



Bible Point

God Made Families

Bible Verse

God made families (adapted from Genesis 1:26a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- recognize that God made families,
 - learn that Abraham and Sarah thanked God for Isaac, and
 - express their thanks to God for making families.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- I'm happy that God made families.

Genesis
15:1-6;
18:1-14;
21:1-7



God keeps his promises. God does what he says he will do. For Abraham and Sarah, it was the miraculous fulfillment of an amazing promise: the birth of a son to 90- and 100-year-old parents who had never before been able to have a child! And it was really their child—the son of both Abraham and Sarah—as confirmed in Genesis 21:2-3. The shame of childlessness that had haunted them for decades was finally erased. God brought a kind of joy to Abraham and Sarah that they had never known.

Isaac, the name Abraham gave his son, means “he laughs.” Genesis 21:6 contains a play on words that’s pretty obvious even in English. Through the child named “he laughs,” God had brought laughter to Sarah and to all who knew her. In those days, any birth of a healthy child brought great joy, even more so if it was a boy. But a firstborn son, born to such elderly parents, was certainly a laughing matter! Sarah could hardly contain her happiness. Who could blame her?

Prayer

- Read Proverbs 15:15.
- Do you see life through a despondent or happy lens?
- Pray: Lord, help me to be happy in all circumstances, safe in the knowledge that you know best and that you’re working out my life for your purposes. And please help me to share that happiness with the children I teach.

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	Option 1: Family-Fun Toss —Toss beanbags and name the family members.	Family member patterns (pp. 24-25), beanbags, poster board, transparent and masking tape, markers or crayons, scissors	
	Option 2: Home, Sweet Home —Build homes for pretend families.	Building blocks, variety of boxes	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	God Made Families —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Abraham's family from Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-14; 21:1-7.	Foil or paper star	
	Thank You, God —Sing a song thanking God for their families.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Tape	
	Sing It Out —Sing a song thanking God for their families.	Bible, CD player	
	Bible Craft —Create colorful family flags to wave.	Flag pattern (p. 66), crayons, markers, tape, scissors, drinking straws, ribbon or crepe paper	
	Bible Game —March in a family parade, and remember that God made families.	CD player, flags from Bible Craft	
Closing 	Family Fare —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Yogurt cups, cereal loops, mini chocolate chips, plastic spoons	

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) (track 6) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God made families.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Family-Fun Toss

SUPPLIES: family member patterns (pp. 24-25), beanbags, poster board, transparent and masking tape, markers or crayons, scissors

Before this activity, photocopy the family member patterns. Color the pictures, and then cut them out. To make a game board, tape the cutouts to a large sheet of poster board. Be sure to allow at least five inches between each cutout.

Set the game board next to a wall. Stick a 12-inch piece of masking tape to the floor three feet from the game board. Place a few beanbags on the masking tape line. As children arrive, invite them to stand at the line and toss beanbags onto the game board. If a beanbag lands on a picture, have children tell what family member the picture shows. Tell children that today they’ll learn how Abraham thanked God because ► God made families.

Option 2: Home, Sweet Home

SUPPLIES: building blocks, variety of boxes

Set out building blocks and a variety of boxes. Encourage children to make “houses” for pretend families. Show toddlers how to place large blocks or boxes on the floor and then stack smaller ones on top to make pretend apartment buildings and two-story houses. You may wish to include small figurines or dolls to “live” in the homes. Explain that ► God made families and that families live in many different types of homes. Remind children that Abraham and Sarah’s home was a tent.

Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the CD and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”

teacher tips

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



teacher tips

Make beanbags in a snap by pouring dried beans into children’s socks and then securely knotting the ankles.





Let's pick up all our things.
 Let's pick up all our things.
 Let's pick up all our things
 And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
 Everyone here can help.
 Everyone here can help.
 Let's put it all away.

Let's pick up all our things.
 Let's pick up all our things.
 Let's pick up all our things.
 It's time to stop our play.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Who made families? ► God made families. How do we know that? The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let's sing a song about the Bible.** Using the CD, lead children in singing "God's Special Book" (track 3) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



This is God's special book.
 Yes, it's God's book you see!
 I learn about all God has done
 And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!

■ Bible Story: God Made Families

SUPPLIES: foil or paper star



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Cut a star out of paper or aluminum foil for use during the lesson.

Panel 1



Set the figure of baby Isaac, a paper or foil star, and the *fun foot* behind you. Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Say: **We've been learning that ►God made families.** **This is Abraham. You can pat Abraham's beard and tell him hello.** Hold the StoryBoard down so that the children can touch Abraham's beard and headdress. Encourage toddlers to say, "Hello, Abraham," as they touch his beard.

Abraham loved God, but Abraham was sad. Show me a sad face. Pause for children to respond. Abraham was sad because he didn't have any children in his family. Abraham had a nice wife named Sarah. But they didn't have a little boy or girl to love. Let's say a rhyme about Abraham and Sarah. Repeat the following action rhyme, and encourage toddlers to follow.

Abraham and Sarah felt no joy (*make a sad face and shake your head*);
They had no little girl or boy. (*Hold your hands palms up and shake your head.*)

Abraham and Sarah wanted a family. They knew that ►God made families. Abraham prayed and asked God for a baby. God told Abraham to count the stars in the sky. That's how many people would be in Abraham's family. Point to the stars on Panel 1. **Look at all the stars! We can't touch real stars, but we can touch pretend stars!** Hold the StoryBoard down so the children can touch the stars.

Hold up the paper or foil star. Say: **We'll use this star to play a game. Close your eyes and hold out your hands. If I put the star in your hands, jump up and say, "Here's the star!"** Play until each child has received the star at least once. Then say: **Just as there are many stars in the sky, God said that Abraham would be the father of many children. Yea! Let's clap for Abraham.** Pause for children to respond.

Panel 2



Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard, which shows the tent.
Ask: • **What do you see in this picture?** (A tent; a tree; sheep; men.)

• **Who lives in the tent?** (Abraham; Sarah.)

Say: **We can look in the tent and see who's home.** Let each child lift the flap and peek inside the tent. Encourage toddlers to say, "Hello, Sarah." Then ask:

• **What's Sarah doing in the tent?** (Cooking; making food.)

Say: **Sarah is making Abraham's dinner. And Abraham is watching the sheep. Abraham has lots of animals. He takes good care of his sheep, just as your mommy and daddy take good care of you. They like to take care of you because they love you. Let's give Abraham's sheep a "love pat."** Hold the StoryBoard so the children can pat Abraham's sheep. **I'm going to give each of you a "love pat" on your head.** Gently pat each child's head and say: **I'm glad that ►God made families, and I'm glad God made [name of child].**

Point to the men sitting under the tree with Abraham. Say: **Abraham has special visitors sitting under the tree. The leaves make cool shade. Let's**



touch a leaf. Have children touch the leaf. Then say: **The three men were special messengers from God. They came to tell Sarah and Abraham that God would give them a baby. Sarah thought that was funny because she thought she was too old to have a baby. Sarah laughed. Let's pretend to laugh like Sarah.** Lead children in holding their tummies and pretending to belly laugh. Then say: **It's fun to laugh! I'm glad ▶ God made families so that we can laugh and be happy. Let's see if Abraham and Sarah were happy with their new family.**



Panel 3



Unfold Panel 3. Open Sarah's arms. Say: **Abraham and Sarah were excited. God said they would have a baby! Close your eyes, and we'll count to three.** Have toddlers close their eyes. As you count to three, slip the figure of baby Isaac into Sarah's arms. **One, two, three—open your eyes. What do you see? A baby! God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy named Isaac!** Whisper: **Would you like to hold**

baby Isaac? Let children gently cradle the figure of baby Isaac. Then return Isaac to Sarah's arms.

Let's say our rhyme about the sleepy baby. Slowly say the following rhyme twice. Encourage the children to do the actions with you.

Here is a cradle (*make a cradle with your arms*)—
Shh, don't make a peep! (*Put your finger to your lips.*)
The tiny baby (*cup your hands*)
Is fast asleep. (*Lay your head on your hands and close your eyes.*)

Whisper: **I think baby Isaac is asleep. He looks happy. Abraham and Sarah are happy because ▶ God made families.**

Have children sit with you on the floor. Have everyone stretch out his or her legs in the middle of the circle, touching feet with the person on either side of them.

Say: **Let's look at our feet. Some of us are wearing shoes that tie; some of us have shoes with a buckle. Some of us have dark-colored shoes, and some of us have light-colored shoes. Our shoes are different partly because our feet are different from each other. Let's think about the feet of the people in our story.**

Ask: • **How big do you think Abraham's feet were?** (Huge; big; the same size as my dad's.)

• **How big do you think Sarah's feet were?** (Like my mom's; little; as big as Abraham's.)

• **How big do you think baby Isaac's feet were?** (Very small; tiny; like mine.)

Say: ▶ **God made families. God made everyone in Abraham's family, and he knew exactly what they would be like. God made our families, too, and he knew what each person would be like. He even knew how big everyone's feet would be! Let's play a game to thank God for everyone in our families.**

First we'll pass around the toy foot and thank God for making everyone in our family with little feet. If you have a brother or sister, you can thank God for that person in your family. And don't forget to thank God for making you!



Pass the *fun foot* around the circle, encouraging children to name and thank God for the people in their family with “little” feet. Children can even include pets if they’d like!

Say: **Now let’s thank God for making the people in our family with bigger feet, like our moms and dads, aunts or uncles, or anybody you want to name in your family with bigger feet.**

Pass the *fun foot* around the circle, encouraging children to name and thank God for the people in their family with bigger feet. Then place the *fun foot* out of sight.

Ask: • **Who made your family?** (God did!)

• **How can we thank God for making our families?** (By saying “thank you”; by giving hugs to our family.)



Say: ► ***God made families*, and I’m happy that God made families. I’m happy for something else, too. I’m happy that God sent Jesus to be our forever friend. When we believe in Jesus, we can become part of God’s family—the best family of all!**

Let’s sing a song to thank God for making families.



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



■ Thank You, God

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the *CD*, lead the children in singing “Thank You, God” (track 4) to the tune of “This Old Man.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



Thank you, God. (*Point upward.*)

I love you (*cover your heart*),

And I love my family, too. (*Slowly open your arms out wide.*)

Thank you, God, for everything you do. (*Turn around in a circle.*)

My family sends a kiss to you! (*Blow a kiss upward.*)

(*Repeat.*)

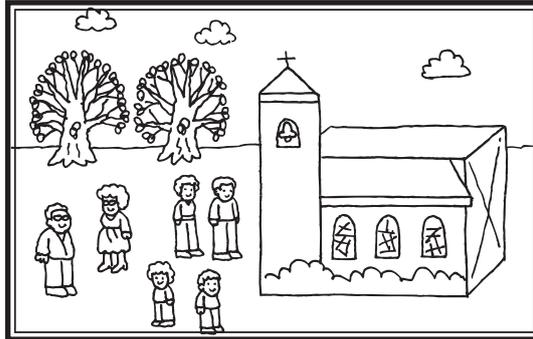
Say: **We like to thank God because ► *God made families*. Now let’s visit the family on our bulletin board.**



Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: tape



Before this activity, remove the family figures from the church “building” on the bulletin board. You’ll be replacing them on the bulletin board later.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb.

Cuddles: Hi, everyone! I’m so happy to see you, I want to hug you! *(Races to give everyone a warm hug.)*

Teacher: That was nice, Cuddles! We like hugs, don’t we, children? And we’re happy today, too. We’re happy that ► God made families.

Cuddles: I’m thankful that God made *my* family. I have a nice family, and we like to hug each other. *That’s* where I learned to cuddle! *(Gives everyone another hug.)*

Teacher: Hugs are nice! Cuddles, would you like to help us with the bulletin board?

Cuddles: Yes, I like being a helper! What can I do?

Teacher: We’re going to thank God for making families. You can pass out the family pictures.

Have Cuddles hand each child a picture of a family member. Help children tape their pictures side by side on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a picture, help him or her say, “Thank you, God, for [mommies, daddies, or other family members].”

Cuddles: And I want to thank God for being a part of this special church family, too!

Teacher: Families *are* special gifts from God, aren’t they? Let’s sing a song to thank God for families.

Set Cuddles out of sight.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Using the CD, lead the children in singing “Thank You, God” (track 4) to the tune of “This Old Man.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



Thank you, God. (*Point upward.*)

I love you (*cover your heart*),

And I love my family, too. (*Slowly open your arms out wide.*)

Thank you, God, for everything you do. (*Turn around in a circle.*)

My family sends a kiss to you! (*Blow a kiss upward.*)

(*Repeat.*)

Say: **Families are great! You know, God made the very first family, just like he made your family. Listen to what the Bible says about when God made the first people for the first family.** Open your Bible to **Genesis 1:26a**, and show children the verse. Say: **The Bible says that ►God made families. God made the first family, and God made your family, too!**

Let’s make family flags to wave and show everyone how wonderful it is that ►God made families.

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: flag pattern (p. 66), crayons, markers, tape, scissors, drinking straws, ribbon or crepe paper

Before class, photocopy the flag pattern for each child. Cut out the flags. Cut 6-inch lengths of ribbon or crepe paper for streamers.

Set out markers, crayons, streamers, tape, and drinking straws. Hand each child a flag. Invite toddlers to decorate their flags using crayons and markers. Then tape each flag to a drinking straw, and help children tape streamers at the top corner of their flags. Encourage children to wave their flags. Say: **Flags remind me of parades. Let’s have a marching parade and wave our family flags to show how happy we are that ►God made families.**

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: CD player, flags from Bible Craft



Have children stand in a circle. Say: **Let’s march, march, march to some high-stepping music! Wave your flags. We’ll let God see how glad we are that he made families.** Play the “March Song” (track 7) on the CD and lead children in a lively march around the room.

After the parade, say: **You’re good marchers! It’s fun to show how happy we are that ►God made families. Now let’s march to the snack table for a special treat.**

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**

Closing

Family Fare

SUPPLIES: yogurt cups, cereal loops, mini chocolate chips, plastic spoons

Ask: • **Who made families?** (God.)

Say: **Yes, ► God made families. God made all kinds of families. Let's say "thank you" to God for giving us special families. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for our families. We love them so much. We love you, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**

We've learned that families help each other. We can help fix snacks for each other just as Sarah helped fix dinner for the special visitors. Have children wash their hands. Add a small scoop of cereal loops and mini chocolate chips to each yogurt cup, and have the children pass the cups around the table until everyone has one. Then hand out spoons and let toddlers enjoy their snacks. As children eat, encourage them to talk about what they like best about their families.

When the children have finished, have them throw their yogurt cups in the wastebasket. Be sure children take home their family flags.





For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Family on the Move*

Set out the building blocks and boxes from Option 2. Help children put the blocks into the boxes, push them to the other side of the room, and then remove the blocks. Explain that Abraham and his family moved their tent and their belongings to a new home. Point out that families help each other.

■ *Sing-Along*

Without using the CD, lead children in singing “God Made Families” (adapted from Genesis 1:26a) to the tune of “Frère Jacques.”



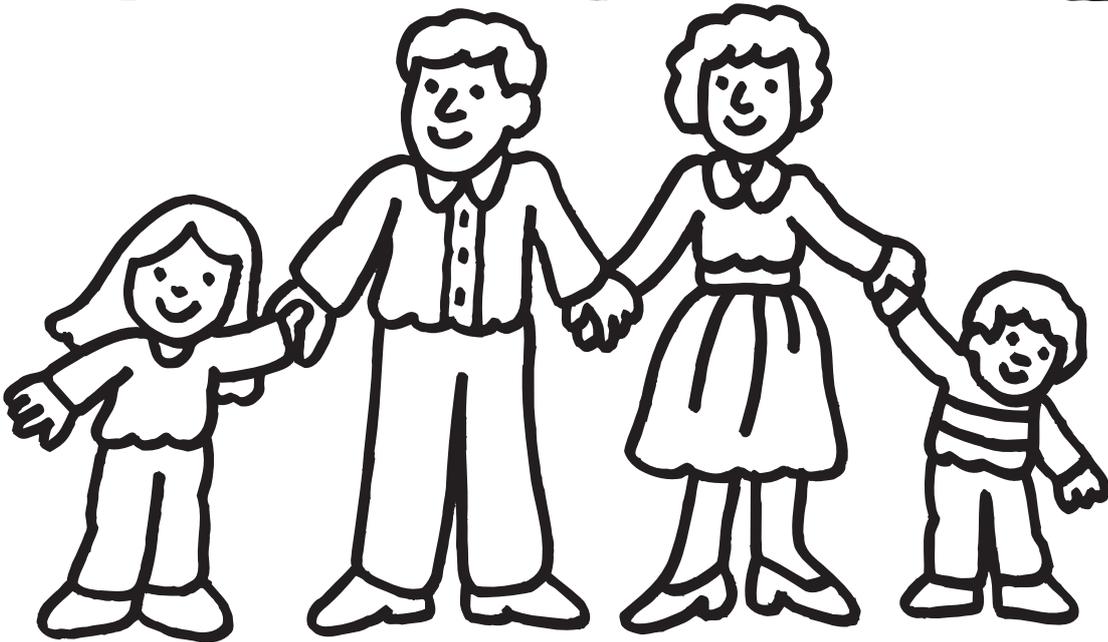
God made families (*wiggle your fingers*),
God made families. (*Wiggle your fingers.*)
Yours and mine (*point to a friend and then to yourself*),
Yours and mine. (*Point to a friend and then to yourself.*)
I will love my family. (*Put your hands over your heart.*)
I will love my family (*put your hands over your heart*)
All the time (*wiggle your fingers*),
All the time. (*Wiggle your fingers.*)



Pattern

God Made Families

GOD MADE



FAMILIES