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PRESCHOOL TEACHER'S GUIDE
for ages 3 through pre-K.
Can also be used for
ages 4 & 5 or ages 3-5.

A self-contained teaching program
for use with *Preschool Creative
Teaching Aids*, *Preschool Make-
It/Take-It*, and *My Sunday Pictures*.

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PRESCHOOL Teacher's Guide

A successful Sunday school year is about to start—September, October, November 2005!

Get ready for an exciting quarter of learning. Sure, Bible knowledge is foundational to what kids will learn, but children also need to learn to live that knowledge. That's what Bible-in-Life is all about—making the Word come alive in their lives every day! That's discipleship at its best. Have a great quarter, and know that God is using your teaching to change lives forever!

4 Teacher2Teacher Tools to Build and Bless Your Teaching Experience

Lauren Littauer Briggs tackles the art of helping families overwhelmed by constant fatigue. Link to author interview.



5 God Allows U-Turns Help your children handle their crash-and-burn situations. A great resource for kids at home and for your church library.



6 Teaching Tools Teaching Bible-in-Life. As easy as 1, 2, 3, 4!

It's a crime to bore kids. And an even bigger crime for teachers to burn out! With the 4-Step lesson plan, your job becomes a whole lot easier, and children will thrive.

6 Supply List

Unit 1—God Gives Us Families

Unit Value: Love

9/4 Specially Given Families 8
1 Samuel 1:1-23

9/11 My Caring Family 15
Ruth 1—4



Young children love to worship Jesus. Every lesson provides a worship time that includes songs and prayer. Enjoy the songs on the PraisePac CD. Today your active children will also play a game, "Freeze," to a song.



9/18 Families Share **22**
Genesis 13:1-12

Food activity! Let parents know. Ask them about any food allergies or sensitivities their child might have. Food! What a great way to learn!

9/25 Loving Our Families **29**
Genesis 21:1-6

Unit 2—God Gives Us Friends

Unit Value: Friendliness

10/2 Friends Love **36**
1 Samuel 18:1-4

10/9 Friends Help **43**
2 Kings 4:1-7

Preschoolers will love today's activity drama. Their minds work best when their bodies are moving!

10/16 Children Can Be Good Friends **50**
2 Kings 5:1-14

Bible rhymes and actions make learning a Bible verse wonderful fun.

10/23 Friends Learn about Jesus **57**
Mark 2:1-12

10/30 God Gives Friends **64**
Luke 10:38-42; John 12:1-3



Unit 3—God Gives Us the Church

Unit Value: Worshipfulness

11/6 Learning from the Bible **71**
Luke 4:16-22a

11/13 Learning about Jesus **78**
Acts 3:12-26; 16:4-5; 18:23; 20:20

My Sunday Pictures take the Bible story home and encourages parents to strengthen what you taught.

11/20 Together We Pray and Thank God **85**
Acts 1:13-14; 2:42-47

11/27 Together We Share about Jesus **92**
Acts 20:16-38; Matthew 28:18-20



Click your mouse on www.DavidCCook.com for a three-minute demonstration of how Bible-in-Life helps you reach every student!

Inside the Back Cover

- Missions Project
- Coming Up Next Quarter
- Recipe for Play Dough

Ministering to Families with Special-Needs Children

Comfort: God's love and support to every hurting child and that child's family—How can we do this?

NO ONE TEACHES VERY LONG without having to address this issue. What better people to help us help them than the parents themselves.

What Not to Say

- “Call me if you need anything,” friends would say. I never called anyone or asked for anything, even though I desperately needed help.
- People told me to accept it, to act like a Christian, to get over it. Words such as these should never be uttered.
- When a friend heard about the psychologist's diagnosis, her comment was, “Well, I don't know why she's so upset. She knew they had problems.” She showed no compassion or understanding for what I was going through.

What Parents Should Hear from Us

- “Your son is so loving and precious.”
- My friend's words of tenderness were so helpful as she tried to reassure me. She said, “Irene, somehow, someday, God will get us through this.” I wasn't sure I believed her. I was terribly angry with God at that point.

What Parents Wish We Understood

- Sometimes I want to talk, but sometimes I don't. Please be understanding when I don't.
- After the car accident that injured my daughter and left her permanently disabled, we became the church tragedy. Many of my friends avoided us because they didn't know what to say. It was friends who treated me as if I hadn't changed who meant the most. They called me on the phone to chat, took me out to lunch, accepted the fact that though I hadn't changed, my life had changed and they loved me anyway.

How We Can Help

- Just being there is enough. No words, nothing to do, just be there.
- One friend volunteered to spend the Sunday school hour teaching disabled children. This was the only break I had from taking care of my child all week.
- How I wish someone would stop by with a café mocha or a big soda and offer to stay with me.
- The greatest gift is down-home friendship. Pray for ways to stay close to the parents and make ways to include that child in normal activities like birthday parties, sleepovers, and trips to the movies. Worse than the disability is the loneliness, the empty calendars, the absence of a circle of friends. Pray that God will make you and your class real friends.



Sunday School Teacher's Prayer

Dear Lord, You know how much I love this precious child. Please give her parents the strength to provide for her care. Show me ways I can help and support the parents and the child. Give me ideas for building friendship and help-ships between my other students and this child. I come to You for my tomorrows, one day at a time. I ask for Your guidance and strength for the days that lie ahead. With a grateful heart, Amen.

Edited from Lauren Littauer Briggs' book, The Art of Helping—What to Say and Do When Someone Is Hurting. For a copy of the book, order at www.CookMinistries.com



GOD ALLOWS U-TURNS FOR KIDS

Naturally, the kids in your class never shun the unpopular kid, make stupid jokes when someone else is talking to Jesus, or bully others so they can hog the art supplies. Okay, let's stop for a reality check. We know that every kid exhibits negative behaviors. Oh, help! We teachers signed on to move them toward Spirit-filled living and a life of caring for and loving others. **Thank goodness God allows U-turns for kids, just as he does for us.**



Tyler ran in with a grin with yellow smeared under his chin.

He clutched in his fist what no mom can resist and will stick to

her shirt with a pin.

Then Jessie peeked round by the door. (She's his sister who just had turned four.)

"I want the flower!"

And Tyler got sour.

He did something that made Jessie sore.

Mom's smile turned into a frown. Her eyes turned a much deeper brown.

"We love one another, both sister and mother." And someone got told to sit down. (TYLER)

The clock showed that Ty's time was through. Mommy asked him what he would now do.

"First you showed love, then you gave Jess a shove.

Which way feels better to you?" (LOVE)

Tyler didn't take long to think.

Mom hardly had time to blink.

He looked at his sister. He leaned in and kissed her. "Let's go find a flower that's pink." The fruit of the Spirit is LOVE.

(Galatians 5:22)

Use this story:

Develop a game. Your goal will be to find members of your church family who are acting in love. Each time you or your children see someone who is living out love, you do the secret signal. Maybe a wink, maybe running fingers through your hair. Later do the secret signal whenever you see your kids live out love.

Allison Gappa Bottke and Heather Gemmen have authored a whole series called **God Allows U-Turns for Kids**. The excerpt above is from "Laughter and Love." Find out more about this excellent series at www.CookMinistries.com Kids ages 4 to 7 will have no trouble reading the book for themselves.



Bring the Bible

As Easy As One,



Step 1: Getting Ready for the Bible

Surprise! Most kids show up on Sunday more excited about their puppy or a trip to the zoo than about learning something new from the Bible.

This step focuses children on the morning's challenge. A game, skit, poster, or maybe a puppet show moves them away from talk about their puppies and sparks their interest in today's topic.

Don't skip this step! It's not fluff or foolishness. It's the step that gets children ready to discover why this Bible story is important to them. At the end of these few minutes, they are ready to participate in learning something new.

You'll Need These Supplies:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*
- ☐ *Preschool Make-It/ Take-It* (craft books)
- ☐ *My Sunday Pictures* (Take-home papers)
- ☐ Ball or beanbag
- ☐ CD player
- ☐ Flannel board
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Washable poster paint
- ☐ Yarn, string, or thread
- ☐ Clear tape, masking tape
- ☐ Glue, or glue sticks
- ☐ Paper Fasteners
- ☐ Construction paper
- ☐ Cotton balls
- ☐ Shelf paper or butcher paper
- ☐ Chenille wires
- ☐ Dolls
- ☐ Chalkboard or whiteboard
- ☐ Blocks
- ☐ Play dishes
- ☐ Dress-up clothes
- ☐ Bible-time clothes
- ☐ Play dough
- ☐ Cookie cutters
- ☐ Rhythm instruments

Step 2: Bible Story Time

Lively Bible storytelling! That's what happens here. Children learn new stories and actively participate in acting them out, increasing their Bible knowledge.

Spend lots of time preparing Step 2. Tell the story with aids—Stand-up Bible figures, flannel figures, and posters. Bring the story alive with your expression and actions! This guide and *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids* will help you.

To guarantee that children have learned what the story teaches, you'll want to check for understanding. There are lots of ways to do this. Have the children retell or dramatize the Bible story. Play a content game or sing a song that retells the story. Preschoolers will learn about Jesus actively, getting their whole selves into the Bible story action.



Online Is Where It's @

All children are different. Bible-in-Life helps you teach to each student's strongest learning style—and you can do this successfully in one classroom. For a full-color, online demonstration of how this works, log on to www.DavidCCook.com and click on Learning Styles Teacher Training. It's as easy as the click of your mouse!



to Life for Kids

Two, Three, Four

Step 3: The Bible and Me

3 Practice Time—a time to turn the classroom into a preschool laboratory. You'll correct misunderstandings and challenge children to think a little deeper. This guide will give you three choices every week. Set up all three as activity centers. Or, if you have a small class, pick one or two. Make-It/Take-It contains great materials for fun crafts that both kids and parents will love.

Demonstrate for the children what they will do at each center. Answer questions. If they are new to centers it will take several weeks for them to get used to them. Stick with it. There is no better way for children to interact with the implications of the Bible story.

Step 4: Going Home with the Bible

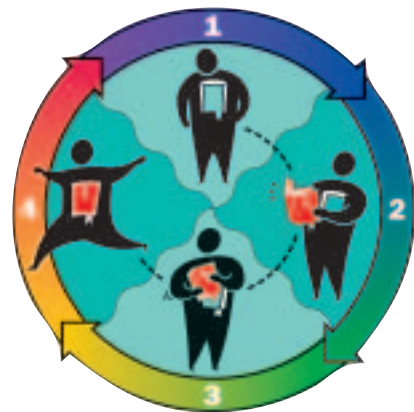
4 Now students will make plans to actually do what they've learned! This part of the lesson prepares the child to take what's been learned home. Even at this young age, they are learning the importance of living for Jesus.

What an important bridge into the week. Children need to personally own their action decisions. They are living for Jesus because they choose to and love Him, not because they are trying to please you.

The most important part of your Sunday school lesson happens on Monday and Tuesday when preschoolers make right decisions and say, "I will live for Jesus."

Natural Learning Cycle

Guess what! You've just been around the Natural Learning Cycle. It's fun! It's simple! It's how we all learn. First, we get interested in the subject (Step 1). Then we learn the facts about the subject (Step 2). Next, we practice what we've learned (Step 3). Then, and most importantly, we use what we have learned outside class (Step 4). Find out more at www.DavidCCook.com



Specially Given Families

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-23

Lesson Focus: God gives us families.

Memory Verse: Love one another. John 13:34



1 Getting Ready for the Bible

To help the children connect their own experiences with the story of Hannah and Elkanah, they will talk about their families.

- Opening Activity: Teaching Aid 3 (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*)
- Sharing Time: No materials needed

2 Bible Story Time: 1 Samuel 1:1-23

The children will learn how God gave Samuel to Hannah and Elkanah.

- Bible Story: Teaching Aid 2 (from *Preschool Creative Teaching Aids*), Bible
- Bible Story Review: No materials needed
- Bible Memory Verse: No materials needed

3 The Bible and Me

To understand that God gives them families, the children will explore activity centers.

- ♥ Spoon Puppets: Old magazines, glue, plastic spoons
- Family Roleplay: No materials needed
- Family Block Play: Large and small blocks

4 Going Home with the Bible

By thanking God for their families, the children will apply the Bible story of Hannah and Samuel to their own lives.

- ♥ Page for Lesson 1 (from *Preschool Make-It/Take-It*), crayons, Bible, *My Sunday Pictures*, Lesson 1 and Parent Card A



This symbol appears whenever preparation takes more than five minutes or supplies are needed that are not included on the list of standard supplies (on page 6).

Teacher Devotional

Take a look in your garage or in a toolbox. You may have found a variety of tools—each one with the capability to do a specific task.

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-23. Hannah prayed for a baby. When God answered her prayer, she kept her promise and gave the child back to God. In a sense, Hannah was one of God's tools to care for Samuel.

Like Hannah, you have been given a classroom of children for a brief period of time. You can be a "tool" to care for them.

List "tool" people who have cared for and nurtured your spiritual walk, even though you knew them only briefly: _____

How do you think you could be one of the tools God uses to help care for the children in your class?

As you pray for your class this week, ask God to show you how to be a tool for these children in your church family.

Understanding the Bible

Samuel's father, Elkanah, lived in the town of Ramah, a city located five miles north of Jerusalem. He had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Hannah probably was his first wife. Elkanah probably took a second wife because Hannah was unable to have children (1 Sam. 1:2). In those days polygamy was tolerated under the law of Moses (Deut. 21:15-17).

In that culture, to be childless was regarded as a divine curse that supposedly made a woman's life virtually meaningless. Despite

Elkanah's reassurances of his love for her, Hannah felt a deep longing to bear a son (1 Sam. 1:4-5, 8).

Hannah's prayer probably occurred during the Feast of Tabernacles, a festival which celebrated God's care for His people while wandering in the wilderness, as well as God's blessings on the year's crops (Deut. 16:13-15). Hannah and Elkanah traveled to Shiloh, the religious center of the nation, for the festival.

Hannah's despair is seen in her prayer to

God. Hannah prayed in silence, even though praying aloud is more usual in Hebrew praying. Her outpouring was very fervent, from her soul.

Hannah vowed to dedicate the child to Levitical service and make him a Nazirite for life—not the specific time frame usually served. This promise committed her son to a life of service to God. Hannah's prayer was answered. She gave birth to a son, Samuel, which may mean "asked of God" (1 Sam. 1:20).

When Teaching the Bible to Preschoolers...

In today's Bible story from 1 Samuel 1:1-23, a family was very important to Hannah. Families are very important to the preschoolers in your class, too.

Some of the children in your class may experience fears and anxiety at being separated from their families during the Sunday school period. Each new situation, like Sunday school, represents a change from something familiar for those children. As the children become more familiar with your routine and classroom, they will feel more comfortable. Try to reassure each child who is feeling anxious.

Here are a few tips to help your children feel less anxious during the time they are in your class.

- Greet each child in a warm and personal way.
- Get the child involved in an interesting activity as his parents leave.
- Reassure the child that mom or dad will be back.



Welcome Time Activities

These activities are designed to engage your children in a fun and purposeful way while freeing you to interact with parents and children as they arrive. The centers require little or no supervision and can be set up before class. After greeting each child, direct him or her to a center and suggest a way to start or join the activity.

Moving and Doing

Preschoolers love to act out what they know about family roles. Invite the children to play house in the home living area using dolls, blankets, bottles, play food, and utensils to help them prepare for the Bible story of Hannah and Samuel from 1 Samuel 1:1-23.

Projects

To help children connect to the concept that God gives us families, have them make a family collage using pictures cut from magazines, glue sticks, and crayons. Cutting the binding off the magazines makes the pages easier for children to hold and cut.

Write the children's names on the Fall Attendance Chart (Teaching Aid 1), found in your Creative Teaching Aids packet. Put the chart on a wall at the children's height. As each child comes, ask him or her to put a sticker in the appropriate spot before beginning another activity.



Before moving into the lesson or Worship Time, have the children stop what they are doing, clean up the centers, and gather in a big group. You may want to use this rhyme to attract the children's attention.

Clean up, clean up,
One, two, three.
Can you clean up
Just like me?

Worship Time

Before you begin today's lesson, you may want to have a short worship time.

- Have the children sit down in a circle, either on a rug or in chairs. **Worship time is a time when we tell God how much we love Him. We do that by giving any offerings we brought, singing a song, and talking to God through prayer.**
- Choose a child to collect offerings. **Dear God, You give us many things. These offerings are one way we say thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**
- Sing the following words to the tune "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."
**Oh, God gave each of us families.
 Oh, God gave each of us families.
 Oh, God gave each of us families,
 Because He loves us so.**

Let the children name family members that can be substituted for the word "families" such as mommies, daddies, brothers, grandparents, etc. For example, "Oh, God gave each of us mommies."

- Close with a short prayer. Remind the children to bow their heads and close their eyes. That helps them think about God as they talk to Him. **Dear God, You give us everything that we have. Thank You for our families. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



Getting Ready for the Bible

To help the children connect their own experiences with the story of Hannah and Elkanah, they will talk about their families.

Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—Teaching Aid 3

Attention Grabber

If you have not yet gathered the children into a group or you need to focus their attention on you, ask them to silently copy your actions as you say this rhyme.

Wiggle your feet,
wiggle your hands.
Stretch up high,
like rubber bands.
Clap, clap, clap,
turn around.
Fold your hands,
now sit down.



Opening Activity

Once the children are seated in a circle and ready to listen, use the Teaching Aid 3 poster from your Creative Teaching Aids packet to talk about the different people in families. Identifying family members helps the children understand the Bible story from 1 Samuel 1:1-23, where God gave baby Samuel to Hannah and her husband, Elkanah.

I have a picture of a family that I would like to show you today.

(Show the poster, Teaching Aid 3.)

This family is playing outside.

Who do you see in the picture? (Father, mother, sister, brother, dog.)

After the children have identified who is in the picture, point to a specific figure, such as the man. **Who is this?** (Father) **What kinds of things does a father do?** (The children may give a variety of answers including work, stay at home, mow the lawn, wash dishes, play, etc. Be aware that some



Teaching Aid 3

children may not have a father at home. So if some of them talk about an uncle or grandfather, accept this as a perfectly reasonable answer.)

Point to the woman. **Who is this?** (Mother) **What kinds of things does a mother do?** (Again this will have a variety of answers. Most will probably have to do with caring for a child, working, telling stories, etc.)

Continue by pointing one at a time to the sister, the brother, and the dog. Some of your children will not have siblings or pets. Ask them what they think it would be like to have a sister or a pet.

(Hold up the poster, Teaching Aid 3.) **We talked a lot about this family. Let's talk about your families.**

Sharing Time

As you and your class talk, be sure to allow time for each child to say something. This gives every child an opportunity to connect to the Bible story through his or her own experience. Sharing about your own family may help the children begin the discussion.

► **Who are the people in your family?** (Children will have a variety of responses. They may include stepparents, grandparents, and even pets. Affirm their answers.)

► **What does your father do?** (Give time for the children to answer. Be sure the children include home activities such as read stories, cook, mow the lawn, etc., as well as workplace ideas. "I don't know" is a perfectly good answer.)

► **What does your mother do?** (As with the previous questions, try to get the children to give details that make their families unique.)

Our families are special. Today we're going to learn that God gives us families. Our Bible story today will tell us about a family that had no children. As you hear the story, listen for the mother's name and how God gave her a baby.



Bible Story Time

1 Samuel 1:1-23

The children will learn how God gave Samuel to Hannah and Elkanah.

Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—Teaching Aid 2, Bible

Bible Story

Show the poster, Teaching Aid 2, as indicated in the story.

The children should still be gathered in a group ready for the story. Have your Bible open to 1 Samuel 1 to begin. Today's story comes from the Bible. It is found in the book, or part, of the Bible called 1 Samuel. *(Show the children where 1 Samuel is in your Bible. Keep your Bible open to 1 Samuel 1 as you tell the story.)*



Teaching Aid 2

(Show Teaching Aid 2. Point to Hannah on the poster.) She was married to a man named Elkanah [el-KAY-nuh]. *(Point to Elkanah and then set the poster aside.)* Hannah and Elkanah loved each other very much. But most of all they loved God.

God had made Hannah and Elkanah's family very special. But Hannah wanted their family to grow. She was sad that they didn't have any children.

One day, Hannah and Elkanah went to a special tent-church to worship God. While Hannah was there, she asked God for something special. *(Fold your hands as if praying.)* Hannah prayed for a baby boy. She cried while she was praying because she was so sad. She promised God that if He gave her a baby

boy, she would have the boy serve God.

Eli, the priest at the tent-church, saw Hannah praying and crying. He saw that while she was praying, not a sound came out of her mouth. He talked to Hannah about what was wrong.

Hannah said, "I've been praying here because I am very sad."

Eli told her, "Go in peace. God will give you what you have prayed for."

Early the next day Hannah and Elkanah worshiped God and then walked home. Hannah didn't feel quite so sad anymore.

Soon God answered Hannah's prayers. Hannah and Elkanah had a baby boy. They named him Samuel. *(Show Teaching Aid 2. Point to Samuel.)* God had given them baby Samuel for their family.

Hannah and Elkanah liked to take care of little Samuel. They gave him food to eat. They gave him milk to drink. *(Have the children pretend to hold a baby. Then have them rock and feed the "babies.")* They dressed him every day and kept him safe. *(Let each child pretend to wrap a baby in a blanket.)* And they loved Samuel. *(Hug yourself.)*

(Point to each person in Teaching Aid 2 as you say his or her name.) Hannah and Elkanah were happy that God had given them little Samuel. They thanked God for Samuel and took very good care of him. They were glad that God had given them a family. God gives us families too.

Bible Story Review

To check for the children's understanding of today's Bible story, have them answer these questions or do the activity, or both.

Questions

- ▶ Who wanted a baby in the story? (Hannah)
- ▶ Who did God give to Hannah? (A baby boy named Samuel.)
- ▶ How would you feel if you wanted something as much as Hannah wanted a baby? (Children may have a variety of answers. They may feel sad, want to cry, or be angry, etc.)
- ▶ Who gives us families? (God gives us families.)

Activity

Use the following activity to further review today's Bible story from 1 Samuel 1:1-23. Listen carefully as I tell you the Bible story of Hannah and Samuel one more time. If you hear the name Hannah, fold your hands. Demonstrate folding your hands in prayer for the children.



When I say the word "baby," pretend to rock a baby. Show the children how to rock a baby as the children in the picture are. As you read the story, pause to give the children time to do the action. Do the actions with them. Here's our story:

Hannah (Fold hands.)
wanted a baby. (Rock a baby.)
Hannah (Fold hands.)
prayed for a baby. (Rock a baby.)
God gave a baby (Rock a baby.)
to Hannah. (Fold hands.)
God gave Hannah (Fold hands.)
her family.

Repeat the activity to help the children understand the Bible story about Hannah and Samuel.

Bible Memory Verse

As children practice a Bible verse week after week, they will be able to understand and remember it. Have the children do either the practice or the rhyme, or both.

Love one another. John 13:34

Practice

Say the Bible memory verse to the children and have them repeat it back to you. "Love one another" John 13:34.

Now let's sing our words. Setting words to music helps children remember them longer. Sing the words with the children to the tune of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Teaching the actions with the words will help the children learn the verse.

Oh, love one another.

(Hug self, then open arms wide.)

Oh, love one another.

(Hug self, then open arms wide.)

Oh, love one another.

(Hug self, then open arms wide.)

John 13:34.

(Hold hands open like a book.)

Bible Rhyme Time

The Bible Rhyme Time is another way to practice the Bible memory verse. The Bible verse is in the last line of the rhyme. Teach the words and actions a line at a time. Have the children repeat each line back to you. Our new Bible memory verse rhyme helps us remember our memory verse from John 13:34. Let's say the words together.

God made me.

(Point to self.)

God made you.

(Point to someone else.)

God made my family, too!

(Hug self.)

God loves me.

(Point to self.)

God loves you.

(Point to someone.)

He said, "Love one another," too.

(Open arms wide.)



The Bible and Me

To understand that God gives them families, the children will explore activity centers.

In today's Bible story, from 1 Samuel 1:1-23, your class learned that God gave Hannah her family. To help children understand that God gives them their families, choose one or more of the following activities. For help in organizing this step, see page 7 in this teacher's guide. Before you let the children begin these activities, demonstrate each one you have chosen. This week the Family Roleplay needs the most teacher supervision.

Spoon Puppets:

♥ **Materials:** Old magazines, glue, plastic spoons

This activity ties the Bible story to the children's lives by allowing them to explore the families God gave them. **God gave Samuel to Hannah. God gives us families too.**

You can glue magazine pictures on spoons to make puppets of your family. Show the children how to glue a magazine picture on a spoon to make a puppet. Let children tear pictures of people out of the magazine pages used in the Welcome Time Activities, page 9. Have them glue pictures on plastic spoons to make members of a puppet family using the pictures. Invite the children to use their puppets to act out things families do.

Family Roleplay:

Materials: None needed

This activity helps children use dramatic play to further practice the Lesson Focus, "God gives us families."

Have the children spread out so they have room to move. **God gives us our families. He gives us fathers. Show me what a father does.** Give the children time to act out something a father does. Repeat for mothers, brothers, sisters, and grandparents. Give ideas for those children who have a hard time acting. Let the children use their imaginations to act even if you do not recognize what is being acted out. If you have a small group, have each child tell what he was acting.

Family Block Play:

Materials: Large and small blocks

In today's Bible story about Hannah and Samuel, the family had three members. To help children explore their own God-given families, set out several large and small rectangle or square blocks to represent male family members. Set out large and small cylinder blocks to represent female family members. Let the children create families out of the blocks. A family may have a father (large rectangle), a mother (large cylinder), and a girl (small cylinder). Have them take turns telling each other about their families. **God gives us families, just as He gave Hannah and Samuel their family in our Bible story.**

When you are ready to move to the last step in your lesson, have the children clean up the centers and gather into a big group. You may want to use this rhyme to help attract their attention.

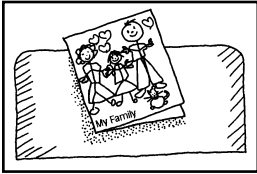
Clean up, clean up,
One, two, three.
Can you clean up
Just like me?



Going Home with the Bible

By thanking God for their families, the children will apply the Bible story of Hannah and Samuel to their own lives.

Materials: Make-It/Take-It page for Lesson 1, crayons, Bible



♥ Before class, remove the Lesson 1 page from the Make-It/Take-It books and fold the pages on the fold lines.

After cleaning up, have the children sit around a table.

Use this time to help the children thank God for their families. Show the children once again where 1 Samuel 1:1-23 is in the Bible.

In today's Bible story God gave baby Samuel to Hannah and Elkanah. God gave them their family. God gives us families too.

Who are some of the people in our families? (Children will give a variety of answers such as fathers, mothers, grandparents, brothers, sisters, pets, etc.) **Our families are special. How can we thank God for our families?** (Some possible answers are to pray, tell Him, show our families how much we love them, sing a song to God, etc.)

Another way we can thank God is to make a card thanking Him for giving us our families. Give each child a pre-folded Make-It/Take-It card. Show the children one of the cards as an example as you read what each page of the card says. Let each child draw his or her family on the front with crayons, then sign the thank-You note to God inside the card. Help write the names if children are not able to write. **As you color, think of something you can thank God for about your family.**

After the children are done with their cards, gather the children into a circle on the floor. Have each child share what they would like to say to God about their family by using this prayer: **Thank You, God, for _____.** Be prepared to begin this sharing time. After each child shares, have the class say, **"God gives us families. Thank You, God."** Encourage the children to share their cards with their families.

Close the lesson with a class prayer. **Dear God, we learned in our Bible story that You gave Samuel to Hannah. You give us our families too. Thank You for each of our families. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

If you have extra time

Birthdays are very important to preschoolers. You may choose to celebrate birthdays once a month or once a quarter. If you celebrate birthdays once a quarter, include children born in October and November in today's celebration. You may want to ask parents for birth dates if you don't already have a list.

Hannah celebrated when Samuel was born. Your parents celebrated when you were born. Several of you were born in September. Have each child stand next to you. _____ has a birthday this month. He/She will be ____ years old! Repeat for children born in October and November if you are including those birthdays.

As a class, sing "Happy Birthday" to each child. Finish with a prayer. **Dear God, thank You for (children's names). We're glad they are in our Sunday school class. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Time to Go

- Before children leave for the day, be sure to hand out the *My Sunday Pictures* cards for Lesson 1 and Parent Card A
- Let children make families using blocks to represent the different family members.
- As you say good-bye to each child, remind him or her of the Lesson Focus: **God gives us families.**

What to send home...

My Sunday Pictures for Lesson 1

Parent Card A from *My Sunday Pictures*

Make-It/Take-It card for Lesson 1

Projects made at centers

