disobey God, we sin too. After they ate the fruit, they knew they had sinned. They tried to hide from God because they knew God would be sad and angry.

What should Eve have done when the snake told her to sin? Hold up stop sign from last week. She should have stopped! Yes, she should have run away. She should have obeyed God. But, she stayed and she sinned. We all sin too. We all disobey God. And thankfully, we can pray and tell God we are sorry when we sin. We also know that God forgives us.

But, it does make God sad when we sin. God punishes us when we sin. God was very disappointed in Adam and Eve. Show paper plate happy face turning to sad face. Next week, we’ll learn about what happened because they disobeyed. But the good news is that the Bible tells us we have the power to turn away from the devil. The Bible says, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” What does that mean? That means we should fill our mind and our hearts with the word of God. That way we will know the difference between what is from God and what is from the devil. If the devil tries to dress up and trick us, we will be prepared. We will see the devil for who he is and we can run away. Let’s thank God that he gives us his word and he gives us the power to fight the devil!

## Lesson 5, Genesis 3:16-24

### Adam and Eve Leave Eden

#### **Circle Time Suggestions:** Finger Play: Wonderful World

God made the sun (*arms make a circle*)

God made a tree (*arms outstretched*)

God made a flower (*squat down low*)

God made a bee (*make buzzing sounds*)

God made a bird (*arms make flapping motions*)

God made a fish (*arms make swimming motions*)

God made the leaves (*hands make fluttering motions down to the floor*)

And God made me! (*stand straight and tall, pointing to self*)

#### **Song Suggestions:**

**Bible Verse:** *God showed His love...He sent His one and only Son.* 1 John 4:9

**Bible Story:** God made a good world, didn't he? Who can tell me something God created? Last week we talked about Adam and Eve. They only had one rule to follow: not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Did they obey the rule? No, they did not. Today we are going to talk about what happened after Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

After they disobeyed God, Adam and Eve were afraid. They hid from God, but God found them anyway. They told God what they had done. God was very sad that they had not obeyed him, and he knew he must punish them. But before he punished them, God showed Adam and Eve how much he loved them! He made them clothes to wear! Even though they had not obeyed him, he still took care of them. God gave them something even better, though. He gave them a promise! He promised that someday a child would be born who would save people from sin. That person was Jesus!

After God took care of Adam and Eve, he still had to punish them for disobeying him. He sent them out of their beautiful garden of Eden. He put an angel in front of the entrance so that nobody could ever go there again. How sad Adam and Eve must have been! They must have wished that they had obeyed God!

Adam and Eve loved God. They learned a lesson from their mistakes. They listened and obeyed God after that. We need to listen and obey God too.

**Craft:** Cut out a doll for each child. Have children cut and paste "clothes" onto their dolls using the scraps of cloth, paper, and yarn.

#### **Book Suggestions:**

## Lesson 6, Genesis 4:1-18

### Cain and Abel

**Table Time ideas:** Bring different vegetables in for children to taste (could also be for snack time, but be careful of choking hazards), use the bean tub

**Circle Time Suggestions:** Play a game about feelings—Give children a scenario and ask them to show on their faces how they would feel—happy, sad, afraid, angry, worried, etc. For younger children, ask them to demonstrate each kind of face. You could also bring in pictures of children with different emotions and ask them to name each feeling.

**Song Suggestions:**

**Bible Verse:** *God showed His love...He sent His one and only Son.* 1 John 4:9

**Bible Story:** Adam and Eve had two children. Cain was the first son and Abel was the second son. Cain was a farmer. He worked in the garden. Can you think of some vegetables that he must have planted?

Abel was a shepherd. He took care of the sheep. What kind of sound does a sheep make?

One day both brothers brought special gifts to God. Cain brought some of the vegetables to God as a gift. Abel brought the best part of the best sheep as a gift to God. He gave his best to God.

God looked down and was happy with Abel and his gift. But God was not happy with Cain's gift. So Cain got very angry and he began to frown.

God was sad because Cain gave a gift that was not the best. How would you feel if someone gave you a broken toy as a gift? Would you be happy or sad? God was not happy with Cain's gift either.

Then God said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why are you frowning? Cain, do what is right; please don't do wrong."

Do you know what Cain did? He should have listened to God, but he didn't. He should have told God he was sorry and brought God a gift of his best.

When we sin, we are doing wrong. God must punish us for the wrong things we have done. However, God's Son, Jesus, did something to pay for all the wrongs we have done. Jesus died on a cross for all our sins. Then, three days later, Jesus came back to life. If we believe in Jesus, we can tell God we are sorry for all the wrong things we have done and ask Him for forgiveness. God will forgive us and clean away all the wrongs we have done. God also wants us to start doing right. He loves us and wants to help us.

Let's ask God to help us obey this week and do right.

**Craft:** God said to Cain, “Why is your face downcast?” Have the children make paper-plate masks—on one side make an angry face, and on the other side make a happy face. Remind children that if we do what is right before God, inside ourselves we will be happy and on the outside it will show on our faces. But if we don’t do what is right, we will be unsettled, angry and sad—and our faces will show it.

**Book Suggestions:**

## Lesson 7, Genesis 4:19-5:32

### God Knows My Name/Enoch

**Circle Time Suggestions:** Play a name game, passing a ball or other small item to each child in turn and having the class say that person's name.

**Song Suggestions:** Jesus Loves Me

**Bible Verse:** God showed His love...He sent His one and only Son. 1 John 4:9

**Bible Story:** In the Bible there are many names. Some are familiar because we know the stories. Like Daniel in the Lion's Den or Noah's ark (or substitute other names the students are sure to know). Others are just names to us, because we don't know their stories. But God knows them. God knows the person behind every name mentioned in the Bible and the person behind every name there ever was or ever will be. God knows your name!

These names in Genesis 5 are special. These men are listed from father to son. These are also men who lived long ago, but were from the family of Jesus. Would you like to hear some of the names? Adam, Seth, Kenan, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech...Each of these people had real families like yours and mine! We don't know the stories of all of these people, but the Bible does give us some clues about Enoch. The Bible says, "Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away." (Genesis 5:24) Enoch walked with God by being faithful and obedient to Him. Do you remember the story of Cain and Abel? Cain was not obedient to God, and he was angry when God disciplined him. Enoch wanted to please God. Enoch did not have to die before God took him to heaven, but God took him away to heaven in a special way! Wouldn't it be fun to ask Enoch what it was like? We can ask him in heaven someday, if we love Jesus!

Each of us is just as special to God as all the people whose names are written down in the Bible. God knows us, too!

**Craft:** Make a "God Loves \_\_\_\_\_" sign with each child's name on it. Have them decorate it with stickers, markers, etc. Talk about how each person is known by God and is important to him. Older children could cut each letter of their name out of a magazine.

**Book Suggestions:**

## Lesson 8, Genesis 6:1—10:12

### Noah

**Table Time ideas:** Children can make animals out of play-doh,

**Snack:** Sort animal crackers 2 by 2

**Circle Time Suggestions:**

- Have an ark relay race game where the kids line up and go into the ark in groups of two as an animal. (act out motions for the animal).
- Wiggle and act out different animals and let the kids guess what the animal is.
- Talk about how God keeps His promises. Talk about how we can keep our promises this week.

**Song Suggestions:** Who Built the Ark? Arky, Arky

**Bible Verse:** *I am with you always.* Matthew 28:20

**Bible Story:** God loved the people of the world, but they began loving things and people first, instead of God. God was sad. So He decided to destroy the whole world. God looked down and saw Noah. Noah was a man who loved God. God decided to let Noah and his family live. He told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. Noah gathered lots of wood and started building the ark. (Make hammering sounds and motions)

Then God told Noah to find 2 of each animal and put them on the ark. Can you name some animals that Noah must have found? (wait for answers)

God said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because you have followed Me."

Then God shut the door. And everyone waited.

Suddenly, drop, drop, drippity drop, the rain began to fall. (Make motions of rain falling)

God sent the rain nonstop for 40 days and 40 nights (that's over a month!) It covered the whole earth. Then God sent a wind over the earth. After 280 days, Noah opened the window and sent a black bird called a raven. The bird flew around, but could not find a place to land, so the bird returned to Noah.

(Wrap your thumbs together and make a bird flying in the air)

Noah tried a white dove next, but it also returned to him.

Noah waited a week and sent out another dove. This time the dove came back with an olive branch in its beak. Noah knew that trees were growing on the earth. Finally Noah sent out another dove a week later, and it didn't come back. Now Noah knew it was about time to leave the ark.

God told Noah to come out of the ark. When they opened the ark, the world was beautiful.

Everything was pretty and green. The animals must have been so excited to finally get back on land!

When Noah stepped on dry land, he made a special monument to God. He thanked God for saving him and his family.

God made a promise with Noah. He told Noah that he would never destroy the world again with a flood. To make sure all people remembered that promise, God made a beautiful rainbow in the sky. It is a sign from God to promise that He will never flood the world again.

**Craft:** Bring paper sacks and decorate them as an ark. Bring animal crackers and let the kids put them in their paper sack “ark.” Have children decorate the back of the sack with a beautiful rainbow.

**Book Suggestions:** Rainbow Fish (rainbows), Horton Hatches the Egg (for the 4s/5s—keeping promises)

## Lesson 9, Genesis 11:1-32

### Tower of Babel

**Table Time ideas:** Building blocks

**Circle Time Suggestions:** Welcome the kids in several different languages: Buenos dias, Guten morgen, Hola, etc. Explain that we will learn about a time when people started speaking new languages.

**Song Suggestions:** The Wise Man Built his House Upon a Rock

**Bible Verse:** *I am with you always.* Matthew 2:20

**Bible Story:** **\*\*Bring some blocks, Lego's, or boxes to illustrate the lesson today.\*\***

After Noah and his family landed the ark and got out, God helped Noah's sons and children. After many years, there were lots of people in the world again.

One day, some of the people decided that they wanted to build a big tower all the way up to Heaven. They made bricks that were very strong and started building the tower. (Put several blocks together).

They were very proud of themselves. They were bragging because people were praising them for all their work. They thought to themselves that if they continued, people would worship them.

God saw what these people were doing and He was sad. He wanted them to worship Him and not themselves. (Put more blocks on the tower)

God knew that there was only one way to change their hearts. He suddenly made some of the people speak different languages. Before this, everyone spoke the same language. Now, people spoke different languages. They wandered around the city trying to find others that spoke their language.

Because of what God did, the people stopped building the tower and starting trusting God again. They saw the only God is God and we cannot get to Heaven by building a tower.

God tells us that the only way to Heaven is by believing in Jesus. If we love him, he will bring us to Heaven one day.

**Craft:** Children can glue small rectangles to a sheet of paper to build their own tower. Older kids can glue sugar cubes together to make towers. Teach the rule: "Just a dot, not a lot" to encourage children not to use too much glue.

## Lesson 10

### Genesis 12:1-14:24

**Memory verse:** *"We live by faith, not by sight."* 2 Corinthians 5:7

#### **Special activities:**

- Tent. Bring the play food into the tent and have the kids cook and eat just outside
- Art table—have kids make/decorate the animal you will use for pin the tail. A donkey would be good.

#### **Freeplay game idea:**

- For before and after story time: Play games with a blindfold where one child is blindfolded and others help him around the room, either by taking hands or verbal directions. Or any other blindfold game you can think of.
- Cooperative Pin the Tail—have the kids make an animal from a large sheet of paper and have several tails that they can tape to it. Do it once with the kids on their own. Do it a second time with other students and teachers directing the tail towards the donkey.

#### **Story time:**

Abram lived in a big city in a nice house with friends and markets and a big wall to keep them safe.

Then God told Abraham "Leave your country, your people and your father's house and go to the land that I will show you."

Hmmm, what should Abraham do?

(wait for answers. Someone will say obey God or follow God)

Follow God? But don't you know that there were robbers out there? What about leaving the safe city and living in a tent? What would it be like? God didn't even tell Abraham where he should go. He just told Abraham to leave and that God would guide him.

Guess what. Abraham did it!

Abram knew that trusting God isn't something that we feel. Trusting God is something that we do. Abraham trusted God that God would lead him, and God would protect him and that God would keep him safe.

God did lead Abraham and his family, just like He said He would. Abram left with his wife, Sarah and his nephew Lot. God took them to a land called Canaan. God told Abram that his children's children's children's children would live in the land.

Then something bad happened. It didn't rain. There was no water for crops and no food would grow.

Did Abraham decide that God must have been wrong and that he made a mistake when he came to Canaan? No! He did not go home. He went to Egypt for a time so that he could find food, but he came back to Canaan, the place that God had told him God would bless him.

## Lesson 11

### Genesis 15:1-18:15

**Memory verse:** *"You are the God who sees me"* (Gen 16:13), Psalm 139

**Song:** God Sees Me.

**Special activity:**

- I know there is one water table. Maybe have this for the 4/5. It would be good to have even a basin of water on a table and cups to play with.

**Special games:**

- Hide and Seek
- Button, button who has the button
- Hide an object in the room and the kids have to find it

**Craft:** Glasses made out of pipecleaners

**Bible Story:** Abraham and Sarah had many wonderful things in life. They had a relationship with God. They were rich. They had good land for their animals. But they did not have a baby. This made them sad. They wanted a baby very much, but in all the years that they had been married, a baby never came.

God had promised Abraham that his children would live in the land, but as the couple got older, it seemed that God must have forgotten this part of the promise. Maybe God didn't really mean a child but someone they liked or were related to, like a cousin or something.

So Sarah decided to fix God's mistake herself. And Abram didn't stop her. He agreed and went right along with her. Is this a good idea? NO!!! Did God forget to fulfill His promise? Did God make a mistake? No, we can trust that God will do what He promises to do.

Sarah told Abraham to take her servant and have a baby. This was not God's plan for marriage and it was not God's plan for Abraham. But he did it. Should he have trusted God and told his wife that this was a bad idea? Oh, I wish that he had.

Abram married another woman named Hagar. She became pregnant. Hagar was happy; Abram was happy, but Sarai was miserable. Now that Hagar was pregnant, she didn't want to be Sarai's servant any more. She was proud and rude. Sarai ordered Hagar to get out of the house, even though she was pregnant with Abram's baby.

Babies are wonderful, and this should have been a happy time. It was not. They were all miserable now. Hagar turned her back on Abram's tent, where God was worshipped and started to go home to Egypt. She didn't have enough food to get through the desert.

Hagar thought that she and her baby would die. Then an amazing thing happened for Hagar. The God of the whole world asked her a question, "Where are you

going?" She told God all the things she was sad about. God told her to go back to Abraham and promised her that He would not forget her little baby and would not let them die there in the desert. An angel showed her a spring of water.

God sees. Even though Hagar had been proud and mean. Even though Sarah was wrong to send her away. Even though Abraham was wrong too, God still had mercy on the woman and the baby she was going to have.

God came to Hagar even when she was running from God's people. Hagar called Him Elrio, which means God Sees.

For the older kids read:

**Psalms 139 (New International Reader's Version)**

- 1 Lord, you have seen what is in my heart.  
You know all about me.
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I get up.  
You know what I'm thinking even though you are far away.
- 3 You know when I go out to work and when I come back home.  
You know exactly how I live.
- 4 Lord, even before I speak a word,  
you know all about it.
- 5 You are all around me. You are behind me and in front of me.  
You hold me in your power.
- 6 I'm amazed at how well you know me.  
It's more than I can understand.
- 7 How can I get away from your Spirit?  
Where can I go to escape from you?
- 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there.  
If I lie down in the deepest parts of the earth, you are also there.
- 9 Suppose I were to rise with the sun in the east  
and then cross over to the west where it sinks into the ocean.
- 10 Your hand would always be there to guide me.  
Your right hand would still be holding me close.
- 11 Suppose I were to say, "I'm sure the darkness will hide me.  
The light around me will become as dark as night."
- 12 Even that darkness would not be dark to you.  
The night would shine like the day,  
because darkness is like light to you.
- 13 You created the deepest parts of my being.  
You put me together inside my mother's body.
- 14 How you made me is amazing and wonderful.  
I praise you for that.  
What you have done is wonderful.  
I know that very well.
- 15 None of my bones was hidden from you  
when you made me inside my mother's body.  
That place was as dark as the deepest parts of the earth.  
When you were putting me together there,  
16 your eyes saw my body even before it was formed.  
You planned how many days I would live.  
You wrote down the number of them in your book before I had lived through even one of them.
- 17 God, your thoughts about me are priceless.  
No one can possibly add them all up.

## Lesson 12

### Genesis 18:16-19:38

**Memory verse:** Is anything too hard for the Lord?

*"Nothing is impossible with God," Luke 1:37*

- Bake biscuits. It would be a good table activity to make biscuits and then bake them and have them for snack.
- Games: Red Rover Red Rover.
- Play station: bring back the tents from a few weeks ago.
- Craft: star, because God promised that he would make Abraham's descendants as many as the stars in the sky.
  
- Skit: The action in this story is easy to act out. After the story, pick an Abraham, Sarah and visitors. Have Abraham serve them food and have the visitors say that Sarah will have a baby. Then have Sarah laugh.

#### **Story time:**

How old is your mommy? (Let the answers get as crazy as they want.)

We talked about how Abraham and Sarah wanted a baby more than anything else and that they had even come up with a plan other than God's plan to have that baby. God had promised Abraham a son a loooooong time ago. Ishmael was a little boy now. Abraham loved him and had even asked God that His covenant could be through him.

Then Abraham got a surprise visit. Three men came to see him. Abraham did what every good host should do. He brought his guests food and drinks. He washed their feet.

Then they told him an amazing thing. The men reminded Abraham that he would be the father of nations. They said that in a year, Sarah would have a baby. Now, the first time that Abraham had heard this, he had bowed down and laughed. This time it was Sarah who laughed. (Show the pictures of old ladies and babies)

Who could blame her? How crazy is it to think that a woman of Sarah's age would have a baby. Do you think your grandmother or great grandmother could have a baby. Would you laugh if that happened?

Sarah laughed. Remember, when God told Abraham 13 years before and he laughed. But they laughed in very different ways. Abraham fell on his face and worshipped God.

Sarah laughed and when the visitor asked about it, she lied. Isn't that terrible! Do you think we can lie to God and he won't know it?

But did God get mad at Sarah and take away the joy of being a mommy? No. The visitor didn't let her get away with her lie. He corrected her. But a year later, God showed that he was right.

Genesis says that “the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised.” Do you think that if God will do what He promised Sarah that he will do what He promised you?

What are some of the things that God’s book, the Bible, promises you? (that God will watch over you, that God sees you, that God cares about you). But God’s best promise is that He would make it ok for us to be with Him, and He did that through Jesus.

Isaac was the promised son given to Abraham and Sarah. Jesus is the promised Son given for everyone. God sent his son so that Jesus could pay the price for our sin and give us a way to God, just like He promised that He would.

See, God always answers His promises. Not in the time that we would like, and not in ways that we expect. But we can trust that He is always faithful.

## Lesson 13

### Genesis 20:1—23:20

- **Weekly verse:** *“The Lord is faithful to all his promises.”* Psalm 145:13
- Happy Birthday Isaac! Greet the kids with “Welcome to our birthday party. We’re so glad that you could join us today.”
- **Songs:** Happy birthday.
- **Snacks:** try to have a birthday type treat.
- **Craft:** birthday hat

**Story:** We are going to have a party to celebrate Isaac’s birthday and that he grew up to be a young man. We are celebrating that God was faithful to do what he promised. And here is the proof that God was right. Here was baby Isaac, and his father and mother had a big party for him when he was about two years old.

Remember, God promised to make Abraham a blessing to all nations, and He is going to do all of that through this little baby. Now, does that mean that Isaac has to be perfect and if he messes up and doesn’t obey his mommy or is mean to a friend that God’s plan will fail?

No, God will start a new group of people, a special people that He calls His very own. Now we hope that Isaac wants to follow God with his whole heart. But Isaac could trust in God just like his father and mother learned to trust God.

But this party for Isaac wasn’t all happy. Do you remember how we talked a few weeks ago when Isaac’s brother, Ishmael was born that there was a lot of jealousy and sadness in Abraham’s house?

Sadly, that didn’t stop. Hagar and Sarah never started being nice to one another. And at Isaac’s party, Ishmael made fun of the little baby. Can you imagine making fun of a baby at a party in his honor.

How do you think Ishmael was feeling that he made fun of the baby (jealous, angry, left out, wanted Abraham to love him best) Sarah saw Ishmael doing this. Maybe she could have pointed it out to Abraham so that his father could have made Ishmael feel special too. But she didn’t.

She ordered Hagar and Ishmael out of the house again! She told Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son...” She didn’t want Ishmael to have any part of the family wealth or reputation that she wanted to go only to Isaac.

Abraham was sad. He loved Ishmael and he didn’t want to send his boy away, but God assured him that He would watch after Ishmael. God promised Abraham that this son, also would have a nation like Isaac. But God also reminded Abraham that God was calling his special people through Isaac.

Hagar found herself in the desert again, afraid that she and her baby would die because they didn’t have food or water. And just like before, God told Hagar not to worry and gave them water to drink that they wouldn’t die. God assured Hagar that her son would be the father of a nation too.

They lived in the desert and Ishmael became good and hunting with a bow and arrow.

## Lesson 14

### Activities:

- Mystery hide and seek—show the kids a toy, then have them close their eyes while you hide it in the room. After several rounds, just tell them to close their eyes without showing them a toy. Then ask them to find it. They won't know what to look for. Tell them to go find a toy that seems good to them. Ask them to explain why they picked that toy.
- This is a great story to act out after story time

### Table game:

- Large beads and string.
- Dress ups with spangles and scarves

### Craft: cross necklace

### Story:

Abraham is an old, old man now. Sarah is already dead and he wants to see Isaac married before he dies.

Now marriage then is very different from marriage now. Back then, and still in some countries today, mommies and daddies picked who you would marry.

Abraham wanted to be sure that Isaac's wife was not one of the girls around the area. He wanted Isaac to marry someone from the country where he and Sarah were from. But he didn't send Isaac.

Instead, he sent a servant and made the servant promise that he would bring a wife back but that he would not let Isaac himself leave the promised land that God had given to Abraham and his son and grandchildren. He didn't want Isaac to even step foot in the old land.

Abraham was strict that he would believe in God's promise of both a land and a people who would be called God's own.

The servant doesn't know what he is supposed to look for. How is he supposed to find a nice wife for Isaac? What should she look like? What should she act like? Would Isaac like her?

Here the servant did the wisest thing that anyone can do: he prayed. He Prayed! He asked God, who knows the best wife for Isaac, who he should chose and then the servant did another wonderful thing. He chose a wise test to see who God would have him bring home.

He could have asked for the prettiest or the tallest or the hardest working or the oldest or the youngest or any other reason.

He chose the woman who would be kind. He chose a woman who would be friendly and reach out to a stranger who was in need of water. The servant prayed, Let the woman who offers a drink for me and to get water for my camels be the one you want for Isaac's wife.

Do you think that was wise? I do, because it is what God thinks is important too. God says that we should show kindness and love to one another. The servant used that as a test to see who is a good husband or wife.

The servant gave Rebekah all the pretty clothes and jewels that he had brought with him.

She said, yes, she would go and be Isaac's wife.

## Lesson 15, Genesis 25:19-27:40 Jacob and Esau

**Activity:** Playing with beans

**Craft:** Have children decorate a heart with the words “God loved Jacob, God loves You”  
Supplies- construction paper hearts, glue, glitter, markers and crayons.

**Book ideas-**

Books about twins, how they are different

**Bible Verse:** Genesis 26:24 *“I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you.”*

**Bible Story:**

( This is a long story, so modify it as you need to, maybe just tell part one, or part two. It depends on the attention span of your class.)

Intro: Pass around a piece of fur, and have the children feel it.

Isaac and Rebekah spent a lot of time moving from place to place, until God gave them a home in Beersheba. He said to Isaac, “ I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you.” And God made the same promises to Isaac that he had made to Isaac’s father, Abraham. God stayed with Isaac and blessed him.

God answered Isaac and Rebekah’s prayer to have children and she had not one, but two babies at the same time!! They were twins. When the twins were born the first and oldest boy was named Esau. He was red and hairy all over. Right behind him, holding onto his foot, was the second and younger brother Jacob. Instead of being hairy, he was smooth. From the beginning the two boys were very different, they even looked different!

As they grew older, they liked doing different things too. Esau was good at hunting and loved doing things outside. Jacob liked to stay around home, among the tents. Something else was different that only God could see—their hearts. In Esau’s heart there was no faith in God, but in Jacob’s heart there was faith.

Now because Esau was the oldest, he had two things that were his. One was called a birthright which means he would get double of all their father’s things, like money and animals. The second thing was a blessing. This was a special promise that God had given to Abraham and Isaac, and that Isaac would give to his son. Jacob wanted both of these things very much, because he believed in God’s blessings, and wanted God to be his God too. Esau didn’t care about these things, and they meant nothing to him.

One day Jacob was at home cooking a delicious stew. Esau had been out hunting and was very hungry. So hungry that as soon as he came home he said to Jacob, "Quick! Let me have some of that stew, I'm starving!" Jacob saw his chance. Esau wanted something from Jacob, and Jacob wanted something from Esau. Jacob said, "Ok, but first I want your birthright." And just like that, Esau agreed. He said, "Yes, you can have my birthright-just give me some food before I starve to death!!" Because he chose food over his special gift, he showed how he didn't care about it, and it was taken away.

But the story isn't over yet. The next part is about Jacob and how he gets the second thing that belonged to Esau, his birthright.

Isaac was getting old, and wasn't able to see anymore. He wanted to give his oldest son, Esau, his special blessing before he died. Isaac loved the food that Esau hunted, so he told Esau to go hunt and prepare a special meal for him, and then after he would give Esau the blessing.

Isaac didn't know it, but Rebekah was listening and she rushed to tell Jacob. She said, "Your father is about to give Esau his blessing and I want you to have it instead. You need to go get two of our goats and bring them to me, I will prepare them just the way Isaac likes it. Then you can take I to him and he will give you the blessing instead." Jacob replied, "But Esau is a hairy man, and I am smooth. What if my father touches me and knows I am tricking him!" His mother said, "Don't worry, you can wear Esau's clothes and we'll put goat hair on your neck and hands so your father will never know." So they did just that, and Jacob went to his father, pretending to be Esau. "Hello father", Jacob said. "Hello, and who are you?" Isaac asked.

"It's me, Esau. I have brought you the food you wanted so that you can give me my blessing", Jacob lied. "Come closer so that I can touch you, and really know that you are my son, Esau", said his father. So Jacob went to Isaac who felt his hands and said, "You sound like Jacob, but your hands feel like Esau's. Are you really Esau?" And Jacob lied again, and said, "I am".

So Isaac ate and when he was finished, he asked, "Come and kiss me". When Jacob went to kiss him, Isaac smelled the clothes he was wearing, just to make sure it smelled like Esau. Since Jacob was wearing Esau's clothes, his father believed that he was Esau and gave the blessing to Jacob. Jacob left and just as he was walking away, Esau came with his food.

Isaac asked, "Who are you?" "It's me, your son Esau. I'm here to get my blessing", said Esau. "I just gave you your blessing." And Isaac knew that he had been tricked. Esau realized that he now had nothing. Even though he hadn't cared about his birthright or blessing, now that they were gone, he wanted them.

Esau cried, "Bless me too, father!" "There is no blessing left", said his father sadly. Esau left with nothing, and Jacob now had everything.

## **Lesson 16, Genesis 27:41-30:24**

### **Jacob Gets Married**

**Activity:** Play with playdough

**Craft:** Have children decorate angels with glue, glitter, feathers, markers and crayons.

**Book Ideas:** Books about lying, or deceiving.

**Song:** "We are climbing Jacob's ladder"

**Bible Verse:** Genesis 28:15 *"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go."*

#### **Bible Story:**

Has anyone ever tricked you? Today Jacob gets tricked in a very BIG way!

Last week we learned about Jacob and his brother Esau. Jacob tricked his father into giving him a special blessing. When Esau realized what happened, Jacob had to run away to his Uncle Laban's house.

On the way he stopped to rest, and while he was sleeping Jacob had a wonderful dream. In his dream there was a long staircase that led up to heaven. On the stairs were angels going up and down, and at the top was the LORD. He spoke to Jacob and gave him a blessing, saying "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go." When Jacob woke up, he remembered this dream and it made him feel safe, knowing that God would always be with him.

Jacob continued on his journey to his Uncle Laban's house. Once he arrived, he started to work for his uncle as a shepherd. Laban asked Jacob what he would like in payment for his work. Jacob told Laban that he would work to marry Rachel, Laban's younger daughter. Laban agreed, and Jacob worked hard for 7 years, but they seemed like a few days because he was so excited to marry Rachel.

Laban had a big party to celebrate the wedding. However, something was going on that Jacob did not know!! Laban was very, very sneaky. He had an older daughter named Leah. Instead of Rachel, he put a heavy veil on Leah and she married Jacob. Jacob had no idea what was happening because he could not see behind the veil!! Jacob did not know until after the marriage that he had married the wrong sister!!

So Jacob got tricked just like he had tricked his father last week. Jacob went to Laban and asked why he had tricked them. Laban told Jacob that Leah had to get married first because she was older. He told Jacob that he would give him Rachel if he worked another 7 years. So Jacob got to marry Rachel too, but he learned a hard lesson about being sneaky and tricking other people.

## Lesson 17, Genesis 30:25-31:55

### Jacob's Flocks Increase

**Activity:** Play with farm animals

**Craft:** Have children put spots and stripes on sheep with crayons or markers  
Older children can glue sheep together before decorating.  
Supplies: construction paper sheep (or sheep parts), glue, crayons, markers.

**Book Ideas:** Books about sheep, goats, the farm

**Song:** Sing Old Mc Donald, as "Father Jacob had a Farm" and sing about sheep, goats, camel (spitting noise for them) and donkeys for the animals

**Bible Verse:** Genesis 31:13 *"I am the God of Bethel. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land."*

#### **Bible Story:**

Show children pictures of animal babies and their parents, and how they are similar in markings- spots, stripes, colors.

Jacob had worked for Laban for 14 long years, yet he still had nothing. He had worked hard day and night, just to pay for his wives and now he wanted to go home. He told Laban that he wanted to leave with his wives and children. Laban didn't want Jacob to go because he had grown very rich while Jacob was working for him. God had blessed Jacob's work and given Laban lots of sheep and goats. So Laban tried to get Jacob to stay by offering to pay him. Jacob said that he would take all of the sheep and goats that had spots or speckles on it. Laban agreed and then tricked Jacob by taking out all of the sheep and goats with marks on them and sending them far away.

But God was with Jacob and he caused all of Laban's sheep and goats to have spotted and speckled babies so that Jacob would have his own flocks. Laban had tried to harm Jacob, but God had blessed him. God was in control. He decides everything—he even puts the spots on sheep and goats!

In this way Jacob grew very rich. He came to own large flocks of sheep and goats as well as camels and donkeys. He no longer had nothing. God told Jacob it was time to go home. He said, "I am the God of Bethel (where Jacob had seen the angels and God had promised to be with him). Now leave this land at once and go back to your homeland." God was telling Jacob it was time to leave and go back to where he was born.

Jacob knew that Laban would try to stop him from leaving, so he secretly packed up all of his family and animals and left without telling Laban. When Laban found out, he was very angry and chased Jacob. Before he caught him, God came to Laban and told him not to hurt Jacob. So when they met, Laban asked Jacob why he had run away. Jacob told Laban that he had worked for 20 long years for Laban, and he knew Laban

had tried to cheat him many times. Laban knew this was true, and he was afraid of Jacob's God so he suggested that they make a promise to each other not to hurt each other. So Jacob set up a stone and the two men promised not to hurt each other. Then they went home in peace. God had been with Jacob and blessed him, just as he had promised.

## Lesson 18, Genesis 32- 33

### Jacob Wrestles with God

**Activity:** Have children play with plastic people and animals, making them into long lines, like a parade.

**Craft:** Have children make a puppet of Jacob

Supplies: Popsicle sticks, cut out figures of men, crayons, markers, glue. Have children color garments of one and draw a face. Glue onto sticks.

**Bible Verse:** Genesis 32: 28 *“Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.”*

Bible Story:

Have you ever wrestled with a friend or your brother or sister? In this story Jacob wrestles with someone very special.”

After leaving Laban, Jacob continued on his journey home. As he came closer, he got some bad news. His brother Esau was coming to meet him with 400 men!! Esau had not forgotten or forgiven Jacob and still wanted to kill him. When Jacob heard this, he was afraid and worried. So he prayed to God and asked him for help.

The next day Jacob came up with a plan. He would send Esau five gifts, and hope that Esau wouldn't be angry at him. He sent ahead of him large flocks of goats, sheep, camels, cattle, and donkeys, along with the message that they were for Esau, from Jacob.

That night Jacob sent his family ahead of him, and he stayed a little behind to pray to God. While he was praying, the strangest thing happened! Someone came to Jacob and began to wrestle him. This Man wrestled with Jacob all night long, but Jacob should not let go. Finally the man touched Jacob on his hip and it was pulled out of place. Jacob now was in pain, but still, he wouldn't let go!! The Man said to Jacob, “Let me go, for it is morning!” But Jacob would not let the Man go until he had blessed him. So the Man said to Jacob, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and men and have overcome.” Jacob asked the Man to tell him his name, but the Man would not answer, he just left. After that, Jacob understood who the Man was, a Man that had the power to hurt his hip, with just a touch, and to bless him with a new name, he had to be the Lord!

As Jacob continued on his way to meet Esau, he was ready because he had met the Lord and had been blessed by him. Jacob saw Esau up ahead, and instead of trying to hurt Jacob, Esau ran up to Jacob and hugged him. Although Esau had been so angry with Jacob, God had changed his heart, and the two brothers were able to love each other. So Jacob and Esau parted in peace, and Jacob continued home to the Promised Land!

## Lesson 19, Genesis 34-36

### God Blesses Jacob

**Activity:** Play with playdough, have the children make their families.

**Craft:** Have children take cutout figures of a mom, dad, brother/sister and glue on construction paper written with the words, "God blessed Jacob with a family, God blessed \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) with a family."

Supplies: construction paper, cutout figures, glue sticks, markers and crayons.

**Book ideas:** books about families

**Song:** Sing to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O" – "There was a man who had 12 sons, and Jacob was his name-o, J-A-C-O-B, J-A-C-O-B, J-A-C-O-B, and Jacob was his name-o"

**Bible Verse:** Genesis 35: 11,12 *"I am God Almighty, be fruitful and increase in number. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you."*

Bible Story:

Ask children about their families. Tell them that God has blessed Jacob with a very big family.

Jacob had left home by himself, but now he was returning to the Promised Land with a huge family. He had 12 sons! His son's names were Rueben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher. God's promises to Abraham and Isaac were starting to come true. He had told them that they would have many descendents, or people in their family. Although Abraham only had one son, he still believed the promise. And Isaac only had two sons, and he believed God's promise. Now Jacob had 12 sons, and he could really see God keeping his promises.

God wanted Jacob to go back to Bethel. This is where Jacob had dreamed of the angels, and God had been revealed to him and blessed him. Now Jacob built a stone alter to God, and God appeared and blessed him again saying, "I am God Almighty, be fruitful and increase in number. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you!"

Jacob left that place, knowing that he was not alone. He followed a God who had kept his promises and would continue to keep his promises. Jacob would have much more pain and sadness in his life, but he knew God would be with him through it all. God was guarding and guiding him, and he was Jacob's refuge.

## **Lesson 20, Genesis 37:1-39:23**

### **Being Hated by Men but Loved by God (When Others Are Mean To Us)**

#### **Table Time Ideas:**

Using cardstock, glue on pictures or draw things seen in Egypt to make postcards. Have children write a message to their family pretending they were far away.

**Snack:** Something colorful – fruity Cheerios?

#### **Craft Instructions and Supplies:**

Decorate Joseph and five of his brothers. Be sure to make Joseph's robe the colorful one with special buttons.

**Bible Verse:** *"Nothing can separate us from God's love."* Romans 8:38

#### **Circle Time:**

"Do you have a brightly coloured, richly ornamented robe that you could bring to show your class? Perhaps you could find pictures of royal robes worn by kings and queens to contrast with pictures of plain robes worn by peasants and shepherds. You could bring samples of material: cheap, brown, rough fabrics and rich, bright smooth fabrics." Ganz

**Bible Story:** (<http://www.missionarlington.org/d/OT-2YR-19-JosephsCoat.pdf>)

Have you ever gotten something special from someone—something no one else received? Didn't it make you feel wonderful! Today's lesson is about a special gift and what happened when others found out. Listen and try to tell me what the gift was.

Jacob had 12 sons. One was named Joseph. Jacob loved Joseph very much. One day Jacob said, "I will make a coat for Joseph. When he sees the coat, he will know how much I love him." So Jacob said to the helpers who took care of his sheep: "Shear the sheep so that I can have wool to make a coat for Joseph." Jacob dyed the wool using different colors. He cut the coat just the right size for Joseph. Then he sewed the coat together. When the coat was finished, Jacob called Joseph.

Joseph ran to see what his father wanted. Jacob showed Joseph the beautiful coat.

Joseph looked at the coat and smiled. He took the coat and put it on. It was so pretty. He told his father thank you for the coat. He loved the coat and ran to show his brothers. Well, his brothers became very jealous. They thought Jacob loved Joseph best. One day Joseph had a dream. In the dream, all of Joseph's brothers bowed down to him. When the brothers heard this, they were furious. This made the brothers hate Joseph even more. One day Joseph was sent to give his brothers a message while they were out in the fields. When the brothers saw him coming, they decided to kill Joseph. The oldest son Reuben convinced them to throw Joseph in a well (then he was going to get him out secretly later). When Reuben was away, a group of people came by. Joseph's

brothers decided to sell Joseph into slavery. They took the money and waved goodbye to Joseph as he was going to Egypt to be a slave. Next, the brothers ripped up the coat and put blood on it. They took it back to their father. They lied and told him that an animal had killed Joseph.

Jacob was so upset. He was very sad about what happened. Even though Joseph was sad that his brothers were mean to him, God still loved him and had a big plan for his life.

### **For Younger Children:**

Jacob had 12 sons. (Count to 12 with the kids) One was named Joseph. Jacob loved Joseph very much. One day Jacob said, "I will make a coat for Joseph. When he sees the coat, he will know how much I love him." So, Jacob told his helpers that he needed special wool to make a coat for Joseph." (Make sure the kids know that wool comes from sheep) Jacob dyed the wool using different colors. He cut the coat just the right size for Joseph. Then he sewed the coat together. (Pretend that you are sewing with a needle) When the coat was finished, Jacob called Joseph. Joseph ran to see what his father wanted. Jacob showed Joseph the beautiful coat. Joseph looked at the coat and smiled. He took the coat and put it on. It was so pretty. (Have kids put on coat.) He told his father "thank you" for the coat. He loved the coat and ran to show his brothers. Well, his brothers became very jealous. (Make sad face) They thought Jacob loved Joseph best.

One day Joseph had a dream. In the dream, all of Joseph's brothers bowed down to him. (Bow down as you tell this part) When the brothers heard this, they were furious. This made the brothers hate Joseph even more.

One day Joseph was sent to give his brothers a message while they were out in the fields. When the brothers saw him coming, they decided to kill Joseph. The oldest son Reuben asked them to throw Joseph in a well (then he was going to get him out secretly later). When Reuben was away, a group of people came by. Joseph's brothers decided to sell Joseph into slavery. They took the money and waved goodbye to Joseph as he was going to Egypt to be a slave.

Next, the brothers ripped up the coat and put blood on it. They took it back to their father. They lied and told him that an animal had killed Joseph. God took care of Joseph. God had a special plan for Joseph and we will learn about part of it next week.

### **Bible Story Questions:**

"How do we know that Jacob loved Joseph? How do we know that God loved Joseph?"

Ganz

"Joseph's brothers had separated him from his family, but can any person or any power in all creation separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord?" Ganz

How can you show God's love to your brothers/sisters/friends even when they are unkind to you?

## **Lesson 21: Genesis 40:1-41:47**

### **Prison or Palace (God Is With Us Everywhere)**

**Table Time Ideas:** Make mosaics by gluing grain, seeds, and corn onto cardboard

**Snack:** Grapes and bagel bites

**Craft Instructions and Supplies:** White head profiles with sleeping eyes and verse written on. Have the children draw a dream from the story today, one they have had, or one they would like to have.

**Circle Time:** Pictures of prisoners and prisons, perhaps even a chain. Also, pictures of kings and palaces. Ask the children to point out differences between the sets of pictures. Ask which person or place they would rather be.

**Bible Verse:** *"I will sleep in peace, for the Lord keeps me safe."* Psalm 4:8

**Bible Story:**(<http://www.missionarlinton.org/d/OT-2YR-20-JosephJail.pdf>)

Have you ever had a dream that you remembered when you woke up? Let's see what happens today when the king has a dream.

Remember last week we learned how Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. Joseph was taken to Egypt. A man named Potiphar bought Joseph. Joseph became Potiphar's slave. Joseph trusted God during this hard time. God blessed Joseph, and Potiphar was kind to him. He let Joseph be in charge of the house and everything Joseph did was a success. One day Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph that he had done something bad. Because of this lie, Joseph was put into prison even though he had done nothing wrong. During this time God was with Joseph and showed him kindness. The prison guard liked Joseph and chose him to take care of all the prisoners. One day two of the king's servants were put in prison. One served the king his drink and the other baked the bread. During the night both servants had dreams. They woke up the next morning unsure of what the dreams meant. Joseph came by and saw their puzzled looks. He told the servants that God could help them understand their dreams. The drink server told Joseph that he dreamed about 3 branches with grapes on them. He saw himself squeezing the grapes and giving the juice to the king. Joseph told him that in 3 days he would be set free and serve the king again. The baker told Joseph his dream too. There were 3 baskets of bread on his head. There were some birds eating the bread out of the top basket. Joseph told the baker that in 3 days he would die. Sure enough, 3 days later the drink server was free and the baker was killed. The drink server promised to tell the king about Joseph. Unfortunately though, he forgot his promise and Joseph stayed in jail TWO MORE YEARS! During that time he knew that God was with him. One day the king had a dream. No one could figure out what it meant. Suddenly the drink taster remembered that Joseph told him exactly what would happen to him—two years ago and kept his promise to Joseph. The king sent for Joseph and told him the dreams.

The king shared how he dreamed about 7 fat cows that grazed by the river. Then, he saw 7 ugly, thin cows that came out of the river and ate the 7 fat cows. This dream was puzzling to the king. Next, the king told Joseph about another dream he had that night. He saw 7 heads of grain on one stalk. They were healthy and good. Then, 7 thin and dry heads of grain on a stalk eat the 7 healthy heads of grain. Joseph boldly told the king that he could not interpret his dreams but God would help him understand them. Joseph told the king that there would be 7 years of lots of food then 7 years without much food (there would be a famine.) When the king heard Joseph's answers, he knew that God had brought him to help their country. He put a beautiful robe on Joseph and gave him a ring and gold necklace. He even got to ride in a chariot! The king put Joseph in charge of collecting extra grain for the hard times that would come. Sure enough there were 7 great years. During that time, Joseph collected the grain and stored it in warehouses like silos. There was so much grain that they could not measure how much they had! During that time, Joseph got married and had 2 sons. He named the first one Manasse which means "God has helped me forget my problems" and the second one was named Ephraim which means "God has been good to me through my sufferings." After the 7 good years came, 7 hard years came, just as God showed Joseph. The famine was so severe that the people cried out to the king to help them. The king told them to come and receive help through Joseph. Everyone came to Egypt to buy food for their families.

During all the hard times Joseph went through, he continued to trust God. He even told the king about God's faithfulness! Joseph trusted God in good times and hard times. God took care of him. Another thing to remember is that Joseph gave God the credit for understanding the dreams. He knew that his help came from God.

### **For Younger Children:**

Remember last week we learned how Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. Joseph was taken to Egypt. A man named Potiphar bought Joseph. Joseph became Potiphar's slave. God blessed Joseph, and Potiphar was kind to him. He let Joseph be in charge of the house and everything Joseph did was a success. Joseph worked hard and did lots of work. God took care of him and Potiphar liked Joseph.

One day, Potiphar's wife told a lie that Joseph had tried to hurt her. Potiphar arrested Joseph when he heard the news. He put him in the king's prison even though Joseph had really done nothing wrong. During this time God was with Joseph and showed him kindness. The warden liked Joseph and chose him to take care of all the prisoners. Joseph still loved God and knew that God would take care of him. One day two of the king's servants were put in prison. One served the king his drink and the other baked the bread. (Show the kids a cup and loaf of bread) During the night both servants had dreams. They woke up the next morning unsure of what the dreams meant. Joseph came by and saw their puzzled looks. He told the servants that God could help them understand their dreams. The drink server told Joseph that he dreamed about 3 branches with grapes on them. (Bring grapes) He saw himself squeezing the grapes and giving the juice to the king. Joseph told him that in 3 days he would be set free and serve the king again. The baker told Joseph his dream too. There were 3

baskets of bread on his head. (Bring bread) There were some birds eating the bread out of the top basket. Joseph told the baker that in 3 days he would die. Sure enough, 3 days later the drink server was free and the baker was killed. The drink server promised to tell the king about Joseph. The server forgot his promise though and Joseph remained in jail TWO MORE YEARS! One day the king had a dream. No one could figure out what it meant. Suddenly the drink taster remembered that Joseph told him exactly what would happen to him—two years ago. The king sent for Joseph and told him the dreams. The king shared how he dreamed about 7 fat cows that grazed by the river. Then, he saw 7 ugly, thin cows that came out of the river and ate the 7 fat cows. (Count to 7 with the kids). Next, the king told Joseph about another dream he had that night. He saw 7 heads of grain on one stalk. They were healthy and good. Then, 7 thin and dry heads of grain on a stalk eat the 7 healthy heads of grain. Joseph boldly told the king that he could not interpret his dreams but God would help him understand them. Joseph told the king that there would be 7 years of lots of food then 7 years without much food. When the king heard Joseph's answers, he knew that God had brought him to help their country. He put a beautiful robe on Joseph and gave him a ring and gold necklace. He even got to ride in a chariot! The king put Joseph in charge of collecting extra grain for the hard times that would come. Sure enough there were 7 great years. During that time, Joseph collected the grain and stored it in warehouses like silos. There was so much grain that they could not measure how much they had! After the 7 good years came, 7 hard years came, just as God showed Joseph. The hard times were so bad that the people cried out to the king to help them. The king told them to come and get help through Joseph. Everyone came to Egypt to buy food for their families. God took care of Joseph and His people. He will take care of us too.

**Bible Story Questions:**

“Joseph asked his friend for help when he was with Pharaoh again. Did he? On whom must Joseph depend for help?” Ganz

“How many years passed before Joseph's friend remembered him? Who did not forget Joseph, even for a moment?” Ganz

“Pharaoh recognized that Joseph was a man in whom was the Spirit of God. How did Pharaoh honour Joseph?” Ganz

“In one day, Joseph woke up as a prisoner and went to bed as a prince. Who caused this to happen? Do you know why?” Ganz

## **Lesson 22: Genesis 42:1-45:28**

### **Fear and Forgiveness (Being Forgiven and Showing Forgiveness)**

#### **Table Time Ideas:**

1. Hide small objects in a bag of grain or dry beans for the kids to find.
2. Coin rubbings with metallic crayons.

#### **Craft Instructions and Supplies:**

Decorate the silver cup that Joseph hid in his brother's sack. (Large gems will take some time to stay glued on!)

**Bible Verse:** *"Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done."* Ephesians 4:32

#### **Circle Time:**

Bring photos of the effects of famine as appropriate – starving children, barren crops, skinny animals (cows)

**Bible Story:** (<http://www.missionarlinton.org/d/OT-1YR-14-JosephsBrothers.pdf>)

If someone did something wrong to you and if you had a chance to get them back, would you? Lots of children do, but what does the Bible say? Let's listen to a story about Joseph—he had a chance to get revenge on his brothers—what do you think he will do?

Remember last week we learned that Joseph got out of jail in Egypt. He told the king that God was going to bring a famine to the land after 7 good years. During that time, Joseph helped store grain to prepare for the hard times that would come. Meanwhile, Joseph's father, Jacob, told some of his sons to go to Egypt (where Joseph was) to buy grain for them to eat. When they walked into the room, Joseph saw them! The funny thing was that they did NOT recognize Joseph! Joseph decided to see if they had changed their ways. He asked his workers to accuse them of being spies. Joseph wanted to know how his younger brother Benjamin was. So, he asked where the youngest child was. He kept one of the brothers and asked the other brothers to bring back Benjamin. He also asked his workers to put money in the grain sack to see if they would be honest and return it. On the way home the brothers found the money. They were scared. When they got home, they explained everything to Jacob. He was so upset. He didn't want Benjamin to go with them, but finally he agreed. So they packed up double the payment, little gifts, and Benjamin, and headed for Egypt. When they arrived, Joseph invited them to a banquet. When Joseph saw Benjamin, he ran out of the room because he was filled with such emotion. He cried tears of joy because his baby brother was alive. Joseph decided to test his brothers, to see if they really had changed. He told his workers to fill each sack with grain and put their money back in the sack. Then he said to put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. He wanted to see if the brothers would be honest again. After the brothers left to go home, Joseph sent some

guards to find them. The brothers were upset. They told Joseph that they didn't take the cup, and if one of them had it, that person would die. Sure enough they found the cup in Benjamin's sack. The brothers were terrified. They could not let Benjamin die. The oldest spoke up and told Joseph that he would take Benjamin's place. Right then, Joseph knew that his brothers had changed their ways. They were truly sorry for the things they had done in the past. Joseph was so excited that he shared his identity. The brothers were speechless. They were afraid that Joseph would hurt them. Instead, Joseph told them that he had forgiven them and that God was with him. Joseph gathered the whole family and let them stay in Egypt. They had plenty to eat and God watched over them.

### **For Younger Children:**

Last week, we learned how Joseph helped the king know what was going to happen to the country. God told them that they would have 7 good years, then 7 hard years. (Count to 7 with the kids) The king asked Joseph to be in charge. He gave him a special ring and robe too. During the hard times, Joseph's father told his sons to go to get food for the family. They traveled very far to get food. (Pretend that you are very tired) When they walked into the room, Joseph saw them! The funny thing was that they did NOT know who Joseph was! Joseph decided to see if they had changed their ways. Years before, they had really hurt Joseph. He wondered if they were sorry for the wrong things they had done.

Joseph asked his workers to accuse them of being spies. Joseph wanted to know how his younger brother Benjamin was. So, he asked where the youngest child was. He kept one of the brothers and asked the other brothers to bring back Benjamin. He also asked his workers to put money in the grain sack to see if they would be honest and return it. On the way home the brothers found the money. (Bring money to show the kids) They were scared. When they got home, they explained everything to Jacob. He was so upset. He didn't want Benjamin to go with them, but finally he agreed. They packed up double the payment, little gifts, and Benjamin, and headed for Egypt. Joseph decided to test his brothers again, to see if they really had changed. He told his workers to fill each sack with grain and put their money back in the sack. Then he said to put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. After the second test, Joseph knew that his brothers had changed their ways. They were truly sorry for the things they had done in the past. Joseph was so excited that he shared who he was. The brothers were silent. They were afraid that Joseph would hurt them because of what they did many years ago. Instead, Joseph told them that he had forgiven them and that God was with him. Joseph gathered the whole family and let them stay in Egypt. They had plenty to eat and God watched over them. God wants us to forgive others and love them like He loves us.

**Bible Story Questions:** "Who are the people who were afraid in today's story?"

"Why were the brothers terrified when they were lead to the governor's house? What did they think would happen to them?" Ganz

"Who really was the One who sent Joseph to Egypt? Why?" Ganz

"How did Joseph show that he forgave his brothers?"

## **Lesson 23: Genesis 46:1-48:22**

### **Israel Goes to Egypt (Moving Day)**

#### **Table Time Ideas:**

Use a cardboard box to see how much of your classroom you can pack into it. Pretend the class is moving out. Ask children to pack the box and choose what to take and what to leave behind.

#### **Craft Instructions and Supplies:**

(2's) Brown paper bag packing – Glue onto the bag pictures cut out from magazines.

Have them choose what to take along on their “move”.

(3 & 4's) Small box packing – decorate a small box

Be sure to put in each child's bag or box the “hugs and kisses” we give when someone goes away.

**Bible Verse:** *“Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, I will go with you.”* Genesis 46:3-4

#### **Circle Time:**

Talk to the children about moving. Have any of them ever moved? Were they afraid or excited? It is a lot of work to move a family and Jacob's family had 70 people in it now!

**Bible Story:** (mostly from Nancy Ganz – *Genesis: A Commentary for Children*)

Joseph urged his brothers to bring their father and their families down to Egypt quickly where he could provide for them during the next five years of famine. Pharaoh also was pleased and invited them to live in his country, offering the best of the land. Joseph gave his brothers carts for the move and even some presents. To each of his brothers he gave a new set of clothes. Yes, the brothers who had long ago robbed him of his beautiful coat of many colors, Joseph now gave a beautiful robe to each of those brothers. That was how Joseph repaid their evil – with kindness and goodness. He returned love for hate.

So the sons of Jacob went up out of Egypt and came to their father in the land of Canaan. They told Jacob the good news that Joseph was alive and even beyond that was the ruler of all of Egypt. Jacob was shocked. He didn't understand how Joseph could be alive. But at last Jacob believed the good news and decided to go to see him. So Israel, although he was a very old man, set forth on the long journey from his native land to a foreign land. He set out with all that belonged to him – his children and grandchildren, his flocks and herds, and all his other possessions. It was a major move. Would he make it to Egypt alive? Should he be going to Egypt when Canaan was the land God had promised to himself and his descendants forever? Along the way, Jacob stopped at Beersheba where he had lived as a child. He offered sacrifices to God just as his father Isaac and grandfather Abraham had done. He cried out to God for help. Should he leave this land, the land of his fathers? What would happen to God's promise? Jacob was filled with all kinds of fears and doubts about this journey to Egypt,

but he cast his cares upon God... and he worshipped. Perhaps the LORD would speak to him in this place, just as He had spoken to his father long ago.

That night God spoke to Israel in a vision. "Jacob! Jacob!" called the LORD. "Here I am," he replied. "I am the God, the God of your father," He said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes." That was the promise that Jacob needed to have the courage to leave Canaan and go to Egypt. By faith Jacob went on in his journey, trusting that God would make him a great nation – there in Egypt. God was with him and would help him to make this move. And he would get to see his beloved son Joseph before he died!

**Bible Story Questions:**

"How did God speak to Jacob? What did God say to him?" Ganz

"Who went with Jacob to Egypt? Who else promised to go with him?" Ganz

## **Lesson 24: Genesis 49:1-50:26**

### **Facing Death with Hope (Saying Goodbyes)**

#### **Table Time Ideas:**

1. Act out favorite characters or stories from Genesis for others to guess.
2. ***Decorate a cartouche with pictures/objects of things that symbolize the child's interests or life. Older children may want to try to use hieroglyphics to write their name.***

**Craft Instructions and Supplies:** Decorate a card to give to someone who is sad.

**Bible Verse:** *"Even in death the righteous have hope."* Proverbs 14:32

#### **Circle Time:**

If appropriate show pictures of gravestones and/or mummies and how they are decorated.

**Bible Story:** (mostly from Nancy Ganz – *Genesis: A Commentary for Children*)

Jacob and his family all lived in Egypt now and he had seen how greatly God had blessed his family. But he was an old man and knew that he would soon die. He called his sons to him and blessed them. He made them promise not to bury him in Egypt, but in the land of God's promise with his fathers. When he died Joseph was with him, just as God had promised and Joseph wept. For seventy days Joseph, his brothers, the whole family of Israel and the country of Egypt mourned Jacob's death. Pharaoh granted Joseph's request to go bury Jacob back in the land of Canaan. It was an impressive funeral procession that entered the Promised Land. It was if a king was being buried, not a simple shepherd. But then, was not Israel a prince in the kingdom of God? Jacob went to his grave in peace, with faith and hope in his God.

Joseph and his family remained in Egypt for the rest of their lives. Their children and their grandchildren grew up there. Finally the time came for Joseph to leave the land of Egypt and this world. The time had come for him to be gathered to his people. Although God had never spoken to Joseph, he remembered what his father Jacob had spoken on his deathbed: "God will be with you and He will take you back to the land of your fathers." Joseph believed those words, because God Himself had promised: "I will surely bring you back again." Yes, Joseph believed the Word of God! As he lay dying, he too confessed his faith and trust in God. He said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land He promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Joseph trusted the promises of God sworn to his forefathers, although he himself had never heard God's voice. Because he believed in the Word of the LORD and the LOVE of the LORD, because he believed in God's faithfulness to all generations, Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath that he too would be buried in the Promised Land. Joseph said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." What faith! Joseph

believed that some day God would bring his people out of Egypt into the Promised Land and he was willing to wait for that day to be buried! When Joseph died, he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt – but he was not buried, for his bones were waiting for another resting place. His bones were waiting for burial in another land – the Promised Land.

**Bible Store Questions:**

“Where was Jacob buried?” Ganz

“What did Joseph say on his deathbed that showed he believed in the promises of God?” Ganz

**Sharing Day, Genesis 1-50  
(Celebrating God's Love for Us)**

**Outside:**

*Enjoy the gift of fresh life in the Spring weather!*

**Songs:**

Share God's love by singing for the women at WBS ...

**Movie Suggestions:**

Veggie Tales - The Ballad of Little Joe - A Lesson in Facing Hardship  
(the story of Joseph)

Or,

Veggie Tales – God Wants Me to Forgive Them?

Veggie Tales – Where's God When I'm Scared

Spend part of the time together in circle time. Ask the children what they learned this past year that helped them know God better.

\*All of these lessons are **largely** based on the work of Nancy E. Ganz from her book *Genesis: A Commentary for Children*

\*Several of the Bible Stories and ideas were copied from the Mission Arlington Metroplex website. <http://www.missionarlington.org/>