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INTRODUCTION



Welcome to what we are certain will be an exciting year of learning and worship for both you and the children who attend Children’s Church.

The focus of this material is to provide for an extended Sunday school learning experience as well as a worship experience for children in preschool through upper elementary. By using this material, the concepts and lessons learned in the Sunday school hour can be reinforced and extended through the use of activities, games, and crafts that are different than those used in the Sunday school lesson.

This curriculum provides Bible study, Bible memory activities, Music activities, Puppet skits, Prayer time, Snacks, Crafts, Games, and more. It gives you, the leader, the flexibility of choosing the activities that fit the time you have for your program. If you have a 30-minute, 60-minute, or 90-minute program (or another variation), you can effectively use the time to lead the children in meaningful worship.

Included in this kit you will find the following:

- **Leader’s Guide** (with link to downloadable music on page 5)
- **Craft Book**
- **Snacks and Games Book**
- **Puppet Skits Book**
- **Park Patrol Training Book**
- **Two Puppets**

The pages of these books are reproducible for use with the Noah’s Park® Children’s Church program. You may need to reproduce additional pages of the *Leader’s Guide* to give to several leaders. The craft pages need to be reproduced (usually one page for each child—either preschool

or elementary). Because of this feature, you don’t have to worry about running low on material. Just reproduce extras as your program grows.

This curriculum emphasizes the involvement of the children. There are two Bible Stories provided for each lesson—one for preschool children and one for kindergarten through third grade. You may choose to keep all the children together for the Bible Story. In that case, we suggest that you use the Elementary Bible Story. If you so desire, you can use the Preschool Bible Story with preschool through kindergarten or first grade.

PARK PATROL

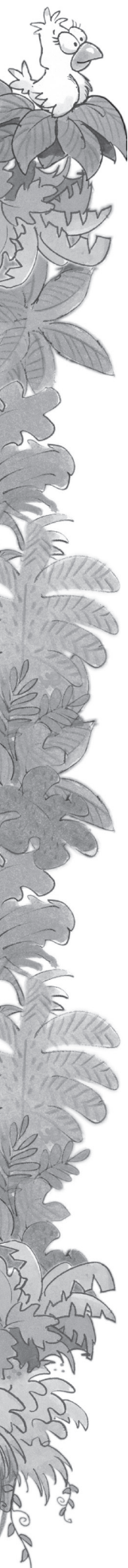
Children in fourth, fifth, or sixth grade can participate in the program as the “Park Patrol.” Through this participation, these older elementary children will be learning about service as they assist the leader. By using the *Park Patrol Training Book* as the basis for preparing the students to be effective helpers, they can feel confident as they assist with the program. By using the Park Patrol, you will find that you do not need as many adult leaders to teach and guide the children.

This program will work equally well for small or large churches. Because you can combine these age-groups for worship, you can have an effective, meaningful worship time for any number of children.

A CLOSER LOOK

To help you understand the curriculum, let’s take a look at each section.

As you look at the Table of Contents, you will notice that the material is divided into twelve units. Most units take four weeks to complete; some take five. The units correspond basically to the months of the year. However, some units



might take one full calendar month and one more week. So don't think in terms of months, but rather units.

This is especially important if you rotate your Children's Church leadership. Ask for volunteers to consider teaching for one unit. That way they will be able to help the children focus on the unit theme and can emphasize it consistently through the teaching of it.

Turn now to the first lesson of the first unit. You will notice the unit theme at the top of the page. This is the emphasis of all the lessons in the unit. In the special box on the left side of the page, you will see an outline of what is included in the lesson with suggested times. This can help you as you plan for the time schedule you have in your program. Do not feel that you are required to do every activity. We suggest that you select activities from each of the areas, however, in order to reach the different types of learners in your group. By having a Bible Story, puppet skit, time of singing, games or crafts, you are appealing to children who need to learn by listening, moving, doing, etc.

DISCOVERY TRAILS

The first section is Discovery Trails. We include a Teacher Feature that you can use to begin your session. This is designed to help the children begin thinking about the unit theme and help prepare them for the Bible Story to follow. The Teacher Feature may be a story, an activity, or an object lesson. Sometimes the children just listen, but often they participate more actively.

Following the Teacher Feature, we suggest that you divide up your group of children into

preschool and elementary ages. If you have sufficient space, it would be best to have a separate area for the two groups as you teach the Bible Stories. Use the Preschool Bible Story for your preschoolers. If you have a small group of children, or if you just choose to keep the children in one larger group, use the Elementary Bible Story to teach the lesson.

Bring all the children back together following the Bible Stories. At this point, we suggest that you use the Noah's Park Puppets. The puppet skits are written to reinforce the unit theme and the Bible story. It's a fun way for the children to begin moving toward the next part of the worship session.

We offer a Bible Memory section. You will notice that we do not give you a specific Bible verse to use. You may choose to use a Bible memory verse that the children studied in Sunday school or you may choose to select a verse that emphasizes or reinforces the Bible Story. We provide an activity to help the children quickly and easily learn the Bible memory verse.

WORSHIP TRAILS

Now we move into Worship Trails. At this point, you can have the children involved in a time of Singing Praises to Jesus. We suggest that you use the songs from the downloadable music included with the program. The songs are all original music written specifically for the program. Each song correlates with one unit. You can use other favorite songs that help to emphasize the theme as you have the time in your program.

To access the downloadable songs, go to **Lesson-DL.com** and enter access code (Redacted)



We also offer a Share and Prayer time. Here's an activity specifically designed to help your children worship God through prayer. Many times the children will be making something that they will take home. This will help them to remember the importance of prayer in their daily lives as well as assist them in this time of worship.

WILDLIFE TRAILS



Wildlife Trails offers the children a chance to move and create. This section of the lesson includes Snack Shack, Campsite Capers, and Cozy Cave Crafts.

We offer a snack suggestion (Snack Shack) to correlate with each week's lesson. You can use these snack suggestions or others of your own choosing. All the children can have their snack time together or you can separate them into preschool and elementary groups at this time.

As you begin the Campsite Capers (Games) and Cozy Cave Crafts (Crafts) notice that there are options for preschool and elementary. These activities are designed with age-appropriate activities for each of these groups.

HAPPY TRAILS



Happy Trails gives you a chance to gather all the children back together into one large group and wrap up your session. Everyone can help with cleanup and then have a time of review just prior to leaving. We give suggestions for Closing Activities as well as Overtime Activities. During the time at the close of your session while you wait for parents to pick up the children, we give suggestions to help you extend the session.

The Park Patrollers are your assistants. Take time before beginning your year of Children's Church to train the children. Using the *Park Patrol Training Book* will help these kids become confident helpers as they assist with the movement of the younger kids, help with the snack time, games, crafts, puppets, etc. Be sure to make assignments for the kids so that they know what is expected of them and when it's their turn to help if you use them on a rotating basis. You will find that they are learning a great deal from the Bible Stories, puppet skits, prayer time, etc., as they listen and help.

Refer to the *Craft Book*, *Puppet Skits Book*, and *Snacks and Games Book* for more information about supplies and preparation.

As the children leave your session, they will be taking home a Craft that they have made. Included with many of the crafts is a "HomeLink" to help parents extend the learning even further. Be sure to send it home with the children if it is not already attached to the craft project in some way.

To purchase Noah's Park materials and related products, call us at 1-800-323-7543 or visit our web site at www.DavidCCook.org.

Now that you have made it through this introduction, you're ready to begin!

Before you begin,
be sure to download
the Noah's Park music from
Lesson-DL.com, access
code (Redacted).

Lesson: Families Care for One Another

Choose from the options listed below to follow Adventure Trails that lead to Jesus:

DISCOVERY TRAILS

TEACHER FEATURE (5 min.)

How Do We Grow?

BIBLE STORY (10 min.)

Baby Moses' Family Cares for Him (Elem.)

God Provides a Caring Family (Preschool)

NOAH'S PARK PUPPETS (5 min.)

Wrestling to Do Right

BIBLE MEMORY (5 min.)

Pass the Basket

WORSHIP TRAILS

SINGING PRAISES TO JESUS (5-10 min.)

SHARE AND PRAYER (5-10 min.)

Seeds of Care

WILDLINE TRAILS

SNACK SHACK (5 min.)

Floating Snacks

CAMPSITE CAPERS (10 min.)

Find Baby Moses (Elementary)

Baby Moses Hide and Seek (Preschool)

COZY CAVE CRAFTS (15 min.)

Bandage Holders (Elementary)

Baby Moses in His Basket (Preschool)

HAPPY TRAILS

CLOSING ACTIVITIES (5 min.)

OVERTIME ACTIVITIES (as needed)

the packet and take out the flowers. Open the packet and look disappointed as you pull out a pinch of seeds. **I can't believe the flower company messed up and forgot to put the flowers in here! What are these little things anyway?** Let the kids explain to you about seeds.

Thanks for telling me about seeds. I guess I'll have to take this little seed, plant it in dirt, and watch it grow. Put dirt and a few seeds in the pot. Stare at it as if waiting.

I did what you said to do, but where are my flowers? Let the kids explain that seeds have to be cared for over time for them to grow.

I think I understand now. In order to get these beautiful flowers they show on the package, I'm going to have to take care of these little seeds. Did you know that each of us is like a little seed? We are seeds to be taken care of by the families God gave us. Just as we take care of flower seeds to help them grow, our families take care of us to help us grow.

What are some ways your family cares for you? (They teach us about Jesus, feed us, give us a home, make sure we learn things, etc.) **What are ways you can care for people in your family?** (Help Mom with chores, play nicely with my little brother, take care of a sick person, etc.)

God sure had a great idea when He made families to care for one another.

If you are separating the elementary and preschool children for the Bible story, have your Park Patrol members lead them to the appropriate class area at this time. If you are keeping them together, be sure to use the Elementary Bible Story to teach the lesson.

ELEMENTARY BIBLE STORY

Baby Moses' Family Cares for Him

(Exodus 1:6-2:10)

Supplies: Bible

DISCOVERY TRAILS

TEACHER FEATURE

How Do We Grow?

Supplies: Package of flower seeds, small pot, potting soil

I am so excited about these flowers I just bought. Show the picture on the flower packet. **These flowers will look so beautiful. Let's open**

Show the children where Exodus is in your Bible. Explain that God's people, the Hebrews, were slaves of the pharaoh (king) in Egypt. Then read Bible story poem slowly and with expression so the kids can catch the rhymes and understand the facts.

You might read the story a second time, leaving out the last word in every other line to see if the kids can supply the missing rhyming word.

When Pharaoh ruled, the Hebrew slaves grew and grew.

Pharaoh thought and he thought about what he should do.

He knew he didn't want the slaves to take over his land.

To stop more Israelites being born, he came up with a plan.

He would have the baby boys all thrown in the River Nile!

Where there was lots of water and crocodiles.

But who would carry out this terrible deed?

The baby nurses were who Pharaoh would need.

But the brave women nurses obeyed God, not the king.

He was angry to learn they wouldn't do this bad thing.

So Pharaoh called on his soldiers to stand and deliver—

They took every baby boy and put him in the river.

But one Hebrew couple had a plan and asked the Lord

To help them hide their baby boy from the soldiers' sword.

For three long months they tried to keep him from crying.

It was all they could do, for the soldiers were spying.

**In all of that time, their son grew and grew,
Until his poor mother didn't know what to do.**

She finally decided to make him a little boat.

The baby could rest quietly while he was afloat.

But the boat would need watching and someone to care.

What if the boat floated off to who knows where?

So big sister said, "I'll gladly watch him.

If there is any trouble, I know how to swim."

So Miriam watched her brother from the shore.

She would quietly play and sing while she watched him some more.

But when Pharaoh's daughter went bathing in the Nile

She found the little baby and she started to smile.

The young princess knew it was a Hebrew son.

Quickly Miriam ran and did what needed to be done.

"Your Highness, my mom can take care of him for you.

She's a great mother, and she knows exactly what to do."

So the princess said, "Yes, please go and get her,

And raise him at your house; that is what I prefer."

That day he was named "Moses" by his royal spotter.

His name simply means, "I pulled him from the water."

Check to make sure the children understood the main facts of the Bible story. **What did Pharaoh tell his soldiers to do?** (*Kill all the Hebrew baby boys.*) **How did Moses' family care for him?** (*They hid him in a basket-boat on the river while Miriam watched over him.*) **How did God take care of Moses?** (*The pharaoh's daughter found him and adopted him so that Moses would live.*)



PRESCHOOL BIBLE STORY

God Provides a Caring Family

(Exodus 1:6–2:10)

Supplies: Bible, baby doll, blanket, basket

Show the children in your Bible where today's story is found. Set the doll, covered with the blanket, in the basket.

See the baby in the basket? Why is he there?

Ask the children to pretend to rock a baby in their arms. **Once there was a baby who lived in the country of Egypt. The king, called Pharaoh, was very mean. He didn't want the Hebrew people in his country to have baby boys. He thought the Hebrews would grow strong and take over his country. He didn't want any more Hebrew baby boys in his country.**

See the baby in the basket? Why is he there?

Pretend to rock a baby. **He was a Hebrew baby boy. His mother loved him. She didn't want the mean soldiers to hurt him. She made a basket that would float in the water. She put the baby in the basket-boat. Then she put the basket in the Nile River.**

See the baby in the basket? Why is he there?

Pretend to rock a baby. **The baby's big sister, Miriam, was hiding nearby. She watched her baby brother to make sure he was safe.**

See the baby in the basket? Why is he there?

Pretend to rock a baby. **Pharaoh's daughter, the princess, went down to the river. She saw the basket floating in the water. She opened the basket and saw the Hebrew baby boy inside. She wanted to keep him safe.**

See the baby in the basket? Why is he there?

Pretend to rock a baby. **Miriam told the princess she knew a Hebrew woman who could help the princess feed the baby. The baby's own mother took care of him for the princess.**

See the baby in the basket? Why is he there?

Pretend to rock a baby. **That's how God kept him safe. God gave Moses his family to take care of him. God gives us families.**

Review the story by using these questions. **Who was the baby in the basket? (Moses.) Why was he**

there? (The bad king wanted to hurt the baby boys, so Moses' mother hid him in a basket-boat on the river.)

How did Moses' family take care of him? (His mother hid him, his sister watched over him.)

How did God take care of baby Moses? (He gave Moses a place in the princess's family.)

NOAH'S PARK PUPPETS

Wrestling to Do Right

Let Ponder the Frog puppet (worked by a Park Patrol helper) lead the children in hopping along the "Nile River" to the puppet stage. Then have the Park Patrol present today's lesson-related puppet skit, from page BP-7 of the *Puppet Skits Book*.

BIBLE MEMORY

Pass the Basket

Supplies: Baby doll, basket or box for the doll to fit in

Choose a Bible verse for the children to memorize. You could either review a Sunday school verse or introduce a new one that supports the unit theme.

With the children seated in a circle, say the verse phrase by phrase, and have the children repeat it after you. Explain any unfamiliar words. Say the verse several times and have the children join you as they remember it.

Give the baby doll in the basket to one child to start. Explain that this doll is like baby Moses and they are sitting along the banks of the Nile River. The children will say the Bible verse together while gently pushing baby Moses along the Nile to the next child. As the children learn it, switch to individual children saying a phrase of the verse in order as each one passes it.

God wants people in families to care for one another. Let's thank God now for giving us families.



SINGING PRAISES TO JESUS

Supplies: Noah's Park downloadable music

"I Love My Family" will be sung each week during

UNIT 1 GOD GIVES US FAMILIES

the “God Gives Us Families” unit. Ask the children to listen carefully as you play the song. Briefly talk about what the kids can learn from the song. Play it again, and let the kids sing along on the parts they know. As time permits, sing more songs about families or God’s care for us.

SHARE AND PRAYER

Seeds of Care

Supplies: Seeds, construction paper, scissors, glue, pencils

Preparation: Cut construction paper into flower or plant shapes.

Just as we take care of seeds to help them grow, our families take care of us to help us grow. One way to care for our family is to pray for them. What could you pray for your family?

Let the children give their ideas.

Then give each child a flower/plant-shaped paper and one seed for each person in their family. Have the children put a few dots of glue on their paper and drop the seeds on top. Be sure children write their names on their papers.

Divide the kids into small groups with a Park Patrol helper in each. Let the kids take turns naming each person in their family—thanking God for them and asking God’s help for any needs they know of. Allow time for all the small groups to pray.

When done, close the prayer time by thanking God for creating families. Set the papers aside until it’s time to leave.



The following age-appropriate activities work best by separating the older and younger children. The kids could be in the same room at different tables (for crafts) and different areas (for games). Or you could arrange to use separate rooms for the two groups. Let the Park Patrol lead the different groups to their activities and help as you have assigned them.

SNACK SHACK

Floating Snacks

Today’s snack idea is found on page BS·7 in the *Snacks and Games Book*. Always check to find out if any children have food allergies and be prepared to offer an alternative.

CAMPSITE CAPERS

Find Baby Moses (Elementary)

Baby Moses Hide and Seek (Preschool)

Both groups are playing different “finding” games today. The preschool game is described on page BS·8 of the *Snacks and Games Book*. The elementary game is on page BS·7.

COZY CAVE CRAFTS

Bandage Holders (Elementary)

Baby Moses in His Basket (Preschool)

Since the preschool craft requires drying time, you may want to let the preschoolers do their craft before snack and game time. Details are on page BC·8 of the *Noah’s Park Craft Book*. The elementary craft is on page BC·7 of the *Noah’s Park Craft Book*.



CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Use a Noah’s Park puppet to invite the children to help straighten the room. Then review the memory verse. Let the Park Patrol distribute the crafts and Seeds of Care (from Share and Prayer) to the proper children.

OVERTIME ACTIVITIES

While waiting for parents, you could reread the Elementary Bible Story rhyme. Or let the children play with the Noah’s Park puppets to become familiar with them.