

DPM

SS LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

FALL 2020



DAWSONpreschool
ministry

**"GOD MADE THE WORLD
AND EVERYTHING IN IT."
ACTS 17:24**

B & C Divisions Curriculum Overview

Unit	Bible Focus	Bible Thought
Fall Unit 1 8/23 - 9/13	God Made the World	<p>“God made the world and everything in it.”</p> <p>Acts 17:24</p>
Fall Unit 2 9/20 - 10/11	Noah	<p>“We are God’s masterpiece. He created us to do good things.”</p> <p>Ephesians 2:10</p>
Fall Unit 3 10/18 - 11/15	God’s People Make Good Choices	<p>“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”</p> <p>Mark 12:30</p>
Fall Unit 4 11/22	Give Thanks to God	<p>“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.”</p> <p>Psalms 118:1</p>
Fall Unit 5 11/29 -- 12/20	God’s Son, Jesus, is Born	<p>“God loved us and sent His Son.”</p> <p>1 John 4:10</p>

Fall Unit 3

WEEKS OF:

October 18 - November 15



BIBLE FOCUS:

God's People Make Good Choices

BIBLE VERSE:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

BOTTOM LINE:

I can choose to love and obey God.

Unit Goals: Children will learn...

- God loves us. God has good plans for us. God keeps His promises.
 - Abraham loved God, obeyed God, and was kind to others.
 - God was pleased with the choices Abraham made.
 - We can choose to love God with all our heart.
 - We can choose to obey God.
 - We can choose to be kind and help others.
 - We can choose to pray to God and ask Him to help us.
- We can choose to say thank you to God for His love and promises.

Sunday	Bible Story	Music
Oct. 18	Abraham Obeys God Genesis 12:1-8	Unit Bible Verse Song: "Love the Lord"
Oct. 25	Lot Chooses First Genesis 13	Other Suggested Songs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father Abraham • God Wants us to Obey • I Can Obey • Trust & Obey (Hymn) • I Will Obey
Nov. 1	Issac is Born Genesis 17:15-19	
Nov. 8	Eliezer Prays Genesis 24	
Nov. 15	Issac Digs Wells Genesis 26:12-33	

Abraham Obeys God

October 18

Bible Story

Genesis 12:1-8

Teacher Challenge

Abraham took his family and left Ur, based only on God's direction and His promise of a land for Abraham and his descendants. The writer of Hebrews points out that Abraham "obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8). Once in the Promised Land, he lived like a stranger in a foreign country—he lived in tents. Comfort and security were not his goal—his goal was obedience and a relationship with God.

- ➔ What actions of obedience do you believe God is asking you to take? Is He asking you to seek forgiveness or to make amends for something in the past?
- ➔ Take time to evaluate the way you are obeying God this week. Ask Him to help you make choices that will show more love and obedience to Him.

God calls us to a lifelong spiritual journey in which we are challenged every day to make choices that reflect our love for and obedience to God. Sometimes that means that we must give up some comfort and security. But that is the essence of faith—obeying when all we have is God's promise.

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Mark 12:30), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can choose to love and obey God), and the Unit Goals listed on the Fall Unit 3 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

October 18

Active Game Center: Pack Your Bags!



Collect

Bible, child-sized clothing, travel objects (toiletries, hairbrush, map, etc.), suitcase or backpack.

Prepare

Place clothes and travel objects on one side of an open area. Place suitcase on the other side.

Do

1. Children line up next to clothes and travel objects. One at a time, each child selects one item, walks across the room and packs it in suitcase.
2. Repeat game as time and interest permit, packing and unpacking the suitcase.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Abraham obeyed God. Abraham and his family packed up everything they owned and moved to a new place. Let's play a game packing a suitcase!**
- ➔ **Preston, you stayed in line waiting for your turn. You know how to obey.**
- ➔ **Julian, have you ever gone on a trip with your family? Where did you go? What did you do to get ready for your trip? We show we love God when we help our family.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Obey the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. We can choose to obey God every day. Obeying God shows that we love God. Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You. Please help us to obey You.**

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.



For Younger Children

If you have a large group, provide additional suitcases and items so children don't have to wait long for a turn.

For Older Children

Children pack largest item to smallest. Or, for each round of the game, tell children a specific number of items which they must pack on each turn.

Play to Learn

October 18

Art Center: Feet That Obey

Collect

Bible, construction paper, markers.

Do

1. Help children form pairs and take turns standing on a sheet of construction paper as their partners outline their shoes, one shoe on each sheet of paper. Children decorate their shoe-prints.
2. Children arrange shoe-prints in a path on the floor. Lead children on a pretend trip by walking along the shoe-print path.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Abraham obeyed God. Abraham and his family packed up everything he owned and walked to a new place. They had to walk for a long, long time. Let's make a shoe-print path.**
- ➔ **Vincent, I saw you pick up the marker Michelle dropped. You chose to help Michelle! Helping is a way to obey God. When we obey God, we show that we love Him!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Obey the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. We love God and we can choose to obey Him.**
- ➔ **Pray, Dear God, we love You. Please help us to obey You.**



Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

For Younger Children

Outline children's shoes for them.

For Older Children

Instead of making path on floor, children glue their paper shoes in a path on butcher paper. Print "We Will Obey the Lord" on the top of the butcher paper and display on a classroom wall.

Play to Learn

October 18

Construction Center: Travel Blocks



Collect

Bible, blocks, toy animals and people.

Do

Children use blocks to make a road. Children act out the Bible story using the toy animals and people.

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Abraham obeyed God and took his family on a very long trip. Abraham's family had to walk many, many days! Let's build a road for Abraham, his family, and his animals to walk along.**
- ➔ **We need lots of blocks to build our road. Thank you, Kisha, for handing us some blocks. That was a kind thing to do. Being kind is a way to obey God.**
- ➔ **Jenna, how can you help your mother in the morning? Clearing your cereal bowl helps your mother a lot. You are obeying God when you help your mother.**
- ➔ **Ethan, how can you be kind to your sister when you play your computer game? Sharing is a great way to be kind.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Obey the Lord." We obey God because we love Him. Pray, Dear God, we love You and want to obey You.**



For Younger Children

Children play with blocks, toy animals and toy people as they choose.

For Older Children

Provide half sheets of construction paper. Children fold paper in half to make tents.

Play to Learn

October 18

Dramatic Play Center: Camping Trip



Collect

Bible, a toy or small tent, variety of snack ingredients for trail mix (dry cereal, mini marshmallows, raisins, chocolate chips, fish crackers, stick pretzels, etc.), disposable bowls, a snack bag for each child, plastic spoons.

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
“Obey the Lord.” Deuteronomy 27:10

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

Prepare

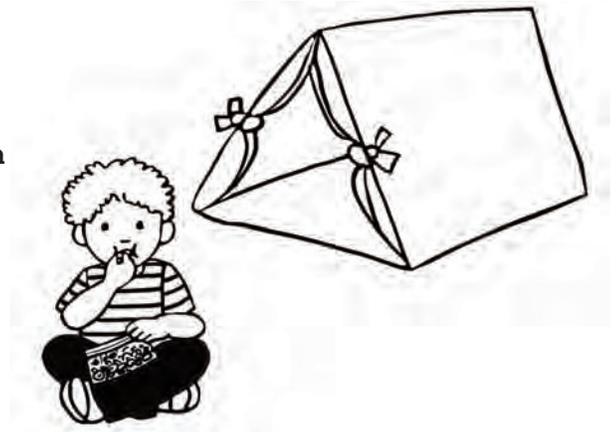
Set up the tent in an open area of your classroom. (Optional: Cover a table with a large bed sheet and fold up one end to make a tent with an open flap.) Place each snack ingredient into one or more bowls. (Check with parents about food allergies and restrictions.)

Do

1. Give each child a snack bag and spoon. Child uses spoon to place desired snack ingredients into bag. Encourage children to count the number of spoonfuls they use. (Note: Limit the number of certain ingredients such as chocolate chips or marshmallows.)
2. After placing ingredients into bags, children hold bags tightly closed and shake them to mix ingredients.
3. Lead children on a “hike” to the tent. When children arrive at the tent, they eat trail mix.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today’s Bible story, God told Abraham to move to a new home. Abraham obeyed God. Let’s pretend to be going on a hike. We can make a snack to eat when we arrive at camp!**
- ➔ **Ava, have you ever gone camping with your family? What did your family pack to eat? We can help each other pack food for our pretend hike.**
- ➔ **Seth, have you helped pack food for a trip? Eating sandwiches at the park is fun!**



For Younger Children

Limit the number of ingredients. Instead of using spoons to put ingredients into bags, give children small paper cups.

For Older Children

Provide camping equipment (sleeping bag, pillow, backpack, flashlight, etc.) for children to play with when they “arrive” at the tent.

Listen to Learn

October 18

Genesis 12:1-8

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 9 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2, Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, large sheet of paper, marker.

Greet Each Other

Draw a large arrow on the sheet of paper. Children stand at least an arm's length apart. Hold the paper above your head. When the arrow points up, children raise both arms to the sky. When you turn the paper so the arrow points left, children move both their arms in that direction, and so too as you point the arrow right and down. (For younger children, pause before moving the direction of the arrow to give all children the opportunity to catch up. For older children, change the arrow's direction faster each round.) **You did well to follow the arrow's direction! We're going to find out how Abraham followed God's directions.**

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." *Mark 12:30*

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Obey the Lord." *Deuteronomy 27:10*

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 12. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 9 pictures.

Who has been on an airplane or a train? A bus or a boat? Listen to hear how a man traveled when God told him to move to a new home.



God had a special plan for a man named Abraham. One day God said to Abraham, "Abraham, I want you to move to a new land. I will show you how to get there."

Abraham told his wife, Sarah, and his nephew Lot, "We are going to **walk** to a new land. God will show us how to get there."

What a busy time! Abraham and Lot had sheep, goats, cows, camels and donkeys. And they had many helpers to take care of all those animals.



The helpers filled water bags with **water** for the animals and people to drink along the way.

Sarah and her helpers packed food for the long trip. Everyone helped **roll** the tents into big bundles.



And then, Abraham, Sarah, Lot and all their helpers and all their animals started out on their long trip to a new land. Step, step, step. Day after day they walked.

Each night they had to carefully unroll their tents and set them up. Then every morning they took down the tents and rolled them up again. It was a big job! But they knew God was taking care of them.



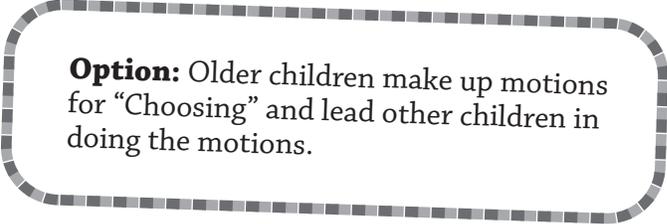
Finally, after many days of **walking**, God told Abraham, "This place will be your new home." Abraham and his helpers put up the tents. They found places for all the animals. Then Abraham thanked God for bringing him and all the people with him safely to the new land. God was glad that Abraham obeyed Him.

Talk About the Story

How did Abraham obey God? (He moved to a new home when God told him to.) **Abraham obeyed God because he loved God. We love God and can choose to obey God, too. One way to obey God is to help others. What can you do to help others today here at church? When you are at home? When you are playing with your friends?**

Sing to God

Let's sing a song together about some of the things we get to choose! Lead children in singing "Choosing" (on DVD or track 4 on CD) and doing motions suggested by the song. **Raise your hand if you got to choose what you had for breakfast this morning. Clap your hands if you got to choose what you wore to church today. In our class you got to choose what toys to play with and where to sit in our circle. We can all choose to love and obey God!**



Option: Older children make up motions for "Choosing" and lead other children in doing the motions.

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Deuteronomy 27:10, say verse aloud. **"Lord" is another name for God. Obeying God is one way to show that we love God.** Lead children in saying the verse as a group several times. Then have children form a circle. Lead each child to say one word of the verse in order around the circle. Repeat the verse in this manner several times, making sure each child gets to say a word at least two different times.

Pray to God

Pray, **Thank You, God, for helping us know ways to obey You. Help us choose to be loving and kind. We love You. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Praise to God

Ask children to imitate an action (pat head, clap hands, etc.). **When you do what I tell you to do, you are obeying.** Lead children in doing other actions. **Every day there are ways we obey our parents and teachers. We can obey God's Word, the Bible, too. Dear God, thank You for Your Word, the Bible. Please help us to obey You.**

Lot Chooses First

October 25

Bible Story

Genesis 13

Teacher Challenge

As God's friend, Abraham was not afraid of being cheated out of territory or water. He graciously gave Lot first choice. The well-watered plain looked good to Lot, while Abraham was content with what might have looked like leftovers. But Abraham's rights weren't a priority for him because he saw beyond the present situation. He knew that his security came from the gracious God who had called him. God confirmed Abraham's trust, showing him all the land that He would give him and repeating His promises.

- ➔ When has someone set aside something he or she was entitled to in order to be kind to you?
- ➔ When have you done the same thing in order to be kind to another person?

Abraham's example shines in this age of demanding what we deserve. When we trust God for anything we feel we have a right to, giving Him first place and believing that He knows what's best for us, then our lives will reflect genuine kindness. The world does not expect us to give up our rights. But when we do so with kindness, like Abraham did, we live out God's amazing grace in a selfish society.

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Mark 12:30), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can choose to love and obey God), and the Unit Goals listed on the Fall Unit 3 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

October 25

Active Game Center: Motion Music



Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, Lesson 10 Motion Music Cards from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors.

Prepare

Cut apart Motion Music Cards and place them in a pile.

Do

1. Each child selects a card from the pile, tells the motion drawn on the card, and returns the card to the pile.
2. Children spread out around the playing area and make their motion while you play "Choosing" (track 4 on CD). After about 10 seconds, stop the music. Repeat activity, with children selecting a different Motion Card each round.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." We can choose to be kind to others. Let's play a game and talk about ways to be kind.**
- ➔ **Monica, when Andrea comes to your house to play, what toys can you let her choose to play with? Letting Andrea choose which doll to play with is a way to be kind.**
- ➔ **Deon, how can you be kind to your mother when she's cooking dinner? You can help set the table.**



Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

For Younger Children

Invite one child to select a Motion Card. All children make that motion. Repeat with new volunteers each round.

For Older Children

Each child selects a Motion Card. All children line up and play a game like Follow the Leader. The child in front does the motion on his or her card and all the children copy the motion. After 10 seconds, call "New leader!" The child in front moves to the back. The next child in line is now the leader and repeats the game. Continue calling "New leader!" until all children have had a turn.

Play to Learn

October 25

Construction Center: Creative Choices



Collect

Bible, manipulative building toys (Legos, Duplos, etc.), blocks.

Do

Children play with manipulative building toys or blocks to make structures of their choosing.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” We can choose to be kind to others. Let’s practice being kind as we build today.**
- ➔ **Trina, I noticed that you let Chris have the first choice when you picked blocks to play with. You chose to be kind!**
- ➔ **Shaun, how can you be kind when you play with your brother? You can let your brother choose first which car he wants to play with.**
- ➔ **Pray, Dear God, we love You. Help us to be kind to others.**

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
“Do unto others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.



For Younger Children

Provide toy cars or toy people for children to play with.

For Older Children

Children take turns selecting blocks or manipulative building toys. Children may take four pieces, then wait until others have taken before taking more.

Play to Learn

October 25

Dramatic Play Center: Kind Hosts



Collect

Bible, paper, marker, animal crackers or other crackers, serving tray or large plate; optional—premoistened towelettes.

Prepare

Post a note to parents alerting them to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for food allergies or restrictions.

Do

1. Children wash hands. (Optional: If a sink is not available, give children premoistened towelettes with which they clean their hands.) Children arrange crackers on tray or large plate as if preparing a snack for visitors.
2. Some children choose to be visitors, while others pretend to be the hosts. The host children give their visitors first choice of the crackers.
3. Children arrange more crackers, switch roles, and play again. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Abraham gave Lot first choice of land for his family, his helpers and his animals. Giving first choice is a way to be kind. Let's act out a way we can be kind to others.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." When we treat others in kind ways, it shows how we want to be treated.**
- ➔ **Savannah, who is one of your friends? Friends are kind to each other. When we're kind to our friends, they are glad.**



Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

For Younger Children

Younger children arrange crackers on plate and then wait until their name is called before taking a cracker.

For Older Children

Use a type of cracker other than animal crackers. Older children use plastic knives to spread cream cheese or another spread on crackers before serving to each other.

Listen to Learn

October 25

Genesis 13

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 10 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD* and player.

Greet Each Other

Children sit in a large circle, with plenty of space between them. Call attention to one child. **Jasmine, you have green buttons on your dress. Find another person wearing something green.** Child looks around the circle for another child wearing something green and points to him or her. Continue until all children have had a turn. **We can be kind to each other.**

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 13. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 10 Pictures.

Raise your hand if you have ever slept in a tent. Children briefly tell about their experiences. **Listen to hear about some families that lived in tents all the time!**



Abraham and Lot lived with their families in **tents**. Abraham and Lot had many helpers who lived near them in more tents. And Abraham and Lot had many, many cows and donkeys and sheep and goats.

Everywhere you looked there were people and animals.

Every day Abraham's helpers and Lot's helpers took the animals to eat green grass and to drink cool water.



Then one day there was **not** enough grass to eat or enough water to drink for all their animals. The helpers began to argue.

"We must stop this arguing. We need to move away from each other to find enough grass and water for all our animals," Abraham said. So Lot and Abraham climbed to the top of a hill. They could **see** far, far away.



Abraham said, "You may choose first, Lot. You may choose the land you want."

Lot pointed to good land, where there was plenty of water and grass. "I'll move to that land," Lot said.



Lot took his family and his helpers and his animals to live in the good land.

Abraham took his family and his helpers and his animals and **walked** to another place to live. His animals would have enough water and grass, too. God knew that Abraham was kind to Lot. God promised to take care of Abraham. Abraham was glad he had been kind.

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

Talk About the Story

Why did Abraham's and Lot's helpers start to argue? (There was not enough grass for all the animals to eat or enough water for all the animals to drink.) **How did Abraham stop the arguing?** (Abraham gave Lot first choice of the land he wanted to live on.) **Abraham was kind when he gave Lot first choice. We can choose to be kind to others, too. How can you be kind to a friend when you play together?** (Let the friend choose the game to play. Let the other person have the first turn.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song that reminds us to obey God. Lead children in singing "Choosing" (on DVD or track 4 on CD) and doing motions suggested by the song. **One way we can obey God is by choosing to help others.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Luke 6:31, say verse aloud. **This verse tells us to treat others the way we want them to treat us.** Lead children in repeating the Bible verse several times. Then point to one or more children as you repeat verse again, saying names of children as you point to them instead of the words "others" and "them." **"Do to Monica and Nick as you would have Monica and Nick do to you."** Repeat, naming each child.

Pray to God

Think of someone you can be kind to. If you would like to ask God for His help to be kind to that person, put your hand on your chin. Invite volunteers to complete the following prayer by saying the name of the person they thought of. **Dear God, please help (Vince) choose to be kind to . . .** Repeat for each volunteer.

Option: Tell an age-appropriate example of a way you chose to be kind to others or of a time someone chose to be kind to you.

Praise to God

When we're kind to others, we show how much we love God. Let's sing about kind actions. Invite a child to tell a kind action. Sing about that action (wait our turn, share a book, make the bed, etc.) to the tune of "Mary Had A Little Lamb":

We'll be kind and (wait our turn),

(wait our turn, wait our turn).

We'll be kind and (wait our turn),

We'll be kind to our friends.

Isaac Is Born

November 1

Bible Story

Genesis 17:15-19; 18:1-15; 21:1-8

Teacher Challenge

Abraham had obeyed God with amazing faith, leaving Ur behind to follow God's promises. However, at nearly 100 years of age, Abraham still had no son to receive what God had promised! When God affirmed His promise to give Abraham a son, Abraham laughed—it tested even his great faith to think such a thing could be done. Later, God repeated that Sarah would bear a son. Simply ridiculous! This time, Sarah laughed. It was unimaginable!

- ➔ What ridiculous impossibility nags you? A loved one whom you don't think God could ever change? A problem that you have shared with no one because it is too awful?
- ➔ What can you do to trust God with your situation more this week?

The God who asked in Genesis 18:14, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" delights to intervene in impossibility! His Word promises that He is able to do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine! Lay the impossible before Him. Ask Him to show you what He can do. Your faith will grow as you witness God at work in the impossible! And as your faith grows, the better you will be able to share it with others.

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"I trust in God's word." Psalm 119:42

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Mark 12:30), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can choose to love and obey God), and the Unit Goals listed on the Fall Unit 3 Overview Sheet.



Taken from Gospel Light's *Growing with God*, Lesson 11, pages 113-119

Play to Learn

November 1

Active Game Center: Bible Search



Collect

Bible.

Do

1. Children play a game like Hot and Cold. Show children the Bible. Select a volunteer to close his or her eyes as you hide the Bible in the classroom. Be sure the Bible can be seen but is not in too obvious a place. **Let's help Zack find the Bible. Don't make any noises when he is far from the Bible. Start clapping when he moves close to it.**
2. Volunteer begins to move around classroom. Lead children in clapping faster and louder as the volunteer moves closer and closer to the Bible. Repeat with new volunteers as time allows. (Note: If you have a large class, call on two volunteers at a time. Children hold hands and walk together.)

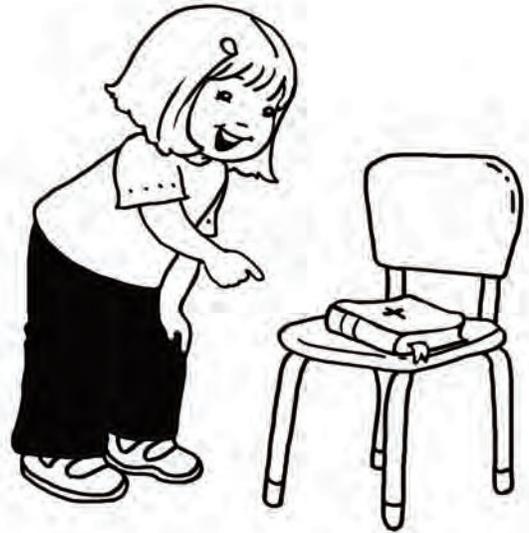
Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"I trust in God's word." Psalm 119:42

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "I trust in God's word." Trusting God's Word means we believe that what God says in the Bible is true. Let's play a game and search for our Bible.**
- ➔ **Daniel, who reads Bible stories to you? I'm glad your babysitter read the Bible to you.**
- ➔ **What do we do at church to learn about the Bible? Andrea, listening to Bible stories and saying Bible verses are ways to learn God's Word!**
- ➔ **The Bible tells us all about God's promises. God has promised to love us. I'm glad God keeps His promises.**



For Younger Children

Give verbal instructions to help children find the Bible. **Channing, the Bible is near some blocks.**

For Older Children

Before class, on index cards print the words of the Bible verse, one word per card. Then print the words of the verse on a large sheet of paper, spacing words apart but keeping capitals and punctuation. On each child's turn, instead of hiding a Bible, hide one of the index cards on which you wrote the words to the Bible verse. When a child finds the hidden card, he or she places it over the matching word on the large sheet of paper. Continue until all the words have been covered. Then gather cards and repeat as time and interest allow.

Play to Learn

November 1

Art Center: Puppet Family



Collect

Bible, Lesson 11 Puppet Family Patterns from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors, crayons or markers, tape.

Prepare

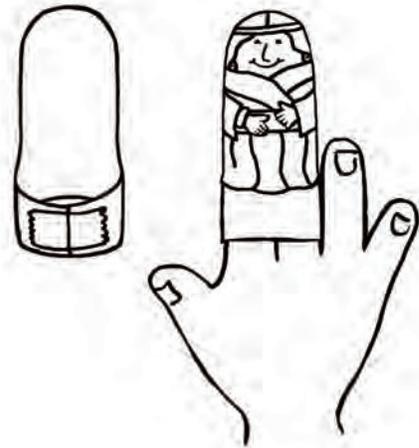
Make copies of the Puppet Family Patterns, one set for each child. Cut out finger puppets.

Do

1. Give each child one puppet each of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac. Children use crayons or markers to color Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac puppets.
2. Teachers or helpers assist children in taping puppets loosely around fingers. (Note: It is easier for children to place two fingers into a finger-puppet loop.)

Talk About

- ➔ **Today's Bible story tells about a man named Abraham. God promised that Abraham and his wife, Sarah, would have a baby. And they did! Let's make puppets of Abraham's family.**
- ➔ **Joey, what is a promise? A promise is something you say you will do and then you do it! God always keeps His promises.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "I trust in God's word." The Bible is God's Word. The Bible tells us about God's promises. We can trust in the Bible because we know God keeps His promises.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for Your Word, the Bible. We trust Your Word.**



Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"I trust in God's word." Psalm 119:42

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

For Younger Children

Cut 3-inch (7.5-cm) circles from paper. Cut paper towel tubes in half. Children draw facial features on circles and glue circles to tubes.

For Older Children

Give children a blank finger puppet pattern. Children draw themselves and write their names on their puppet. Assist children in writing names as needed.

Play to Learn

November 1

Construction Center: Tent Dwellings



Collect

Bible, blocks, fabric napkins or small squares of fabric, toy people and animals.

Do

1. Children use blocks to build squares. Drape napkins or small squares of fabric as a roof.
2. Children act out families living in tents with toy people and animals.

Talk About

- ➔ **Today's Bible story tells about a man named Abraham. Abraham lived in a tent. Let's make some tents!**
- ➔ **God promised that Abraham and his wife, Sarah, would have a baby. God's promise came true! Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy named Isaac.**
- ➔ **God's Word tells us about the promises God has made. A promise is something you say you will do and then you do it. Alex, when is a time you told your mom you would do something and then you did it? You know how to keep a promise!**
- ➔ **God always keeps His promises. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for always doing what You promise. Thank You for promising to love us. We love You, too!**

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"I trust in God's word." Psalm 119:42

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.



For Younger Children

Ahead of time, build tents as described above. Children play with toy people and animals, incorporating tents into their play.

For Older Children

Provide toy or artificial trees, or twigs and branches from real trees. Children use trees in their play.

Play to Learn

November 1

Dramatic Play Center: Baby Care



Collect

Bible, baby dolls, objects used to care for babies or baby dolls (bottles, doll clothes, doll blankets, rocking chair, etc.).

Do

Children use baby dolls and objects to act out ways to care for babies (feeding babies, dressing babies, wrapping babies in a blanket to put them to bed, rocking babies to sleep, changing a diaper, etc.).

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a baby. God kept His promise to Abraham. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, had a baby. Let's act out some of the ways we care for babies.**
- ➔ **Jeremy, you can be this baby's daddy. Is your baby a boy or a girl? What is a way you can take care of your baby? Here is a bottle. You can feed your baby.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "I trust in God's word." We trust God's Word because we know God keeps His promises. God always does what He says He will do. That's called keeping a promise.**
- ➔ **God promises to love us. I'm glad to know God always loves us. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for keeping Your promises. We love You!**

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"I trust in God's word." Psalm 119:42

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.



For Younger Children

Instead of providing several baby-care items, provide only blankets and small boxes to make baby beds. Children act out putting babies in beds.

For Older Children

Provide blankets and small boxes to make baby beds as described above. Also provide index cards. Older children name their babies. Print the name on an index card. Child uses name card to label his or her baby's bed.

Listen to Learn

November 1

Genesis 17:15-19; 18:1-15; 21:1-8

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 11 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD* or CD and player, ball, rhythm instruments.

Greet Each Other

Children stand in a circle. Toss or roll a ball to a child and insert their name in the verse. **(Justin) trusts in God's word.** Continue until all children have been named.

Fall Unit 3 Bible Verse:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

Weekly Bible Verse:
"I trust in God's word." Psalm 119:42

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can choose to love and obey God.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 17. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 11 pictures.

A promise is something someone tells you he or she will do and then the person does it! Has someone ever made you a promise? Listen to find out about a promise God made to Abraham.



Abraham was a very old man. His wife, Sarah, was very old, too. They had no children. One day Abraham **heard** God's voice speaking to him. He was surprised! "Abraham," God said, "I am going to send a baby boy to you and Sarah."

Abraham laughed to himself. *A baby boy?* he thought. God said. "Yes! You and Sarah will have a son. You will name your baby Isaac."



One day Abraham saw one, two, **three** men coming to his tent. These visitors looked like men, but one was really God! The other two were angels. Abraham hurried to invite them in. "Please stay awhile," Abraham said. "Come and rest in the shade! I'll bring water and food."

Abraham said to Sarah, "Please make some bread—quickly!" Sarah baked loaves of bread. Abraham got meat and a helper cooked it. Abraham served the food to his visitors in the shade of his trees.



The visitors ate. And God said to Abraham, "Next year, your wife, Sarah, will have a baby boy." Sarah was behind the tent door. She was listening. *A baby?* she thought. How can two old people have a baby? She **laughed!**



God heard Sarah laugh. "Abraham," He asked, "why did Sarah laugh? Doesn't she know? I can do anything! Nothing in the whole world is too hard for Me to do. You and Sarah will have a son!"

Abraham and Sarah did have their own **baby** boy—just as God promised! Abraham and Sarah were very happy. They named their baby Isaac. Abraham and Sarah had a big party to celebrate Isaac's birth. Many, many times Abraham and Sarah must have thanked God for Isaac. God had done just what He promised!

Talk About the Story

What did God promise Abraham and Sarah? (A baby boy.) **God did what He promised. We can choose to believe that God keeps His promises. Where can we read about God's promises?** (In God's Word, the Bible.) **What are some ways we can know what the Bible says?** (Listen when parents or teachers read Bible stories. Listen to and say Bible verses.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about some of the things we can choose to do. Lead children in singing "Choosing" (on DVD or track 4 on CD) and doing motions the song suggests. **We can choose to believe that God keeps His promises. God always does what He says He will do.**

Option: With parents' permission, record children as they sing the song and do motions. Show video at the end of the session for children and parents to enjoy.

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 119:42, say verse aloud. **God's Word is the Bible. When we read the Bible, we hear about God's promises. God always keeps His promises and we can trust in Him.** Lead children in saying the Bible verse together a few times. Ask all children with a certain characteristic to say the verse together (everyone wearing red, everyone with brown hair, everyone wearing tennis shoes, etc.). Choose several categories and repeat the Bible verse several times.

Pray to God

Say the following prayer, inserting the names of several children into the prayer: **Dear God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for Your promise to love us. Thank You for loving . . .** Repeat, naming each child.

Praise to God

Give each child a rhythm instrument. **Listen carefully to our Bible verse.** Emphasize the capitalized words ("trust," "God's") as you say the verse.

"I TRUST in GOD's word."

Children play their rhythm instrument only on the emphasized words. As children become more familiar with the activity, vary the words that are emphasized. **I'm so glad we can trust God's Word. God keeps His promises! We can thank Him as we sing praises.**

Eliezer Prays

November 8

Bible Story

Genesis 24

Teacher Challenge

As Eliezer traveled to find a wife for his employer's son, he may have worried about making the right choice. But Eliezer must have had a strong relationship with God, for he knew where to turn for help! Eliezer's prayer was simple and direct. He asked God to show the right woman to him in an obvious way. He would simply ask at the well for some water to drink. The woman who also offered to water his camels (camels that needed a very large amount of water to drink!) would be the right one.

- ➔ What situation are you facing in which you need clear direction from God?
- ➔ What does God's Word say about the situation? Who can pray with you about the situation?

Follow Eliezer's example: Pray about the situation you are facing! Trust God to answer. His answer may not be what you expect, but remember that He does hear you and He cares about your situation more than you expect. As you continue to grow to know God more and more through prayer and reading His Word, you can trust God to guide you through any situation. God wants to hear from and help us all!

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"The Lord hears me when I pray to Him." Psalm
4:3

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Mark 12:30), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can choose to love and obey God), and the Unit Goals listed on the Fall Unit 3 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

November 8

Active Game Center: Bowling Thanks



Collect

Bible, Lesson 12 Thankful Pictures 1-2 from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors, paper cups, tape, masking-tape, small rubber ball.

Prepare

Cut apart Thankful Pictures and tape each item to a paper cup. Place paper cups in a row as shown in sketch. Place a masking-tape line 3 feet (.9 m) away from cups. (Note: Remove masking tape immediately after activity.)

Do

1. Children stand in a row behind the masking tape line. Give the first child the ball. Child rolls ball towards cups. Child picks up any cups that the ball knocked over and names the items shown on the cup.
2. Child places cups back in their position and moves to the end of the row. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “The Lord hears when I pray to him.” “Lord” is another name for God. When I pray, I thank God for the many good things He has given me.**
- ➔ **Bailey, you knocked over a cup with a picture of food on it. What is your favorite food? You can pray and thank God for spaghetti.**
- ➔ **Preston, your cup has a picture of a lady on it. Perhaps she is a mom. You can thank God for your mom.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Thank You God, for hearing us when we pray to You. Thank You for all the good things You give us.**



Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.” Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
“The Lord hears me when I pray to Him.” Psalm 4:3

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

For Younger Children

Place Thankful Pictures in the bottom of paper or plastic bowls. Children stand close to the bowls and drop the coin into a bowl. Children name items shown in the pictures.

For Older Children

Children stand further from cups each round.

Play to Learn

November 8

Art Center: Prayer Books

Collect

Bible, Lesson 12 Thankful Pictures 1-2 from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors, paper, stapler, glue, crayons or markers.

Prepare

Copy a set of Thankful Pictures for each child. Cut apart. Fold two pieces of paper in half and staple to make a book for each child. Print "My Prayer Book" on the cover of each book.

Do

Children select pictures to glue in their Prayer Book. Children color pictures and decorate book using crayons or markers.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "The Lord hears when I pray to him." "Lord" is another name for God. I pray to God before I go to bed at night. Let's make books to remind us of things we can thank God for when we pray.**
- ➔ **Jacob, when are some times you can choose to pray to God?** (Before breakfast or dinner. At church. Before going to bed.) **God hears you every time you pray. You can keep your book next to your bed to remind you to pray to God.**
- ➔ **Leah, what are some things you can say to God when you pray to Him?** (I love You. Thank You for the good things You give. Please help me to obey You.)



Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
*"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1*

Weekly Bible Verse:
*"The Lord hears me when I pray to Him." Psalm
4:3*

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

For Younger Children

Provide stickers for younger children to decorate their Prayer Books.

For Older Children

Print the words of the Bible verse on a sheet of paper. Older children glue copies of the Bible verse in their Prayer Books.

Play to Learn

November 8

Construction Center: Well Water

Collect

Bible, blocks, small bucket or sand pail, string or rope.

Do

1. Children use blocks to build a well and one or more animal troughs.
2. Tie a string or rope to bucket handle. Children lower bucket into well and then pretend to bring up water to give to camels and/or other animals.

Talk About

- ➔ **In Bible times, people often got their water from a deep hole in the ground called a well. They used stones to build a little wall around the top of the hole. The rocks kept dirt from falling into the water. Let's use our blocks to make a pretend well.**
- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Eliezer (ehl-ee-EE-zuhr) met Rebekah at a well. Eliezer had prayed, asking God to help him find a kind wife for Isaac. And God answered Eliezer's prayer!**
- ➔ **We can pray to God and ask for His help, too. The Bible says, "The Lord hears when I pray to him." "Lord" is another name for God. God hears our prayers.**
- ➔ **Tyler, when can you pray to God? God hears you when you pray before going on a car trip! Pray, Dear God, thank You that we can pray to You anytime. Thank You for hearing us when we pray.**

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
*"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1*

Weekly Bible Verse:
*"The Lord hears me when I pray to Him." Psalm
4:3*

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.



For Younger Children

Use masking tape to outline a large circle on the floor. Children place blocks and cardboard boxes on the masking-tape line to make a well.

For Older Children

Older children act out story as you briefly retell story events. Expect to repeat the story several times as children come and go from the Construction Center.

Play to Learn

November 8

Dramatic Play Center: Dressing Up



Collect

Bible, child-sized dress-up clothes (including scarves, shawls, etc.), toy or costume jewelry, handheld mirrors.

Do

Children play with dress-up items and view themselves in mirrors.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Eliezer (ehl-ee-EE-zuhr) asked God to help him find a kind wife for Isaac. And God answered Eliezer's prayer! He met a young woman named Rebekah at a well. Eliezer gave Rebekah and her family many gifts. He gave Rebekah jewelry. Let's dress up and wear this jewelry.**
- ➔ **God answered Eliezer's prayer. God listens to us when we pray, too. The Bible says, "The Lord hears when I pray to him."**
- ➔ **We can pray to God anytime. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You that we can pray to You anytime. Thank You for hearing us when we pray.**



Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"The Lord hears me when I pray to Him." Psalm 4:3

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

For Younger Children

Provide large, child-safe jewelry that will not break or be a choking hazard.

For Older Children

Provide gift boxes. Children place clothing and jewelry items in boxes. Children act out giving gifts to others.

Listen to Learn

November 8

Genesis 24

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 12 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, beanbag or other small soft object.

Greet Each Other

Toss beanbag to a child. Child says his or her name and then the group claps. Child tosses beanbag to another child. Repeat until all children have a turn to say their name.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 24. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 12 pictures.

What happens at a wedding? Listen to hear about a man who went to find the right girl so that Isaac could have a wife.

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"The Lord hears me when I pray to Him." Psalm 4:3

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.



Abraham was very old. His son Isaac wasn't a baby anymore. Isaac was now a grown man!

It was time for Isaac to be married. Abraham told his helper, Eliezer (ehl-ee-EE-zuhr), "**Go** to the land where my family lives. Find a good wife for Isaac."



Eliezer was glad to help Abraham and Isaac. He traveled a long, long way. He and his camels were tired and thirsty. So Eliezer stopped his camels by a well of water.

Eliezer climbed down from his camel and **prayed**, "Dear God, please help me find a kind wife for Isaac."

Just then a young woman named Rebekah came to the well. She was carrying a water jar.



"May I have a **drink** of your water?" Eliezer asked her.

"Yes," said Rebekah. She lowered her jar down, down into the well.

She gave Eliezer a drink. While he was drinking, Rebekah said, "I will also give water to your camels."



What a kind woman Rebekah was! Eliezer thanked her for the water. Then he went to meet her family. He gave them many **gifts** from Abraham and Isaac and asked if Rebekah would go with him to marry Isaac. Rebekah said, "Yes."

Eliezer prayed and thanked God for helping him find a kind woman to be Isaac's wife. The next day, Eliezer and Rebekah started on the long trip back to Isaac's home.

Talk About the Story

What did Eliezer pray for God to help him do? (Find a kind woman to be Isaac's wife.) **Eliezer had a hard job to do, so he asked God for help. We can ask God for help when we have a hard job, too. What are some other reasons to pray to God?** (To tell God we love Him. To thank God for the good things He does. To ask God to help us do good.) **I'm glad that we can pray to God at any time!**

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about making choices. Lead children in singing "Choosing" (on DVD or track 4 on CD) and doing motions song suggests. **There are lots of things we can choose to do. We can choose to pray to God, too!**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 4:3, say verse aloud. **"Lord" is another name for God. I'm glad God hears us when we pray to Him. We can choose to pray to God. God loves us and helps us.** Children sit in a large circle. Lead children in repeating the verse several times. When saying the words "The Lord hears," children cup their ears. When saying the words "when I pray," children fold hands as if praying. When saying the words "to him," children point up.

Pray to God

As you say the following prayer, point to two or more children and pause for each child to say his or her name, completing the phrase. **Dear God, thank You for hearing when (Allie) and (Boden) pray.** Repeat, naming each child in your class.

Option: Ask children to name things for which they want to thank God or things for which they want God's help. Print children's responses on a large sheet of paper. Volunteers then choose one of the things mentioned and pray to God aloud.

Praise to God

Lead children to say, **I can pray to God.** Then invite children to repeat the sentence with the following movements. Ask children to listen to differences in the sounds they hear.

1. **Cup your hands behind your ears.**



2. **Place your hands in front of your ears, straight out from your head.**



3. **Cover your ears with your hands.**



It doesn't matter when or where you pray—God hears you! I'm glad we can choose to pray to God.

Isaac Digs Wells

November 15

Bible Story

Genesis 26:12-33

Teacher Challenge

God blessed Isaac so abundantly that the people around him became jealous. They filled in his wells and ordered him to leave—time after time! Isaac could have taken revenge, but he didn't. Later, the king who had banished him came to make peace with him, saying, "We saw clearly that the Lord was with you" (Genesis 26:28). Had Isaac stuck up for his rights or struck back in retaliation, God's favor would not have been so obvious.

In a world where water was not always easily accessible, Isaac gave up a precious resource, showing merciful love to others and trusting God for the outcome.

- ➔ What are some opportunities you have to show God's love to people around you?
- ➔ What good things might happen as a result of the love and mercy you show?

As you seek to follow God in every area of your life, ask God to give you new ways to show His merciful love. Then the people around you—including the children you teach—will see that God is with you as He was with Isaac. And they will want to grow in trusting God and showing His love, too!

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Love your neighbor." Matthew 22:39

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Mark 12:30), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can choose to love and obey God), and the Unit Goals listed on the Fall Unit 3 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

November 15

Active Game Center: Beanbag Toss



Collect

Bible, containers such as buckets or baskets, masking tape, beanbags.

Prepare

Set containers in a row on one side of your playing area. Place a masking-tape line 3 feet (.9 m) from the containers.

Do

1. Children stand behind the masking-tape line and take turns tossing beanbags into containers. After a couple of minutes, select a volunteer to retrieve the tossed beanbags.
2. Continue tossing and selecting volunteer retrievers as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Love your neighbor.” We can show love to others, instead of arguing with them. Let’s play a game where we get to show love.**
- ➔ **Matthew has been a good helper! He has shown love by picking up the beanbags and bringing them back to the line. Thank you, Matthew!**
- ➔ **Brianna, how can you show love at home? You can give your sister a turn with your dolls instead of arguing with her.**
- ➔ Pray, **Dear God, help us to show love to others.**



Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.” Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
“Love your neighbor.” Matthew 22:39

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

For Younger Children

Children stand close to containers and drop beanbags in containers.

For Older Children

Gather different-colored containers, or tape a different colored sheet of paper to each container. Children name the color container they are aiming for before tossing the beanbag.

Play to Learn

November 15

Art Center: Play Dough Wells ★

Collect

Bible, play dough.

Do

Children roll small amounts of play dough into balls to make stones. Children stack "stones" in circles to make wells.

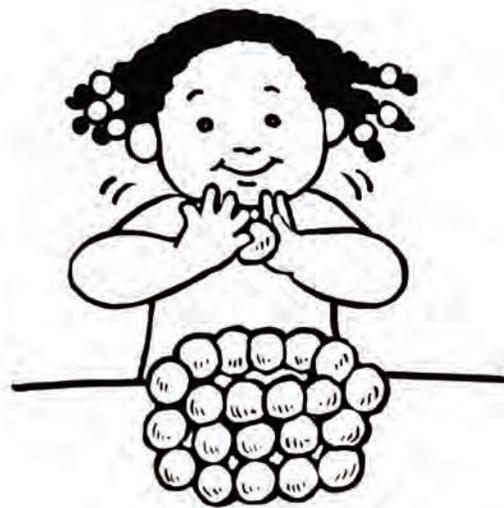
Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Isaac's helpers dug wells. When Isaac's neighbors wanted the wells, Isaac did not argue with them. He built new wells! Let's make some wells.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Love your neighbor." We can show love to others, instead of arguing with them.**
- ➔ **Julian, tell about one of your toys that your brother sometimes wants to play with. What can you do instead of arguing with him? Giving him a turn with your video game is a way to show love!**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to show love to others.**

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Love your neighbor." Matthew 22:39

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.



For Younger Children

Children simply play with play dough.

For Older Children

Children make "stones." Say, **Make a well using ten stones.** Children count stones and make well. Repeat, increasing the number of stones for each well.

Play to Learn

November 15

Construction Center: Street Scene



Collect

Bible, blocks, yarn.

Do

1. Children use blocks to outline squares large enough to stand in and use as houses.
2. Using yarn, children outline a road in front of the houses. Children walk down the road to act out visiting friends at their block houses.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Love your neighbor.” One way to show love to neighbors is to visit them. Let’s build a neighborhood and visit each other.**
- ➔ **Mario, I see you moved over to give Alexia room to build. That was very kind! You know how to be a kind neighbor.**
- ➔ **Being kind is one way to show love to a neighbor. Joshua, what is another way to show love? Yes, sharing the blocks with your friends is a way to show love.**
- ➔ **Stephanie, when might it be hard to show love to a friend? (When the friend is saying mean things. When the friend won’t share.) Sometimes it’s hard to be kind, but we can choose to show love, instead of arguing.**

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.” Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
“Love your neighbor.” Matthew 22:39

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.



For Younger Children

Use masking tape to outline a road across the activity area. Younger children place blocks on masking-tape lines. Instead of outlining squares to make houses, children can place sheets of construction paper or carpet squares along road for houses. Children walk on road to act out visiting neighbors.

For Older Children

As children walk down the yarn road to act out visiting friends, they repeat the Bible verse with teachers.

Play to Learn

November 15

Dramatic Play Center: Neighborly Meals



Collect

Bible, toy dishes and food, chairs and table.

Do

1. Children use toy dishes and food to prepare a meal.
2. Children choose who will be the visitors and who will be the hosts. When the meal is ready, the hosts serve the meal to the visitors.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Love your neighbor.” We show love to our neighbors when we are kind to them. Let’s cook some food for some visitors.**
- ➔ **Emma, how can you show love to your friends? You can share your crayons.**
- ➔ **Kami, thank you for giving Brooke a turn at the stove. You know how to show love by sharing!**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, please help us to show love to others.**

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.” Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
“Love your neighbor.” Matthew 22:39

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.



For Younger Children

Children make the meal and eat together as a pretend family, rather than hosts serving visitors.

For Older Children

Children wash hands and serve real food (crackers, small pieces of fruit, etc.) on paper plates.

Listen to Learn

November 15

Genesis 26:12-33

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 13 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, index cards, marker.

Prepare

Write a "1" or "2" on an index card, making a card for each child.

Greet Each Other

Help children form pairs. Pairs stand facing each other a few feet apart. **It's fun to do things with neighbors. Let's use our bodies as we sing this song.** Play "Pointing Song" (track #18 on CD). Lead children in singing song and doing motions suggested in the song.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 26. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 13 pictures.

When have you or someone you know dug a hole in the ground? What kinds of tools were used? Listen to hear about a time Isaac's helpers had to dig in the ground again and again.

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Love your neighbor." Matthew 22:39

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.



In Bible times, people did not have sinks and faucets in their homes. People got their water outdoors. They would **dip** buckets or jars into deep holes in the ground called wells.

Isaac needed to dig a well, so his family and his helpers and his animals could have good water to drink. Dig, dig, dig—Isaac's helpers worked hard. The hole got deeper and deeper. Then water began to fill up the hole!



Everyone was happy, EXCEPT Isaac's neighbors. They shouted, "That well is OURS!" They started a big **argument**. Isaac did not want to argue with his neighbors. So Isaac let them have the well. Isaac moved to another place. He told his helpers to dig another well. Dig, dig, dig—the helpers worked hard. Soon water began to fill up the hole. They had found water again!

But then Isaac's neighbors came again. "That well is OURS!" they shouted. They were so angry. They may have pushed and shoved Isaac's helpers.



Isaac still wanted to be kind to his neighbors. So again Isaac moved to another place. And he told his helpers to **dig** ANOTHER well. Dig, dig, dig—the helpers worked hard. Soon water began to fill up the hole.

One night soon after, God said to Isaac, "Do not be afraid, Isaac. I will always be with you." Isaac thanked God for being with him.



Isaac's neighbors came again. But this time they did not shout. They did not push. They said, "We know God is with you. We will not argue with you anymore."

Isaac was very **happy**! He invited the neighbors to stay for dinner. Isaac was glad God helped him to be kind.

Talk About the Story

How did Isaac show love to his neighbors? (Isaac didn't argue with them. Isaac had his helpers dig new wells.) **Isaac chose to show love to his neighbors, instead of arguing with them. We can choose to show love to our neighbors, too. Who are our neighbors?** (The people who live on our street. Our friends. Our family. Everyone!) **What is a way you can show love to someone today?**

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about something important to do. Lead children in singing "Choosing" (on DVD or track 4 on CD) and doing motions suggested by the song. **We can obey God by showing love to other people. Even when we might feel like arguing, we can choose to show love instead.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Matthew 22:39, say verse aloud. **Our neighbors are all the people we know. We can choose to show love to others every day!** Lead children in saying the verse. First the children to your left say "Love" and then the children on your right say "your neighbor." Have children repeat the verse in this manner several times, alternating which group says the phrases.

Option: Children name people they know (brother, sister, friend, cousin, etc.) or categories of people (teacher, firefighter, etc.) and insert in place of the words "your neighbor."

Pray to God

Let's ask God to help us show love, instead of arguing. Volunteers take turns completing the following prayer by naming someone to whom they can show love: **Dear God, please help me show love to . . .**

Praise to God

God tells us to love our neighbor. Let's play a game to talk about people we can show God's love to. Lay prepared cards facedown on the floor in an open area. Children walk around the area while you play "Welcome, Hello!" (track 1 on CD). When music stops, each child picks up the nearest card and identifies the numeral. Several volunteers then tell either one or two ways to show God's love or one or two people to whom they can be kind.