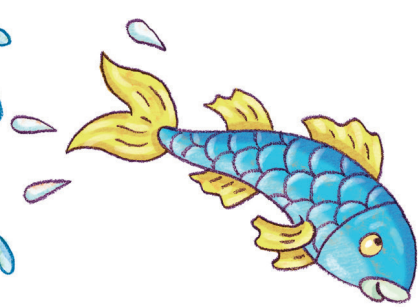
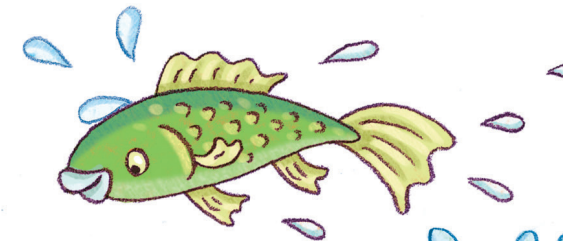


# Gospel Light



## Preschool

### Sunday School Curriculum



Teacher Guide • Pre-K/Kindergarten • Fall A

*Carter experiences the parting of the Red Sea in Lesson 3.*

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Distribute copies of *Preschool Music #1 CD* to students.

For additional teaching resources, visit [www.gospellight.com](http://www.gospellight.com).

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## Gospel Light Sunday School Curriculum

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# Baby in a Basket

Fall • Lesson 1

## Who?

Baby Moses, Miriam, Moses' mother,  
Egyptian princess

## What?

God gave Moses a family to care for him  
(Exodus 1:8—2:10)

## When & Where?

While God's people, the Israelites, were  
slaves in Egypt

## Why?

To help children feel a sense of security  
because of God's care for them



## Teacher Challenge

Read Exodus 1:8—2:10.

How can this story make a  
difference in your own life  
and in the lives of the children  
you teach?

Pharaoh had ordered all  
Hebrew baby boys to be  
thrown into the Nile River.  
Moses' parents had to risk  
losing their baby or see him  
die. So they put him in the  
Nile, in a waterproof basket,  
trusting God to do something  
miraculous. God honored their  
faith! He protected Moses and  
used him mightily. Now think  
about your own life.

## Goals for each child

- 1 Identify ways people cared for baby Moses**
- 2 Name people God has given to care for him or her and describe their caring actions**
- 3 Thank God for His care and for the people who love him or her**

- In what ways have you seen God care for you and protect you? What purpose or plans might God have for you?
- Take time to praise God for His protection and care in your own life.

The children in your class are not yet ready to discuss God's purpose for their individual lives. But it is critical that they learn the amazing and foundational truths that God cares for every aspect of their lives and that they can trust God's loving care, no matter what happens. As you pray for the children in your class or small group this week, ask God to help them come to know and accept His great love.

**Bible Verse**  
"God cares about you."  
(See 1 Peter 5:7.)

# Prepare

Fall • Lesson 1

## 1 Play to Learn

20 - 30 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities

### Art Center

Make texture collages and talk about what Moses' family did to care for him  
**Materials:** Bible, construction paper, a variety of textured materials, glue sticks

### Dramatic Play Center

Act out ways Moses' family cared for him  
**Materials:** Bible, baby dolls, doll clothing, blankets, bottles, baskets

### Game Center

Play a marching game and tell names of people God gives to care for them  
**Materials:** Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, a variety of rhythm instruments

### Blocks Center

Build houses and identify people who care for them  
**Materials:** Bible, blocks, toy people

## 2 Listen to Learn

10 - 15 minutes

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse

### Come Together

**Materials:** Empty plastic bottle

### Song

**Materials:** *Preschool Music #1* CD and player

### Prayer

**Materials:** None

### Bible Verse

**Materials:** Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 from *Visual Resources*

### Puppet Time

**Materials:** Buddy puppet, grocery bag containing an empty dog food bowl and a picture of several dogs with a cat

### Bible Story

**Materials:** Bible, Figures 1-6 from *Visual Resources*, basket, flannel board

## 3 Talk to Learn

15 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *TalkTime* activity page and other activities as time allows

### TalkTime Activity Page

**Materials:** Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers

### Bible Story Game

**Materials:** Basket



- On *Preschool Music #1* CD, play "Come On In!" (track 1) as children arrive and "Are You Ready?" (track 15) during cleanup time.

2

Check off one  
or more options for  
each step of the lesson

## Art Center

### Collect

Bible, construction paper, a variety of textured materials (feathers, pom-poms, foam shapes, sandpaper, fabric scraps, small nature items, etc.), glue sticks.

### Do

Children glue materials of different textures onto papers. Talk with children about different things people in the Bible story might have felt (reeds by the riverbank, basket, a soft blanket in the basket, stones on the river bottom, etc.).

### Teaching Tip

Encourage children to be creative in the materials they use and the way they place them on their paper. Remember that there is not a right or wrong way to make a collage.



## Dramatic Play Center

### Collect

Bible, baby dolls, doll clothing, blankets, bottles, baskets.

### Do

Guide children to act out the ways Moses' family cared for him. Suggest children dress, feed and rock baby dolls.

### Teaching Tip

Help children get started in today's activity by taking part in it yourself. Ask questions and give brief suggestions to help children think of what to do. Watch for those teachable moments when a few words from you will direct thinking toward the Bible story.



### Talk About

- What do moms and dads do to take care of their babies?
- Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about a mother who made a basket for her baby to sleep in. Her baby's name was Moses. The mother wanted to keep Moses safe.
- God gave Moses a family to care for him. What do you think they did to take care of him?
- God gives you people to care for you, too. Open your Bible. **The Bible says, "God cares about you."**
- Who did God give you to take care of you? What do they do for you?

### Kindergarten Challenge

Children use textured items to make a river scene on blue paper (waxed-paper strips for water, grass clippings or raffia for reeds, small pebbles for river stones, etc.).

### Kindergarten Challenge

As children name people who care for them and describe their actions, print their responses on a large sheet of paper. At the end of class, display the paper by the door for parents to see.

## Game Center

### Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, a variety of rhythm instruments.

### Do

Give each child a rhythm instrument. As you play “God Cares About You” (track 2 on CD), children play instruments and march around in a circle. After a few moments, stop the music. Call out a type of instrument. Children with that instrument name someone God has given them to care for them.

### Teaching Tip

Before beginning the game, show children how to play and stop playing instruments. **When you see my hands in the air, play your instrument loudly. When my hands come down, play quietly.**

**When I put my hands together, stop and listen!**



### Kindergarten Challenge

Children take turns leading the march.

## Blocks Center

### Collect

Bible, blocks, toy people.

### Do

Children build houses with blocks. Children use toy people to act out ways people in the houses might care for each other.

### Teaching Tip

Good conversation begins with listening attentively to children. Resist the temptation to tune out or race ahead of a child mentally, thinking what to say next.



### Talk About

- Show your Bible open to 1 Peter 5:7. **“God cares about you” is what the Bible says. One way God cares for you is by giving you a house to live in and people to care for you.**
- **Who are the people God made in your family?**
- **What are some things your mom does to take care of you? How does your big sister take care of you?**
- **Who reads you stories? Who helps you learn new things? What has your preschool teacher helped you learn?**
- Pray, **Thank You, God, for loving Caden. Thank You for making his family.**

### Kindergarten Challenge

Children name families living in each house. Print names on paper near each house.



# Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

Fall • Lesson 1

## Collect

Bible, Bible Verse Poster 1 and Figures 1-6 from *Visual Resources, Pre-school Music #1* CD and player, Buddy puppet, empty plastic bottle, grocery bag containing an empty dog food bowl and a picture of several dogs with a cat, basket, flannel board; optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

## Come Together

Begin this activity as first children come to the area. Children sit in a circle. Spin an empty plastic bottle on its side. When the bottle stops, the child to whom it points tells the name of someone who cares for him or her. Repeat, giving each child a turn to respond. (If the bottle points to a child who has already had a turn, spin bottle again.)

## Kindergarten Challenge

Children take turns spinning the bottle and guessing who the bottle will end up pointing to.

## Prayer

Briefly tell children a reason you are thankful for God's care in your own life. **Let's thank God for caring about each one of us.** Invite children and teachers to repeat after you: **Dear God, . . . thank You for giving us . . . people who love us . . . and help us . . . Thank You for loving us. . . . We love You. . . . In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Bible Verse

Show Bible Verse Poster 1. **Who is caring for the youngest boy in this picture? God gives us many people to love and care for us.** Open Bible to 1 Peter 5:7. **"God cares about you," the Bible tells us. Each time we say the word "you," give someone**



**a high five.** Repeat Bible verse with children several times. **God cares about each one of us. And I'm glad!**

## Kindergarten Challenge

Before class, print each child's name on a separate sheet of paper. In class, choose one or more papers. Children identify name(s) and as verse is repeated, replace the word "you" with name(s).

## Song

Play "God Cares About You" (track 2 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you, echoing the words. **When does God care about you?** (All the time each day.) **Where does God care about you?** (Everywhere I go.)

## Puppet Time

Use Buddy puppet and a grocery bag containing an empty dog food bowl and a picture of several dogs with a cat to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

## Bible Story

Show basket and Figures 1-6 as you tell the Bible story on the next page.



## Introduction

Show basket. **If this were your basket, what would you put in it?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear a true story from the Bible about what a mother put into her basket.** (Hold Bible open to Exodus 1 as you tell the story.)

## A Baby Is Born

“Our new baby is here!” Big sister, Miriam, was very happy about her new baby brother! Each day Miriam and her family helped take care of Baby Moses. They rocked him. They patted him when he went to sleep. Baby Moses’ family loved him!

But not everyone was happy that this baby had been born. The king of that land wanted to hurt many babies. He sent his soldiers to find the babies and take them away. But God gave THIS baby’s mother an idea! She thought of a way to keep her baby safe.

## The Baby Is Hidden

“I’ll make a basket just the right size for my baby,” Mother said. “I’ll fill in every little hole in the basket, so water can’t get in. Then the basket will float. I’ll put some warm blankets inside it.” Mother got the basket all ready. Then she laid her baby in the basket, very gently. She and Miriam carried the basket to the river and put it into the water.



“Miriam, watch our baby in the basket,” Mother said. So Miriam hid in the tall grass by the river. She watched and waited.

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## The Baby Is Found

While Miriam was watching, she heard some women walking down to the river. Miriam peeked through the grass to see who they were. It was the PRINCESS—the king’s daughter—and her servants! *Would they see the basket?* Miriam wondered.

“What’s that basket doing in the water?” one servant asked.

“Bring it to me,” the princess said.

Miriam must have held her breath! She watched as the princess opened the basket. Then the baby cried. The princess felt sorry for the little baby.

## The Baby Is Cared For

Quickly Miriam came from her hiding place. “Would you like me to find someone to take care of this baby for you?” she asked.

“Yes!” answered the princess. “This baby will need someone to take care of him.” So Miriam ran. And who do you think she brought back to the princess? Her own mother! The princess PAID Moses’ mother to take care of her own baby!

The family was VERY glad to have their baby back home again. The princess named the baby Moses. She made sure the king’s soldiers didn’t hurt him. The baby was safe!

## Conclusion

**God planned for baby Moses’ family—and the princess—to keep Moses safe. God gives people to love and take care of you, too. It’s one way God shows how much He cares for you and me. The Bible says, “God cares about you.”** (Optional: Review story by using pages 96-101 in *God’s Story for Me Bible* storybook.)

## Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Use a baby doll, blanket, basket, blue fabric and one or more tall potted plants to show story actions. Include these action as you tell the story: wrap the doll in the blanket, place the wrapped doll in the basket, set the basket in the blue-fabric river and peek out from behind the plants.



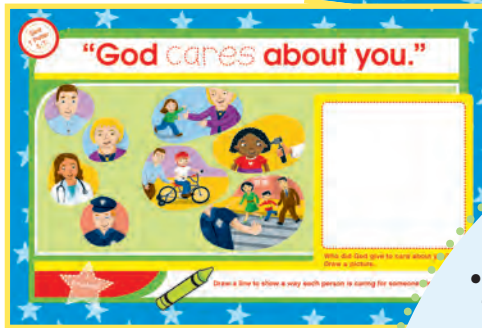
## TalkTime Activity Page

### Collect

Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, markers or crayons.

### Do

Distribute *TalkTime* activity pages and sticker pages, and markers or crayons. Demonstrate how to complete the page. Then as children complete their own pages, talk about the items on the page.



## Bible Story Game

### Collect

Basket.

### Do

Today our Bible story was about a baby who floated in a basket. (Hold a basket in your hand. **I'm going to pass a basket to someone who has a bow in her hair.** After children identify the child you have described, hand the basket to the child. Then say, **Chelsea, please pass the basket to someone who is wearing a red T-shirt.** Continue activity until all children have been described.



### Talk About

- Why did Moses' mother make a special basket?
- How did Moses' sister help care for her baby brother? Who else took care of him? How?
- God gave Baby Moses people to care for him. God gives you the people you live with to care for you.
- Who cares for you at home and at school? How?
- We can say, "Thank You, God, for my family." Pray a thank-you prayer with children.

### Family FunTime Page

Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review conversation suggestions and give to children to take home.

### Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "God Cares About You" (track 2), "Come On In!" (track 1) and/or "Wave Good-Bye" (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1* CD.

# Puppet Script

Fall • Lesson 1

## It's in the Bag

(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet. Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)

**Leader:** Hi, Buddy! What do you have there?

**Buddy:** *(Talks while holding bag with mouth, muffled.)* It's a bag.

**Leader:** *(Looks confused.)* Huh?

**Buddy:** *(Talks while holding bag with mouth, muffled.)* It's a bag.

**Leader:** What? I can't understand you.

**Buddy:** *(Puts down bag, clears throat and then speaks clearly.)* It's a bag.

**Leader:** Oh. What are you going to do with your bag?

**Buddy:** I'm filling it up with important things.

**Leader:** Oh. I wonder if those things can remind us of God's love for us.

**Buddy:** I don't know. Want to see what I have?

**Leader:** Kids, would you like to see what Buddy has in his bag? *(Pauses to allow children to say yes.)* Sounds like we would all like to see what you have, Buddy.

**Buddy:** OK. Um. *(Picks up bowl from bag and then tries to talk while holding bowl in mouth.)* Here's my bowl.

**Leader:** *(Looks confused.)* Huh?

**Buddy:** *(Talks with bowl in mouth, muffled.)* Here's my bowl.

**Leader:** What? I can't understand you.

**Buddy:** *(Puts down bowl, clears throat and then speaks clearly.)* Here's my bowl.

**Leader:** Oh! Your food bowl can remind us of God's love because God made good food for us to eat!

**Buddy:** Um. And it smells good!

**Leader:** *(Sniffs bowl and makes a face.)* It smells like dog food!

**Buddy:** My favorite! I like to use my nose.

**Leader:** Yes, God made noses and eyes and ears and everything else! What else do you have?

**Buddy:** Um. *(Picks up picture from bag and then tries to talk while holding picture with mouth.)* Here's a picture of my family.

**Leader:** *(Looks confused.)* What? I can't understand you.

**Buddy:** *(Puts down picture, clears throat and then speaks clearly.)* Here's a picture of my family.

**Leader:** Of course it is! There's your mom and brother and brother and . . . wait . . . that's a cat!

**Buddy:** She's a friend of the family.

**Leader:** That's great! God gives us family and friends who love us and take good care of us.

**Buddy:** Wow!

**Leader:** Thanks for reminding us about God's love and care for us, Buddy!



# Play, Listen and Talk Together

## What to Expect and Do

Young children do not think like adults do. In fact, preschool children's intuitive thinking differs from the more logical thought of school-age children.

This difference, not only in thinking, but in all areas of development, has profound implications for the way we teach young children. Their minds and bodies are still developing. Because they can walk and talk and do many things on their own, we may be tempted to think they are capable of more than is reasonable to expect, in both their thinking and in their behavior.

Young children learn by doing, not sitting. Play is their work. Have two or more Play activities ready and let children choose which activities to participate in. Use the Talk About conversation ideas in every lesson to link the Bible truths to the child's activity. When we connect Bible truths to things children are involved in doing, the words take on meaning and become connected with the actions.

As you teach and interact with children, follow Jesus' example. When Jesus was around little children, He loved them; He didn't lecture them. Actions speak more than words ever could. Play with the children. Listen to them. Talk with them. You are the living example of God's love to each little child!



## Guiding a Child Toward Jesus

When we have presented Jesus by both our actions and our words, a foundation is laid for a child to receive Christ as Savior. Every lesson may create an opportunity to talk with a young child who wants to know more about Jesus.

- The young child is easily attracted to Jesus. Jesus is a warm, sympathetic person who obviously likes children, and children readily like Him. These early perceptions prepare the foundation for the child to receive Christ as Savior and to desire to follow His example in godly living. While some children at this age level (especially from Christian homes) may indeed pray to become a member of God's family, accepting Jesus as their Savior, expect wide variation in children's readiness for this important step. Allow the Holy Spirit room to work within His own timetable.
- Talk individually with children. Something as important as a child's personal relationship with Jesus Christ can be handled more effectively alone than in a group. Ask questions that will help you determine what the child understands. Open-ended what-do-you-think questions give you a chance to hear what's really going on in the child's mind and heart.
- Talk simply. Phrases such as "born again" or "Jesus in my heart" are symbolic and far beyond a young child's understanding. Focus on how God makes people a part of His family: **God loves us, but we have done wrong things (sinned). God says sin must be punished. God sent Jesus to take the punishment for the wrong things we have done. We can tell God that we have done wrong and tell Him we are sorry for our sin. We can ask Jesus to be our Savior. Then we become a part of God's family.**