

God Uses Christian Mothers

Lesson 9a — Honor and Obey Our Mothers

Lesson 9b — Mary, Mother of Jesus

Lesson 9c — Hannah, Mother of Samuel

Lesson 9d — Jochebed, Mother of Moses

OVERVIEW

This unit explores the ways that God uses Christian mothers to shape the lives of young children for the work of the Lord. Primaries are becoming more independent, but it is important that they understand that a proper relationship between mother and child is necessary to enable God's plan for the family to work.

The first lesson of the unit focuses on this thought, establishing that the mother has a responsibility to teach and care for her children. In return, the Bible outlines the need for the child to obey and honor his parents.

The last three lessons are Biblical examples of how

God used three special mothers to prepare and shape the lives of their children for His service.

Care must be taken in how these lessons are handled if you have children in your class whose mothers are not Christians. Your emphasis in this case must be the child's responsibility to honor and obey. If you have students who are living in a home without a mother, you may wish to refer to "your mother, or the one who takes care of you," or some phrase of this nature. We would urge that you make certain of the home situations of your students before beginning to teach these lessons.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Have two teams and a number of balloons with a question in each. Let one team select a balloon and pop it. If they can correctly answer the question, they score a point. If not, the other team has a chance to answer.

Ask your pianist to play one of the memory verse tunes from the last quarter. The first one who can jump up and say the corresponding verse correctly is awarded a prize (a sticker, piece of candy, etc.). Continue until all the verses have been identified. If one or two tunes are not sufficient to remind them of the verse, give them a second clue by doing the hand motions.

Adapt the shoe idea given under In-Class Activities for Lesson 8a, using questions regarding all four lessons in the unit. Make the shoe considerably larger so it can easily be seen by the combined group. As an alternative method, type the questions and put them beside each question on the reverse side of the shoe. Allow students to come to the front and pick a shoelace hole. You read the corresponding question on the back. If they can answer the question correctly, they can lace the string over to the hole they selected. (Note: You will need a much longer length of yarn for this method.) To

allow the pattern of lacing to show entirely on the front of the shoe, make each hole a double set (OO) so the student can lace it to the front side of the shoe.

CONTEST IDEAS

Throughout the unit have a contest in the department for the students to bring their mother or guardian, etc., to Sunday school. At the end of the month reward the class whose students brought the largest percentage of visitors.

To review your unit on mothers, plan a relay race using questions concerning the identity of certain mothers in the Bible. Divide your group into teams. In the front of the class place a chalkboard with a space marked off for each team. On a table in front of the chalkboard place two Bibles and two baskets containing questions. (Be sure each basket has the same number of questions.) When the start signal is given, one person from each team goes forward and selects a slip of paper with a question on it. He finds the reference in the Bible, locates the answer, and writes the answer on the chalkboard under his team designation. If the student knows the answer without looking up the reference, he may write it on the board without looking it up. The first

team to complete its questions wins, but each name must be spelled correctly. Note: Put identical questions in each basket. Following is a list of sample questions: John the Baptist's mother felt him leap in her womb when she saw her cousin Mary. Luke 1:41
Isaac's mother was called the "Mother of nations." Genesis 17:15,16

Mahlon and Chilion were her sons, but we know her better as Ruth's mother-in-law. Ruth 1:2

She called herself "A mother in Israel." Judges 5:7

Obed's mother remained faithful to her mother-in-law even after her first husband died. Ruth 4:13

Gad's mother was a servant to Leah. Genesis 30:10,11
Mother of Boaz. Matthew 1:5

She and her mother spiritually raised her son Timothy. II Timothy 1:5

Mother of Jeroboam. I Kings 11:26

Reuben's mother tried to secure his father's love by giving him sons. Genesis 29:32

She made a basket to put her son Moses in to save his life. Exodus 6:20

Her sons were Manasseh and Ephraim. Genesis 46:20

A wife of Nahor and mother of Bethuel. Genesis 11:29

Mother of David's fourth son, Adonijah. II Samuel 3:4

Her son Cain killed his brother. Genesis 4:1

Mother of James and Joses. Matthew 27:56

She was the mother of a king of Judah who did right in the sight of God. II Kings 15:33

She helped her daughter Eunice to raise her son spiritually. II Timothy 1:5

She favored one twin son over the other. Genesis 25:28

She died giving birth to her son Benjamin. Genesis 35:19

Mother of Jesus. Matthew 1:16

She despaired of her son, Ishmael. Genesis 21:17

BULLETIN BOARDS

For a heading on a bulletin board, place the words, OF ALL THE MOTHERS THERE MIGHT BE I CHOOSE THE ONE THAT LIVES WITH ME. Surround with pictures (magazine, silhouette, snapshot, etc.) of mothers doing various things for the family. Use as many as possible showing family in church settings.

Use large letters spelling MOTHER vertically; for example:

cooks Meals
cleans hOuse
Takes to church
wasHes clothes
takes carE when sick
listens to pRoblems

Use pictures or silhouettes of things mothers do for us — needle and thread, washing, cooking utensils, iron and ironing board, meals, etc.

UNIT PROJECTS

Provide each child with a sheet of construction paper in pink, tan or brown (skin tones). Ask each child to draw a picture of his or her mother's head, color it, and cut it out. Mount these on a class or departmental board with the caption, "Thank You, God, For Our Mothers" across the top.

Make silhouettes of each of your students to give to their mothers as a special present on Mother's Day. Hang a piece of shelf paper on the wall. Seat a child close to it with a lamp shining from the other side so that it casts his shadow on the paper. Draw around the silhouette. Cut out each shape and trace it onto black construction paper. Cut that out and mount it on a piece of colored posterboard. Put the child's name, age, and date on the back.

On the first Sunday of the unit, give each of your students the tetrahedron showing the mothers who we are studying this month (see Patterns). Let them cut the shape out, and add the facial features to the face marked "My Mother," and color it. On the next three Sundays, they may similarly complete the appropriate triangle. On the final study, help them fold and glue or tape their tetrahedron together.

CHART IDEAS

Brighten up Mother's Day by making a MOM mobile (see Patterns). Children can draw or cut out pictures of things representing what mothers do. Mount these on brightly colored paper. Punch holes in the bottom of the MOM mobile and attach the pictures with yarn. Attach a piece of yarn at the top of the mobile so it can be easily hung.

UNIT SUPPORT MATERIAL

Bible Babies — Classroom story and activity book, 8 each of 6 pictures. Includes Moses, Samuel, and Jesus, Standard Publishing

The Bible Tells Us About God's Children — Sticker and coloring book, Standard Publishing

Children in the Bible — A Magic Answer Book, David C. Cook