



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

We can trust God with our families.

THE BIBLE

Abraham and Sarah Have a Baby: Genesis 17:15-19; 18:1-15; 21:1-7 (Deuteronomy 7:9; Philippians 4:19; Mark 10:27)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | We Are Family Tag
- **ACTIVITY** | My Family Tree
- **QUESTION** | Who do you trust?
- **IMAGE** | Family Photos
- **THE BIG IDEA** | We can trust God with our families.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Genesis 17:15-19, 18:1-15, 21:1-7
- **ACTIVITY** | Family Tree of Jesus
- **ACTIVITY** | Trust in God Game
- **SCRIPTURE** | Deuteronomy 7:9, Philippians 4:19
- **OBJECT LESSON** | God Supplies Our Needs
- **REFLECTION** | Pray For Our Families
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Romans 8:28; Psalm 23:1-3

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - What was the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah?
 - Why do you think God told Abraham to name him Isaac, which means laughter?
 - Who eventually came from Abraham's family many generations later?
 - Has your family ever been through a tough time when it was hard to trust God?
 - What are some things we can do when we're having a hard time trusting God?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Mark 10:27
- **ACTIVITY** | Helium Stick
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Romans 8:28; Psalm 23:1-3



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can trust God with our families.

THE BIBLE

Abraham and Sarah Have a Baby: Genesis 17:15-19; 18:1-15; 21:1-7 (Deuteronomy 7:9; Philippians 4:19; Mark 10:27)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | We Are Family Tag

- Welcome! We're starting a new series called, We Are Family, where we'll explore God's plan for our families by learning about families in the Bible.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid half of a pool noodle. Choose one person to be "it." "It" will try to tag someone else using the noodle. When "it" tags someone, the kid who was tagged will join the "family" by grabbing onto "it's" pool noodle. They will then move together to tag someone else. Every kid who is tagged will grab on and join their family until everyone has been tagged.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** See your weekly instructions for a great modification to make this game easier and inclusive for kids with little mobility or sensory issues by designating a smaller playing space and modifying the rules.
- **What was fun about joining into the larger family of taggers?**
- **What was hard about being in the large family?**
- Families have ups and downs. Sometimes being in a family is a lot of fun and sometimes it is challenging. This month, we're talking about our families.

ACTIVITY | My Family Tree

- Everyone's family is different and every family in the Bible was different. Let's share about our own families.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the Family Tree printables and give one to each child. Use ink pads and let the kids make a fingerprint for each family member. You can use different fingers for different people

(maybe the thumb for mom or dad and the pinky finger for your baby brother or sister). Write each person's name on or under the print. Be sensitive to kids in unique family situations, such as foster and adoption and those living with grandparents, and remind them all families look different.

- **FOR PRETEENS:** Go to [this](#) website and make a digital family tree with preteens. You can even send them home and let their parents help them make a real family tree.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** For kids with sensory difficulties, it may be helpful to have a leaf already cut out with a family member's name written on it. Today, we are going to learn about how a family learned to trust God.

QUESTION | Who do you trust?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a kid to come up front with you. Explain that you will tell them the category of a question you are going to ask. Then they need to choose another kid they trust to answer the question for them. For example, you might say, "I'm going to ask you a question about the movie, Frozen. Who do you trust to help you answer the question?" The child will then choose someone from the group to answer the question. You can ask questions such as . . .
 - Who do you trust to answer a question about . . .
 - The Bible: Who built an ark? (*Noah.*)
 - Math: What is 5000+6000?" (*11,000*)
 - Social Studies: What is the capital city of our state or province?
 - Sports: How many players from one team are on the court during a basketball game? (*Five.*)
 - Science: What does a tadpole turn into? (*A frog.*)
 - This can be a fun game, but in real life, we really need to know who we can trust for different things.
- Who can we always trust to give us the right answer?**
- Our Bible story today is about a family in the Bible who had to trust God even though they didn't understand what He was doing.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

IMAGE | Family Photos

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show photos of several families from your church. You can show families of class leaders or church staff. Try to include pictures of a variety of types of families, for example, single parents or families who have adopted.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Let them bring in or draw pictures of their families and share with the other preteens about their families.
- **How were these families different from each other?**
- **How were they similar?**
- Every single family is different, but they all have something in common. God put each of these families together. He designed them. He cares for them. Today, we are going to learn about a family who learned to trust God.

THE BIG IDEA | We can trust God with our families.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:

- Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
- Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
- Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
- Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a “hunt” for it. When it’s found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week’s Big Idea: **We can trust God with our families.**

BIBLE STORY | Genesis 17:15-19; 18:1-15; 21:1-7

- In our last series, Double Dog Dare, we learned about Abraham and how he and his family left their home and let God lead them to a new home. Abraham and his family made this new place their home, where they raised their animals and grew old together. Then something really cool happened to them. Let’s read from the Bible to see what God did for their family!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- God promised Abraham that He would make many nations come from his family. But there was a problem: Abraham didn’t have any children, and he and his wife were very old. They were older than your grandparents!
- God promised them they would have a child, and they laughed. **Why do you think they laughed?** We don’t usually see a lot of grandparents having babies.
- God told Abraham and Sarah exactly what He was going to do for their family, but they had a hard time trusting Him. The plan seemed impossible to them – they wanted a child for so long, but it hadn’t happened for them yet.
- **Why do you think it would have been hard for them to trust what God was saying?**
- If you’ve ever known someone who has had a baby, you have an idea of the excitement that comes with having a baby! **What are some things people do when they are getting ready for a baby?** They might get some clothes ready and prepare a place for the baby to sleep. They might choose a baby name and imagine what life would be like with a new person added to their family. Abraham and Sarah might have done those things as they prepared to have their baby.
- **What do you think it was like for Abraham and Sarah to have a baby after waiting so long?**
- Abraham and Sarah’s baby, Isaac, was the answer to God’s promise. Throughout the Bible, God’s family is always traced back to Abraham. In Matthew, the first book of the New Testament, God records the family tree of Jesus. This list of relatives is also called a genealogy. **Guess whose names are listed first and second?** Abraham and Isaac!
- In our story, God promised to send Isaac – and He did. God also promised in the Bible to send a Savior – and He did. Many generations later, Jesus was born into Abraham and Isaac’s family.
- **What are some examples of things that happen in families today that are hard to understand?**
- **How can we know that we can trust God with our families?**

ACTIVITY | Family Tree of Jesus

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw a large tree with bare branches on a poster board or piece of butcher paper. Print and cut apart the Family Tree of Jesus printables. Put double sided tape on each leaf and mix them up. Tape them near the branches. Let the kids look up the genealogy of Jesus from the Bible and place the leaves on the tree in the order they are listed. Open your Bible and look up Matthew 1:1-17.

- We all have a family tree! Jesus has one, too! Let's open our Bibles to Matthew chapter 1 and look up the family tree of Jesus.
- Each person on this tree was chosen by God to be part of the family of Jesus and each one has a story of how God worked in their family. Some of the stories we know and some we don't. God chose Isaac to be part of Abraham and Sarah's family. God chose all of these people, and many more, to be part of Jesus' family, and God chose you to be part of your family. We can trust that God always has a purpose for our family.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Trust in God Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have all the kids form a big circle and place two kids in the center of the circle. One kid in the center will be blindfolded and one will not be blindfolded. The one who is not blindfolded is the "Voice of God." Have "the Voice of God" repeatedly say "I keep my promises." The blindfolded kid will try to listen to find the voice and tag them. Once a kid tags the person who is the voice, they become the voice and another kid from the circle will be blindfolded. The kids in the circle will be a protective barrier so the blindfolded kids don't run into anything.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Prepare some statements about God. Place three in front of the kids to choose from: two truths and one false statement. Let them choose the one they think is false. Remind them that God keeps His promises and He doesn't change.
- Sometimes, it feels like a challenge to understand what God's plan is. Sometimes we don't understand why our families are the way they are. We may have a hard time getting along with some people in our family. God will help us and lead us if we trust Him.

SCRIPTURE | Deuteronomy 7:9; Philippians 4:19

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verses and read them!
- **How does this verse describe God?**
- **What does this verse say God does?**
- **How can this verse encourage families to trust Him?**
- We can trust God to keep His promises, do the impossible, and lead us because He is faithful. We can trust God in every area of our lives, especially our families!
- **What does the second verse say about God?**

OBJECT LESSON | God Supplies Our Needs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hide five full water bottles somewhere in the room before kids arrive. Get five other bottles of water and dump most of the water out so they are mostly empty. During the service, select five kids. Give one almost-empty water bottle to each kid. Set out a blanket. Lead the discussion.
- **Do you believe God keeps all His promises?**
- We just read Philippians 4:19. That verse gives us a promise from God to provide us with what we need. **You know one thing we need right now?** We all need water to live. We wouldn't make it very long without access to water.
- That reminds me, I'm really thirsty! **Are you really thirsty?** Let's drink our water to see if that helps. That was good, but it was only a few sips, and I'm still really thirsty! We just agreed we need water

and we read God's promise to meet all our needs, so I have an idea. Let's put our empty water bottles here under this blanket and ask God to fill our water bottles. **Do you think this is a good idea? Do you think it will work?**

- Place all the empty or nearly empty bottles under a blanket.
- God can do the impossible, so I think He can fill those bottles back up for us. **Do you agree? Can we trust Him to fill up our bottles?**
- Reveal the same empty water bottles from under the blanket.
- **What do you think went wrong?**
- God's word says He will meet all of our needs. But these bottles are still empty!
- **Can you think of a time when you asked God for something and you got it?**
- **Can you think of a time when you asked God for something and you had to wait a long time?**
- **Does this verse say when God will meet our needs? Does this verse say how God will meet our needs?**
- **Do you think God always gives us what we want, when we want it?**
- God always tells the truth. He always keeps His promises. We can trust Him with our families. But that doesn't mean He is going to do exactly what we want, when we want it, and how we want it.
- God does things in His way and in His time. Just because He doesn't fulfill His promise in the way we think He should doesn't mean He won't keep the promise. Maybe God just has a different way.
- Go to the hidden full water bottles and hand them out.
- God didn't refill our water bottles under this blanket, but He did provide for our need for water! He gave me the ability to get water for you.
- Abraham and Sarah were also surprised at when God chose to keep His promise, but they learned to trust that God would do just exactly what He promised them He would do.

REFLECTION | Pray For Our Families

- One way we can trust God with our families is to pray for our family members.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid several small sticky notes. Ask them to look at their family tree and think about each person. Tell the kids to think of one specific thing they want to pray about for each person. They can write or draw this prayer on the sticky note and put it by the person's name. Play a quiet song and encourage kids to pray about each of the needs they wrote down.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Have each preteen write a prayer request for their family and stick it on their back. Then tell them to do a prayer walk (quietly) around the room, laying a hand on the back of each friend as they read and pray for their prayer requests.

MEMORY VERSES | Romans 8:28; Psalm 23:1-3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What was the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah?** (*To give them a son.*)
- **Why do you think God told Abraham to name him Isaac, which means *laughter*?** (*They both laughed when they heard they would have a son.*)
- **Who eventually came from Abraham's family many generations later?** (*Jesus.*)
- **Has your family ever been through a tough time when it was hard to trust God?**
- **What are some things we can do when we're having a hard time trusting God?**

SCRIPTURE | Mark 10:27

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **What seemingly impossible thing did God do for Abraham and Sarah? Why was it nearly impossible?**
- **Do you think God is still able to do things that are impossible for your family today?**
- **Is there anything too hard for God?**

ACTIVITY | Helium Stick

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids in your group stand in a circle and hold their hands out parallel with the ground while holding out their index fingers. Set a hula hoop or long stick across all their fingers and have them slowly lower it to the ground without losing contact with the hula hoop. Have them lower and raise it to the ground slowly with everyone's finger staying in contact with it.*
- **Was it hard to work together with your team to raise and lower the stick (or hula hoop)?** This activity is called, "Helium Stick" because it almost seems like helium is making it rise up, even when we were trying to lower it.
- It can be hard to trust God with our families, but we can turn to Him whenever we face hard times in our families. When we're down and struggling, God can lift us up and help us. **Have you ever had to trust God with your family?**

MEMORY VERSES | Romans 8:28; Psalm 23:1-3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.*