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# Little Lambs



## **Bible Words**

“Let the little children come to me.”

—Mark 10:14, NIV

## **Dear Family,**

It’s a joy to welcome your little one to Little Lambs. Each week we will tell a story from God’s book, the Bible. We’ll sing songs and enjoy activities in play centers that will help your child learn about God’s love.

Each time we meet, we’ll be sending a Bible story card home. We encourage you to collect these story cards in a binder and enjoy them over and over. It is our prayer that together we can help your precious little one come to know God more and experience the love of Jesus through these beautifully illustrated stories from the Bible.

We’ve also included suggestions on each card for things you can do at home to reinforce the wonderful truths your child is learning.

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### **Getting Acquainted, Session 1**

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## Jesus Loves Me

Mark 10:13-16

Everywhere Jesus went, lots of people came to hear him. Jesus told the people about God's love.

Moms and dads came to hear Jesus too. One day some moms and dads brought their children to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to touch their little ones. They wanted their boys and girls to know that Jesus loved them very much.

But Jesus' helpers said, "Stop! Jesus is too busy to talk to boys and girls. Go away!"

When Jesus heard what his helpers said, he was very sad. Jesus said, "Let these little ones come to me. Don't send them away. Boys and girls are part of God's family."

Then Jesus hugged each boy and girl. He told them that he loved them.

The moms and dads and boys and girls were very happy. Now they knew for sure that Jesus loves boys and girls—just like you!

## **Bible Words**

"Let the little children come to me."

—Mark 10:14, NIV

## **Family Time**

We all need to know that we belong. Take extra time this week to tell your little one that he or she is a special part of your family—and God's family. Put a collage of snapshots of people in your family on your refrigerator. (Or cut pictures from catalogs or store fliers, and label them with family member's names.) Point to each picture, and say "Jesus loves [name]." Make up a tune, and sing this little rhyme:

Jesus loves you and me,  
and we're a family.

Jesus loves you and me,  
and we're God's family.

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### **Getting Acquainted, Session 2**

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## God's Stories Are in the Bible

2 Chronicles 34:1-3, 8, 14-16, 29-31

When Josiah was just eight years old, he became a king. He was almost too small to wear a crown on his head! But Josiah wasn't too small to love God.

One day when Josiah was grown up, Josiah's helpers were busy cleaning God's church. One of the men found a book hidden away in a corner. He began to read the stories. "This is *God's* book, the Bible!" the man said.

When Josiah heard the stories from the book, he knew it was God's book, the Bible. He wanted the people to hear God's stories too.

Josiah called all of the people to a great meeting at the church. When the people heard God's stories, they promised to love and obey God.

## **Bible Words**

"Let the little children come to me."

—Mark 10:14, NIV

## **Family Time**

Twos and threes love story time! Set aside a special time each day to read God's stories to your little one. You might want to designate a certain shelf or drawer for Bible story books and choose the same favorite spot for reading. Snuggle in your child's bed, or cuddle in a big rocker or with favorite stuffed animal friends. Sing or say this rhyme as a signal that it's time for quiet time with God:

The B-I-B-L-E,  
it is God's word for me.  
I love to learn from God's true word,  
the B-I-B-L-E.

—Traditional; altered by Jacquelyn and Jon Negus, 1999.

Your little one may request the same story over and over, and before you know it, he or she will be telling it to you. Smile at the little details that get a bit mixed up, and thank God for his Word and your precious little one.

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### **Getting Acquainted, Session 3**

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## We Can Talk to God

1 Samuel 1

My name is Hannah. For a long time, I was very, very sad. Even my husband Elkanah couldn't make me happy. I wanted a baby to love—a little boy I could hold in my arms.

One day I went to the temple to talk to God. "Please, God, give me a baby to love," I prayed. Tears ran down my cheeks. My heart felt so sad.

I whispered, “Please God! You know how much I want a baby boy. I will teach him all about you. He will do your work.”

Eli, the old priest, heard me praying and crying. Eli said, “Go home, Hannah. God will hear your prayers. God will answer you.”

Soon after, I knew I was going to have a baby! God had heard my prayers!

When my precious baby boy was born, I said, “Thank you, God. Thank you for hearing my prayers. Thank you, God, for baby Samuel.”

## **Bible Words**

“Let the little children come to me.”

—Mark 10:14, NIV

## **Family Time**

Praying *for* your child is one of the greatest gifts you can give him or her. Talking to God *with* your child is a gift you’ll share. Here’s a simple prayer you can say together:

Our hands we fold,  
our heads we bow;  
for all good things  
we thank you now.

Encourage your little one to change the third line to say thanks for specific things and special people.

Make prayer a part of your conversation in the car, on walks, at bedtime. Likely, you’ll be amazed at how open and frank young children are with God. You’ll chuckle when you hear your three-year-old say, “Dear God, please tell Mommy I don’t like beans.” (Yes, it’s OK to admit to God that sometimes your charming toddler is about to drive you crazy. “God, whatever happened to quiet time?”)

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### **Getting Acquainted, Session 4**

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# God Made Day and Night

Genesis 1:1-5

A very long time ago, God's world was empty. Everything was dark.

But our great God was there. And God said, "Let there be light!" And a bright, beautiful light came into the darkness. God called the light "day." God gave us daytime to run and play.

God called the dark "night." God gave us nighttime to rest our sleepy eyes.

And God said, “Light and dark are very good!” We say, “Thank you, God, for day and night!”

## **Bible Words**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

—Genesis 1:1, NIV

## **Family Time**

Little ones are curious about everything! Spend time together in God’s great big world exploring light shining on a flower drenched in the morning dew. Wonder how God made the light so soft and bright. Peer into the dark night to find the twinkling stars. Wonder if your arms can stretch far enough to touch just one.

Twos and threes thrive on day and night routines, but they need adults to keep them on track. Note when “Mr. Sunshine” is up and ready for the day. Thank God for time to play, or have a snack, or take a nap. Take special notice when the sun is tired and ready for bed. Notice the light disappearing and the dark peeking around the trees. Catch a glimpse of the moon—surely the moon must be yawning! And then at the end of each day say, “And it was good!”

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### **Unit 1, Session 1**

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