

LIVING
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS



STARTERS

Beginners • Age 4-6 • Teacher Guide

May • June • July • August • 2024



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Meet Our Writers



Faith Clemmings—*Jamaica*: Faith is the writer of the May unit. She has been involved in various aspects of curriculum development for Caribbean Christian Publications for over 20 years. Faith has served as Director of the Christian Education Department at Calvary Baptist Church where she is a deacon.



Claney Barnett—*Jamaica*: The late Claney Barnett was a co-writer of the June unit. She believed that being able to write lessons that taught children about God was a great responsibility. Claney was a retired school principal who found great joy in moulding the minds of young children.



Zena Cornwall—*Jamaica*: Zena is a co-writer of the June unit. She is an active member of her church, serving as a deacon, class leader, administrative secretary, and as a teacher of the Beginner class since 1979. Zena takes great joy in planning activities for her Beginner Sunday School class.



Evene Bell—*Jamaica*: The late Evene Bell wrote the lessons in the July unit. Up to the time of her illness, she was actively involved in several ministries of her church. One way in which her service to our Lord will continue to live on is through the lessons which are being used in Sunday School.



Jean Brown—*Jamaica*: Jean is the writer of the August unit. She is an active member of her church, serving in many capacities, including as church treasurer and a member of the choir. She is the principal of an independent preparatory school in the parish of St. Ann.

Caribbean Christian Publications is grateful to the following persons from Jamaica for developing the Bible Backgrounds for Teachers:

Edna McKoy (May), **Sheldon O'Connor** (June), **Travene Smallwood** (July) and **Derri-Ann Palmer** (August).

Unit (Monthly) Preparation Checklist

For the teacher, preparation is key to an effective teaching-learning session. Before each Unit begins, complete each item on the checklist. Insert a check mark or the date in the appropriate column after you have completed the preparation.

1. Spend time praying for the children, other teachers and yourself.

May	June	July	August
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2. Meet with the other teachers of the Beginners before the first Sunday of the month to evaluate the lessons taught during the past month, and to plan for the upcoming month.

May	June	July	August
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3. Study the *Unit Overview* to get a summary of the month's lessons and to grasp the chronological flow and purpose of the Unit.

May	June	July	August
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4. Pay keen attention to the Unit *Central Truth, Teaching Aim and Beginner Needs*, which the lessons can meet.

May	June	July	August
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5. Seek the Lord's leading to choose the appropriate activities you will use to reinforce the lesson. Pray for guidance to use the activities to enhance the lesson. List the activities.

May	June	July	August
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6. Learn the songs suggested. Use the *CariSing* CDs and songbook. List the songs.

May	June	July	August
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7. If you have students under four years old, study the tips on the page titled *For Younger Beginners*.

May	June	July	August
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Lesson (Weekly) Preparation Checklist

Follow these steps each week in order to be ready to teach the Bible Starters effectively. The *Get Ready to Teach* section will point you to this page each week as you prepare.

1. Study the Scripture, Bible Background, Bible story and Bible Thought.

May □□□□□	June □□□□	July □□□□	August □□□□□
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2. Prepare the story so that you will be able to tell it well. You should not read it to the children.

May □□□□□	June □□□□	July □□□□	August □□□□□
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3. Colour the *Teaching Picture* and prepare it for display.

May □□□□□	June □□□□	July □□□□	August □□□□□
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4. Write the Bible Thought clearly on a strip of paper. Display it with the *Teaching Picture*.

May □□□□□	June □□□□	July □□□□	August □□□□□
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5. Learn the songs suggested. Use the *CariSing* CDs and songbook.

May □□□□□	June □□□□	July □□□□	August □□□□□
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6. Arrive early. Gather all the materials to be used for the activities you choose. Prepare the Activity Areas before class begins.

May □□□□□	June □□□□	July □□□□	August □□□□□
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7. Call or visit the children who were absent last week.

May □□□□□	June □□□□	July □□□□	August □□□□□
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Unit Overview

May: Helpful Family Members

Unit Description:

Unit Theme: FAMILY

Through the unit of lessons, the Beginners will understand that God is pleased when family members help each other as well as people who are not members of their family.

Unit Central Truth:

God is pleased when we help our family members and others.

Unit Teaching Aim:

Beginners will become aware that God is pleased when they help their family members and others.

Unit Beginner Needs:

- ✎ to be thankful for their family.
- ✎ to identify ways in which they can help family members and others.
- ✎ to feel happy when they help their family members and others.

Lesson Title: A Helpful Uncle

**May 5
2024**

Scripture: Genesis 14:11-16

Bible Thought: We are helpers.

Based on 2 Corinthians 1:24

**May 12
2024**

Lesson Title: A Kind Mother

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:7-16

Bible Thought: Be kind to one another.

Based on Ephesians 4:32

**May 19
2024**

Lesson Title: A Helpful Brother

Scripture: Exodus 4:10-16; 7:1-6

Bible Thought: Help one another to do good.

Based on Hebrews 10:24

**May 26
2024**

Lesson Title: A Caring Father

Scripture: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Bible Thought: Pray for sick people.

Based on James 5:14

HELPFUL FAMILY MEMBERS—MAY 2024



SESSION 1: Provide two pieces of stiff paper measuring 4-by-6 inches, a picture of a baby and a picture of a man. Paste each picture on a sheet of paper. Write UNCLE above the picture of the man and ME under the picture of the baby.

Say: *God gives us uncles to care for us.*

SESSION 2: Attractively colour the *Teaching Picture*, “A Kind Mother”. Hold the picture at the babies’ eye level. Point to each character and say the name.

Say: The widow was kind to Elijah. *God blessed her for her kindness.*

SESSION 3: Prepare colourful, large pictures of family members doing things together. Paste each picture on stiff paper and cut it out. Lay a clean sheet on the floor for the babies to lie on. Place the pictures on the sheet for the babies to look at.

Sing “Love One Another”.

SESSION 4: Provide a colourful picture or drawing representing Jairus and his daughter. Point to each character and say the name.

Say: Jairus’ daughter was very sick; so he went to Jesus and asked Him to make his daughter well again. *Thank You, God, for parents who take care of us when we are sick.*

SESSION 1: ART—Do the **Art Activity Area** suggested on page 7 in the *Teacher Guide*.

SESSION 2: MUSIC—Lead the children in the singing of “Love One Another”. Encourage the children to clap and dance as they sing.

Say: In today’s story, we are going to learn about a widow who helped God’s prophet, Elijah. She gave him a meal from the little food she had left for herself and her son.

SESSION 3: BLOCK—Write on strips of paper the names of the characters in the story. Place the strips in a bag. Have each child take a strip from the bag. Let the children act out the story, each playing the character listed on his or her paper. Let as many children as is possible participate. Praise them for their efforts.

SESSION 4: ART—Do the **Art Activity Area** suggested on page 17 in the *Teacher Guide*.

Say: Mommy and Daddy take care of you when you are sick. *Thank You, God, for parents who take care of us when we are sick.*

Unit Title: HELPFUL FAMILY MEMBERS

Lesson Title: A HELPFUL UNCLE

Scripture:

GENESIS 14:11-16

Bible Thought: We are helpers.

Based on 2 Corinthians 1:24

Central Truth: We show that we care for our family members when we help them during times of danger.

Aim:

Beginners will identify ways in which they can help at home.



BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Insufficient landscape resulted in a dispute between the herdsmen of Abram and his nephew, Lot. Abram, therefore, told Lot to choose the section of the land that he preferred. Abraham said he would take the other section. Lot chose the well-watered plains near the Jordan river and settled with his family and herdsmen near Sodom. He prospered and became important (Gen. 13:11-12; 19:1). Abram settled where God showed him—on the plains of Mamre in Hebron. God blessed Abram greatly.

Years later, kings from Mesopotamia, in the East, captured both Sodom and Gomorrah. They abducted Lot, his family and his servants and took all his animals. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, and others who had come to help them, were defeated by the invaders. In trying to escape, some of them fell into the slime (tar) pits of Siddim; or, possibly, they crawled into them to hide (Gen. 14:10). It is believed that those pits were common in the southeast area around the Dead Sea. The pits are similar to those now existing in Trinidad.

Upon learning the news of Lot's capture, Abram assembled his army of 318 men to pursue Lot's abductors (Gen. 14:13). Although Abram had given up to Lot his right to the best portion of the land, he was willing to go to his rescue.

When Abram heard of his relative's distress, he acted quickly and decisively. He rescued Lot and brought him back home, along with his possessions, the women and the other captives (v. 16).

In helping his nephew, Abram showed Christian love, concern, a strong moral code and courage in the face of great danger.

REFLECTION

Let the maxim, "No man is an island; no man stands alone; each man is my brother, each man is my friend", resonate in your mind as you seek to help the Beginners to understand that all human beings must be concerned about others because God created all of us.



GET READY TO TEACH



- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help **Beginners** to:
 - ✦ be aware that God protects them when they are in danger.
 - ✦ learn ways in which family members can help when they are in danger.
 - ✦ thank God for family members who protect them.
- 2) Complete the tasks listed in the **Unit Preparation** and **Lesson Preparation Checklists** on page 3.
- 3) Collect all the materials needed for the lesson. Colour the *Teaching Picture*, “Abram Rescues Lot”.
- 4) Learn the song, “The Family”.
- 5) Write the **BIBLE THOUGHT** on stiff paper.
- 6) Arrange the teaching-learning space to allow the children to move freely from one **Activity Area** to another.
- 7) **Homeliving Activity Area:** Collect pictures of sad, ill and frightened looking boys, girls, men and women. Glue each picture to stiff paper.
- 8) **Art Activity Area:** Provide leaves of various shapes and sizes - two for each child, crayons and sheets of plain paper. The children will do ‘leaf rubbing’.
- 9) **Music Activity Area:** Plan to teach the song, “A-P-P-R-E-C-I-A-T-I-O-N”. Provide a CD player or play from YouTube using your smart device.



TEACH THE LESSON



LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS (About 30 minutes)

As Beginners arrive, greet them with a smile, calling each by name. Mark the register and collect the offering. Encourage each child to choose an **Activity Area**. If a child does not wish to participate, do not force him or her to do so.

HOMELIVING ACTIVITY AREA

- ▷ Welcome the children as they enter the **Homeliving Activity Area**.
- ▷ Place each picture on a flat surface at the eye-level of the Beginners.
- ▷ Ask questions about the pictures like: Why do you think the boy is sad? Why is this girl frightened? What made this man sick? Does he have the flu? Is his head hurting? Ask: When your (mommy, daddy, brother, sister...) is feeling ill, what can you do to help him or her get better? Allow time for the Beginners to respond. Praise them for their answers.

ART ACTIVITY AREA

- ▷ As you welcome the children to the **Art Activity Area**, give each child a crayon and a sheet of paper. Have them fold the paper in two.
- ▷ Place the leaf, vein side up, inside the folded paper. Have them use a crayon to rub over the paper so that the pattern of the leaf is transferred to the paper.
- ▷ Tell them that they can use the leaf rubbings to make different patterns on paper. Say: You can give this picture to someone who is ill or sad to cheer up him or her.

MUSIC ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Warmly greet the children as they come to the **Music Activity Area**.
- ▶ Play the song and encourage them to listen. Encourage them to sing and clap to the rhythm.
- ▶ Say: We can show appreciation to our family members in many ways. We must say "thank you" when they help us out of danger.

Clean-up Time: Guide the children as they tidy the area. Thank them for helping. Bring them together for the story and closing exercise.

WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE LARGE GROUP (About 15 minutes)

✠ Say: This is the first Sunday in May. Each Sunday in this month we will be talking about family members from the Bible. Our family members are very special people.

✠ Sing "The Family". Let the children clap their hands as they sing. Ask: Are you happy that you are a part of a family? We are going to learn how we can help our family members. Today's story is about an uncle who helped his nephew and it is from the Bible.

✠ Open your Bible to Genesis 14:11-16. Keep eye contact with the children as you tell the story.

A CARING UNCLE

Lot was the nephew of God's servant, Abram. Lot lived in a city called Sodom. Four kings came together to fight against the people who lived in Sodom. The kings destroyed the people's houses and stole all their food. The kings also took the people away from their homes. They even took Lot, and all the things he owned, to their country.

When Abram heard that Lot had been taken by their enemies, he was very sad. Abram might have said to his friends, "We need to find my nephew!" Abram called out 318 fighters. They all went out to find Lot.

Abram and the men travelled for a very long time. Finally, they found their enemies and rescued Lot. They also rescued the women and children. The people took back the things that had been taken from them.

Abram must have been very happy to find Lot and to see that he was safe. Lot, too, must have been happy that Abram found him. "Thank you, Uncle, for getting me out of danger!" Lot must have said.

Closing Time

Mount the **BIBLE THOUGHT** strip at the children's eye level. Help them to read it. Do this five times and, then, have them say it from memory.

Lead the children to pray, thanking God for their family members.

Dismiss the children. As you do so, remind them to bring a friend next Sunday.

Unit Title: HELPFUL FAMILY MEMBERS

Lesson Title: A KIND MOTHER

Scripture:
1 KINGS 17:7-16

Bible Thought: Be kind to one another.
Based on Ephesians 4:32

Central Truth: Family members can share what they have with others.

Aim: Beginners will understand that God is pleased when family members share with persons who are in need.



BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

The prophet, Elijah, was instructed by God to go to Zarephath where a poor widow would take care of his needs. When Elijah arrived at the gate of Zarephath, he saw the widow and called to her, *Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?* (1 Kings 17:10, NIV). As she went to get it, Elijah added, and bring me, please, a piece of bread (v. 11b). The request made the widow pause. She replied, *I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug* (v. 12a). She was preparing to make a final meal for herself and her son, after which she believed they would die, together, from hunger.

The widow's response to Elijah's request for a piece of bread shows her concern for the well being of her son and herself. She probably wondered how she could give the stranger bread when she barely had enough for herself and her son. Nevertheless, by acceding to Elijah's request, she demonstrated a heart of service and kindness.

Elijah trusted in God's previous instruction (v. 9), and could comfort the woman by assuring her that God would take care of her needs. Interestingly, Elijah instructed her to make his cake first—a true test of her faith, considering her circumstance. Nevertheless, the widow, believing that it was the will of God, trusted in His power to supply her needs. She did not question Elijah's instructions but did as he requested of her (v. 14b).

Indeed, the food did not run out. There was food everyday for Elijah, the widow and her son. Despite her initial concern, the widow's little became a lot because she acted in faith and God rewarded her kindness.

REFLECTION

The widow's example reminds us of the importance of doing acts of kindness for others, including strangers.
How will you use this story to inspire you to give sacrificially to others?



GET READY TO TEACH



As we celebrate Mother's Day, bear in mind that some Beginners might not be living with their biological mother. Present the lesson in an all inclusive manner.

- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help the **Beginners** to:
 - ✦ learn ways they can be kind to persons who are not a part of their family.
 - ✦ understand that God is pleased when family members are kind to others.
 - ✦ learn that they should be happy when they are kind to others.
- 2) Complete the tasks listed in the **Unit Preparation** and **Lesson Preparation Checklists** on page 3.
- 3) Collect all the materials needed for the lesson. Colour the *Teaching Picture*, "A Kind Mother".
- 4) Learn the song, "Love One Another".
- 5) **Art Activity Area:** Provide 10 buttons of different shapes and colours for each child, string or yarn and a pair of scissors to make bracelets.
- 6) **Homeliving Activity Area:** Provide playdough. (*Playdough Recipe:* Mix one cup flour, 3 tablespoons salt and 1 tablespoon cooking oil with enough water to make a soft dough. Add powdered drink mix for colour.)
- 7) **Puzzle Activity Area:** Prepare 4-by-6 inch strips of different coloured paper. Write words that express love – such as kiss, hug, holding hands – on each strip of paper. Glue each paper to a piece of cardboard. Allow it to dry and then cut each strip into five irregular shaped pieces. Put each set in a small bag.



TEACH THE LESSON



LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS (About 30 minutes)

As the children enter, greet them with a smile. Mark their names in the register and encourage them to tell what is special about today.

ART ACTIVITY AREA

- ▷ Cut the yarn or string into 8-inch pieces. Give each child a piece of string and 10 buttons. Instruct the children to thread the string or yarn through the holes in the buttons. Help the children who are having trouble doing the activity.
- ▷ Help the children to knot the loose ends of their string. Leave enough space for the bracelet to go around their mom's wrist.
- ▷ Say: Your bracelet is for your mom or the lady who helps to care for you at home. Let her know that you love her. Wish her 'Happy Mother's Day'.

HOMELIVING ACTIVITY AREA

- ▷ Give each child a piece of playdough. Instruct the children to make shapes of foods their family can share with others – like bananas, pears, apples and breadfruit. Say: Today, we praise God for families who share what they have with other people. God wants us and our family members to share with people who do not have anything.

PUZZLE ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Greet the children as they come to the **Puzzle Activity Area**.
- ▶ Place the puzzle pieces on a flat surface. Allow the children to try to solve each puzzle. Praise them for their effort.
- ▶ Say: Today, we celebrate Mother's Day! Can you tell me some good things your mommy or your guardian tells you to do for others?

Clean-up Time: As the Beginners tidy their area, have them sing a happy song. Thank them for helping. Bring them together for worship time.

WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE LARGE GROUP (About 15 minutes)

- ✠ Ask: Did you wish Mommy or the person who cares for you 'Happy Mother's Day' this morning? Did you give her a special hug or kiss?
- ✠ Lead the children in the singing of "Love One Another". Hold up the **BIBLE THOUGHT** for the children to see. Help them to read it.
- ✠ Allow the children to sit comfortably. Tell the Bible story in an interesting way.

A KIND MOTHER

Elijah was a prophet. A prophet would tell the people everything God said to tell them. A prophet was a very special servant of God.

It had not rained in Elijah's country for a very long time. The long drought dried up all the rivers. There was little food and water; so the people did not have much to eat or drink. God told Elijah to go to a place called Zarephath. A kind mother and her son lived there. She would give him food and water.

Elijah obeyed God and travelled to Zarephath. When he arrived in the city, he saw a woman picking up sticks. Elijah was thirsty and hungry; so he said to her, "Please give me a drink of water and something to eat." The woman said to Elijah, "The only thing I have is a little flour and oil. I am going to make a meal for myself and my son. Then, we will die of hunger."

"Don't worry," Elijah said, "Go and use the flour and the oil to make a cake for me. Then, make a cake for yourself and your son. Your flour and oil will not run out!" The woman did what Elijah told her to do.

Elijah was right. God did not let the woman's flour or oil run out! The woman must have been happy that she shared her food with Elijah.

Closing Time



Let the children read the **BIBLE THOUGHT** again. Then, have them say it from memory.

Ask questions about the story, like: What did the woman in the story do for Prophet Elijah? Was she being kind to him? If you had only one apple would you give it to someone who was hungry?

Lead the children in prayer, asking God to help them to share with others.

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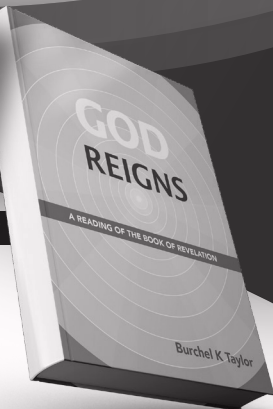


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