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CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS



Bible

Discoverers

Older Children • Age 10-12 • Teacher Guide

May • June • July • August • 2024



**Older Children • Age 10-12 • Teacher Guide**

The learning activities suggested in this book are used as a part of the teaching plan provided in the *Older Children Learner Guide*. It is strongly recommended that each church provides a copy of the *Older Children Learner Guide* for each Older Children teacher as well as for each Older Child.

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Meet Our Writers

MAY

Cheryl Jessemy, Grenada

Cheryl became a Christian during her teen years. Since then she committed herself to serving God through Children's ministry. She enjoys writing Older Children lessons, as they allow her to convey, particularly through the Learner lessons, some selected childhood experiences. At one Writer's Conference, Cheryl explained that she sensed a need for greater involvement in children-targeted evangelism. She expressed eager anticipation for the completion of her training in children's ministry.



JUNE

Victoria Wright, The Bahamas



Victoria began writing Caribbean Bible Lessons for Older Children in 1981. She taught the age group for many years and considers her role in helping the children to decide to accept Jesus as a sacred trust. Victoria has been a Christian for over 50 years. She is involved in several church ministries. At the time of writing, Victoria was principal of a primary school. She has a wealth of experience relating to the importance and need for children's spiritual ministry. She draws a lot on her experience in preparing her lessons.

JULY

Carol Mascoll, Barbados

Carol has been a Christian for over 36 years and a Sunday School teacher for over 11 years. She said the experience of writing lessons for the Older Children curriculum has strengthened her own commitment as a teacher. In teaching her class, she does no less than what she has suggested in the Teacher Guide. While she has been pleased with her own results, she reminds teachers to use the recommendations as a guide but also explore their own creativity, based on their individual situations. Carol is a primary school teacher.



AUGUST

Beverley Johnson, Jamaica



Beverley has been a Christian for over 31 years. Her involvement in the Christian ministry includes being secretary for several church ministries and chairperson for the Jamaica Baptist Union's Children's ministry. Beverley said that as a result of writing the lessons for Older Children, she has grown spiritually and has gained more accurate knowledge of Scripture. She is an educator in the public system, at the tertiary level.

Good Models of Commitment to Christian Service

Planning for Your Class

Timely planning and preparation of the Sunday School lessons will provide personal interaction with them and help you to achieve the learner goals. A checklist is a useful reminder as you plan your lessons weekly.

Here are some suggestions for you to incorporate in your weekly planning.

Personal Readiness

- Always prayerfully seek the guidance of our Lord in your weekly preparation. Remember, He is the Potter, we are the clay.
- Think about the lesson often and allow the Holy Spirit to use it to minister to you.
- During the week, pray for the children in your class, especially those with special challenges.
- Respond honestly to the **Reflection** at the end of the **Teacher Bible Study**. How does the lesson apply to you?
- Remember to contact your absentees each week.

Prepare the Lesson

- Be sure to read the weekly **Teacher Bible Study** in your Guide. It will help you to focus on each lesson.
- Read the **Bible Focus** carefully. Read it from several versions of the Bible.
- Know the focus of the lesson. Ask yourself: What do I want the children to say when parents ask, "What did you learn today?"
- Prepare carefully and diligently so that you are able to present the lesson in an interesting way.
- Read the Bible story in the **Learner Guide** and plan how you will use it in your presentation. It is always better not to read the story to the children.
- Prepare the suggested visual aids and other appropriate learning aids. Learning aids, when used correctly, can be effective tools for reaching the age group you teach.
- Study the **Memory Verse** for the week and prepare the activity you will use to help the children to memorise it.
- Colour the **Teaching Picture**. Plan how you will use it to reinforce the lesson.


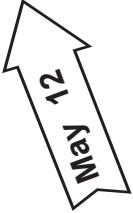
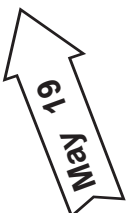
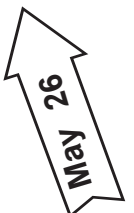
Group Activities

- Be sure to plan at least two **Group Activities** for each lesson.
- Provide enough material so that each child can participate and benefit.

Teaching the Class

- Observe the teaching steps in the **Teacher Guide**. Recognise the uniqueness of each child and try your best to touch each life as you depend on the Holy Spirit.
- Be mindful of children with undesirable behaviours, for example, 'selfish Simon' and 'loud Lilly'. You could be the person God will use to bring about change in their life.
- Be sure to provide opportunities for older children to accept Christ as they respond to the lesson and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

MAY 2024 - OVERVIEW: BIBLE GUIDELINES FOR THE FAMILY

Session	Title & Bible Focus	Memory Verse	Unit Description	Unit Central Truth	Unit Aim
	Worship Together Deuteronomy 6:1-7, 18-21	Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NIV <i>These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts, impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.</i>	The unit introduces the family as a part of God's plan for humankind. Christians are expected to take seriously the Word of God as it relates to families. The family should love and nurture the young ones, teach them about God and show their love for Him through caring for each other. Through the Bible stories, Bible thoughts, songs, activities and discussion, older children will become aware of principles that foster ideal family relations.	God cares about each family member.	The children will begin to understand that God expects Christians to take seriously the Biblical guidelines for the family.
	Honour Your Mother Proverbs 31:10-31	Proverbs 31: 28 CEV <i>Her children praise her, and with great pride.</i>			
	Be Loyal Ruth 1; 2; 4:1-13	Micah 6:8b NIV <i>What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.</i>			
	Live in Peace Proverbs 17:1; Ephesians 6:1-4; 1 John 4:7	Proverbs 17:1 CEV <i>A dry crust of bread eaten in peace and quiet is better than a feast eaten where everyone argues.</i>			

**May 5, 2024****UNIT 1: BIBLE GUIDELINES FOR THE FAMILY****Lesson 1: Worship Together****Bible Focus: Deuteronomy 6:1-7, 18-21**

Memory Verse: *These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NIV

Central Truth: God is pleased when family members worship together at home.

Many Bible passages make reference to families worshipping God together. For example Noah, with his family present, built an altar to the Lord after the flood (Genesis 8:20); Abraham, with his household present, built an altar to the Lord as soon as God told him he was in the Promised Land, Canaan (Gen.12:7); devout and god-fearing Cornelius and his family prayed to God regularly (Acts 10:2, 24). Deuteronomy 6 identifies specific teachings which God instructed His children to observe so as to honour Him.

A godly home must be centred on Creator God, Christ and the Holy Spirit; and a family which is so centred will worship together regularly. Family worship is the united worship given to God by all the members of one household. This can be by a small household of two people, such as husband and wife, or it can be a larger household that includes all the members of the family as well as anyone staying there at that time, such as grandparents or visitors. Family worship is a visible reminder to all in the home that God is worthy of our time, attention and praise. The most essential reason for family

worship is that it glorifies God as family members conform to the image of Christ. At the same time, the opportunity for worship provides the family with knowledge about God as they read the Scripture together.

Another important reason for family worship is that it encourages Christian character. In Ephesians 5 and 6, Paul addresses each member of the Christian family in the household. He probably did so knowing that the home may be the hardest place to live out the Christian life, so, it is necessary for each member to make a conscious effort to achieve family harmony. Family worship can provide opportunities for conversation, character building and moral and spiritual growth.

Family worship encourages peace in the home and helps to bind the family together. The entire family will realise that no matter what else they do, the most important thing that marks them as a family is that they are one unit in God's sight. That bond strengthens the family in all its other endeavours.

REFLECTION: *How well do I obey the teachings of God towards family worship?*



Prepare the Lesson

Aim

Children will become aware that family worship is important and that it helps in bringing joy and blessings to the family.

•Prepare for Bible Story Time•

▶ Make a **Unit Mobile**. Obtain a square box, attach strings to the four top corners, tie the strings together to form a loop for hanging the mobile. Each week you will write the **Lesson Title** on one side of the **Mobile**. For **Week 4**, you will write the **Unit Title** on a strip of poster board and attach it to the bottom of the **Mobile**.

▶ Plan to introduce the lesson with an explanation of “worship”.

▶ Write on **flashcards** acts of worship which can be done at home including: *Singing, Praying, Bible-reading, Serving, Storytelling, Discussion*.

▶ Plan to teach the **Memory Verse** using the *Hide and Seek* activity. Divide the verse into four sections. Write each section on a strip of cartridge paper. Write the reference on a fifth strip of paper. During **Teach the Lesson**, have the children read all the strips, then ask them to repeat the verse on the strips as you hide the strips one by one.

▶ Plan to adapt the chorus. “Into My Heart”, as a **Unit Song**. Suggestions are: “Into Our Home”, “Into Our Life” and “Into Our Heart”.

▶ Write the song, “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” on a sheet of cartridge paper to be displayed in the class area. During the month, the children will read or sing the song as you instruct.

Teacher's Personal Readiness



• Are you an enthusiastic example of family worship?

▶ Colour the *Teaching Picture*. Print copies for the children to colour or make arrangements for them to draw and colour the *Teaching Picture*.

• Prepare for Group Activities•

Group 1: Six Reasons for Family Worship

☞ This group will identify and agree on six reasons for family members to worship together.

☞ They will write the reasons on newsprint or large sheet of paper to be read to the whole group during **End the Session**.

☞ Plan to attach the list to the **Unit Mobile**.

☞ Provide a sheet of newsprint or large sheet of paper and a marker for this activity.

Group 2: Worship Planning

☞ Print a “**My Family Worship Plan**” card with the headings below for each child to complete.

Right time of day: _____

Right length of time: _____

Right attitude: _____

Who should be present: _____



Step 1: Start Off

Arrive early and arrange the class area. Display the **Unit Mobile** and the *Teaching Picture*. • As the children arrive, welcome them and then invite them to colour or draw and colour copies of the *Teaching Picture*. Hand out crayons, paper and pencils as needed.

Step 2: Present the Bible Story

- Pray that each child will become aware of the importance of family worship.
- Introduce the **Unit Title** and emphasize the importance of following God's guidelines for everything.
- Discuss 'worship'. Explain that families will become strong in the Lord as a result of family worship.
- Have the children find Deuteronomy 6. Point out the word "command". Ask the following questions and have the children find the answers in the text:
 - i) Who gave the commands to the writer of Deuteronomy? - (verse 1)
 - ii) Why did God say children should learn the commands? - (verse 2)
 - iii) How does verse 3 say people should use the commands? - (verse 3)
- One by one, display and discuss the acts of worship which you wrote on the **flashcards**. Explain that worship of God is done in humility and from the heart.
- Display and discuss the *Teaching Picture*.
- Let the children read the **Memory Verse** from the *Learner Guide*. Help them to memorise the verse using the *Hide and Seek* activity. (See page 6.)

Step 3: Group Activities

Group 1: Six Reasons for Family Worship

i) Write the caption for the activity on the large sheet of paper. ii) Give the sheet and the marker to **Group 1**. iii) Explain what they should do and allow them to complete the activity.

Group 2: Worship Planning

i) Hand out the Worship-plan-cards and pencils or pens. ii) Explain that the children are free to fill in the cards as suited to their families.

Step 4: End the Session

1) Have the groups reassemble. 2) Display the chart with the song, "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven". Share with the children that the song, like many others, can be used to begin family worship. Explain the word, "tribute", as used in the song. Have the children read the song. Read it twice. 3) Ask **Group 1** to read together the reasons for worship which they identified. 4) Ask volunteers from **Group 2** to share their Worship plan. 5) Sing together "Into My Home" as adapted. 6) Pray and then dismiss class.

May 12, 2024

**UNIT 1: BIBLE GUIDELINES FOR THE FAMILY****Lesson 2: Honour Your Mother****Bible Focus: Proverbs 31:10-31****Memory Verse:** *Her children praise her, and with great pride.***Proverbs 31:28 CEV****Central Truth:** The role of a godly mother cannot be measured and the wise child shows sincere appreciation.

Proverbs 31 describes the ideal godly or god-fearing woman. Verses 10-31 focus on the wife of excellent character. Seen in the passage as the wife of a city elder, she is strong, caring, dignified and wise. We can use this portrait of the ideal as the role model for “mother” as we observe Mother's Day. The passage pays tribute as follows:

Verses 10-12: General praise**Verses 13-15:** Her dedication to domestic responsibilities**Verses 16-18:** Her involvement in the financial affairs of the home**Verses 19-20:** The provision she makes for her family and for the poor**Verses 22-24:** The distinction she brings to her family**Verses 25-27:** Her strength, humour and sincerity**Verses 28-29:** Her attributes which merit recognition**Verses 30-31:** Her fear of God.

The tribute reflects the well ordered, loving environment of the home, which the wife and mother creates by her wisdom and skills. For full appreciation of such a woman, each aspect of her tribute, has to be viewed in the context of her godliness. A wife or mother cannot build her home without God's help (Psalm 127:1a). A wise mother or wife must use God's Word as the foundation of her home. She begins by

displaying the ‘fruit of the Holy Spirit’ love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). She spends time studying the Word of God and in prayer, individually and with members of her family.

In striving to be a godly woman, an exemplary wife and mother, the standard of excellence set out in the passage is instructive. Such women are God's change agent in families, a role to be accepted with gratitude. The writer describes the wife, or mother who models strength, yet displays gentleness, selflessness, kindness, and in general Christlikeness. These virtuous characteristics, although seemingly unattainable, are what a woman should strive for so that she can teach her family how to please God. Her family will arise and call her blessed and her husband will praise her (v. 28). God being her helper, the godly mother's role is one of continuous hard work, much of which is done lovingly without much fanfare.

Reflection: *As we celebrate Mother's Day, I will encourage the children to honour their mother or guardian by praying for her; encouraging her; helping with chores and thanking God for her. I must include fathers who are "mothering" their children.*



Prepare the Lesson

Aim:

To help boys and girls appreciate the person who mothers them and then write a letter expressing their appreciation.

◀LARGE GROUP STUDY▶

▶ Include the following **Key Points** in your preparation:

- A Mother is a gift from God to the family.
- A godly mother depends on God for guidance to serve Him through the family.
- We must love our mother or guardian in all circumstances.
- God wants the family to demonstrate attitudes of kindness, love and respect toward caregivers.
- The Bible says that a woman who **fears** the Lord should be praised.

▶ On a poster, write the following instruction: “Think of a woman in your life who has spent more time helping you more than any other person. Write her name, three things she likes and two things she does not like.” Plan to attach the instruction to the “Godly Family Tree”.

▶ Provide paper and pencils.
▶ Prepare the following definition: *Honouring someone means having the right attitude toward that person and showing respect by your actions.*

- ▶ Make a chart with these true or false statements to be used to discuss how children may show respect for their mother.
- Doing what mom says right away
 - Getting grumpy if you do not get what you want
 - Eating your meal with thankfulness
 - Complaining about what mom cooked for dinner
 - Telling your mom that you love her

- Praying for your mom
- Telling other people that your mom is not a nice person
 - ▶ Obtain a CD with a suitable song in tribute to mother.
 - ▶ Colour the **Teaching Picture** for discussion and display.

▶SMALL GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITIES▶

☞The **Group Activity** will help the children to focus on the many roles played by a mother, as one of God’s agents in the family, in order to meet the needs of persons in the home.

Group Activity: Mother’s Letter

☞Prepare to have the children write a two-part letter to their mother. In the first part, they should tell what they like about her.

☞Read the sentences below as examples which they could use in the letter:

I like the way you call my name.

I like it when you hug me.

I like it when you take me shopping.

I like it when you pray for me at bedtime.

I like the way you help me when I am hurt.

The children should also tell why they like the special actions mentioned.

In part two of the letter, the children should write six positive words or phrases which best describe their mother.

☞Encourage the children to use the **Memory Verse** and **Central Truth**, found in their *Learner Guide*, to help them find suitable words for the activity. They will decorate the edges of the letter and place it in an envelope.

☞Provide paper, pencils or pens, crayons and envelopes.



Step 1: Start Off

- Attach the instruction poster to the “Godly Family Tree”.
- As the children arrive, greet them and invite them to view the instruction on the poster.
- Hand out the paper and pencils or pens and encourage them to begin the activity.

Step 2: Large Group Study

• Play the CD of your choice. • Say, *Today, we are going to pay special attention to how important mothers are in our families. Some of us do not notice many of the things which mother does in the home because she does them everyday. We expect her to do those things. We take for granted her doing them because we think that is what she is there for - to do those things. What we learn is true for mothers, foster mothers, grandmothers or family friends who take care of us. We are going to read in the Bible how one person praises mother as a wonderful and special woman.*

- Ask several volunteers to share what they wrote about the caregiver in the **Start off** activity. Commend the children for their effort.
- Lead the class in prayer.
- Have the children find the focus passage. Select two students to read the following verses: 10 - 20, and 21-31. Discuss the verses one by one, as they are read.
- Share the **Key Points** suggested on page 9.
- Reinforce the **Central Truth**. Have them read the **Memory Verse**.
- Use the definition on page 9 to explain what it means to honour mother. Read the *true* or *false* statements. If the statement honours mother, the children should stand. If the statement is not honouring, the children should hold their head down, as if they are sorry.

Step 3: Small Group Activities

Group Activity: Mother's Letter

- 1) Proceed with the activity as described on page 9.
- 2) Hand out the paper, pens or pencils. Make the crayons available.
- 3) As the children complete the activity, help them, as needed, to address the envelopes.

Step 4: End the Session

- 1) Allow time for the children to make their letters presentable.
- 2) Encourage the children to give the letters to their mother or special caregiver.
- 3) Lead the class in prayer and dismiss.

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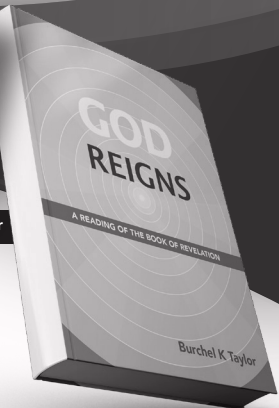


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