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Beginner

Leader/Teacher Guide

A Sabbath School Resource for Leaders/Teachers of Beginners
GraceLink® Sabbath School Curriculum

www.gracelink.net

Year A, First Quarter

EDITOR

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

WORLD SABBATH SCHOOL DIRECTORS

SABBATH SCHOOL CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

GENERAL CONFERENCE ADVISERS

CONSULTING EDITOR

DESIGN

ILLUSTRATOR

LINE ART ILLUSTRATOR

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

FALVO FOWLER

FAITH A. HUNTER

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GEOFFREY G. MBWANA, ELLA SIMMONS

ARTUR STELE

REVIEW AND HERALD DESIGN CENTER

JILL DUBIN

MARY BAUSMAN

STEVE HANSON

A Publication of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®

12501 Old Columbia Pike

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The Writers

Audrey Boyle Andersson earned a degree in theology from Newbold College.

A freelance writer and editor, Audrey lives in Yxe, Sweden.

Jackie Bishop is a children's ministries specialist who lives in California.

DeeAnn Bragaw, an educator and a home-schooling mom, lives in Colorado.

Linda Porter Carlyle is a freelance writer whose work is often seen in *Our Little Friend* and *Primary Treasure*. A home-schooling mom, Linda lives in Medford, Oregon.

May-Ellen Colón is an assistant director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department at the General Conference.

Eileen Dahl Vermeer lives in Orangeville, Ontario, Canada. She has a master's degree in youth ministry and is much sought after as a speaker on child safety and abuse.

René Alexenko Evans, a freelance writer and editor who specializes in writing for children, lives near Nashville, Tennessee.

Martha Feldbush is a specialist in child growth and development.

Adriana Itin Femopase is an educator living in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She enjoys doing GraceLink workshops throughout the South American Division.

Dorothy Fernandez lives and works at Saleve Adventist University in Collonges-sous-Saleve, France, where she assists college students and is active in children's Sabbath School.

Edwina Neely lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. A creative educator, Edwina teaches at John Nevins Andrews Elementary School.

Rebecca Gibbs O'Ffill tries out creative and unusual ideas for children's Sabbath School on her two sons. Rebecca, a home-schooling mom, is actively involved with children at her church.

Rob Robinson is a child development specialist who lives and works in California.

Janet Rieger was the director of children's ministries for the South Pacific Division. A specialist in early childhood education, Janet is now retired.

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Special thanks to **Bailey Gillespie** and **Stuart Tyner**, of the John Hancock Center for Youth Ministry at La Sierra University, for initial work in planning the GraceLink curriculum, and to **Patricia A. Habada** for coordinating the GraceLink project and seeing it to completion.

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Grace is God's love for us.

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COMMUNITY

Community means loving one another.

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Lesson Outline

Lesson	Bible Story	References	Memory Verse	Message	Materials
	GRACE: <i>Grace is God's love for us.</i>				
Lesson 1 January	Creation story	Genesis 1:1–2:3; PP 44-51	Genesis 1:31, ICB	God made pretty things because He loves us.	See pp. 14, 15.
	WORSHIP: <i>We praise God for His loving actions.</i>				
Lesson 2 February	Noah and the Flood	Genesis 6-9; PP 90-110	Psalms 89:1, ICB	I thank God for taking good care of me.	See pp. 34, 35.
	COMMUNITY: <i>Community means loving one another.</i>				
Lesson 3 March	Birth of Isaac	Genesis 18:1-16; 21:1-8; PP 146	John 15:12, NIV	People in families love one another.	See pp. 52, 53.

Bible Study Overview

- **Lesson 1** teaches that God made our beautiful world because He loves us.
- **Lesson 2** teaches us to thank God for His loving care for us.
- **Lesson 3** reminds us that, ideally, family members love each other.

To the leaders/teachers . . .

These guides were developed to:

- **Introduce the lesson on Sabbath.** The child then reviews and applies the principles studied with the help of their parents and Bible study guides during the week. In this way, the lessons learned in Sabbath School become a vital part of the child's growing faith experience. Memory verses, which are also learned in Sabbath School, are reviewed and reinforced during the following week, connected in the child's mind with the interesting activities they have already experienced.
- **Focus the entire Sabbath School time on one message.** These messages each relate to one of the four dynamics of a growing faith experience: grace (God loves me), worship (I love God), community (we love each other), and service (God loves you, too).
- **Reach each child in the way he or she learns best.** By following the natural learning cycle on which these outlines were based, you will also connect students with "the message" for the week in a way that will capture each one's attention and imagination.

- **Give children active learning experiences** so they can more readily internalize the truths being presented. These experiences are followed by *debriefing* sessions in which you ask questions that lead the children to reflect on what they experienced, interpret the experience, and apply that information to their lives.
- **Involve the adult Sabbath School staff** in new and flexible ways. A very small Sabbath School can be managed by one adult. A larger Sabbath School can be managed by one leader/teacher with other adult volunteers to facilitate the small group interaction. This gives small group facilitators a maximum involvement with the students and their learning experience while requiring a minimum of preparation on the facilitator's part. A creative alternative is to enlist leaders/teachers with different personal learning styles to lead different segments of the program.

(For more detailed information about the natural learning cycle, the learning styles, and other dynamics of teaching and learning, contact your Adventist Book Center or your Sabbath School or children's ministries director.)

To use this guide . . .

Try to follow the natural learning cycle outlined, but adapt activities as necessary to make the program work in your particular situation.

About Materials

As you follow the natural learning sequence outlined in each lesson, you may want to adapt activities for use in your particular situation, and this may require a change in the need for materials.

Look ahead at the Program Overview for each month's program so you can be prepared with the materials suggested. Before the quarter begins, obtain regularly used supplies.

Supplies Frequently Used in Beginner Sabbath School

Art supplies

- ☐ aluminum foil
- ☐ chenille sticks or pipe cleaners
- ☐ cotton balls or polyester fiberfil
- ☐ craft sticks or tongue depressors
- ☐ crayons, markers, colored pencils
- ☐ glitter or glitter glue
- ☐ glue or glue sticks
- ☐ hole punch
- ☐ inked stamp pads (various colors)
- ☐ magnetic strips (peel and stick)
- ☐ paints—finger paints, tempera
- ☐ pencils, pens
- ☐ plastic wrap
- ☐ pom-poms
- ☐ rubber bands
- ☐ scissors (blunt-nosed)
- ☐ stapler and staples
- ☐ tape—cellophane and masking
- ☐ toilet paper rolls and/or paper towel rolls (empty)
- ☐ yarn, string, thread (several colors of each)

Papers

- ☐ butcher or white tablecloth roll
- ☐ construction (various colors, including black and brown)
- ☐ drawing
- ☐ finger-paint paper
- ☐ newsprint
- ☐ poster board
- ☐ tissue paper (various colors, including white)
- ☐ writing paper

Other

- ☐ animals (toy, stuffed, plastic)
- ☐ angel (felts or cardboard on sticks)
- ☐ baby bottles
- ☐ baby wipes or paper towels
- ☐ bags—paper, plastic trash bags, sealable plastic, large and small
- ☐ "Bible" books (cardboard or felt)
- ☐ blankets—baby/doll-size, regular size
- ☐ birthday cake (artificial) with candles, matches
- ☐ birthday gifts, inexpensive (optional)
- ☐ blindfolds, one for each child
- ☐ board books, variety of subjects
- ☐ broom (child-size), dust cloths, other cleaning supplies
- ☐ bubble solution and blowers
- ☐ building blocks, boxes, or Legos
- ☐ cassette or CD player with tapes/CDs
- ☐ carpenter tools (play hammer, saw, etc.), child-size
- ☐ costumes—angel, Bible-times for children and adults
- ☐ crowns
- ☐ cups—paper, plastic, Styrofoam
- ☐ dolls, doll clothes
- ☐ felts—angels, animals, children, flowers, Jesus, people, scenery, sun
- ☐ mirror (hand mirror)
- ☐ nature items (rocks, feathers, shells, bird nests, artificial flowers and fruit)
- ☐ offering container (basket, bowl, etc.)
- ☐ paper plates, napkins, cups
- ☐ pull toy (optional)
- ☐ puzzles, simple wooden or cardboard

- ☐ rainbow sticks
- ☐ recorded sounds (bird, animal, storm, etc.)
- ☐ rhythm or toy musical instruments
- ☐ rocking chair, adult and child
- ☐ smocks or old shirts to cover children's clothing
- ☐ stickers (animal, nature, Jesus, etc.)
- ☐ squirt bottle
- ☐ things that float

Additional Supplies Needed This Quarter

Lesson 1

- ☐ handkerchiefs or dark cloth squares
- ☐ water
- ☐ air freshener
- ☐ fish puppet or stuffed, live, or plastic fish
- ☐ live pet
- ☐ bird and bear patterns (see lesson)
- ☐ picture of each child
- ☐ hand towels

Lesson 2

- ☐ books, puzzles about Noah's ark
- ☐ headdresses
- ☐ plastic or canned food, or hay, grass, straw, etc.
- ☐ toy tools
- ☐ small pillows or mats
- ☐ water-filled tub or large bucket

- ☐ small squares of card stock
- ☐ reproducible patterns (see lesson)
- ☐ lollipops (suckers on a stick)
- ☐ bananas
- ☐ animal crackers
- ☐ table knife

Lesson 3

- ☐ sturdy tablecloth or blanket
- ☐ child's play kitchen or accessories
- ☐ real or artificial food
- ☐ cooking pot
- ☐ cleaning supplies
- ☐ round clothespins (or four-inch sticks) and cloth
- ☐ colored cardboard or poster board
- ☐ heart pattern (see lesson)
- ☐ finger puppet pattern (see lesson)
- ☐ booklet pattern (see lesson)

Basic Needs of Children*

All children have certain basic needs as well as needs that are specific to their age and stage of development.

The basic needs of children are . . .

Physical

- Food
- Warmth
- Shelter

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Approval and recognition
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance

- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Spiritual

- An all-knowing, loving, caring God
- Forgiveness of wrongs and a chance to start over
- Assurance of acceptance with God
- Experience in prayer, answers to prayer
- A chance to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs listed earlier, 2-year-olds need to experience:

- Power—to have a chance to manipulate objects, events, people
- Freedom—to make choices, to interact in learning situations, to sometimes move about at will
- Independence—to do some things unaided
- Security—to feel safe

**Children's Ministries: Ideas and Techniques That Work*, ed. Ann Calkins (Lincoln, Nebr.: AdventSource, 1997).

The Beginner Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church the GraceLink curriculum for beginners targets children ages birth through 2 years. However, both the beginner and the kindergarten materials are adaptable to 3-year-olds.

A general rule applying to the beginner child is: seat children so their feet easily touch the ground. For children under 18 months use walkers (without wheels).

To better understand beginner children, ages birth through 2 years, it is helpful to note characteristics of their growth and development.

Physical

- Vary greatly in their physical development
- Are growing rapidly
- Tire easily
- Cannot sit still for long

Mental

- Have an attention span of only one or two minutes
- Learn by active involvement and imitation rather than by instruction
- Learn best one ministep at a time
- Focus attention on what they see and/or touch

Emotional

- Are extremely egocentric—centered in themselves

- Fear separation from parents
- Cry easily; one crying child sets other children crying
- Express their needs by crying. The crying usually stops when the child's needs are met
- Become attached to adults who show love and acceptance of them

Spiritual

- Senses attitudes of respect, joy, and anticipation in connection with church, the Bible, and Jesus
- Can identify pictures of Jesus and His name
- Will fold hands (briefly) for the blessing before meals and kneel (again briefly) for prayer

LESSON



God Made My World

GRACE

Grace is God's love for us.

References

Genesis 1:1-2:3; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 44-51.

Memory Verse

"Everything [God] . . . made . . . was . . . good" (Genesis 1:31, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God made the world because He loves them.

Feel happy about God's world.

Respond by thanking God for the world He made.

The Message



God made pretty things because He loves us.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

In six days God creates a beautiful world for us to enjoy. He makes everything we could ever need for physical life. But more than that, He makes a world of beauty to enrich our lives every day.

This is a lesson about grace.

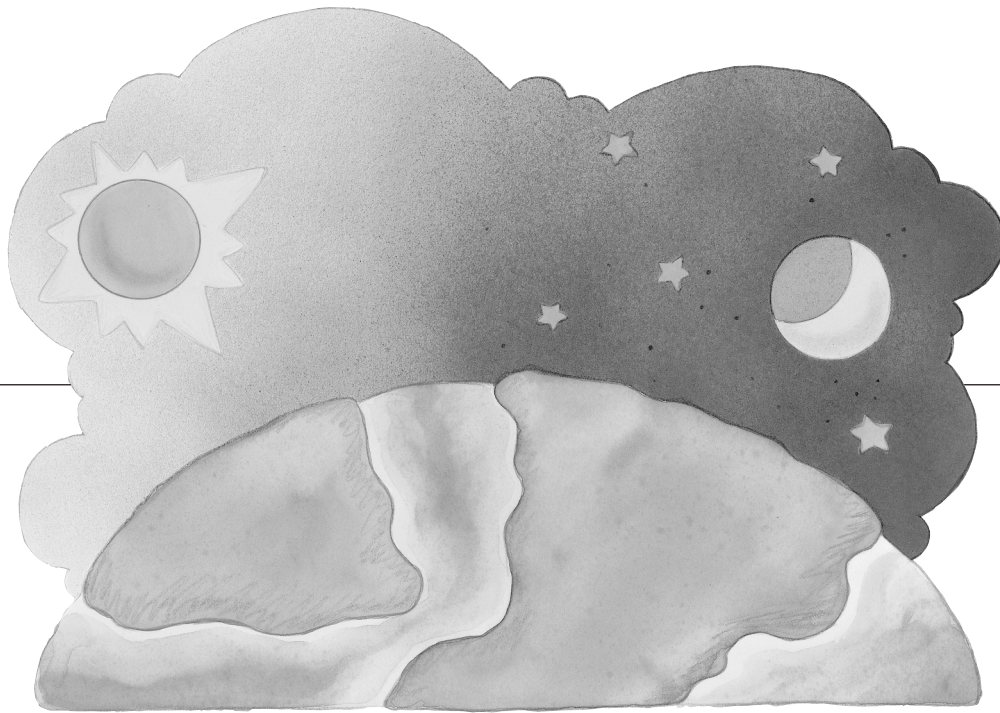
Young children can grasp the idea that God made our world for us because He loves us. This lesson tells children about all those beautiful things and encourages them to enjoy what God has made and to thank Him for it.

Teacher Enrichment

"As the earth came forth from the hand of its Maker, it was exceedingly beautiful. Its surface was diversified with mountains, hills, and plains, interspersed with noble rivers and lovely lakes. . . . Graceful shrubs and delicate flowers greeted the eye at every turn. . . .

"After the earth . . . had been called into existence, man, the crowning work of the Creator, and the one for whom the beautiful earth had been fitted up, was brought upon the stage of action. To him was given dominion over all that his eye

ONE



could behold; for 'God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.' . . . Here is clearly set forth the origin of the human race. . . . God created man in His own image. Here is no mystery" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 44, 45).

Room Decorations

As you plan your room decorations for the quarter, remember that a large and elaborate background with accompanying props provides far too much visual stimulation for infants and toddlers. A few, large, well-chosen decorations are better suited for this age than is an elaborate set.

Room decorations are designed to be used for an entire quarter. An outdoor theme with trees, planters with flowers, rainbows or bright strips of ribbons hanging from the ceiling, birds, stuffed animals, sun, something to represent water (small container, plexiglass over blue paper or blue cloth with rocks around it) will be appropriate for the lesson this month and for the next two months when the children learn about Noah and Isaac. An extra-large felt Jesus

mounted on foam board could be used.

Make a wall tree using brown cloth, burlap, or shopping bags pieced together for the small trunk. Cut out green shapes for leaves that can be taped on. Artificial insects or birds can be placed in the tree.

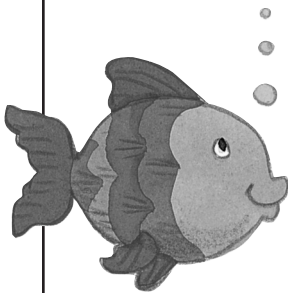
For Creation, glow-in-the-dark stars can be stuck to the ceiling, strings of small white lights that can be turned on or shiny star shapes may be hung from the ceiling.

Bulletin boards can be decorated with traditional felt "Creation circles," or pictures or cutouts of seasons. Another option is to make a "God Made Flowers and God Made Me" board with colored paper cut into flowers and stems with grass on the bottom. The child's picture or cutout silhouette can be glued in the center of each flower, or their name written in.

Obtain a picture of each child in your class to use as an option in the Make and Take activity for Week 4. Ask parents to bring in a picture or take a picture of each child early in the month.

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	<i>A. Book Basket</i> <i>B. Animal Corner</i> <i>C. Peek-a-boo</i> <i>D. Zoo Corner</i> <i>E. Rock-a-Bye Baby</i> <i>F. Rocking Chairs</i> <i>G. Animal Puzzles</i>	board books toy stuffed animals, soft sculptured objects hand towels, play objects animal block sets dolls, blankets adult-size rocking chairs puzzles
3 Getting Started	up to 10	Welcome Prayer Visitors Offering Birthdays	bells basket artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, pull-toy (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	<i>A. Memory Verse</i> <i>B. God Made Light</i> <i>C. God Made Air and Water</i> <i>D. God Made Flowers and Trees</i> <i>E. God Made the Sun and Stars</i> <i>F. God Made Birds and Fish</i> <i>G. God Made Animals and Me</i> <i>H. God Made Sabbath</i> <i>I. Thank You, God</i> <i>J. God Made Everything</i> <i>K. God Made It So</i>	Bible books handkerchiefs or dark cloth or penlights, rainbow sticks or colored cloth strips bubble solution, bubble blowers, cups of water or squirt bottle or dish of water air freshener, artificial or live flowers, basket, real or artificial fruit felt suns or sunshine faces, star sticks or penlights bird sounds recording or bird whistle, feathers, fish, puppet or live fish or fish picture or plastic fish live pet, toy stuffed animals, mirror



LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
Week 1		<i>Handprint Flower</i>	paper, pom-poms (optional), glue or glue sticks (optional), floral-scented air freshener (optional), crayons (optional) (see page 68)
Week 2		<i>Bird on a Stick</i>	copies of bird pattern on page 69, cardboard or heavy stock paper, scissors, glue, crayons (optional), craft sticks or tongue depressors
Week 3		<i>Bear</i>	copies of bear pattern (see page 70), black or brown construction paper and pom-poms, glue, crayons or markers
Week 4		<i>Creation Paper Plate</i>	paper plates, stickers/magazine pictures, nature items, picture of each child (optional), glue or glue sticks, markers, scissors (see illustration on page 71)
Week 5 (Optional)		<i>Footprints Plaque</i>	colored construction paper, pencils, markers (see illustration on page 68)
Snack Center (Optional)			napkins, crackers or fruit

1

PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young parents as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

Before kids, I was the perfect parent. I had every answer to every problem. And then I had children. Suddenly I felt like a failure on a regular basis. Are you ever hard on yourself about your parenting? God says, "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, then my power is made perfect in you" (2 Corinthians 12:9, ICB). The only "perfect" we'll see as parents is the perfect of God's power working in us. He loves our children more than we can comprehend. God works in their behalf, and He's the perfect parent. Ellen White says, "Mothers, remember that in your work the Creator of the universe will give you help" (*Child Guidance*, p. 172).

Tell about a time God answered your prayers and gave you His power to be strong.

Week 2

My nature-loving daughter displayed her affection for insects early in life. One morning I was chasing a fly with a fly-swatter, and she asked me to stop. "I'll get it, Mommy," she said. Very carefully she trapped the fly in a bottle, then proceeded to open the back door and release the fly. When I asked her why she did that, she answered, "This is the only

life the fly has, Mommy. I want him to die happy!" Never underestimate the understanding of your children! Take your children out in nature, and point them to Jesus there. "The works of the Lord are great. . . . He has made His wonderful works to be remembered" (Psalm 111:2-4, NKJV).

Talk about a time you learned something from your child.

Week 3

Our firstborn watched everything. He carefully observed other children and adults walking, but wasn't about to try it himself until he was sure he knew what to do. We were amazed as we saw him toddle off across the room one day *without* falling. Our second child was quite different. She would just take off across the room toward her goal. It didn't matter how many times she fell before she got there—she just wanted to go. One was interested in the process; the other was interested in the goal. When your child doesn't do what other children that age are doing, don't worry! God has given each one their own way of looking at the world.

Share concerns you've had when your child did something differently than another child of similar age. What helped you to know that it was OK for them to grow in God's timing?

Week 4

We were trying to catch butterflies with our little net. We had caught a couple tiny ones and put them in a jar. We got excited when a big, pretty one flew by. I chased after it, but my little one called out, "Mommy, no. Don't catch that one. It's too big." I figured out that my child didn't want to catch it because it was too birdlike. It made him

feel sad to think that we would catch it in a bottle and that it would die. Think about it. Ellen White says, "The children need to be given lessons that will nurture in them courage to resist evil"

(*Child Guidance*, p. 49).

What lessons have you taught your children from nature? How can you use nature more?

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on the carpet for the early children, or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt inside the semicircle. The children participate in these activities under the supervision of an adult until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

Provide a basket of sturdy board books about Creation, animals, colors, etc.

B. Animal Corner

Provide toy stuffed animals (some that make noises) and soft-sculptured objects for children to hold.

C. Peek-a-boo

This basket includes hand towels and play objects (a block, ball, rattle, or stuffed animal). Parents hide an object under the towel. The children will enjoy playing peek-a-boo to find something that God made, as the parent says this rhyme:

Peek-a-boo,
Let's see who

Finds a (*name of object*)

God made for you. (*Child picks up the object.*)

(*Name*) did! (*Hug child.*)

D. Zoo Corner

Provide an assortment of animal block sets (zoo, farm, etc.) to build a zoo and play with the animals that God made. Adults say: "See the (*name of animal*) that God made. What does the (*name of animal*) say?"

E. Rock-a-Bye Baby

Provide dolls and blankets. The children hold and rock their babies. Encourage them to sing to their babies.

F. Rocking Chairs

For children who may be too shy or sleepy to join in the activities, parents can sit and rock their child.

G. Animal Puzzles

Provide an assortment of ready-made puzzles. Or cut pictures of animals from magazines, mount on foam core or cardboard, and laminate. Then cut the pictures in half and place them on a table or quilt. Older toddlers will enjoy matching the two halves of the pictures.

3

GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today. Sabbath is a special day. We see many friends at church on Sabbath. Let's shake hands as a special way to say good morning.** Walk around and shake hands with each child while you sing "Good Morning to You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 3).

Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
How are you today?
Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
This happy Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

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You Need:

☐ bells

Say: **Sabbath School is a special place to be. Let's ring some bells to show that we are happy for love at Sabbath School.** Ring bells while singing "Sabbath Bells" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 237).

Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Sabbath bells are ringing.
Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Children sweetly singing.

—Mildred Adair

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B. Prayer Time

Say: **Today we are going to be talking about the pretty things God and Jesus made for us. Let's stop right now and tell God thank You for making such pretty things for us.** Encourage the families to help their child kneel. To prepare for prayer, use the song "When It's Time to Pray" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 17).

When it's time to pray,
I bend my knees, bend my knees,
bend my knees;
When it's time to pray, I bend my
knees, and then I talk to Jesus.
When it's time to pray,
I fold my hands, fold my hands, fold
my hands;
When it's time to pray, I fold my
hands, and then I talk to Jesus.
When it's time to pray,
I close my eyes, close my eyes, close
my eyes;
When it's time to pray, I close my
eyes, and then I talk to Jesus.

—Janet Sage

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C. Visitors

Welcome each visitor and then sing "We Welcome You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 7).

We welcome you, we welcome you,
On this Sabbath day.
We welcome you, we welcome you,
On this Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

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D. Offering

You Need:

- ☐ offering basket
OR other container

Say: **We bring our offerings to show our love to God and Jesus. Our offerings help other children know about God's love.**

Place a basket on the floor in which the children may place their money while singing "Here Is My Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 32).

Here is my money for Jesus,
for Jesus, for Jesus;
Here is my money for Jesus,
I give my money to Him.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Close your eyes now while we ask Jesus to bless the money.** Fold your hands, and pray a simple prayer similar to the following:

Dear Jesus, this money is for You. We want others to know about Your love. Amen.

E. Birthdays

You Need:

- ☐ artificial birthday cake
- ☐ candles
- ☐ matches
- ☐ pull-toy

Say: **God gives us our birthdays. Someone here has a birthday. Who has a birthday? Let's all close our eyes.** Lead the birthday child up front while singing. (Or

you could use an animal pull-toy to pull around the room in front of the children while you sing. It would stop at and circle in front of the birthday child.) Sing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will sing,
To wish you happy birthday.
—Mildred Adair

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Assist child in dropping pennies into artificial cake while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 37).

(Child's name) has a birthday. We're
so glad,
We will see how many (he/she) has
had.
As we count the money we are told,
(count)
Yes, the money says (he's/she's) (age)
years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

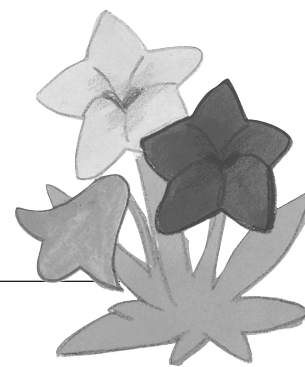
Light birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Jesus loves you, dear (child's name),
Happy birthday to you.
—Traditional

Encourage the birthday child to blow out the candle(s). If possible give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.



EXPERIENCING THE STORY



You Need:

- Bible "books" for each child (see activity for instructions)

A. Memory Verse

Give each child a tiny Bible book made of felt or construction paper with at least one picture of Jesus, more pictures of different scenes if possible.

Say: **Let's open our Bible books and look inside while we sing "I Open My Bible Book and Read"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 27).

I open my Bible book and read,
"God loves me, God loves me."

—Johnie B. Wood. Adapted.

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Say: **Our Bible tells us that God made pretty things because He loves us. Our memory verse is "Everything [God] . . . made . . . was . . . good." Let's say that together while we do the motions.**

"Everything	(Arms open wide.)
[God] . . .	(Point upward.)
made . . . was	(Jump with arms open
. . . good."	wide.)

OR

Let's say that together while we pat our legs. Follow the rhythm of this Bible verse by patting your legs with your hands.

B. God Made Light

Say: **Our Bible tells us that God loves us a lot. A long time ago He and Jesus wanted to make a pretty world. At first our world was dark, dark, dark—like when you play peek-a-boo—and it was very quiet.**

You Need:

for each child

- handkerchief
OR dark cloth OR penlight
- rainbow stick OR colored cloth strip

To make it dark, either ask the children to close their eyes, hand out handkerchiefs to cover eyes, have a group of children get under a dark cloth, or turn the lights off in the room and have a penlight for each child.

Say: **It is very dark. We can't see**

light. On the first day of Creation God made light. Let's sing about the light He made. Have the children open their eyes, remove handkerchief, turn on flashlight under dark cloth, or help children turn their flashlights on and shine on ceiling. Say the following:

In the very beginning God created the heavens and the earth, they say,
He turned on the light in the middle of the darkness, and that was the very first day.

—Chuck Fulmore

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Say: **God called the light day and the darkness night. Because God made the light, we have colors. Let's look at the colors in our rainbow sticks** (hold up colors and name them with children). **While we wave our rainbow sticks, we can sing this song** (option: use a strip of colored fabric for each child to wave): "Colors" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 159).

Colors, colors, pretty colors;
Colors, colors, pretty colors;
Jesus made the pretty colors
just for you and me.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **God made wonderful things for us to enjoy because He loves us.**
Remember:

"Everything [God] . . . made . . . was . . . good." (Arms open wide.)
 (Point upward.)
 (Jump with arms open wide.)

C. God Made Air and Water

You Need:

- ☐ bubble solution
- ☐ bubble blowers
- ☐ water

Say: **God made more pretty things because He loves us. On the second day of Creation He and Jesus made air. Can you blow air out of your mouth?** (demonstrate) **Air makes wind. Let's do a finger play about the wind:**

The Windmill

Fast wind makes the windmill fast.
(roll arms fast in front of you)
 Slow wind makes the windmill slow.
(roll arms slowly)
 No wind makes the windmill stop.
(quickly stop arms)
 So blow, wind, blow. *(roll arms fast and blow air out of mouth)*

—Unknown

Say: **Air can also make bubbles. Sometimes we can see pretty colors in bubbles.** Distribute small bottles of bubble solution for families to blow bubbles or walk around and blow bubbles so they are just above the children's heads. **Let's sing about the bubbles while you try to catch them.** Sing "Bubbles" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 157).

Bubbles, bubbles,
 I like to play with bubbles;
 Jesus must like pretty things,
 because He made the bubbles!

—Janet Sage

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Say: **On the second day of Creation God and Jesus divided the water from the air. What do you do with water? Drink it? Get clean in it? Play in it? We use water for many things.** Give the children a small drink of water, or spray hands with squirt bottle, or have a dish of water to touch. **God made pretty things because He loves us. Let's sing about the pretty ocean God made.** Sing "The Big Blue Ocean" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 113).

The big blue ocean makes me think
 of Jesus' love,
 The big blue ocean, the big blue
 ocean;
 The big blue ocean makes me think
 of Jesus' love;
 Let's learn of Jesus at the ocean!
 —Janet Sage

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Say: **God made wonderful things for us to enjoy because He loves us.**
Remember:

"Everything [God] . . . made . . . was . . . good." (Arms open wide.)
 (Point upward.)
 (Jump with arms open wide.)

D. God Made Flowers and Trees

You Need:

- ☐ fresh flowers OR artificial flowers and floral air freshener
- ☐ basket to hold flowers

Before Sabbath School or just before this activity, spray air freshener on artificial flowers or use fresh fragrant flowers in a basket or planter.

Say: **God made more pretty things because He loves us. On the third day of Creation He and Jesus made flowers. Do flowers smell nice?** Let children respond. **Yes, He made the flowers to smell nice. Come and pick a flower and take it back to your seat. Be sure to smell the flower and let your family smell it also. While we do this, let's sing about the flowers.** Sing "Wonder Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 74).

Oh, who can make a flower?
I'm sure I can't, can you?
Oh, who can make a flower?
No one but God, 'tis true.

—Grace W. Owens

Walk around the room with a basket to collect the flowers. Place the basket of flowers on a chair or table where everyone can see it. Say: **Look at all the pretty flowers! I see red flowers, yellow flowers, pink flowers, and orange flowers. God made pretty things because He loves us.**

Say: **On the third day of Creation God and Jesus also made pretty trees. God made pretty things because He loves us. When the wind blows through the trees it makes the trees sway back and forth. Let's pretend we are trees swaying while we sing "The Trees**

Are Gently Swaying" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 115).

The trees are gently swaying,
Swaying, swaying;
The trees are gently swaying,
Whispering "God is love."

—Mildred Adair

From *Songs for the Pre-School Age*. Broadman Press. Used by permission. (Adapted.)

You Need:

- ☐ artificial fruit or vegetables
- ☐ basket

Say: **On the third day God also made yummy food for us to eat. He made** (name fruits/vegetables). Give each child an artificial piece of food and ask them to come up and put it in a basket. **Let's sing "God Made It So"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 163).

This world is full of yummy food,
Yummy food, yummy food;
This world is full of yummy food.
God made it so, God made it so,
God made it so.
This world is full of yummy food.
God made it so.

—Charles M. Fillmore. Adapted.

Copyright © 1936, Charles M. Fillmore. Used by permission.

Say: **God made wonderful things for us to enjoy because He loves us.**
Remember:

"Everything	(Arms open wide.)
[God] . . .	(Point upward.)
made . . . was	(Jump with arms open
. . . good."	wide.)



E. God Made the Sun and Stars

You Need:

- ☐ felt suns OR
- ☐ sunshine faces (see activity)

Say: **On the fourth day of Creation God made the sun. The sun keeps us warm and helps flowers to grow. The sun is bright and pretty.**

Use either felt suns for the children to bring to the felt board or distribute sunshine faces for the children to hold up to their face (make by cutting a circle out of the center of a paper plate, cutting a jagged edge on the outside of the plate and coloring it yellow). **Bring your sun and place it on the felt board** (or wear your sunshine face) **while we sing "Jesus Made the Sunshine"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 168).

Jesus made the sunshine, sunshine,
sunshine;
Jesus made the sunshine, I'm so glad!
—Janet Sage

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Say: **God also made the stars in the sky. God made pretty things because He loves us.** Use stars on sticks for the children to wave, or turn off the ceiling lights and use small penlights for each child (use black construction paper with tiny pinprick holes in it and cover the end of the lightbulb). Say: **Let's sing "God Made Me"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 164).

Little twinkling star says,
"God made me,
He made all my family."
Little twinkling star says,
"God made me,
On the fourth day."

—Clara M. Striplin

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Say: **God made wonderful things for us to enjoy because He loves us. Remember:**

"Everything	(Arms open wide.)
[God] . . .	(Point upward.)
made . . . was	(Jump with arms open
. . . good."	wide.)

F. God Made Birds and Fish

You Need:

- ☐ recording of bird sounds OR bird whistle
- ☐ feathers
- ☐ plastic fish
- ☐ fish bowl with live fish OR plastic fish

Use a recording of bird sounds, or a bird whistle, or invite an adult who can make bird calls to visit the class. Say: **On the fifth day of Creation God and Jesus made birds. What do you hear?** Allow responses. **I hear birds too. God made the birds to make pretty sounds, because He loves us.**

Show the children an artificial bird made with real feathers or real feathers that have been washed and dried. Say: **Birds have feathers. Would you like to touch the bird's feathers?** Let the children touch the feathers. **How do the feathers feel? They're soft, aren't they? God made the birds with pretty feathers that are soft, because He loves us. Feathers help birds to fly.** Encourage the children to flap their arms like wings while they move around the room. **Let's stand up and pretend to fly like the birds while we sing "I Like to See the Birdies Fly."** Use the tune to "I Like to See the Butterflies" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 173).

I like to see the birdies fly,
Flying high (*stand tall*), flying low
(*crouch low*).

I like to see the birdies fly.
Jesus made them I know.

—Dorothy Robison. Adapted.

Show a fish puppet, a bowl with live or plastic fish, or a picture of fish. Say: **God wanted to make more pretty things on the fourth day of Creation because He loves us, so He made fish.** Have the children make a "fish" with their hands, palms down, one over the other with their thumbs wiggling to simulate swimming

or distribute plastic fish to place in your room decoration water pond. Say: **Fish like to splish-splash and swim in the water. Let's make our fish swim while we sing "Fishy, Fishy"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 161).

Fishy, fishy, swim in the water.
Fishy, fishy, swishy swish!
God made fishy swim in the water,
Fishy, fishy, swishy swish!

—Janet Sage

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Option

Use the fish hand actions to do the following finger play:

Little Fish

Little fish, little fish goes out to play,
Wiggles its fins and swims away
(*wiggle thumbs*).
Swims and swims in the water bright,
Opens its mouth and takes a bite
(*open hands*).
Mmmmmmmmm! Good!
(*rub tummies*).

Mmmmmmmmm! Good!

—Dawn Reynolds

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Say: **God made wonderful things for us to enjoy because He loves us.**
Remember:

"Everything	(<i>Arms open wide.</i>)
[God] . . .	(<i>Point upward.</i>)
made . . . was	(<i>Jump with arms open</i>
. . . good."	<i>wide.</i>)

G. God Made Animals and Me

You Need:

- ☐ live pet
- ☐ toy stuffed animals
- ☐ hand mirror

Say: **God wasn't finished with making things. He wanted to make more pretty things, because He loves us. On the sixth**

day He and Jesus made animals.

Bring in a small pet, such as a cat, dog, rabbit, hamster, etc., for the children to look at and touch. Remind children to be gentle with the animal.

Say: **I see some toy animals hiding around our room right now. Can you find an animal that Jesus made? While you take an animal back to your seat, let's sing "Animals, Animals"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 67).

Sing with a loud deep voice for the "great big animals" and a soft small voice for the "little tiny animals."

Animals, animals, Jesus made the animals—

Great big animals, little tiny animals—

Animals, animals, Jesus made the animals;

Here is an animal that I know . . .

—Janet Sage.

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Say: **Look at all the animals you found! I see lots of different kinds of animals. Animals make lots of noise. Can you make a noise like the animal you are holding?** Allow time for sounds. **Since we're pretending to be animals, would you like to stand up and be a kangaroo with me? Put your animal down, and let's hop**

and sing "God Made the Kangaroo" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 72).

Kangaroo, kangaroo,
Kangaroo-oo-oo,
(hold hands like paws and hop),
Can I hop with you?
(repeat)
God made the kangaroo
(point upward),
And He made me too
(point to self).
I love (fold arms over chest) my great
big God (arms up pretending to
flex muscles).
He makes all things new
(lift hands high in the air).
Kangaroo, kangaroo,
Kangaroo-oo-oo,
Can I hop with you?

—Janine Max

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Say: **God was happy with all the animals, but next He made the best thing yet. Do you know what that was? Look in my mirror and see.** Hold mirror up to each child as you sing "I'm Special" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 97).

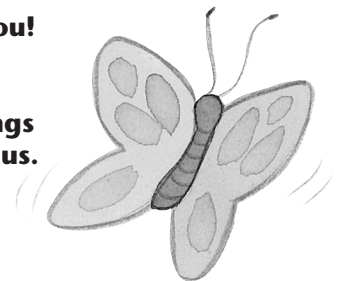
I'm special, so special,
I'm special as can be.
I am special, I am special,
God made me.

—Edwina Grice Neely

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Say: **That's right, God made you! You are a very special person.**

Say: **God made wonderful things for us to enjoy because He loves us. Remember:**



"Everything (Arms open wide.)
[God] . . . (Point upward.)
made . . . was (Jump with arms open
. . . good." wide.)

H. God Made Sabbath

Say: **God was finished making our world. It was perfect! The very next day was the seventh day, and God gave us a very special gift. He gave us Sabbath. Sabbath is the day we come to Sabbath School. Sabbath is a day to spend with our families. Sabbath is a day to rest from our work. I'm so glad God made Sabbath. Let's clap and sing "Happy Sabbath"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 235).

Sabbath is a happy day, happy day,
 happy day,
 Sabbath is a happy day, I love ev'ry
 Sabbath.

—Margaret Kennedy. Adapted.

Say: **I'm so glad God made the wonderful world for us.**

I. Thank You, God

Say: **God loves us. He made a pretty world for us. I'm so glad He did! Let's show that we are happy for the pretty world He and Jesus made as we march around singing "I Am Happy as Can Be!"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 214). You may want to sing this a few times.

I am happy as can be!
 I am happy as can be!
 For ev'rything that
 Jesus made for me!

—Janet Sage

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J. God Made Everything

Say: **God made pretty things because He loves us. Everything God made was good. Let's sing about everything God made.**

Families may do the motions while they sing "God Made Everything" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 162).

God	(Point upward.)
made ev'rything	(Arms outstretched.)
big	(Hands outstretched sideways.)
and small,	(Bring hands in close.)
tiny	(Hands close together on top of each other.)
and tall.	(Move hands far apart.)
God	(Point upward.)
made ev'rything,	(Arms outstretched.)
yes,	(Clap.)
He	(Clap.)
made	(Clap.)
them	(Clap.)
all.	(Clap.)

—Doris I. Black

K. God Made It So

Say: **God made the world so pretty because He loves us.**

Remember:

"Everything	(Arms open wide.)
[God] . . .	(Point upward.)
made . . . was	(Jump with arms open wide.)
. . . good."	

Let's sing about how the world is full of pretty things. Use the song "God Made It So" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 163).

This world is full of pretty things,
Pretty things, pretty things;
This world is full of pretty things.
God made it so, God made it so, God made it so.

This world is full of pretty things.
God made it so.

—Charles M. Fillmore. Adapted.

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5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Have the parents sit around small tables. Parents or other adults should assist children to do one of the following each week as you review the story.

Week 1
Handprint Flower
You Need:

- ☐ paper
- ☐ pom-poms OR something similar (optional)
- ☐ glue OR glue sticks (optional)
- ☐ floral-scented air freshener (optional)
- ☐ crayons

Have parents trace their child's hand on paper, and make either a single-hand flower or a four-hand flower (see illustration on page 68). The parent draws stems and leaves. Help the children color the flower with crayons. Option: Spray pom-poms with floral-scented air freshener and glue onto the center of flowers.

Week 2
Bird on a Stick
You Need:

- ☐ photocopy of bird pattern
- ☐ cardboard OR heavy stock paper
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ glue OR glue sticks
- ☐ crayons (optional)
- ☐ craft sticks (OR tongue depressors)

For each child, photocopy the bird pattern (see page 69) on colored card stock paper or on thin cardboard, or trace the pattern on cardboard and help the child color it. Draw in the bird's eye. Cut out the bird. Glue a craft stick to the back. Write "God Made Birds" on the bird.

Week 3
Bear
You Need:

- ☐ photocopy of bear pattern
- ☐ black OR brown construction paper
- ☐ black or brown pom-poms
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ glue or glue sticks
- ☐ crayons, markers

Photocopy the bear pattern (see page 70) onto black or brown construction paper. Cut out the bear. Glue on pom-poms for ears, feet, and nose. Eyes may be cut from black construction paper and glued on, or drawn with a dark-color crayon or marker. Write "God Made Animals" on the bear's stomach.

Week 4
Creation Paper Plate
You Need:

- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ stickers/magazine pictures
- ☐ other nature items
- ☐ picture of each child (optional)
- ☐ glue OR glue sticks
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ markers

On a paper plate families put stickers, glue pictures cut from magazines, or draw pictures of things God made: cotton ball for clouds, leaves, flower, bird, fish, animal stickers, etc. Option: In the center of the plate, glue the child's picture you collected earlier in the month. Write the memory verse on the bottom of the plate: Everything God made was good. See illustration on page 71.

Week 5 (or optional activity) Footprints Plaque

Parents can trace their child's footprints on the paper and write:

You Need:

- ☐ colored construction paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ markers

*Thank You, God,
for my little feet
with 10 little toes
that make them
complete.
(See page 68.)*

Say a short prayer thanking God for our pretty world. Close with singing "Sabbath School Is Over" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 46).

Our Sabbath School is over,
And we are going now.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.

OR

Say: **Let's say our memory verse one more time together while we pat our legs.**

Remember:

"Everything (Arms open wide.)
[God] . . . (Point upward.)
made . . . was (Jump with arms open
. . . good." wide.)

Say a short prayer thanking God for the pretty world He made. Close with singing "Sabbath School Is Over" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 46).

Our Sabbath School is over,
And we are going now.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.

Snack Center (Optional)

A simple snack that relates to the lesson can be provided each week—goldfish crackers, banana slices, apple juice, or animal crackers are appropriate for this month.

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: **Let's say our memory verse one more time together.**

"Everything (Arms open wide.)
[God] . . . (Point upward.)
made . . . was (Jump with arms open
. . . good." wide.)

STUDENT LESSON

God Made My World

References

Genesis 1:1–2:3;
Patriarchs
and Prophets,
pp. 44-51

Memory Verse

"Everything [God]
... made ...
was ... good"
(Genesis 1:31,
ICB).

The Message

God made
pretty things
because He
loves us.

Can you make a picture? Do you want to show your pictures to somebody? Long ago God made something special.

God made our wonderful world. First, God made light. *(Let child switch lights or flashlight on/off.)* God called the light "day." He made day and night.

The next day God made the beautiful blue sky with clouds and wind. Can you blow like the wind? The wind made waves in the water.

The third day God made the dirt. God made soft, green grass. God made pretty flowers.

Can you point to the flowers? God made tall trees. Can you reach up like a tall tree? Now be a bush.

"This earth is very nice!" God said. He was happy. *(Go outside and name things God made to grow.)*

On the fourth day God made the bright sun. We see the sun in the daytime. God made the round moon *(hold hands in a circular shape)*. He also made the twinkling stars that we see at night *(open and close fists so fingers can "twinkle")*. God put stars in the sky.

Make your hands "twinkle up high." *(Lift the child high.)*

The next day God filled the waters with fish. *(Lay hands one above the other; wiggle thumbs.)* Then God filled the air with flying birds of all colors *(flap arms as*

if flying). He gave the birds pretty voices to sing happy songs *(imitate a birdsong)*. God saw everything He made. God said, "This is good."

On the sixth day God made all the animals. He made tall giraffes and furry caterpillars *(walk finger across child's arm)*. God made horses *(make galloping sounds)* and barking puppies *(bark)*.

God saw the animals He made. And God said, "This is good."

And then God made the most special creation. He made people.

God took some mud and made a man. The man had strong legs *(pat child's legs)* and smiling lips *(smile at child)*. God blew into the man's nose

(blow out). The man yawned *(yawn)*. The man stretched *(stretch)*. He opened his eyes *(blink eyes open)*. He was alive! God called the man Adam.

Then God made a woman. He made Eve to be Adam's partner and friend.

On the seventh day God looked at everything he had made. It was very good. So God rested from His work. "This is a special day," He said. "This is a day of rest."

And so God made the Sabbath, a special day to spend with us. God made our world because He loves us.



1. Collect nature items while you go for a walk.

2. Walk barefoot in the grass, and talk about how it feels.

3. Talk about light while your child turns on/off a light or flashlight.

4. Sit in the sunshine and sing your very own "sunshine" song.
"Sunshine, sunshine!
God made the
sunshine."

5. Take a "listening" walk. What sounds do you hear?

6. Look at pictures of animals. Make the animal sounds. Do the animal actions.

7. Name a color, ask your child to point to something that is that color, or point to all the blue, (red, green) things in the room. Say: "God made the colors."

8. Blow up a balloon, and bat it around with your child. Talk about how God made air for us to breathe and to enjoy.

9. Trace your child's body with sidewalk chalk. Compare your size with your child's. Talk about how God made the first people big and tall.

10. Pretend your fingers are wiggle worms

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

and "crawl a worm" up your child's arm, tickling as you go.

11. Pretend your fingers are bees. Buzz to your child and tickle him or her.

12. Help your child make a cloud picture by gluing cotton balls on a blue piece of paper.

13. Collect leaves to make a leaf rubbing. Put a leaf under a piece of paper and help your child rub a crayon over the paper.

14. Collect rocks and help your child wash them. Then sort them by color, size, or shape.

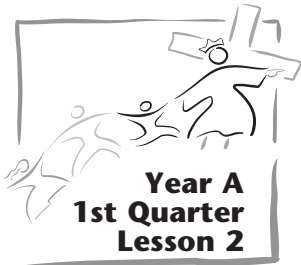
15. Show your child how to blow a Ping-Pong ball or dry leaf across a hard surface, or blow a feather out of their hand. Talk about how God made air.

16. Cut animal pictures in half and mix them up. Help your child put the halves back together again.

17. Notice the weather today. Talk about weather. Why does it rain? Why does the sun shine?

18. Look at pictures of people. Notice their different hair, eye, and skin colors. Thank God for making colors.

LESSON



Noah's Big Boat

WORSHIP

We praise God for His loving actions.

References

Genesis 6-9; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 90-110.

Memory Verse

"I will . . . sing about the Lord's love" (Psalm 89:1, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God cares for the things He has created.

Feel thankful for God's care.

Respond by telling God thank You for His care.

The Message



I thank God for taking good care of me.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God tells Noah to build a big boat. Animals and Noah's family enter the ark. It rains for 40 days, and the earth is covered with water. God keeps Noah and his family and the animals safe in the ark. Noah thanks God for keeping them safe. God places a rainbow in the sky as a sign that He will never again cover all the earth with a flood.

This is a lesson about worship.

We worship God when we thank Him

for His care. We also worship God when we listen to Him, follow His directions, and trust Him to keep His promises.

Teacher Enrichment

"While Noah was giving his warning message to the world, his works testified of his sincerity. It was thus that his faith was perfected and made evident. He gave the world an example of believing just what God says" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 95).

"Had the antediluvians believed

TWO

the warning, and repented of their evil deeds, the Lord would have turned aside His wrath, as He afterward did from Nineveh" (*ibid.*, p. 97).

Room Decorations

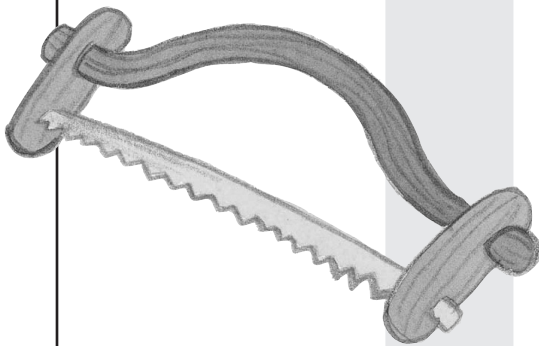
Use the setup you used last month for the Creation story. You will need to

add some kind of space to serve as Noah's ark. Suggestions: a small boat, an appliance-sized cardboard box painted brown, benches or chairs arranged in the shape of a rectangle and draped with blankets to form sides, a blanket on the ground, or the outline of a boat drawn in the dirt or sand.



Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	<i>A. Book Basket</i> <i>B. Float Boats</i> <i>C. Play Sets</i> <i>D. Rocking Chair</i> <i>E. Toy Stuffed Animals</i>	books and puzzles about Noah's ark and/or animals plastic boats or other floating objects, water-filled tub or bucket Noah's ark sets of wood, plastic, etc. adult-sized rocking chair a variety of toy stuffed animals
3 Getting Started	up to 10	Welcome Prayer Visitors Offering Birthdays	bells basket artificial birthday cake, birthday candles, matches, gifts (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	<i>A. Memory Verse</i> <i>B. Introducing Noah</i> <i>C. Building a Boat</i> <i>D. Filling the Ark With Food</i> <i>E. The Animals Come</i> <i>F. Shutting the Door</i> <i>G. The Rains Came Down</i> <i>H. The Angels Watch</i> <i>I. Angels Care for Us</i> <i>J. Memory Verse Song</i> <i>K. Who's in the Ark?</i> <i>L. Thanking God</i> <i>M. The Rainbow</i> <i>N. Thanking God</i> <i>O. God Takes Care of Me</i> <i>P. Marching Praise Band</i> <i>Q. Memory Verse Song</i>	small Bible books headaddresses play hammers, saws, or other tools; wood plastic or canned food, or hay, grass, straw, leaves, etc. toy plastic, stuffed, or felt animals spray bottle, water felt angels or angel sticks ark prop or blanket rainbow sticks paper plate steering wheels, small pillows or mats toy musical instruments



LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
Week 1		<i>Rainbow Magnets</i>	small squares of card stock, peel and stick magnets, colored markers (see illustration on page 72)
Week 2		<i>Raindrop Cloud</i>	string, cotton balls, glue or glue sticks, tape, scissors, cloud pattern on page 72
Week 3		<i>Handprint Bunny</i>	paper, cotton balls, pink and black marking pens, pencils, glue, scissors (see illustration on page 72)
Week 4		<i>Noah's Ark</i>	animal stickers, ark pattern (page 73), ink pads (optional)
Week 5 (Optional)		<i>Lollipop Angel</i>	lollipops, chenille sticks, white tissue paper (see page 74)
Snack Center (Optional)		<i>Banana Ark</i>	bananas, animal crackers, knife, plates, napkins (see page 74)



PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young parents as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion.

Week 1

My very new and precious baby looked so tiny to me as I placed her in the stroller. This was our first outing. We were going to the airport to see my aunt, who had a layover in our city. As I began to push the stroller down the concourse, a feeling I had never experienced before came over me. I was so overwhelmed with protectiveness that I just wanted to shield her from the big world. As I thought about it later, I prayed that God would give me the same feeling of protectiveness for her spiritual well-being that I had for her physical well-being.

Share a time when you felt "overwhelmed with protectiveness" for your child. What action can we take to have that same desire for our children spiritually?

Week 2

Ever had your expectations disappointed? Imagine Noah. Preaching for years, encouraging, hoping. Then to have only a handful of people take you seriously, and they happen to be members of your own family. Parenting sometimes gives us similar feelings of disappointment. Things are not necessarily what we anticipated. The baby is sick or fussy. Exhausted is the only word we can think of if people should happen to

ask, "How are you?" We don't get much attention now—the baby gets that. And really, this job is a whole lot harder than we ever thought it would be. When my expectations of parenting were disappointed, I realized I was just looking at what I wanted, and not what God had in mind for my life. When I placed myself in His care, I soon realized that He gave me far more than I could have asked for.

Share about a time when trusting God helped restore your faith.

Week 3

While we were away on a business trip, my sister stayed with our children. It was time for bed, when our 4-year-old began to cry. His auntie asked what was wrong, and he said that he was scared and missed Momma. Auntie reminded him that God's angels watch over us. She asked him how many angels he'd like. "Ten thousand," he replied. So they prayed together.

As she was leaving the room, Auntie said, "Oh, excuse me; pardon me; oh, I'm sorry."

My son said, "What's wrong?"

Auntie smiled and said, "The room is full of angels—it's crowded in here!" Very content, my son went to sleep. He still remembers that experience, and even now as a teen he prays for ten thousand angels. "The angels of God are ever near your little ones" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 432).

Share about a time you knew that angels were watching over your family.

Week 4

When my oldest child was just 3 and I was six months pregnant, my hormones got the best of my memory, and I accidentally locked him—and my car keys—in our van at a shopping center. He was

strapped in his car seat that he couldn't unlock. Luckily it was winter, so I didn't have to worry about him overheating.

I was sure I was prepared for this. I got down on my hands and knees to reach for the key box that was supposed to be hidden underneath a part of the car. I was so big that it was hard to bend anymore, and I couldn't find it. What could I do?

I asked a couple getting into their car if they had a cellular phone so that I could call my husband. They gladly let me use their phone, but my husband wasn't at his desk and couldn't be found. The couple suggested I could call the emergency number for help. Gratefully I did, and tried to wait patiently.

Along came a police officer. He tried to open the car—no luck. Then came the firefighters. They tried with success! I was so grateful for their help and for God's protection. As I reached for my son, he gave me a big, bright smile. He

hadn't been worried at all! His childlike faith taught me something big—no need to worry. I can depend on God.

Tell about a lesson you learned from a child's faith in God.

Week 5

Corrupt. Evil. Awful. The world that Noah and Mrs. Noah lived in was not a nice place to raise children. The things their children were exposed to were enough to make one shudder. A world much like today. And yet all three of their boys married women who joined them in their God-planned escape, worked beside their father, and ultimately chose to go into the ark though the rest of the world chose otherwise. When I am fearful for my children's spiritual well-being in this age, it's comforting to remember that.

Share some specific ideas you may have to help teach your child to choose God's way.

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Provide simple play activities on the carpet for the early children, or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt inside the semicircle. The children participate in these activities under the supervision of an adult until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

A selection of books and simple puzzles about animals or Noah's ark.

B. Float Boats

Provide small plastic boats for children to pretend to float. (Options: make boats by shaping aluminum foil, or "float" small sticks safe for small children to handle.)

C. Play Sets

Noah's ark sets in wood, plastic, cloth, etc.

D. Rocking Chair

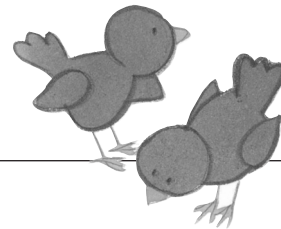
Provide an adult-sized rocking chair so children may be rocked.

E. Toy Stuffed Animals

Help children identify them and imitate their sounds and walks.

3

GETTING STARTED

**A. Welcome**

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today.**

Welcome each child personally as you sing "Good Morning to You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 3).

Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
How are you today?
Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
This happy Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

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You Need:

☐ bells

Say: **Sabbath is a special day and Sabbath School is a special place. I love coming to Sabbath School. Let's ring some bells on this special day while we sing "Sabbath Bells"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 237). Ask the families to sing and help the children ring the bells.

Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Sabbath bells are ringing.
Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Children sweetly singing.

—Mildred Adair

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B. Prayer Time

Say: **Let's tell God how much we love Him, and thank Him for taking care of us.** To prepare for prayer sing

"Let's Have a Talk With Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 11).

Let's have a talk with Jesus,
Let's close our eyes and say:
"Dear Jesus, please be with us
In Sabbath School today."

—Kathleen Maguire

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Say a simple prayer similar to the following: **Dear God, thank You for the Sabbath day and for our Sabbath School. Please be with us while we learn about You. Amen.**

C. Visitors

Welcome each visitor individually and then sing "We Welcome You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 7).

We welcome you, we welcome you,
On this Sabbath day.
We welcome you, we welcome you,
On this Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

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D. Offering

You Need:

- ☐ offering container

Say: **God loves children everywhere, but not all children know that God loves them.**

Our offerings help other families learn that God loves them. Place a basket on the floor in which the children may place their money while you sing "Here Is My Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 32).

Here is my money for Jesus,
for Jesus, for Jesus;
Here is my money for Jesus,
I give my money to Him.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Close your eyes now while we ask Jesus to bless the money.** Fold your hands and pray a simple prayer similar to the following:

Dear Jesus, this money is for You. We want others to know about Your love. Amen.

E. Birthdays

You Need:

- ☐ artificial birthday cake
- ☐ birthday candles
- ☐ matches
- ☐ small gift (optional)

Say: **God gives us our birthdays. Someone here has a birthday. Who has a birthday? Let's all close our eyes.** Lead the birthday child up

front while singing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will sing,
To wish you happy birthday.

—Mildred Adair

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Assist child in dropping coins into artificial cake or other device while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 37).

(*Child's name*) has a birthday, we're so glad,
We will see how many (*he/she*) has had.

As we count the money we are told,
(*count*)
Yes, the money says (*he's/she's*) (*age*) years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

Light birthday candles and then lead out in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Jesus loves you, dear (*child's name*),
Happy birthday to you.

—Traditional

Encourage the child to blow out candle(s). If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.



EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ☐ play Bibles (one for each child)

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.** Distribute individual felt, cardboard, etc., Bibles to the children. **The Bible tells us that God loves us and cares for us. What do you see in your Bible?** (Allow time for responses.) **Let's sing together "I Open My Bible Book and Read"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 27).

I open my Bible book and read,
God loves me, God loves me.
—Johnie B. Wood. Adapted.

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Say: **The Bible tells me that God loves us and cares for us. I'm so glad God loves us! I want to thank God for His care.** Sing the memory verse song, "I Will Sing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 217).



I will sing (*hands beside mouth*)
about the Lord's love (*repeat twice*),
(*cross arms over chest*)



His love to me. (*point up, then to self*)
—René Alexenko Evans;
based on Psalm 89:1, ICB.



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B. Introducing Noah

You Need:

- ☐ scarf OR towel OR headband OR heavy yarn

Say: **The Bible tells us about a man named Noah, who lived a long time ago. Noah was God's special friend. God talked to him, and Noah lis-**

tened. Distribute headaddresses for the children to wear while you sing. Sing and clap (to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down") while marching in a circle:

Noah was a friend of God, friend
of God, friend of God,
Noah was a friend of God.
He loved God.

—Traditional

C. Building a Boat

You Need:

- ☐ play tools (hammer, saw, etc.)
- ☐ pieces of smooth wood

Say: **One day God told Noah that a big rain was coming. Water would cover all the ground. Then God told Noah to make a big boat so he and his family and the animals would be safe. Noah built the ark just the way God told him to.**

Distribute play hammers, saws, and other tools. Ask the children to come and help "build" the ark while singing "Noah Took a Hammer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 269).

Noah took a hammer and Noah took a saw.

Noah took a hammer and Noah took a saw.

He made him a boat,
And he knew that it would float.

Noah took a hammer and Noah took a saw.

—Judy Vandeman. Adapted.

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D. Filling the Ark With Food

You Need:

- ☐ “pretend” animal food
- ☐ people food

Say: **After the ark was built, God told Noah to fill it with all kinds of different food for animals. Let’s help**

Noah fill the ark with food for the animals.

Distribute food for animals—plastic or canned food, hay, straw, grain, grass, leaves, etc. Invite the children to bring the food and put it in the pretend ark while singing “We Are Noah’s Helpers” to the tune of “We Are Little Helpers” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 296).

We are Noah’s helpers,
Helpers, helpers;
We are Noah’s helpers,
Helping all we can.

—A. Adele Flower. Adapted.

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Say: **Noah gathered things for his family, too. Let’s put some of those things in Noah’s boat.** Help children pack a bag of food and some bedding and take it to the ark while repeating the song.

Say: **The Bible tells me that God loves us and cares for us. I’m so glad God loves us! I want to thank God for His care.** Sing the memory verse song, “I Will Sing” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 217).

I will sing (*hands beside mouth*)



about the Lord’s love (*repeat twice*), (*cross arms over chest*)



His love to me. (*point up, then to self*)



—René Alexenko Evans;
based on Psalm 89:1, ICB.

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E. The Animals Come

Say: **It was amazing! The animals came out of the forest. They walked into the boat. God’s angels led a mommy and a daddy of each kind of animal to the ark. The animals came to Noah and went right into the big boat.**

Distribute toy stuffed, plastic, felt, or other animals. Invite the children to put them into the boat while you sing “The Animals Came A-Walking” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 59).

The animals came a-walking, a-walk-
ing, a-walking.

The animals came a-walking to the
ark that Noah made.

—Virginia Cason

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Add verses as desired. For example:

The rabbits came a-hopping . . .

Kitty cats came meowing . . .

Elephants came a-swaying . . .

The birdies came a-flying . . .

Say: **The Bible tells me that God loves us and cares for us. I’m so glad God loves us! I want to thank God for His care.** Sing the memory verse song, “I Will Sing” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 217).

I will sing (*hands beside mouth*)



about the Lord’s love (*repeat twice*),
(*cross arms over chest*)



His love to me. (*point up, then to self*)
—René Alexenko Evans;
based on Psalm 89:1, ICB.



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F. Shutting the Door

Say: **Now all the animals were safe in the ark. Noah and his family were safe inside. So God sent an angel to close the door.** Invite the children to stand with you and sing (clap hands as indicated) "An Angel Came Down" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 120).

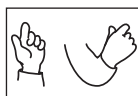
An angel came down and **shut** (clap hands) the door,
shut (clap) the door, **shut** (clap) the door.

An angel came down and **shut** (clap) the door of Noah's ark.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **The Bible tells me that God loves us and cares for us. I'm so glad God loves us! I want to thank God for His care.** Sing the memory verse song, "I Will Sing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 217).



I will sing (hands beside mouth)
 about the Lord's love (repeat twice),
 (cross arms over chest)
 His love to me. (point up, then to self)
 —René Alexenko Evans;
 based on Psalm 89:1, ICB.

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G. The Rains Came Down

You Need:

- ☐ spray bottle full of water

Say: **Now Noah and his family and the animals were safe in the ark. Then it started to rain. First it was a drip here. Then another drop there.**

Then—gush! It started to pour! For days and days it rained and rained.

Have an adult helper gently mist the children or spray their fingers with a spray

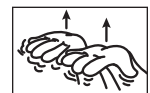
bottle of water while you sing "The Rains Came Down" (adapted from "The Wise Man and the Foolish Man," *Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 62). See the illustrations for suggested finger movements to use with this song.

1. The rains came down and
2. the floods came up;
1. The rains came down and
2. the floods came up;
1. The rains came down and
2. the floods came up;
3. And the boat on the water was safe.

—Unknown



1.



2.



3.

H. The Angels Watch

You Need:

- ☐ imitation angel for each child

Say: **Do you think Noah and his family and the animals were afraid in the ark? (Allow response time). They might have been afraid but God was taking care of them. God sent angels to watch over the ark and keep it safe in that big storm. God takes care of us, too.**

Distribute felt angels or angel sticks for the children to wave, twirl, or put on the flannel board while singing "God Sent His Angels" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 47).

When Noah was sailing in his boat
 so big,
 God sent His angels to watch over him.
 When Noah was sailing in his boat
 so big,
 God sent His angels to watch over him.
 —Mary E. Schwab

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I. Angels Care for Us

Say: **Just as God loved Noah and his family, He loves us, too. He sends His angels to watch over us. When we play, angels are with us. When we sleep, angels watch over us. God's angels take care of us during storms, too. Let's sing "Thank God for Angels Bright"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 50).

Angels are watching over me,
I am glad, I am glad.
Angels are watching over me.
Thank God for angels bright.

—Lauretta Wilcox Jarnes

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J. Memory Verse Song

Say: **Yes, God loved Noah and sent His angels to watch over him. God loves us and cares for us, too. Let's thank God for His care, and sing our memory verse song again.** Pray a simple prayer such as the following: **Dear God, thank You for taking care of us. We love You. Amen.** Sing together "I Will Sing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 217).

I will sing (*hands beside mouth*)
about the Lord's love
(*repeat twice*), (*cross arms over chest*)
His love to me. (*point up, then to self*)



—René Alexenko Evans;
based on Psalm 89:1, ICB.

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K. Who's in the Ark?

Say: **After it stopped raining, Noah and his family and the animals in the ark floated on the water for a long time. God kept the boat and everyone and everything in it safe while they rocked on the water.**

You Need:

- play boat
- OR large bath towel
- OR blanket

Invite the children to come up a few at a time and "rock on the water." Gently rock the boat, if you are using a real one; if not, have one or two children lay on a blanket or large towel while two adults hold the ends. Gently swing the blanket or towel back and forth while you sing "Who's in the Ark?" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 61).

Who's in the ark that rocks on the water?

Rocks on the water? Rocks on the water?

Who's in the ark that rocks on the water?

Noah's family is safe and sound.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Distribute toy stuffed animals. Have the children put them in the "boat" and/or "rock" the boat as you sing the following adaptation of "Who's in the Ark?"

What's in the ark that rocks on the water?

Rocks on the water? Rocks on the water?

What's in the ark that rocks on the water?

Animals (*or name an animal*) in the boat are safe and sound.

L. Thanking God

Say: **Noah and his family and the animals stayed in the big boat for a long time. They waited for the ground to dry. One day God opened the door to the boat, and Noah and the animals all came out. They were glad to be safe.**

God took good care of Noah's family and the animals while they were in the ark. And God takes good care of us, too. Let's sing about God's love. Sing the memory verse song "I Will Sing," then pray a simple prayer of thanks.



I will sing (*hands beside mouth*)
about the Lord's love (*repeat twice*),
(*cross arms over chest*)



His love to me. (*point up, then to self*)



—René Alexenko Evans;
based on Psalm 89:1, ICB.

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M. The Rainbow

You Need:

- ☐ rainbow sticks

Say: **God heard Noah's prayer of thanks. Then God did something very special. He put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. He told Noah the rainbow was His promise that flood waters would never again cover all the earth. Every time you see a rainbow in the sky, you can remember that promise, too.**

Distribute rainbow sticks for the children to wave while you sing "Who Made the Rainbow?" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 60).

Who made the beautiful rainbow?

I know, I know;
God made the beautiful rainbow,
because He loves me so.
—B. B. McKinney. Adapted.

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OR

Rainbow Fingerplay

I see a rainbow in the sky (*hand sweeps overhead in half circle*)
Each time the sun shines through
the rain (*hands in big circle, then fingertips falling as for rain*)
It tells God's promise not to send
(*index finger points to heaven*)
A flood on all the earth again. (*arms open wide for earth*)
—Ethel Grace Stones

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N. Thanking God

Say: **Noah and his family were so happy to be out of the ark. They were so happy that God had kept them safe during the Flood. And they were happy to see the rainbow. They thanked God for His rainbow promise. God has kept His promise. When we see a rainbow, we know that God keeps us safe, and He loves us. Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing together "I Will Sing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 217). (*See illustrations for L.*)

I will sing (*hands beside mouth*)
about the Lord's love (*repeat twice*),
(*cross arms over chest*)
His love to me. (*point up, then to self*)
—René Alexenko Evans;
based on Psalm 89:1, ICB.

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O. God Takes Care of Me

You Need:

- ☐ play steering wheel

Say: **God sends the angels to take care of us, too, just as He sent angels to take care of Noah's family and**

the animals. God sends angels to watch over us all the time.

Distribute steering wheels made from Styrofoam or heavy paper plates. (Paper plates with indented sections work best. Cut out the indented sections and use the raised portions that are left for pretend steering wheels. You can also cut out the center from regular paper plates for simple round steering wheels.) Have the children pretend to drive while you sing "Jesus Sends the Angels" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 48).

Jesus sends the angels, angels, angels;
Jesus sends the angels
To watch me when I'm driving.
—Florence P. Jorgensen. Adapted.

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You Need:

- ☐ small toy OR stuffed animals

Say: **Can you think of another time when angels take care of you?** Give a small toy or stuffed animal to each child. Have

the children hold the toys while you sing "Jesus Sends the Angels" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 48).

Jesus sends the angels, angels, angels;
Jesus sends the angels
To watch me when I'm playing.

Say: **At what other times do angels watch over you?**

Distribute small pillows, mats, etc., if available; have the children lie on the floor and pretend to sleep while you sing:

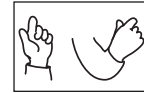
Jesus sends the angels, angels, angels;
Jesus sends the angels
To watch me when I'm sleeping.

Say: **The Bible tells me that God loves us and cares for us. I'm so glad God loves us! I want to thank God for His care.** Sing the memory verse song, "I Will Sing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 217).

I will sing (*hands beside mouth*)
about the Lord's love (*repeat twice*),
(*cross arms over chest*)
His love to me. (*point up, then to self*)
—René Alexenko Evans;
based on Psalm 89:1, ICB.

You Need:

- ☐ small pillows OR mats



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P. Marching Praise Band

Say: **I'm so happy Jesus cares for me just as He cared for Noah. Let's make a marching praise band to show Jesus how happy we are that He cares for us.** Distribute rhythm instruments. Form a band to march around the room while you sing: "Yes, Jesus Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 118).

You Need:

- ☐ rhythm band instruments OR toy instruments

Yes, Jesus cares for me.
Yes, Jesus cares for me.
He gives me my home and my food
and my clothing.
Oh, yes, Jesus cares for me.
—Enid G. Thorson

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Q. Memory Verse Song

Say: **God likes to hear us tell Him thank You for the good care He gives us. Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Use "I Will Sing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 217).



I will sing (*hands beside mouth*)
about the Lord's love (*repeat twice*), (*cross arms over chest*)



His love to me. (*point up, then to self*)



—René Alexenko Evans;
based on Psalm 89:1, ICB.

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5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Have the children sit around small tables. Parents or other adults should assist children to do one of the following as you review the lesson story.

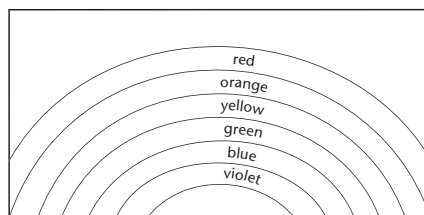
Week 1

Rainbow Magnets

You Need:

- ☐ heavy card stock
- ☐ markers OR crayons in rainbow colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet [purple])
- ☐ magnet strips

Provide 2" x 4" heavy card stock and felt tip markers or crayons in rainbow colors. Parents can help the children make rainbows by putting each color on the card in the shape of an arch. When the card is dry, attach a self-adhesive magnet strip to the back. (See page 72.)



Week 2

Raindrop Cloud

Make a rain cloud using copies of the reproducible cloud on page 72. Have parents cut out the cloud and the rain-

drops, or have someone cut them out before class. Glue or tape each raindrop to a 6-inch piece of string, then glue or tape each piece of string to the back of the cloud. Allow the children to glue cotton balls to the cloud.

You Need:

- ☐ reproducible rain cloud pattern (page 72)
- ☐ scissors (for parent's use)
- ☐ tape
- ☐ glue OR glue sticks
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ 6-inch pieces of string

Week 3

Handprint Bunny

Have parents trace their child's hand onto a piece of white paper and cut it out. Provide pink and black markers to create the bunny's face and ears (see illustration on page 72). Have the children glue cotton balls for the tail.

You Need:

- ☐ white paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ pink and black markers
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ glue OR glue sticks
- ☐ cotton balls

Week 4

Noah's Ark

You Need:

- ☐ copies of handout on page 73
- ☐ animal stickers
- ☐ ink pads (optional)

Make copies of the ark on the reproducible handout (see page 73). Have the parents help the children place pairs of animal stickers on the ark or make thumbprint animals as illustrated on page 73.

Week 5 (or optional activity)

Lollipop Angel

You Need:

- ☐ lollipops
- ☐ chenille sticks
- ☐ white tissue paper

Make an angel by placing a piece of tissue paper over a lollipop. Wrap one end of a chenille stick at the base of the lollipop. Bring the long end up the back and form

a small halo over the "head" with the other end. See illustration on page 74.

Snack Center (Optional)

Banana Ark

You Need:

- ☐ bananas
- ☐ animal crackers
- ☐ table knives

Make an edible ark by peeling a banana and cutting a slit in the inner curve. Allow the children to stick several animal crackers into the slit. You may

want to cut the bananas into halves or thirds. (See illustration on page 74.)

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack of animal crackers at one table.

Closing

Say: **I'm so glad God cares for us just as He cared for Noah. Let's thank God for His care.** Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear God, thank You so much for caring for us wherever we go. Please be with us this week. Send Your angels to guard us and bring us back next Sabbath. Amen.**

Sing "Sabbath School Is Over" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 46).

Our Sabbath School is over,
And we are going now.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.

STUDENT LESSON

Noah's Big Boat

References

Genesis 6-9;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 90-110

Memory Verse

"I will . . . sing
about the
Lord's love"
(Psalm 89:1,
ICB).

The Message

I thank God
for taking good
care of me.

This is José. He is taking a bath in the tub. Can you see José's play boat? It floats on the water. Once a man named Noah made a special boat.

This man is Noah. *(Point to Noah.)* Noah lived a long time ago. Noah was God's special friend.

One day God told Noah, "Rain is coming. It's going to rain and rain. Water will cover the whole world. Make a big boat. You and your family will be safe in the boat."

(Ask: Do you see the boat in the picture?)

God showed Noah just how to make the boat. *(Point to the paper in Noah's hands.)*

So Noah started to make the boat.

See the people? *(Find the people helping Noah.)* Noah cut big boards for the boat.

This is a saw. *(Point to picture of saw in margin.)* Noah used a saw to cut wood. Pretend your finger is a saw. Make your saw go see-saw-see.

Mrs. Noah made good food to feed the hungry workers.

One day Noah's big boat was finished. Then out of the trees and forests—look! *(Point to animals coming out of wooded area.)* Animals came walking toward Noah's big boat.

Two big lions padded to the boat. Two little rabbits hopped in. Two kangaroos jumped to the boat. Birds flew in. It was an animal parade! Angels led the animals right into the ark!

(Help child identify and/or point to animals and make animal sounds.)

Then Noah and his family went into the boat. God shut the door and locked it.

Rain began to fall. *(Point to the raindrops.)* Day after day it rained and rained and rained. The water outside the boat got higher and higher. But God sent angels to watch over the big boat. *(Point to the angels.)* It floated safely on top of the water.

Noah was safe inside. Noah's wife and his children were safe. The animals in the big boat were safe too. *(Help child identify animals and the food they are eating—hay for elephants, horses, cows; grain for chickens and ducks, etc.)*

God took care of Noah's family and the animals until the earth was dry again. Then God opened the door to the ark and let Noah and his family and the animals go out.

"Look up," said Noah. "No more rain! God took good care of us. Let's thank Him."

Noah and his family thanked God for taking care of them.

Then God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. God made the rainbow to remind us of His promise. He will never again cover all the earth with a flood.

God takes good care of us, too. Let's thank God for caring for us. *(Pray.)*



Do & Say

1. Sing the memory verse song learned in Sabbath School.

2. Look for pictures of places where our angels watch over us.

3. Find pictures of people who help protect us (firefighters, police officers, lifeguards, etc.). Thank God for people who help keep us safe.

4. Name three people who take care of you and/or keep you healthy. Tell God "Thank You" for them.

5. Set a clear glass of water in a sunny window. Can you see a rainbow?

6. Sit together under an umbrella. Thank God for taking care of you during storms.

7. Is it raining today? Sing a song about rain.

8. Put toy animals in a plastic or Styrofoam cup and try to float it in the bathtub.

9. Count to 40 on your fingers and toes. That's how many days it rained!

10. Pretend to be animals. Stretch your neck up tall like a giraffe. Hop like a bunny or a kangaroo. Buzz like a bee. Gallop like a pony.

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

11. Feed your pet. Pretend you are Noah caring for the animals.

12. While riding in a car, thank God for taking care of you as you go.

13. Poke holes in the bottom of a used plastic bottle. Take it outside, fill it with water, and watch the water flow out. Is it like rain?

14. Make an ark out of cushions or kitchen chairs. Bring toy stuffed animals or a pet into the ark with you.

15. Make an ark by tying a piece of string to a paper cup or box and filling it with animal crackers. *(Have the animal crackers for lunch.)*

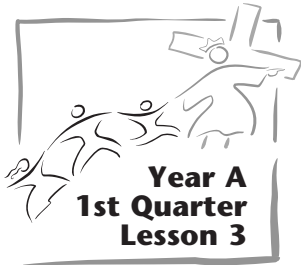
16. Play with boats in the bathtub. Pour water on them to see if they sink.

17. Name three people in your family or church whom God has given to help care for you.

18. Eat some vegetables or fruit for lunch. Thank God for the food He gives you.

19. Close your eyes and listen to a recording of ocean sounds to hear what Noah may have heard while in the ark.

LESSON



Sarah's Baby

COMMUNITY

Community means loving one another.

References

Genesis 18:1-16; 21:1-8; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 146.

Memory Verse

"Love each other" (John 15:12, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God made families to love and care for them.

Feel love for the family members God gave to them.

Respond by telling family members, "I love you."

The Message



People in families love one another.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Abraham and Sarah desperately want to have a child. God has promised that they will, but it seems impossible because of their age. Three visitors come to their tent. One tells them that within a year they will have a baby. Sarah laughs at this. Yet, as predicted, she indeed has a son. Baby Isaac's birth brings much joy into this family.

This is a lesson about community.

Children are a special part of families.

Families love and care for each other by doing many different things. We show our love to our families by helping one another and saying, "I love you."

Teacher Enrichment

"When Abraham was nearly one hundred years old, the promise of a son was repeated to him, with the assurance that the future heir should be the child of Sarah. But Abraham did not yet understand the promise. . . . Again

THREE

the promise was given, in words that could not be mistaken: 'Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him.' . . .

"The birth of Isaac, bringing, after a lifelong waiting, the fulfillment of their dearest hopes, filled the tents of Abraham and Sarah with gladness" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 146).

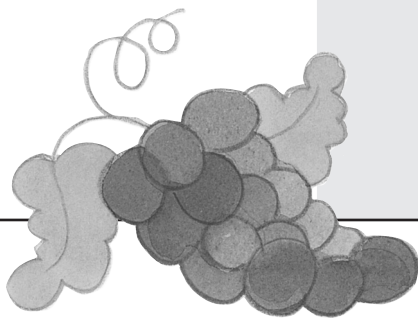
Room Decorations

Continue with the outdoor scene used for the last two months. Add a "tent" made from a large piece of material draped over a table or two chairs. This will be used in part of Experiencing the Story. You can also put large toy stuffed animal sheep or cardboard cutouts of sheep around the tent.



Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	<i>A. Book Basket</i> <i>B. Baby Dolls</i> <i>C. Tent House</i> <i>D. Cleaning</i> <i>E. Rocking Chairs</i> <i>F. Nature Box</i> <i>G. Cooking</i>	books about babies, families, etc. baby dolls, blankets, baby bottles large cloth, table or chairs child-size brooms, mops, dust cloths, dust pans, vacuum adult-size rocking chairs plastic animals, rocks, feathers, flowers, shells child's play kitchen and/or kitchen accessories and artificial food
3 Getting Started	up to 10	Welcome Prayer Visitors Offering Birthdays	bells basket artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, small gift(s) (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	<i>A. Memory Verse</i> <i>B. Laughter</i> <i>C. Happy Family</i> <i>D. Caring for Baby</i> <i>E. Homes</i> <i>F. Families Help</i> <i>G. Parties</i> <i>H. Happy Home With You</i> <i>I. God in the Family</i> <i>J. I Love You</i>	Bible books felts or pictures of people laughing baby dolls, blankets, baby bottles large cloth, table or chairs, or tent real or artificial food, cooking pot, cleaning supplies



LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
Week 1		<i>Baby Isaac Doll</i>	round clothespins or 4-inch sticks and pieces of cloth OR squares and strips of cloth and cotton balls or paper; markers
Week 2		<i>Picture Frame</i>	colored cardboard or poster board, glue or glue sticks, colored tissue paper, pattern on page 75
Week 3		<i>Heart Fan</i>	red construction paper, heart pattern on page 76, craft sticks, glue sticks
Week 4		<i>Puppet Family</i>	finger puppet pattern on page 75, glue sticks, crayons (optional), scissors (optional)
Week 5 (Optional)		<i>"God Keeps His Promises" Booklet</i>	booklet pattern on page 77, glue sticks, foil, scissors, markers
Snack Center (Optional)			napkins, crackers or fruit

1

PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School, something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young parents as suggestions and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

Do your kids ever make you feel old and tired? Do you ever look in the mirror and wonder who that is staring back at you? The demands of babies really can make us feel old. Whenever you feel like that, think of Sarah. Can you *imagine* being pregnant in your 90s? Can you *imagine* trying to chase a 2-year-old around at that age? Imagine some of her conversations with other mothers of young children ("Sarah, I'm so tired, and I'm only 35. How do you do it?") When you feel old and tired, remember, God sees you. God knows how you feel. He says, "Come to me . . . and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, NIV).

Tell what you do when you are "worn out" and feel "old."

Week 2

One afternoon while we were out for a walk, my 18-month-old son found a coin on a path. Before I could intervene, the coin was in his mouth, and as I tried to take it out, he swallowed it! I was horrified!

We rushed him to the hospital. The doctors ordered an X-ray to make certain the coin was not in his lung. It was not. So they said, "Wait a couple of days. Keep your eyes open, and make *sure* it does make its appearance again."

A couple of days later we retrieved the wayward coin, and all was well. So often we're so worried about the immediate, when all we have to do is "wait a couple days" and Jesus will take care of the problem. Remember, Sarah and Abraham waited many days for their promised son. God still keeps His promises.

Share an experience when waiting was necessary. How did God help you wait?

Week 3

Three o'clock in the morning. My eyelids did *not* want to open, but the cries of my hungry baby jarred me into the present. I pulled myself out of bed, stumbled toward the kitchen, and stubbed my toe on the dresser. Less than pleasant thoughts grumbled through my head as I prepared a bottle and hobbled down the hall. "Will you ever sleep through the night, baby?" I wondered. Suddenly a quiet thought entered my foggy brain: Say "*thank You.*" I did not feel like saying thank you to *anyone* for *anything* at that moment. Say "*thank You*" came the thought again. Say "*thank You*" for the privilege of getting up in the night because you have a child. I smiled in the darkness. My grumbling heart changed instantly. "That's right, Jesus. Thank You for the privilege of getting up in middle of the night. Thank You for my precious baby."

Any frustrations at your house? Share about a time you were glad to get up in the middle of the night.

Week 4

Sitting on the floor of the shower, 16-month-old Michelle smiled gleefully at her mother. "What are you eating?" Her mother asked. Picking the baby up, she cringed. "Yuck!" Michelle had put

her little fingers into the drain of the shower and had pulled the plastic cover off. She was happily licking the soap scum off her fingers.

Parenting often gives us messes that can make us cringe. Smells unbearable. Things in mouths that seem unthinkable. Yet Jesus understands. You'll make it through the messes. Depend on His strength to see you through.

Share a time when a mess seemed unbearable to you. How did you get through it?

Week 5 (or optional)

When my first child was about 6 months old and was consistently sleeping through the night, I remember saying to

my husband, "I love being a mommy!" We were finally on somewhat of a schedule, things were predictable, Wesley was smiling and fun and adorable.

Then there came some days when I'd say, "Well, today I didn't love being a mommy." Wesley was beginning to assert his independence, and he had some fussy days.

But I can still say, "I love being a mommy." I am thankful God trusts me with the responsibility of raising one of His children. Sarah desperately wanted that responsibility. God has given me two special boys. I'm grateful for the blessings my children bring me.

Tell how you manage to get through some of those frustrating moments.

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on the carpet for the early children, or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt inside the semicircle. The children participate in these activities, under the supervision of an adult, until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

Provide a basket of sturdy board books about families, animals, babies, etc.

B. Baby Dolls

Provide a basket with baby dolls, blankets, baby bottles, etc., with which to pretend to be a parent.

C. Tent House

Make a tent using a tablecloth or sheet draped over a small table or the

backs of two chairs. Children get underneath and pretend they are in a tent.

D. Cleaning

Supply child-size brooms, mops, dust cloths, dust pans, vacuum, etc., to pretend they are helping clean their house.

E. Rocking Chairs

For children who may be too shy or sleepy to join in the activities, parents can sit and rock their child.

F. Nature Box

Fill with stuffed or plastic animals, rocks, feathers, shells, plastic flowers, etc., for the children to explore and touch.

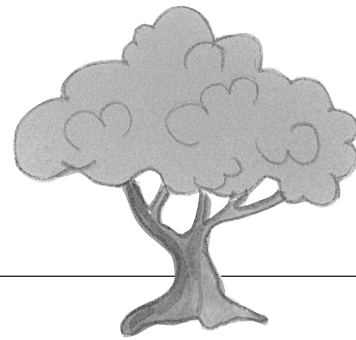
(This requires careful parental supervision so that small objects do not end up in a child's mouth.)

G. Cooking

Set up a child's size play kitchen and/or play dishes and artificial food for children to pretend they are helping to cook.

3

GETTING STARTED



Note: These activities may be done in any order. However, we recommend that you begin with a welcome service.

A. Welcome

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today. Sabbath is a special day. We see many friends at church on Sabbath. Let's shake hands as a special way to say good morning.** Walk around and shake hands with each child while you sing "Good Morning to You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 3).

Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
How are you today?
Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
This happy Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

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You Need:

☐ bells

Say: **Sabbath School is a special place to be. Let's ring some bells to show that we are happy for Sabbath School.** Ring bells while singing "Sabbath Bells" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 237).

Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Sabbath bells are ringing.
Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Ring-a-ling-a-ling,
Children sweetly singing.

—Mildred Adair

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B. Prayer Time

Say: **Today we are going to be talking about families loving each other. Let's stop right now and tell God thank You for making our families.** Encourage the families to help their child kneel. To prepare for prayer sing "When It's Time to Pray" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 17).

When it's time to pray,
I bend my knees, bend my knees,
bend my knees;
When it's time to pray,
I bend my knees, and then I talk to
Jesus.
When it's time to pray,
I fold my hands, fold my hands, fold
my hands;
When it's time to pray,
I fold my hands, and then I talk to
Jesus.
When it's time to pray,
I close my eyes, close my eyes, close
my eyes;
When it's time to pray, I close my
eyes and then I talk to Jesus.

—Janet Sage

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C. Visitors

Welcome each visitor. Then sing
"We Welcome You" (*Little Voices Praise
Him*, No. 7).

We welcome you, we welcome you,
On this Sabbath day.
We welcome you, we welcome you,
On this Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

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D. Offering**You Need:**

- ☐ offering container

Say: **We bring our offerings to show our love to God. Our offerings help other families**

learn that God loves them. Place a basket or other container on the floor for the children to place their money in while you sing "Here Is My Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 32).

Here is my money for Jesus,
For Jesus, for Jesus.
Here is my money for Jesus,
I give my money to Him.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Close your eyes now while we ask Jesus to bless the money.** Fold your hands and pray a simple prayer similar to the following:

Dear Jesus, this money is for You. We want others to know about Your love. Amen.

E. Birthdays**You Need:**

- ☐ artificial birthday cake
- ☐ candles
- ☐ matches
- ☐ small gift for birthday child (optional)

Say: **God gives us our birthdays. Someone here has a birthday. Who has a birthday? Let's all close our eyes.** Lead the birthday child up front while singing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will sing,
To wish you happy birthday.
—Mildred Adair

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Assist the child in dropping coins into an artificial cake while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 37).

(*Child's name*) has a birthday, we're so glad.
We will see how many (*he/she*) has had.
As we count the money we are told,
(*count*)
Yes, the money says (*he's/she's*) (*age*) years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

Light the birthday candles and then lead out in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

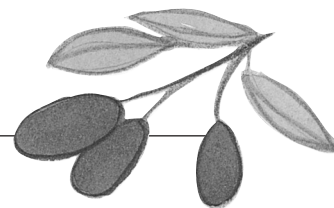
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Jesus loves you, dear (*child's name*),
Happy birthday to you.

—Traditional

Encourage the child to blow out candle(s). If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.



EXPERIENCING THE STORY



A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ☐ Bible books

Say: **It's time to learn our memory verse.** Give each child a tiny Bible book made of felt or construction paper with at least one picture of Jesus, more pictures of different scenes if possible. **Let's open our Bible books and look inside while we sing "I Open My Bible Book and Read"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 27).

I open my Bible book and read,
"God loves me, God loves me."
—Johnie B. Wood. Adapted.

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Say: **Our Bible tells us that families love each other. Can you give your family a big hug while we sing the memory verse together?** Use "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 264), but change the words as noted below.

Love each other, love each other,
Love, love, love each other.
—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

B. Laughter

You Need:

- ☐ felts OR pictures of people laughing

Use felts or show pictures from a book. Say: **Abraham and Sarah were sad. They wanted a baby. They had been waiting for a**

baby for a long time. They had asked God to send them a baby, but they still didn't have one.

Ask the children to make a sad face with you. **But God had promised to send them a baby, and God always keeps His promises.**

One day three visitors came to Abraham and Sarah. Can you count to three on your fingers? Count on fingers. They were special visitors sent from God. They told Abraham and Sarah that next year they would have a baby boy. Sarah laughed because she thought she was too old to have a baby. Do you like to laugh? Laugh with me.

Laugh. **Do you like to be tickled by your family?** Adults may tickle their child.

Let's sing together a happy song. Families, please help your child with the motions. Sing together "Happy All the Time" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 198).

I'm in-right, out-right, up-right,
down-right, happy all the time
(*hands point to chest, out, up,
down, clap five times*),

I'm in-right, out-right, up-right,
down-right, happy all the time
(*repeat motions*).

Since Jesus Christ loves me, I love
my family (*point upward, to self,
to family*),

I'm in-right, out-right, up-right,
down-right, happy all the time
(*hands point to chest, out, up,
down, clap five times*)!

—Traditional

God kept His promise and a baby boy was born to Abraham and Sarah. They were so happy that they named him Isaac means "laughter." There was lots of laughing and happiness in that family when baby Isaac was born, because people in families love each other. Help me do this finger play about Baby Isaac.

Abraham and Sarah were very old.
(*hold up two fingers*)

But God promised them (*point upward*)
A baby to hold! (*pretend to hold baby*)

This made Sarah laugh,
And Abraham laughed too. (*laugh out
loud*)

God sent baby Isaac. (*point upward*)
God's words are true! (*nod head, yes*)

From *Finger Play Activities*, ed. Mary Gross (Ventura, Calif.: Gospel Light), p. 47. Used by permission.

C. Happy Family

Say: **Abraham and Sarah were very happy. They had a special baby to care for and love. Let's sing and clap together about that happy family.** Clap on the words *happy* and *home* as you sing together "With Jesus in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 273).

With baby in the family,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.
With baby in the family,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.

—Anonymous

Say: **Our Bible tells us that families love each other. Can you give your family a big hug while we sing the memory verse together?** Use "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 264), but change the words as noted below.

Love each other, love each other,
Love, love, love each other.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

D. Caring for Baby

You Need:

- ☐ baby dolls
- ☐ baby blankets
- ☐ toy baby bottles

Say: **Abraham and Sarah took very good care of their baby, because people in families love one another. They wrapped baby Isaac in blankets to keep him warm.**

Distribute a baby doll and blanket for each child to hold and wrap.

When Baby Isaac cried, Abraham and Sarah rocked him. Have children rock and pat their doll while singing "With Jesus in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 273).

When families rock their babies,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.
When families rock their babies,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.

—Anonymous

Say: **When Baby Isaac cried, Abraham and Sarah fed him because families love and care for each other.** Hand out baby bottles and sing "With Jesus in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 273).

When families feed their babies,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.

When families feed their babies,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.

—Anonymous

Say: **Families play with their babies when babies want to play, because families love each other.**

Encourage parents to play peek-a-boo or patty-cake while singing "With Jesus in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 273).

When families play with babies,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.
When families play with babies,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.

—Anonymous

Say: **Our Bible tells us that families love each other. Can you give your family a big hug while we sing the memory verse together?**

Use "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 264), but change the words as noted below.

Love each other, love each other,
Love, love, love each other.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

E. Homes

You Need:

- ☐ tent (real
OR blankets
to make
one)

Use the tent that is part of your room decoration, or set up one now with a large cloth draped over a small table or backs of two chairs.

Say: **What kind of place do you live in? Your family gives you a home, because people in families love one another. Isaac's family lived in a tent.** Point to room decoration tent. **It was similar to this but much bigger. Let's take turns sitting in our pretend tent.**

Abraham and Sarah and baby Isaac lived in a tent because Abraham took care of sheep, and they needed to move from place to place. They could easily take down their tent, move it to another place, and set it up again. Can you do that with your home? Let's do this finger play about homes:

Homes

Where do the fish sleep? (*fold hands and lay on head, close eyes*)
In the water. (*make wave motions with hands*)
Where do the bees sleep?
In a hive. (*cup hands together*)
Where do the sheep sleep?
In the pasture. (*point away*)
Where do the cows sleep?
In the barn. (*raise hands together over head*)
Where do the birds sleep?
In the tree. (*hands up in air*)
Where do I sleep?
In a bed* just for me! (*point to self*)

From *Finger Play Activities*, ed. Mary Gross (Ventura, Calif.: Gospel Light), p. 47. Used by permission.

*Use "place" instead of bed if most of your students sleep on something else other than a bed.

F. Families Help

Say: **Little Isaac loved his family. It was a happy family. When people in families love each other, they want to do nice things for each other. They want to help each other. What are some of the ways families help each other? Let's do this finger play together:**

Because We're Family

A family is the people (*clap*)

God made to care for me.

(*point to self*)

We cook our food, (*make fist and pretend to hold spoon and mix*)

We clean our house, (*pretend to sweep*)

And everyone can see (*hold hand flat and up to eyes and look around*)

We like to help each other, (*arms out wide*)

Because we're family. (*clap*)

From *Finger Play Activities*, ed. Mary Gross (Ventura, Calif.: Gospel Light) p. 99. Used by permission.

Say: **Our Bible tells us that families love each other. Can you give your family a big hug while we sing the memory verse together?**

Use "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 264), but change the words as noted below.

Love each other, love each other,
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Repeat the memory verse several times.

G. Parties

You Need:

- ☐ real or artificial food items or pictures or drawings of various foods
- ☐ cooking pot
- ☐ child-size brooms, dustpans, mops, dust cloths, etc.

Say: **Abraham and Sarah were very happy to have Isaac, because people in families love each other. They had a big party to celebrate when he was a small boy. It was like a birthday party. They cooked lots of good food and many people were there. Do you have parties at your home sometimes? When families have parties, they have to get ready for them. What can you do to help get ready? Can you help with the cooking of good food? What are some of the**

good foods I have here? Hold up real or artificial food or pictures or drawings of good food. Let children guess food name and color. Give food items to children to touch. **Now bring your food and put it in my cooking pot while we sing to the tune of "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School"** (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 5).

My family cooks good food for me,
My family cooks good food for me,
My family cooks good food for me,
I love my family.

Say: **What else can your family do together to get ready for a party? You can clean house together. Can you help clean with me?** Distribute child-size brooms, mops, dust pans, dust cloths, vacuums. Sing the following song to the tune of "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 5):

I like to help my family,
I like to help my family,
I like to help my family,
I love my family.

H. Happy Home With You

Say: **Your families love you very much, just as Isaac's family loved him. You make your family happy. Families, please put your child's name in this next song as you sing and clap with your child. Children, you can point to yourself when you say your name.** Sing together "With Jesus in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 273).

With (child's name) in the family,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.
With (child's name) in the family,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.

—Anonymous

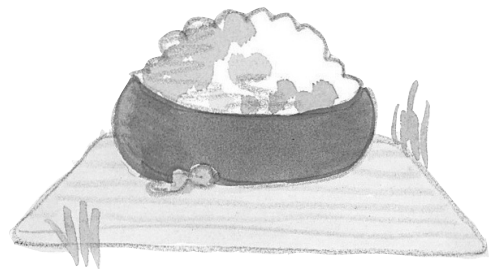
Say: **Our Bible tells us that families love each other. Can you give your family a big hug while we sing the memory verse together?** Use "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 264), but change the words as noted below.

Love each other, love each other,
Love, love, love each other.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.



I. God in the Family

Say: **God made your families to love and care for you. Thank You, God, for making our families. Did you know that God is a part of your family too? He is the most important person in your family. We all belong to God's big family. Jesus is like our big brother. He and God love us very much. Let's sing and clap and put God's name in this next song. You can point upward when you say "God."** Sing together "With Jesus in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 273).

With God in the family,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.
With God in the family,
Happy, happy home,
Happy, happy home.

—Anonymous

Repeat, singing "With Jesus in the family."

Say: **Our Bible tells us that families love each other. Can you give your family a big hug while we sing the memory verse together?**

Use "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 264), but change the words as noted below.

Love each other, love each other,
Love, love, love each other.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

J. I Love You

Say: **You can tell your family you love them by helping them. You can also tell your family you love them by saying, "I love you." Why don't you say "I love you" to your family right now? I think they will say, "I love you, too!"**

Encourage children to speak and praise them for trying. **You can also tell them you love them by hugs and kisses. Can you show your family you love them with hugs and kisses now?** Allow time before going to the next activity.

Say: **Our Bible tells us that families love each other. Can you give your family a big hug while we sing the memory verse together?**

Use "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 264), but change the words as noted below.

Love each other, love each other,
Love, love, love each other.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

**Week 1*****Baby Isaac Doll*****You Need:**

- ☐ 10-inch squares and 10-inch strips of fabric
- ☐ cotton balls OR paper
- ☐ markers

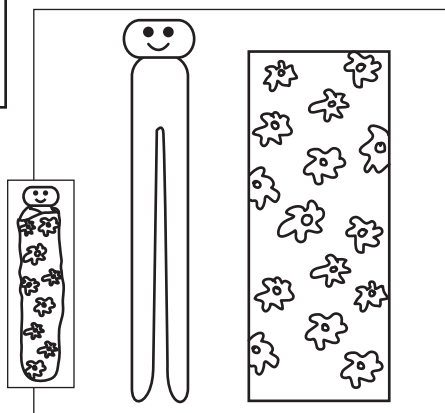
Beforehand, cut a 10-inch square of fabric and a 10-inch strip of fabric for each child. Put cotton balls or a wad of paper in the middle of the 10-inch square for a head. Tie the strip of fabric around the head. The strip will hang down as arms. Draw a face on the doll.

**You Need:**

- ☐ round clothespins OR four-inch sticks
- ☐ markers
- ☐ strips of soft cloth

OR

Draw a face on the round end on top of the clothespin or stick. Let child wrap stick with strips of cloth and then pretend it is Baby Isaac (see illustration).

**Week 2*****Picture Frame***

Beforehand, using various colors of cardboard, cut out a small picture frame with scalloped edges (see pattern on page 75). Also beforehand, cut many small pieces of colored tissue paper. The children can help scrunch the tissue papers up and then glue them on the cardboard frame. Parents can glue a picture of their child or family in the frame at home.

You Need:

- ☐ frame pattern (see p. 75)
- ☐ colored cardboard
- ☐ glue OR glue sticks
- ☐ colored tissue paper

Week 3***Heart Fan***

Cut out two red hearts (see pattern on page 76). Have child help glue a craft stick between the two hearts. Write in the memory verse, "Love each other." Talk about love in the family as the child uses the fan.

You Need:

- ☐ red construction paper
- ☐ craft sticks OR tongue depressors OR stiff strips of cardboard 2cm x 15cm
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ heart pattern (see page 76)

Week 4

Puppet Family

You Need:

- ☐ finger puppet pattern (see illustration on page 75)
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ crayons (optional)
- ☐ scissors (optional)

Reproduce the puppets on colored or white paper and allow the children to color the puppets. (Either cut the puppets out beforehand, or have the parent do it in Sabbath School.) Fit on child's finger and glue flaps together. Talk about Isaac's family and sing "With Jesus in the Family" (*Little*

Voices Praise Him, No. 273).

side cover write "God Keeps His Promises." Inside, below the aluminum foil, write "I Am a Promise." The child should see their reflection in the foil. Talk about how they are a promise fulfilled from God.

Snack Center (Optional)

A simple snack can be provided each week such as crackers, fruit slices, or juice. The children may enjoy eating dry "baby" foods, such as crackers, dry cereal, or similar snacks.

You Need:

- ☐ simple snack foods

Week 5

"God Keeps His Promises" Booklet

You Need:

- ☐ booklet pattern (see page 77)
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ aluminum foil
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ markers

Beforehand, reproduce a book for each child. Then have parents cut out the book. Glue a square piece of foil inside. On the out-

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: **Let's say our memory verse one more time while you hug someone in your family. Say "Love each other." Remember that people in families love each other. I'm so happy God gave us families.** Close with a short prayer thanking God for our families, then sing "Sabbath School Is Over" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 46).

Our Sabbath School is over,
And we are going now.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.

STUDENT LESSON

Sarah's Baby

References

Genesis 18:1-16
and 21:1-8;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, p. 146

Memory Verse

"Love each
other" (John
15:12, NIV).

The Message

People in
families love
one another.

Sherri is the new baby in her family. Her mother plays with Sherri. She loves her baby. She laughs because she is so happy. She really, really wanted a baby.

Abraham held Sarah's hand. He put his arm around her (*put arm around child*). He patted her back (*pat child's back*). "Boo-hoo," she cried.

"Don't be sad!" Abraham said kindly. He loved his wife Sarah.

Whom do you love?

Sarah blew her nose. Can you blow your nose? Sarah wiped her cheeks (*pat child's cheeks*). She looked at Abraham.

"I always wanted a baby of my very own!" she whispered. "But now I am too old!"

"I want a baby too," Abraham answered. "God said He would give us a son. But now we are so old."

One day Abraham saw three strange men (*hold up three fingers and count them*). They were standing near Abraham's tent. "Come and rest a while," he called. "Rest in the shade of this tree. I will bring you food."

The men smiled. "Thank you very much," they said. The three men sat down under the tree. (*Point to and count the men again.*)

Abraham hurried into his tent. "Sarah," he said, "we have company. Please bake some bread."

The servants helped Abraham and Sarah fix the food. Can you mix some bread?

Mix the bread,
Mix the bread.
Sarah can, Sarah can.
Bake us a loaf as fast as you can.
Mix it and knead it
And pat it with glee.
Bake it in the oven for
Our visitors three!*

Soon the food was ready. Abraham took it to the visitors.

"Where is your wife?" one man asked.

"She's in the tent," Abraham said.

"I will come back and see you next year," the man said. "And when I come, your wife, Sarah, will have her very own baby boy."

Sarah heard the man, and she laughed at what the man said (*laugh aloud*). She felt she was too old to have a baby.

Where is Sarah? (*Point to her.*) There is Sarah! In the tent. "I heard Sarah laughing," the man said. "She thinks she is too old. But is anything too hard for the Lord?"

Then Abraham knew the man was really the Lord.

Abraham and Sarah did have a baby boy! (*Pretend to hold baby in arms.*) They named him Isaac. His name means "he laughs." Sarah and Abraham loved Isaac. (*Hug your child.*) People in families love one another.

*Use here or at end of story.



1. Sing the memory verse song while you give each other a hug.

2. Allow your child to help cook by mixing ingredients together.

3. Allow your child to help clean by using a dust cloth.

4. Sing "With Jesus in the Family" together. Thank God for people in your family.

5. Name and point to parts of your home (*window, door, etc.*) or ask child to name them while you point. Thank God for your home.

6. Draw faces on the tips of three fingers for Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac. Tell the Bible story with your finger puppets.

7. Practice counting to three on your fingers to represent the three visitors who visited Abraham and Sarah.

8. Help your child "care" for a baby doll by brushing its hair, washing its face, tickling its tummy, hugging and kissing it.

9. Identify body parts on the doll by asking your child to point while you name them.

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

10. Take a baby doll for a walk outside.

11. Talk about why Sarah was first sad (*make sad faces*) and then happy (*make happy faces and laugh together*).

12. Have a pretend birthday party. Prepare for your "guests" by cleaning, cooking, and lighting candles on cupcakes. Have your child blow out the candles.

13. Tickle your child. Talk about how people in families who love each other are happy.

14. Tell your child you love him or her.

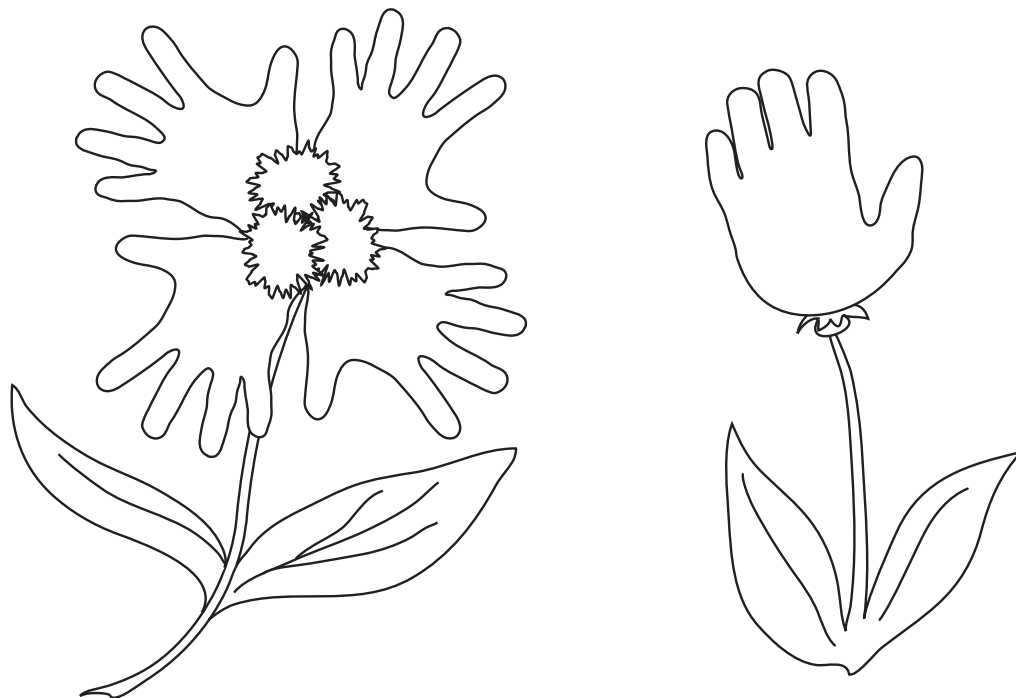
Give your child a hug and kiss.

15. Together, look at pictures of your child when a baby. Talk about things he or she did or looked like.

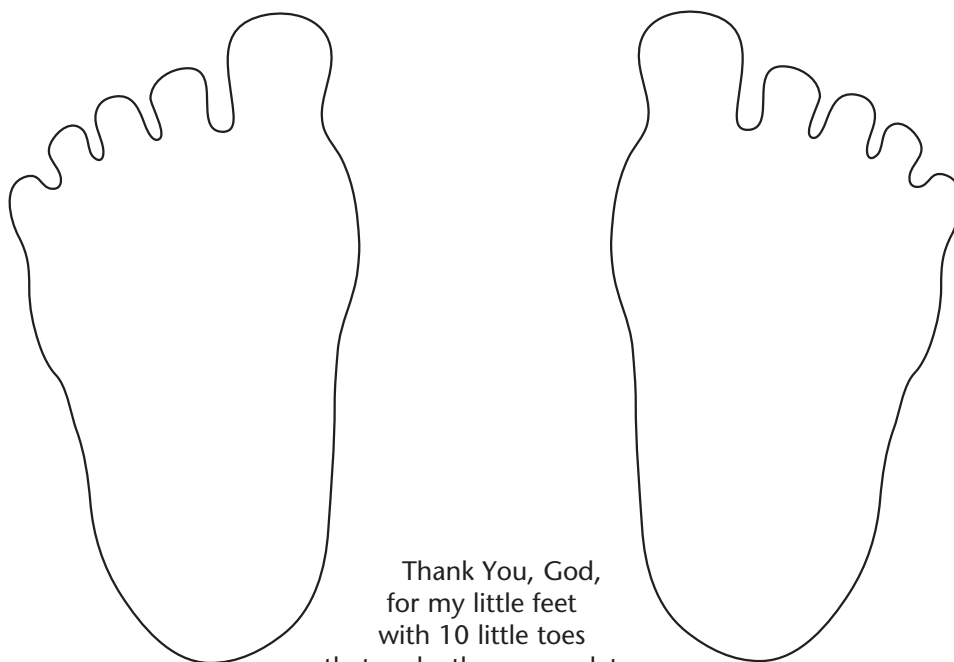
16. Look at pictures of your family. Point out family members and name them or ask your child to point to people you name.

17. Talk about your child's name and how and why it was chosen.

Make and Take: Handprint Flowers
Lesson 1 - Week 1



Footprints Plaque
Lesson 1 - Week 5



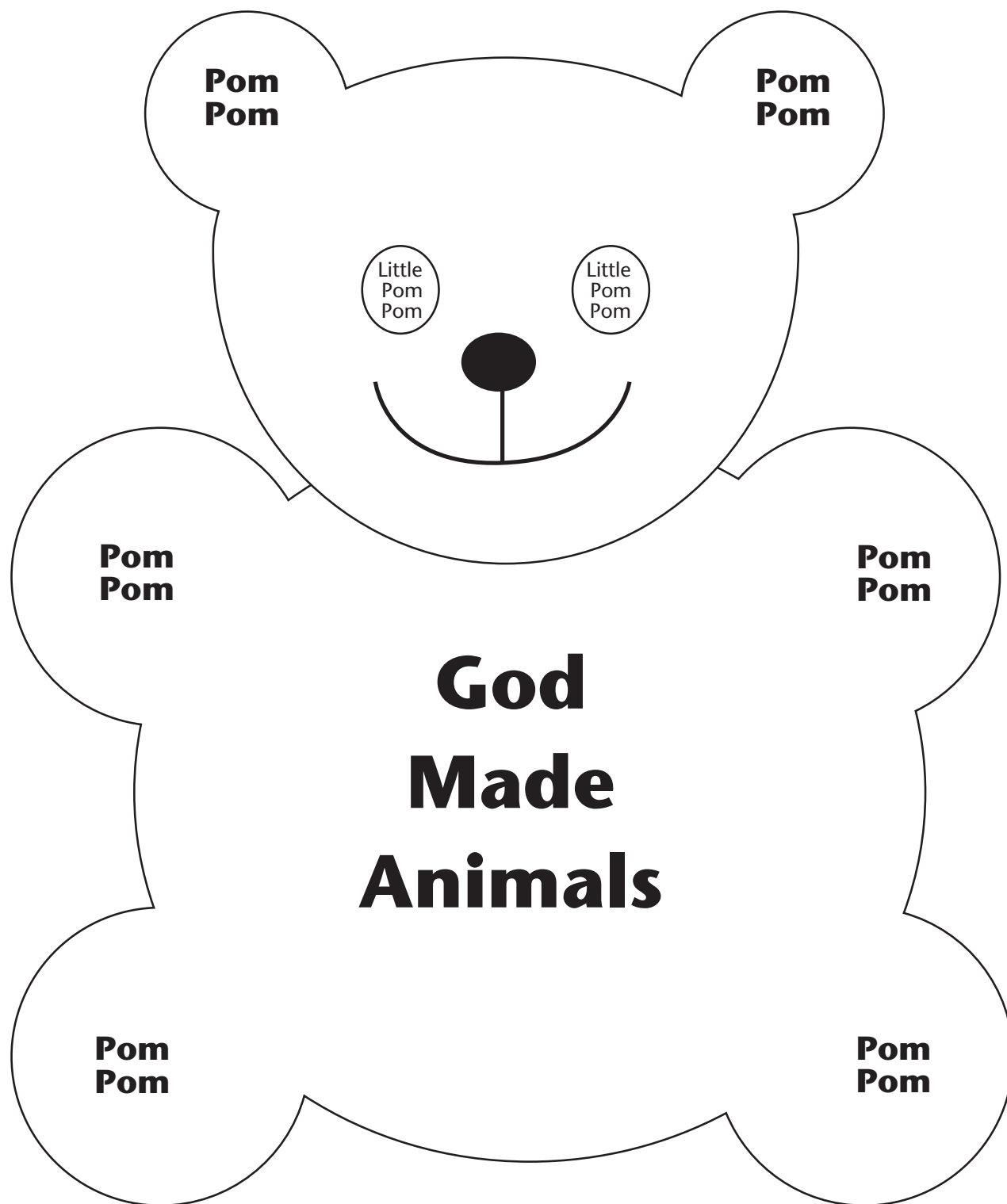
Thank You, God,
for my little feet
with 10 little toes
that make them complete.

Make and Take: Bird on a Stick
Lesson 1 – Week 2



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Make and Take: Fuzzy Bear
Lesson 1 - Week 3



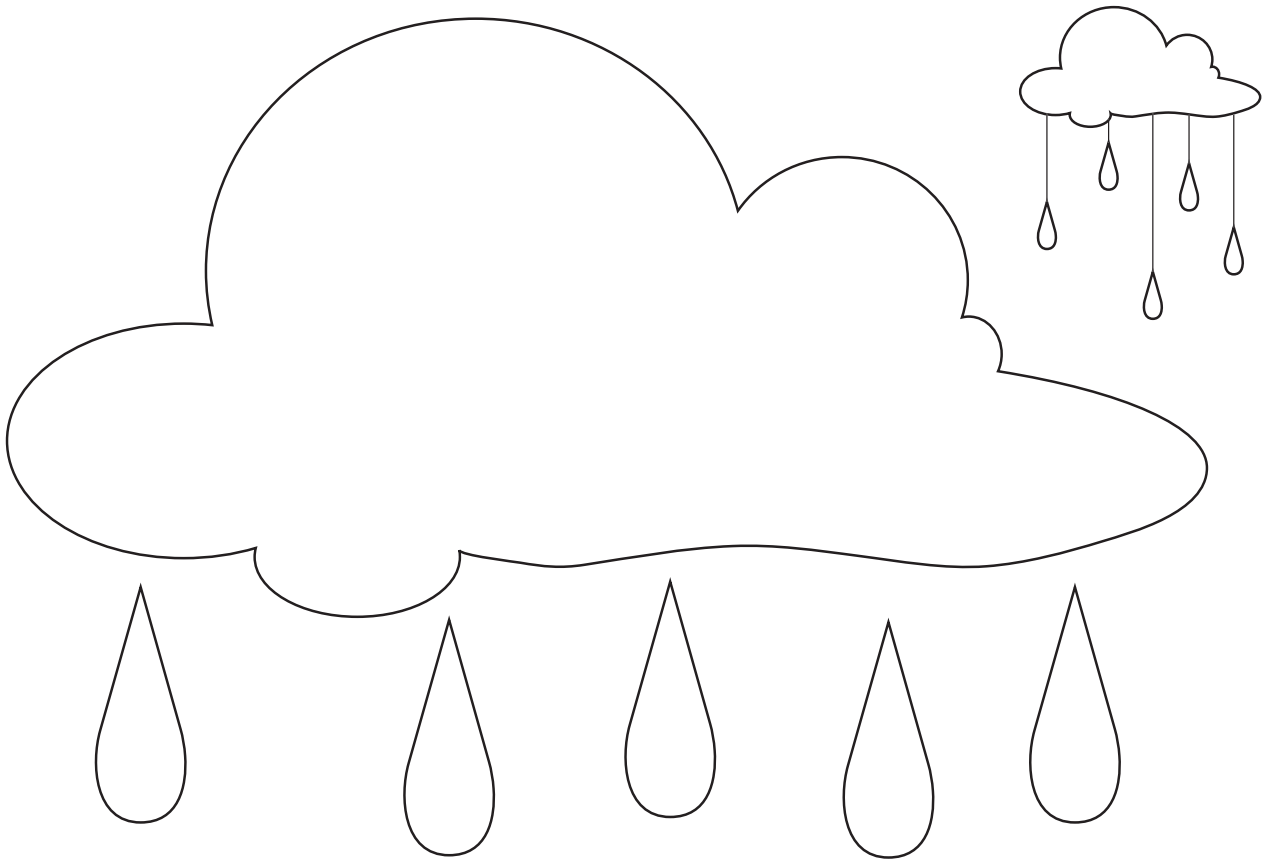
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Make and Take: Creation Paper Plate
(Examples of what the plate could look like.)
Lesson 1 - Week 4

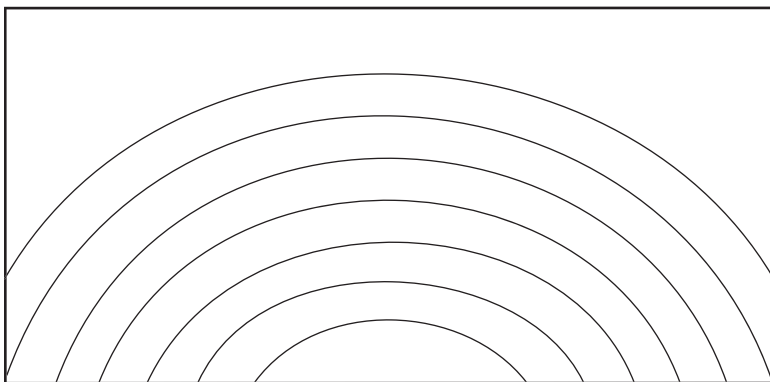


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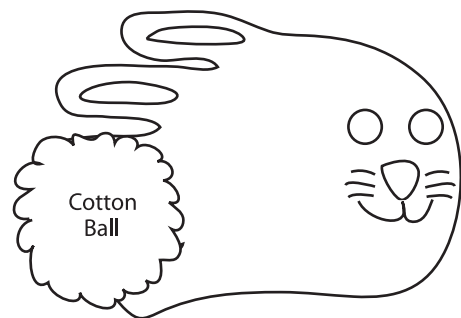
Activity: Raindrop Cloud Pattern Lesson 2 - Week 2



Make and Take: Rainbow Magnets Lesson 2 - Week 1



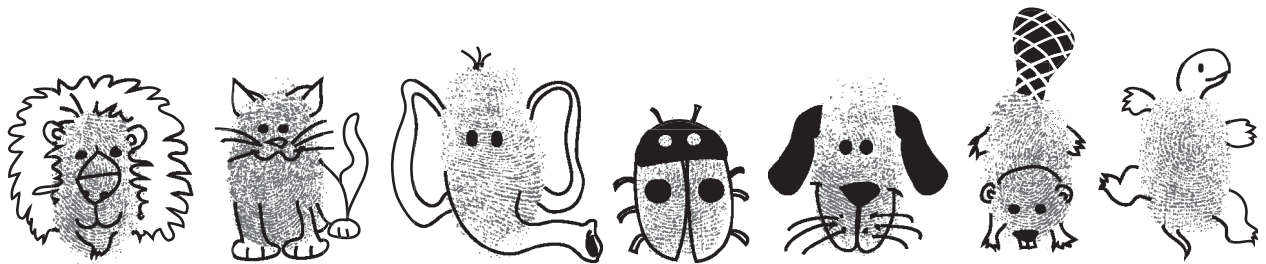
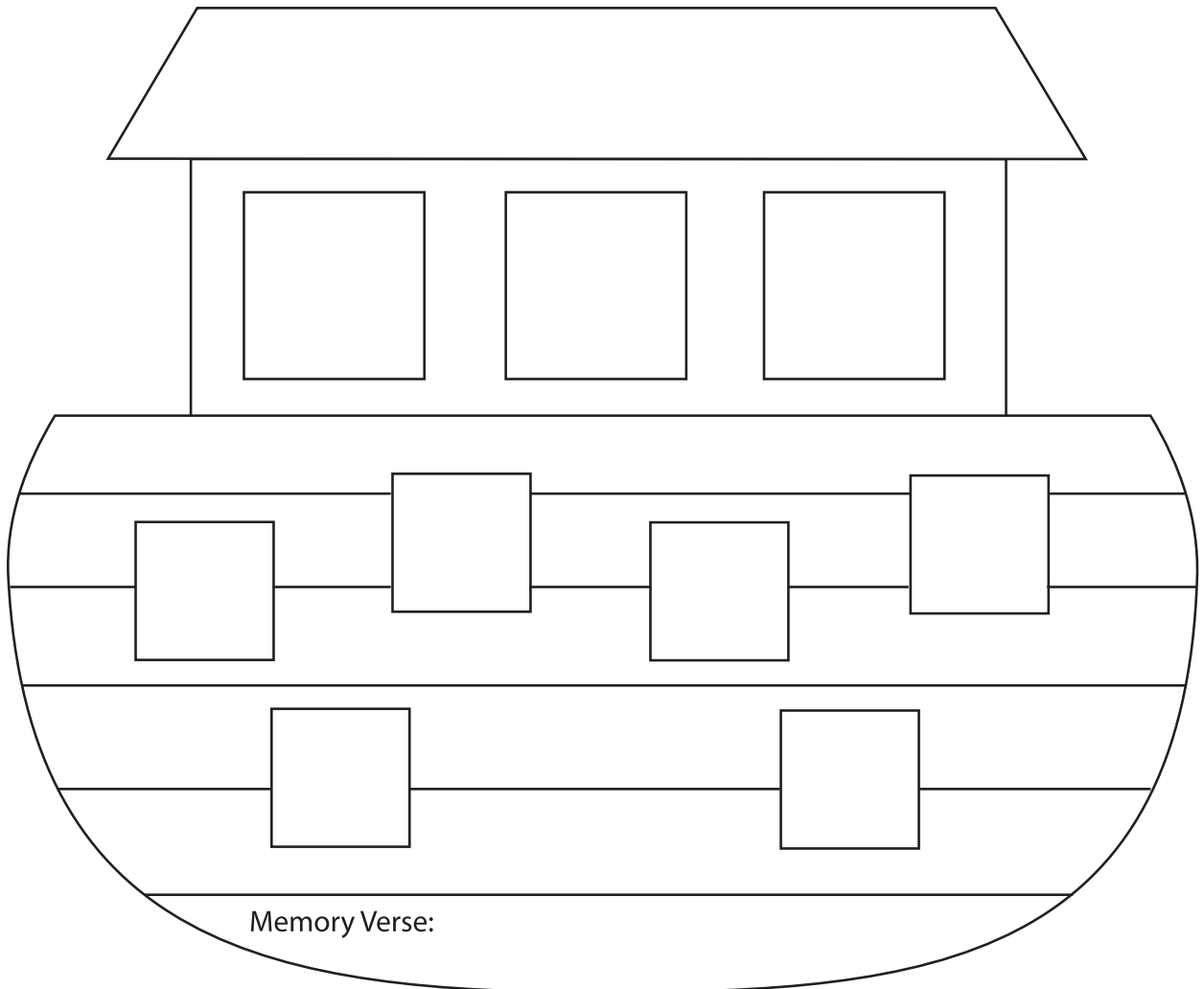
Activity: Handprint Bunny Lesson 2 - Week 3



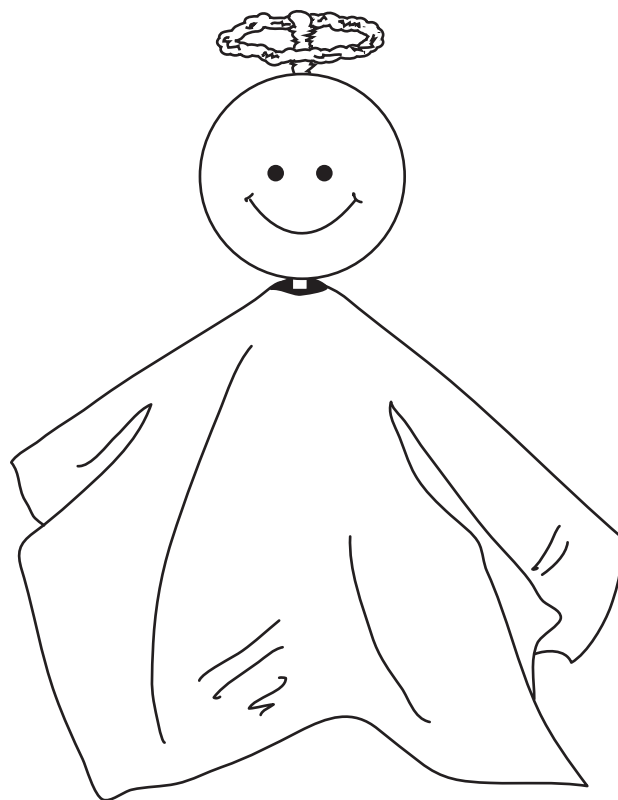
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Make and Take: Noah's Ark

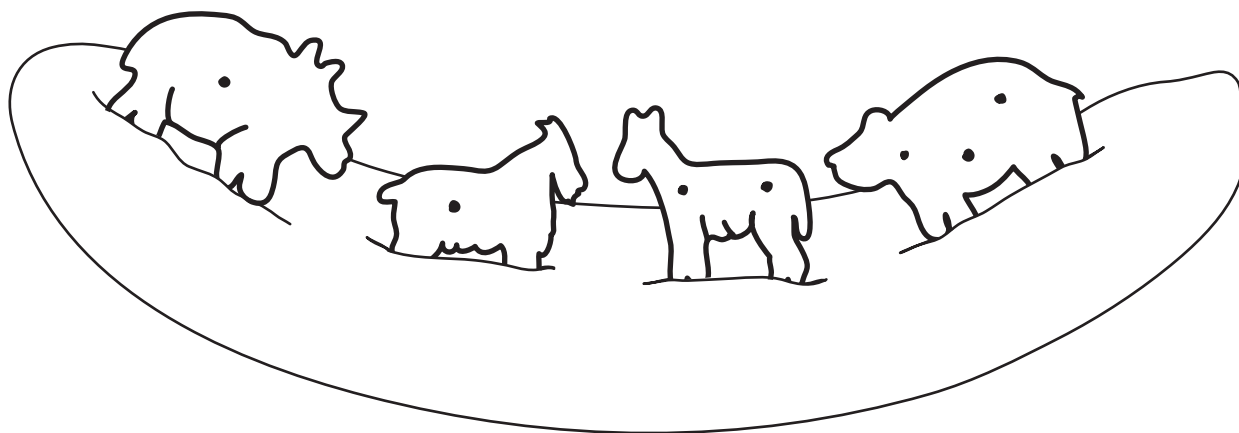
Lesson 2 - Week 4



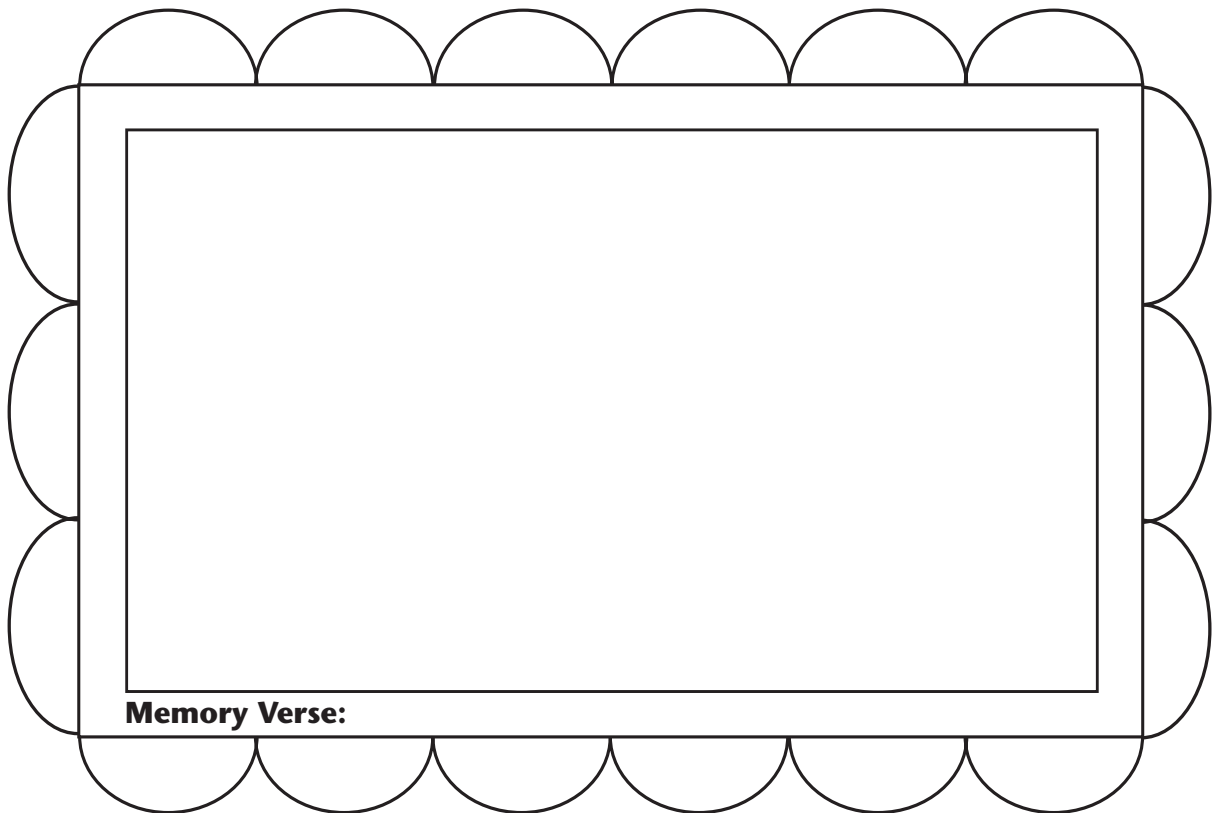
Make and Take: Lollipop Angel
Lesson 2 - Week 5



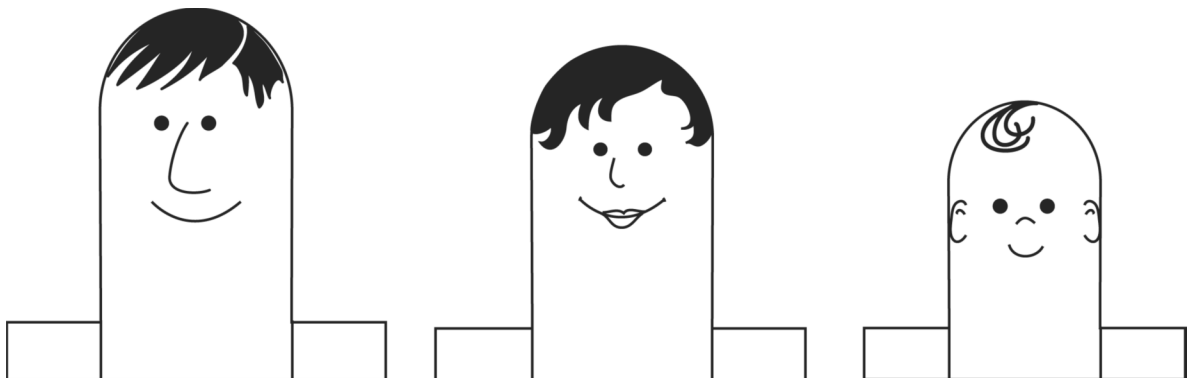
Snack Center: Banana Ark
Lesson 2 (Optional)



Make and Take: Picture Frame
Lesson 3 – Week 2

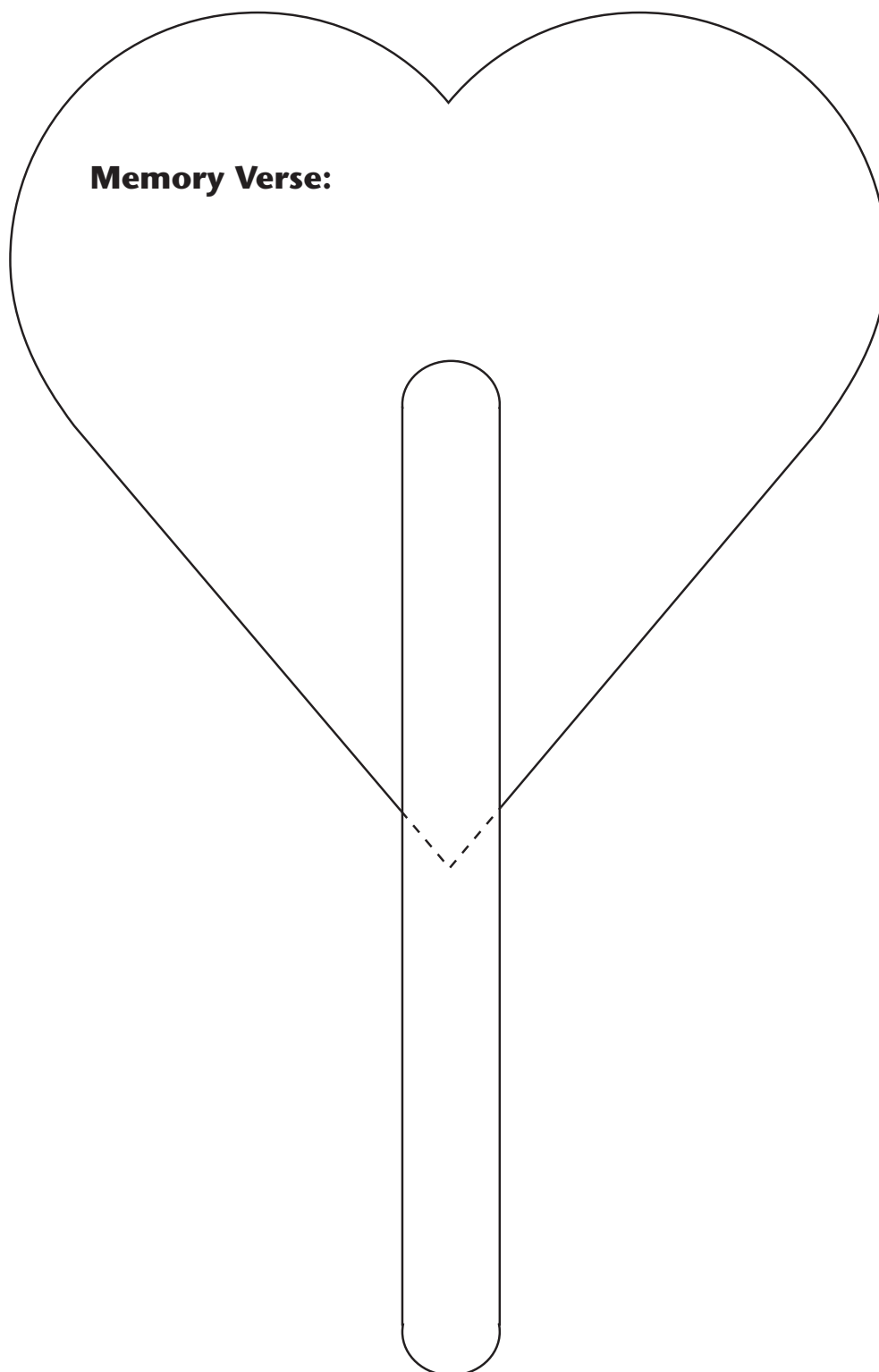


Make and Take: Puppet Family
Lesson 3 – Week 4



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Make and Take: Heart Fan
Lesson 3 - Week 3



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Make and Take: God Keeps His Promises Booklet
Lesson 3 – Week 5

**Foil for baby
to see his/her
reflection**

"I am a promise."

**God Keeps
His
Promises**

