

LESSON



Sarah's Baby

COMMUNITY

Community means loving one another.

References

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

Memory Verse

“Love each other” (John 15:12, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

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

Feel love for the family members God gave to them.

Respond by telling family members, “I love you.”

The Message



People in families love one another.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

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

This is a lesson about community.

Children are a special part of families.

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

Teacher Enrichment

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

THREE

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

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

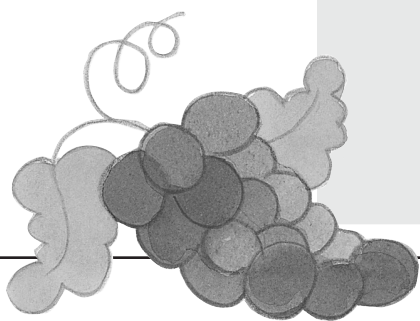
Room Decorations

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



Program Overview

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



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

1

PARENT TIME

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

Week 1

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

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

Week 2

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

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

A couple of days later we retrieved

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

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

Week 3

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

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

Week 4

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

off. She was happily licking the soap scum off her fingers.

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

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

Week 5 (or optional)

When my first child was about 6 months old and was consistently sleeping through the night, I remember saying to my husband, "I love being a mommy!" We were finally on somewhat of a

schedule, things were predictable, Wesley was smiling and fun and adorable.

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

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

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

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

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

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

A. Book Basket

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

B. Baby Dolls

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

C. Tent House

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

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

D. Cleaning

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

E. Rocking Chairs

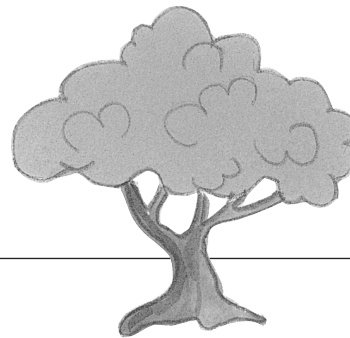
For children who may be too shy or sleepy to join in the activities, parents can sit and rock their child.

F. Nature Box

Fill with stuffed or plastic animals, rocks, feathers, shells, plastic flowers, etc., for the children to explore and touch. **(This requires careful parental supervision so that small objects do not end up in a child's mouth.)**

G. Cooking

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



3 GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

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

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

—Mildred Adair

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

You Need:

- bells

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

—Mildred Adair

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B. Prayer Time

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

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

When it's time to pray,
 I fold my hands, fold my hands, fold
 my hands;

When it's time to pray,
 I fold my hands, and then I talk to
 Jesus.

When it's time to pray,
 I close my eyes, close my eyes, close
 my eyes;

When it's time to pray, I close my
 eyes, and then I talk to Jesus.

—Janet Sage

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 North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists®. Used
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C. Visitors

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

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

—Mildred Adair

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D. Offering

You Need:

- offering container

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

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

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

—Janet Sage

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

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

E. Birthdays

You Need:

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

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

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

—Mildred Adair

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Teacher will give the child the appropriate number of coins and assist the child in dropping coins into an artificial cake while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 37).

(*Child's name*) has a birthday, we're so glad.

We will see how many (*he/she*) has had.

As we count the money we are told, (*count*)

Yes, the money says (*he's/she's*) (*age*) years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

Light birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday!" "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 39).

Happy birthday, happy birthday,
Happy birthday to you;
Jesus loves you, dear (*child's name*),
Happy birthday to you!

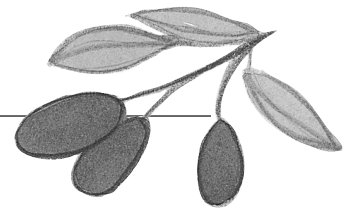
—Janet Sage

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Encourage the birthday child to blow out the candle(s). Say a birthday prayer for the child and if possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

4

EXPERIENCING THE STORY



A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- Bible books

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

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

Copyright © 1964, 1969 by Review and Herald® Publishing Association.

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

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

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

B. Laughter

You Need:

- felts OR pictures of people laughing

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

a baby for a long time. They had asked God to send them a baby, but they still didn't have one. Ask the children to make a sad face with you. **But God had promised to send them a baby, and God always keeps His promises.**

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

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

I'm in-right, out-right, up-right,
down-right happy all the time
(*hands point to chest, out, up,
down, clap five times*),
I'm in-right, out-right, up-right,
down-right happy all the time
(*repeat motions*).
Since Jesus Christ loves me, I love
my family (*point upward, to self,
to family*),
I'm in-right, out-right, up-right,
down-right happy all the time
(*hands point to chest, out, up,
down, clap five times!*)
—Traditional. Adapted.

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

Abraham and Sarah were very old.
(*hold up two fingers*)
But God promised them (*point upward*)
A baby to hold! (*pretend to hold a
baby*)
This made Sarah laugh,
And Abraham laughed too. (*laugh out
loud*)
God sent Baby Isaac. (*point upward*)
God's words are true! (*nod head, yes*)

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

C. Happy Family

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

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

—Anonymous

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

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

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

D. Caring for Baby

You Need:

- baby dolls
- baby blankets
- toy baby bottles

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

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

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

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

—Anonymous

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

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

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

—Anonymous

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

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

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

—Anonymous

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

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

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

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

E. Homes

You Need:

- tent (real OR blankets to make one)

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

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

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

Homes

Where do the fish sleep? (*fold hands and lay on head, close eyes*)

In the water. (*make wave motions with hands*)

Where do the bees sleep?

In a hive. (*cup hands together*)

Where do the sheep sleep?

In the pasture. (*point away*)

Where do the cows sleep?

In the barn. (*raise hands together over head*)

Where do the birds sleep?

In the tree. (*hold hands up in the air*)

Where do I sleep?

In a bed* just for me! (*point to self*)

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

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

F. Families Help

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

Because We're Family

A family is the people (*clap*)

God made to care for me.

(*point to self*)

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

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

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

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

Because we're family. (*clap*)

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

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

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

Love each other, love each other,

Love, love, love each other.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

G. Parties

You Need:

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

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

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

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

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

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

H. Happy Home With You

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

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

—Anonymous

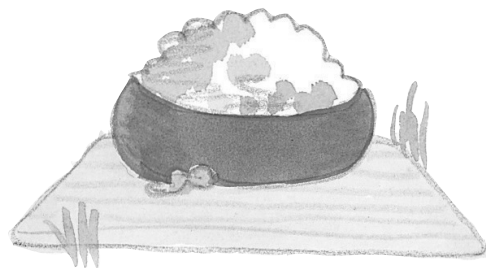
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Love each other, love each other,
Love, love, love each other.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.



I. God in the Family

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

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

—Anonymous

Repeat, singing "With Jesus in the family."

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

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

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

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

J. I Love You

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

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

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

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Repeat the memory verse several times.

5 MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)



Week 1 Baby Isaac Doll

You Need:

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

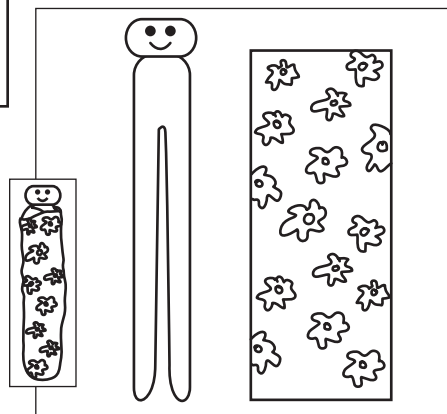
Beforehand, cut a 10-inch square of fabric and a 10-inch strip of fabric for each child. Put cotton balls or a wad of paper in the middle of the 10-inch square for a head. Tie the strip of fabric around the head. The strip will hang down as arms. Draw a face on the doll.



You Need:

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

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



Week 2 Picture Frame

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

You Need:

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

Week 3 Heart Fan

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

You Need:

- red construction paper
- craft sticks OR tongue depressors OR stiff strips of cardboard 2 centimeters x 15 centimeters
- glue sticks
- heart pattern (see p. 76)

Week 4

Puppet Family

You Need:

- finger puppet pattern (see illustration on p. 75)
- glue sticks
- crayons (optional)
- scissors (optional)

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

Voices Praise Him, no. 273).

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

Snack Center (Optional)

A simple snack can be provided each week such as crackers, fruit slices, or juice. The children may enjoy eating dry "baby" foods, such as crackers, dry cereal, or similar snacks. Be aware of any food allergies your students may have.

You Need:

- simple snack foods

Week 5

"God Keeps His Promises" Booklet

You Need:

- booklet pattern (see p. 77)
- glue sticks
- aluminum foil
- scissors
- markers

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

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

Closing

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

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

Sarah's Baby

References

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

Memory Verse

“Love each other” (John 15:12, NIV).

The Message

People in families love one another.

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

Abraham held Sarah's hand. He put his arm around her. *(Put your arm around your child.)* He patted her back. *(Pat your child's back.)*

“Boo-hoo,” she cried.

“Don't be sad!” Abraham said kindly.

He loved his wife, Sarah.

Whom do you love?

Sarah blew her nose. *Can you blow your nose?* Sarah wiped her cheeks.

(Pat your child's cheeks.) She

looked at Abraham. “I always wanted a baby of my very own!” she whispered. “But now I am too old!”

“I want a baby too,” Abraham answered. “God

said He would give us a son. But now we are so old.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Where is your wife?” one man asked.

“She's in the tent,” Abraham said.

“I will come back and see you next year,” the man said.

“And when I come, your wife, Sarah, will have her very own baby boy.”

Sarah heard the man, and she laughed at

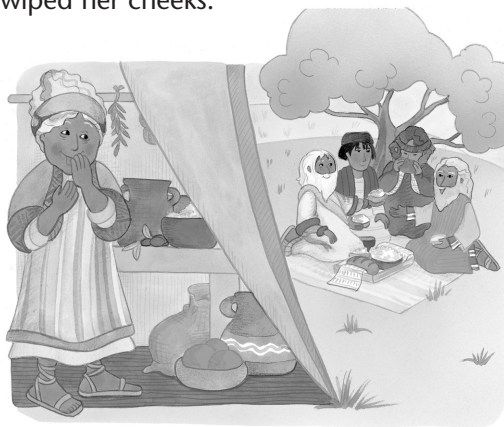
what the man said *(laugh aloud)*. She felt she was too old to have a baby.

Where is Sarah? *(Point to her.)* There is Sarah! In the tent. “Why did Sarah laugh?” the man asked. “She thinks she is too old. But is anything too hard for the Lord?”

Then Abraham knew the man was really the Lord.

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

*Use here or at end of story.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Help your child “care” for a baby doll by feeding it with a bottle, burping

Do & Say

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

you love him or her. Give your child a hug and kiss.

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

15. Talk about your child’s name and how and why it was chosen.

it, and rocking it.

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

10. Take a baby doll for a walk outside.

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

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

13. Tell your child