



Helper at Home

Lesson 3:

Being a part of a family by sharing responsibilities at home

Jesus was part of a family. He would have helped his mother, Mary, in the house and learned to be a carpenter like his earthly father, Joseph. Infants and toddlers can relate to obeying and helping at home.

Scripture: "Then (Jesus) went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:51-52 (NIV)

Class Schedule

45 Minutes

Welcome Time (15 minutes)

On the mat in the soft corner. Time to settle in and enjoy free play. Music or singing.

Bible Time and Lesson (20 minutes total)

At the table

- **Bible Time**
- **Lesson:** In this lesson help the children relate to Jesus in the way he grew up as part of a family. He would have:
 - had responsibilities around the house.
 - apprenticed with Joseph.
 - learned to get along with siblings (Matthew 13:55-56).
- **Craft:** (optional) Any craft having to do with home, cleaning, helping
- **Snack:** Water and any simple snack will do (raisins, crackers, vegetables or fruit).

Closing (10 minutes)

On the mat in the soft corner Quiet activities to settle down.

Teaching Items to Collect

(Some are in the Theme Boxes)

- Stand up figures: Mary, Joseph, Boy Jesus. Use blue-tac to attach to upturned plastic cups to make stand-up figures.
- Doll family to act out helping situations.
- Items to role-play helping at home:
 - A paper bag and crumpled paper or tissues
 - Small dusters
 - Spray bottle of water and cloth to clean with
 - Small rubbish bin and crumpled paper
 - Various cloths to use in "cleaning"
- Items to role-play helping in a carpenter's shop:
 - Toy tools and workbenches
 - Wooden blocks or wood to handle and "build" with
 - Dustpans and brushes

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1. Welcome Time

(15 minutes) *On the mat in the soft corner*
Time to settle in and enjoy free play.

In everything you do today be sure and mention helping and obeying. "You are such a good helper when you pick up the blocks." Or "God likes it when you obey."

- Toy tools (workbench, hammer, etc.)
- Bubbles/toys/picture books
- Welcome each by name
- Mirrors, Peep Tube, Vehicles
- Bell to indicate class is about to start

2. Bible Time

When you move to the table spend the first 5 minutes in routines that you repeat each week.

- Pat the bible
- Find Jesus picture (sticker) in bible. Take time to talk about Jesus as our friend.
- "Read" - God loves _____. Filling the blank with the child's name and members of his/her family.
- Sing B-I-B-L-E

Vocabulary:

- Daddy
- Mummy/Mommy
- Jesus
- Helping
- Obey
- Good job!

Sensory:

- Rough wood
- Soft cleaning cloth
- Mist of water from spray bottle

3. Bible Lesson

(15 minutes) *At the table*

The bible does not give details about Jesus' childhood other than that he obeyed his parents and grew in the normal way. As the oldest child he would have helped his mother with younger siblings. He would have helped around the house. He would have learned the family carpentry trade.

- Talk and act through a day that Jesus would have spent as a child. Children can relate by joining in role-playing scenarios of helping and obeying.
 - Getting ready and breakfast. Getting out of bed when Mum calls, eating breakfast while using manners. Cleaning up.
 - Playing cheerfully and sharing with brothers and sisters.
 - Helping mum around house: Dusting, picking up toys, taking care baby.
 - Use the spray bottle to spray a little water on the table so the children can "clean" it with a cloth.
 - Helping dad in carpentry shop: Hammering nails and sawing wood, stacking wood, counting supplies, being a good listener, being safe, working hard to make things.
- Craft (optional):
- Prayer: Fold hands and close eyes to pray. Pray for our families. Pray that we can all obey our parents and be good helpers at home.
- Snack: Any healthy snack. Make a point to let children "help" with the snack today. This may be as simple as putting their rubbish away or helping wipe the table when they are finished eating.

4. Closing

(10 minutes) *On the mat in the soft corner.* Quiet activities to settle down

- Cuddle the baby dolls and put them to bed.
- Lead children in helping put the toys away and straightening up.



Suggested Songs for this Lesson:

Note: Infants and toddlers enjoy the rhythm and melody of song but they are not critics of the teacher's abilities! It's fine if you sing the same tune every time, make up your own tune or even just say the words in a poetic or fun way. Just have fun with it and put the children's needs above your own shyness.

I Live in a House

I live in a house of *wood or rock.
Stand at the door and knock-knock-knock
Inside you will find my family
Right in the middle you'll find ME.

**Substitute another building material instead of wood if appropriate to where the children live.*

Tune: I'm a Little Teapot

Action: (toddlers might join you) Line 1 form your hands like a rooftop. When you say knock-knock-knock rap your knuckles on the table to make the sound. Point to self when you say "ME".

We Say Kind Words

In our house we say kind words.
In our family.
In our house we say kind words.
In our family.
With a *thank-you here and a thank-you there.
Thank-you, thank-you everywhere.
In our house we say kind words.
In our family.

**Substitute "excuse me" or "I'm sorry" or "Yes-Please" or "No-thank-you" or phrases appropriate to where you live.*

Tune: Old McDonald Had a Farm

Action: Use this song in various scenarios as the doll family mimics home life. For example: Mummy says "thank-you" when child sets the table. Child says "excuse me" if parents are talking and child wants to interrupt.

Clean-up Song

Clean-up, clean-up,
Everybody get some toys.
Clean-up, clean-up
All the little girls and boys.
Clean-up, clean-up
Everybody do your share.
Clean-up, clean-up
Everybody, everywhere.

Tune: Listen to a song video on the site where it was originally posted:

<http://bussongs.com/songs/cleanup-song.php>

Action: Sing together with the children as they pick up toys or clean up in any way.

Be So Kind and Helpful

*Dust, dust, dust the table
Dust, dust, dust the table
Dust, dust, dust the table
To be so kind and helpful.

Wash, wash, wash the toy
Wash, wash, wash the toy
Wash, wash, wash the toy
To be so kind and helpful.

**Substitute other phrases but always end with the "To be so kind and helpful." Try: "Fold, fold, fold the clothes." "Pick up, pick up rubbish." Or "Stack the wood"*

Tune: "Skip to my Lou"

Action: Sing as you perform the motions.

Adapted from a hand-washing song at <http://heto.org/programmes/hand-washing-songs.htm>



This is the Way

This is the way we *clean the table.

Clean the table. Clean the table.

This is the way we clean the table.

To help in bible class.

**Substitute any helping task (set the table, wash the dishes, fold the clothes, nail a nail, stack the wood, etc.)*

Tune: *This is the Way We Wash the Clothes*

Action: *Sing as you and the children do the tasks together.*

A Helper I Will Be

A helper I will be. A helper I will be.

I'll help the teacher *clean the table.

A helper I will be.

**Substitute any helping task (set the table, wash the dishes, fold the clothes, nail a nail, stack the wood, etc.)*

Tune: *Farmer in the Dell*

Action: *Sing together as you and the children wipe the table or clean up.*

My Loving Family

I love Daddy. I love Mother.

I love little sister and brother.

Thank you, God, for giving me.

My loving family.

Tune: *Make up your own tune or say as a poem.*

Action: *Sing as you show dolls or photos of family members.*



Items to Use to Teach this Lesson



Stand-up figures of Joseph, Jesus and Mary. Colour and cut out figures on thick paper. Use rolled tape or blue-tack on the back of each figure and place on up-turned plastic cups. You have just created stand-up figures for telling the story.



Wooden building blocks or other wood to stack and count. (For helping in the carpentry shop)



Toy tools and work benches.



Dustpan for cleaning house and cleaning wood shavings and dust in the carpentry shop.



Feather duster for cleaning house.



A small basket and a few items to help fold laundry.



Spray bottle with water. Washcloth. More practice cleaning.



Wastepaper basket and crumpled paper.
This is great for practicing “cleaning up” at home or in the carpentry shop.