

Family Together Time

For families with children ages 3 to 6

Lesson 1

God Made the Sky and Earth: Genesis 1:1-19

Family Talk

Children are like sponges. They absorb every word that we say and then take it to heart. We

need to be sources of encouragement and hope for them, or they will find inappropriate ways to gain attention and approval.

When God created the world, He looked at the things He had made. Over and over in Genesis 1, the Bible says, "God saw that it was good."

Look at the things your child makes this week. Take time to praise your child's work. Tell her that the work she has done is good, just as God's work was good. In doing so, you will be motivating your child and sending her a message of love and approval.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, You are wonderful.
You made our great big world.

Thank You, God, for making plants
that give us good food to eat.

God, please keep us safe as we sleep
beneath the moon and stars You made.

Bible Memory FUN

Genesis 1:1, 31

Find these verses in a family Bible. Clap a rhythm as you say the verses with your child.

This week, help your child remember:

God made the sky and the earth.



Family Fun...

Mystery Plants. Children enjoy playing guessing games. Have your child close his eyes and open his mouth. Put a small bite of food (a section of orange or a slice of carrot) in his mouth. Have your child taste the food. Ask, "What plant is this that God made for us?"

Provide clues as needed.



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Lesson 2

God Made Fish and Birds: Genesis 1:20-23



Always be aware of the great treasure and potential of your child. Be concerned about

all areas of your child's nurture and growth, but above all, strive to help your child grow spiritually.

Look at yourself first. Much of what a child learns is caught rather than taught. The reflection of your faith in God will form the lasting image and concept your child will have about God.

Remember that what a child sees and experiences has great significance. Since children develop deeply-held beliefs from attitudes and feelings during the early years, be ready to relate all things of life to God. For example, "Thank You, God, for fish in the neighbor's pond" is a teachable moment that has great spiritual significance to a child.



Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, thank You for making birds big and small.

Thank You, God, for making the fish that swim.

God, You are powerful. You have made everything just right.



Genesis 1:1, 31

Find these verses in a family Bible. Roll a ball back and forth with your child, repeating the Bible verses as the ball goes from one set of hands to the other.

This week, help your child remember:

God made fish and birds.



Finding Fish. Venture to a pet store with your child. Walk through the area of displayed fish. Talk about the different colors, sizes, and fins of the fish. Help your child count how many fish are in a tank, and point out the various species of fish. On the way home, thank God for all the special fish that He created. Note: This same activity can be done using a book about fish.

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



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Lesson 3

God Made Animals: Genesis 1:24, 25

Family Talk

Children have a natural curiosity about the world around them. Sharp

young eyes, questioning minds, and very busy hands automatically explore things from nature. What child can resist bounding after a tiny toad, touching the petals of a sunflower, or collecting lightning bugs on a summer night?

Take advantage of informal opportunities to talk about God the creator when children explore their world. Reinforce the truths of God's presence, goodness, and power. You can significantly impact your child's appreciation of nature and understanding of our wonderful creator during the early years. Take time to "stop and smell the roses" with your child.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, You are good. Thank You for making animals.

God, thank You for making animals that live in water.

Thank You, God, for making animals that live on land.

Bible Memory FUN

Genesis 1:1, 31

Find these verses in a family Bible. Pick a street and name it Bible Verse Lane. Every time you and your child travel down that street, say the Bible verses.

This week, help your child remember:

God made all the animals.



Family Fun...

Animal Place Mats. Using old magazines, have your child cut out pictures of animals that God has made. Next, glue the pictures onto sheets of construction paper. Help your child cover the sheets with clear adhesive covering. Make a place mat for every member of your family. During mealtime, have family members talk about the different animals on their place mats. Thank God for all the animals.

Articles by
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Lesson 4

God Made People: Genesis 1:26–2:2

Family Talk

Give your child the wonderful gift of God's global view of the world. God

loves all people of the world, not just those who look like us or act as we do. The Bible says we are made in an amazing and wonderful way (Psalm 139:14).

Provide opportunities to explore other cultures. Children can begin to appreciate playing side by side with children who may speak a different language or have a different color of skin. Invite a family from another culture to come for a meal. Correspond with a missionary family. Read books and listen to music from other cultures. Help your child see people of the world as God sees them—all His children (John 1:12).

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, thank You for making people who live all over the world.

Thank You, God, for making me.

God, You made a wonderful world.

Bible Memory FUN

Genesis 1:1, 31

Find these verses in a family Bible. Use an inflatable globe to toss back and forth with your child. Each time the globe is caught, say the Bible verses.

This week, help your child remember:

God made people.



Family Fun...

God Created Me. Children love to see pictures of themselves at younger stages of their lives. Pull out a favorite picture of your child at a younger age. Talk about the picture and why it is one of your favorite captured moments. Share with your child unique traits God has created in the child. Talk about how your child has grown and what has been learned since the picture was taken. Thank God together for making people.

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Lesson 5

Noah Builds a Boat: Genesis 6:9–7:16

Family Talk

Have you had to stay indoors on a rainy day? Think about Noah with hundreds of

anxious animals and not a lot of room to play. On days when you have eager little hands waiting for something exciting to do, pull out a box of rainy day fun. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Put together an indoor sandbox. In a box, put rice or dried beans with spoons and cups.
- Finger paint with yogurt or pudding and then eat your artwork!
- String popcorn to make a necklace. Create an indoor picnic.

On rainy days, you may have to make sunshine with your children. It's not hard to do when you remember together that God cares for us—in both the sunshine and the rain!

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, help us to obey.

Thank You, God, for Noah's example of following directions.

God, keep us safe in both sunshine and rain.

Bible Memory FUN

Genesis 17:1

Find this verse in a family Bible. Take a walk with your child. Every couple of steps, stop and say what the verse says about God's power and obeying Him.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to obey Him.



Family Fun...

Can It Float? Find two glasses you can see through. Then gather objects from around the house that can be placed in water. Fill the glasses with water. Allow your child to guess which items might float and which would sink. Talk about how Noah obeyed God and how the ark-boat with all the animals inside floated on water.

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Lesson 6

Noah and the Flood: Genesis 7:11–8:22; 9:8–17

Family Talk

Have you thought about the difference God makes in the life of a

child? Have you considered how essential God is to every aspect of life? Children can have their deepest needs met by knowing that God made them and loves them very much. All the challenges they will ever encounter can be faced with the knowledge of God's presence in their lives.

Treasure valuable moments of sharing how much God loves and cares for your children each and every day. Help your children understand that their worth is priceless, no matter how they look or feel or what they can do.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, for taking care of Noah and his family.

God, thank You for keeping us safe.

Thank You, God, for rainbows and Your promise to care for us.

Bible Memory FUN

Genesis 17:1

Find this verse in a family Bible. Use masking tape on the floor to outline the bottom of a boat. Have your child jump in the boat and say the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:

God cares for us.



Family Fun...

Rainbow Wall. Find an open space on a wall. Use colored crepe streamers and reusable adhesive to create a large rainbow on the wall. Sit with your child beside the rainbow and thank God for His promise to care for us. Share ways that God has cared for you throughout the day. Talk about the story of Noah and how God put a rainbow in the sky after the flood.

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Lesson 7

Abram Moves: Genesis 12:1-9

Family Talk

Children spend much more time at home than at the church

building. You are one of your child's most important teachers. Your willingness to invest time and effort in your child's life during these early, impressionable years will pay off as you see your child learn to respond to the world in ways that are pleasing to God.

Parenting is tough work. Remember to demonstrate throughout your day that you rely on God and follow His ways (Psalm 3:5, 6). Remember that little eyes are watching.

Bible Memory FUN

Genesis 17:1

Find this verse in a family Bible. Highlight in the Bible what the Lord says about following Him. Say that part of the Bible verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to follow Him.



Family Fun...

Following the Leader. Have the family form a line and take turns being the leader.

The leader will lead the group in a variety of activities around the house or yard. Sample activities: hopping on one foot, touching your finger to your nose, stretching your arms out like an airplane, and so on. After everyone has had a turn at being the leader, talk about how Jesus is our leader and we are to follow Him.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, for leading Abram.

God, You are all-powerful!

God, help me to follow You.

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Family Together Time

For families with children ages 3 to 6

Lesson 8

Abram and Lot: Genesis 13

Family Talk

Praise and encouragement are important to children. As children grow,

they need to hear frequent positive messages from others to gain a balanced and healthy self-worth and to know what is right and good about the choices they make.

Sometimes being a good encourager takes practice. Try saying these to your child: "I believe in you!" "You have shown effort and that is important." "You can try again." How refreshed we feel when someone comes alongside us and says a few positive words that motivate and encourage us in our choices. Commit yourself to doing the same for your child.



Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, for helping Abram.

God, help me not to argue.

God, help me to make good choices.

Bible Memory FUN

Genesis 17:1

Find this verse in a family Bible. Toss a ball back and forth. Whoever catches the ball can recite what the verse says about God's power and obeying Him.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to make good choices.

Family Fun...

Choices. Place two edible items under individual cups to hide them. One item should be something your child will view as a treat (a fruit snack or cookie). The second item should be something healthy, but perhaps not as exciting to eat (lettuce or bread). Place the cups in front of your child and have your child choose one. Show what is under the cup that wasn't chosen, and then show what is under the chosen cup. Talk about making choices. Pray and ask God to help your child make good choices.

Articles by
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Family Together Time

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Lesson 9

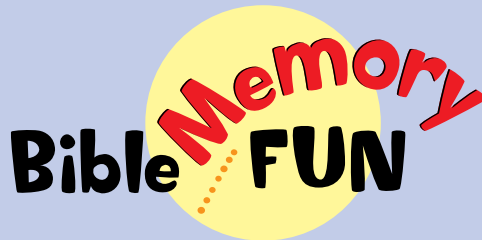
Abraham and Sarah Have a Baby: Genesis 17, 18, 21



God loves families and desires for His love to be demonstrated

as we love and care for our children.

There is no greater gift you can give to your family than leaving them a legacy of faith. You may have a long history of faith in your family, or you may have the privilege of being the first in line, the beginning point. Either way, you can make an impact on your family for generations to come. What an awesome privilege! Establish and build a family that pictures for the world what happens when Christ is at the center of your life and family.



Genesis 17:1

Find this verse in a family Bible. Design a masking tape road somewhere in your house. As family members walk along the road, they recite the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:

God cares for families.



Families' Night Out. Plan a night when two or more families can get together. Play table games or venture to a local park and play a game of soccer or kickball. Take a small break during the fun to share how thankful you are for family and friends. Thank God for giving us families that provide for us, love us, and are fun to spend time with.



Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, I thank You because You care for families.

Thank You for helping Abraham and Sarah.

God, please keep my family safe today.

Articles by
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Together Time

Joseph as a Boy: Genesis 37:1-28; 39:1, 2

Family Talk

As a child, were you afraid of the dark, certain animals, or shadows in the

closet? How did you respond to your fears?

You can help your children understand their fears and grow in their ability to overcome those fears. First, recognize a child's fears—no matter how silly or small they seem to you. Read books to your child with stories of kids who have experienced similar fears. Talk and pray about the fears.

The Bible talks about fear and reminds us that perfect love drives out fear (1 John 4:18). We must encourage children to be confident of God's love. He cares for us all the time.



Bible Memory FUN

1 Samuel 12:20

Find this verse in a family Bible. Create a rhyme that includes the words, "Serve the Lord with all your heart." Say the rhyme each time you leave your house.

This week, help your child remember:

God cares for us all the time.

Family Fun...

Family Collage. On a piece of poster board, have family members draw pictures showing ways God cares for your family throughout the day. Talk about the pictures and then thank God for the ways He cares. Display the family masterpiece where it will be seen often to remind you how God cares for your family all the time.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, thank You for always being with us.

Thank You, God, for being with Joseph in Egypt.

God, thank You for being with me when I feel happy or scared.

Articles by
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Family Together Time

For families with children ages 3 to 6

Lesson 11

Joseph Serves God All His Life: Genesis 39, 41, 42, 45, 47

Family Talk

Every Bible-learning opportunity equips a child in his development of ideas and feelings

toward the church, the Bible, and God. The ideas and feelings learned and experienced will help lead the child's actions, and those actions will help guide a child's life as he grows.

In the smallest of tasks lies tremendous potential for teaching your child the heart of a servant. Assist your child in understanding how he can serve God. Encourage him when he serves others at home. Build your child's confidence to assist other children who are struggling with a task or to encourage them when they are sad. Cheer your child each and every day as he grows to be one of God's helpers.



Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, for helping us.

Thank You, God, for Joseph's example of serving You with his life.

God, help me to serve You by helping others.

Bible Memory FUN

1 Samuel 12:20

Find this verse in a family Bible. Clap your hands as you say the last sentence together. This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to serve Him.

Family Fun...

Oatmeal Muffins

1 cup rolled oats, 1 cup milk, 1 cup flour, $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar, 3 teaspoons baking powder, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, 1 beaten egg, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup melted shortening

Mix oats and milk; let stand 15 minutes. Sift remaining dry ingredients into a bowl. Mix egg, shortening, and oatmeal mixture. Add to dry ingredients, stirring just to moisten. Spoon into muffin cups until cups are $\frac{2}{3}$ full. Bake at 425° for 20–25 minutes. Share the treats with a neighbor.

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Lesson 12

Samuel as a Boy: 1 Samuel 1–3

Family Talk

If you were to name a handful of items you think your child could not do without,

what would you name? Would it be a bed to sleep in, a favorite teddy bear, or clothes to wear? The list of what we feel children need can be endless. All people need other people in their lives who love and accept them no matter what. Our little ones are no exception. As caregivers, this is our first and foremost job!

Children in their earliest stages of life can experience God's unconditional love and acceptance through the people who care for them. Be sure to send messages of His love to your child every day.

Bible Memory FUN

1 Samuel 12:20

Find this verse in a family Bible. Pull out a kitchen pan and a wooden spoon to tap a rhythm as you say the last sentence of the verse with your child.

This week, help your child remember:

God uses people to care for us.



Family Fun...

Care Cards. Help your child name people who care for others: parents, grandparents, teachers, doctors, police officers, firefighters, and so on. Assist your child in making construction paper cards for two or three of the people on the list. Hand deliver the care cards and thank the people for the way they care for others. Thank God for these people and how He uses them to show His love.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, that Hannah and Eli helped Samuel learn about You.

Thank You, God, for people who teach me about You.

God, thank You for my family.

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Family Together Time

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Lesson 13

Samuel Serves God All His Life: 1 Samuel 3, 8–10, 12

Family Talk

Finding ways your children can be helpers at home is a valuable teaching

tool in their growth and understanding. Sometimes children's jobs seem like more effort than they are worth. But as parents, we have tremendous opportunities to teach our children to be helpers.

Ask your children to assist you in setting the table, folding laundry, or washing dishes. Children can learn to take on responsibility through age-appropriate tasks. Always remember to encourage the children as they help. Positive affirmation gives them the confidence they need as they assist and learn. Always remember to thank God for your little helpers!



Bible Memory FUN

1 Samuel 12:20

Find this verse in a family Bible. Act out ways to help at home as you say the last sentence of the verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to be His helpers.

Family Fun...

Family Helpers. Find a service project your family can be involved in together. Help a neighbor rake leaves. Clean a section of the church building. Bake and decorate cookies for someone who is alone or has been ill. (Choose the service opportunity together as a family.) Talk about the task to make sure all family members understand what they are doing. After the activity is finished, share how each family member is a helper for God.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, I want to be Your helper!

Thank You, God, for Samuel's good example.

God, as I grow big and tall, I want to serve You with all my heart.

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