

Thank You, God, for Creating Me

Objective



Each child will learn that his senses are gifts from God and will thank God for creating people.

Scripture



Genesis 27:1-38, 42-43
(Jacob and Esau)

Memory Verse



Psalm 107:1

Planning Tips



For the Learning Centers, put stuffed animals and common classroom items in a paper sack. For the First Meeting of the Week, prepare the figures from *Bible Teaching Resources* pages 5 and 6 for use on a flannel board. For the Second Meeting of the Week, make a simple Bible-time costume with a bathrobe and a dishtowel for a headdress.



What You'll Need

- Cubby Bears Bible Friends* for Meeting 9 for each child
- Bible Happenings* for Meeting 9 for each child

LEARNING CENTERS

- God's Wonderful World Center: stuffed animals, objects from classroom, paper grocery sack, blindfold
- Music Center: simple instruments, earmuffs or headphones

GETTING STARTED

- Cubby Bear Puppet*
- Feathers, tape
- Bible Teaching Resources* sheets 5 and 6
- Bible, flannel board, flannel or felt, burlap
- Crayons

BIBLE APPLICATION

- Burlap and smooth fabric, glue
- Snack: fruit cut into chunks, serving bowl and spoon, paper bowls, plastic spoons, napkins, paper cups, water

BIBLE LEARNING

- Scissors, glue, paper plates, crayons
- Colored macaroni, hole punch, ribbon

What You'll Need (OPTIONS)

- Bible Happenings* for Meeting 9 for each child
- Student Award Book* for each child
- All the Best Songs for Kids* Songbook & Early Childhood CDs
- CD player
- Bible-time costume (optional), Bible
- Pot, big spoon, bean bag, music CD
- Cubby Bear Puppet*
- Snack: seasonal fruit, napkins, paper cups, water
- Game: stuffed animal
- Craft: cardboard tubes (2 per child), large rubberbands, crayons, stickers (optional)



Pre-Session

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

Follow your regular opening ceremonies: all-ages rally, attendance, award checking and presentation, offering, and announcements. (See page 4 at the beginning of this book for the scheduled features.) If some children arrive early, have them begin the learning center activities. Take this time to get to know each of your preschoolers personally.



Learning Centers

God's Wonderful World Center: Before the meeting, put several different-shaped stuffed animals and common classroom items in a paper grocery sack so the children cannot see them. Ask for a volunteer to be blindfolded, and let that child feel one of the items (do not force any preschooler to be blindfolded). Ask, **Now that you can't see, how can you tell what this is?** (*by touch and sound*) If the item is a stuffed animal ask, **How can you tell what kind of animal this is?** (*by shape, number of legs, etc.*) Repeat with as many volunteers as time permits. Talk about the senses of sight, touch, and hearing that God gave us. Say, **God gave us eyes, hands, and ears to enjoy His world.**

Music Center: Show the children several musical instruments and explain what they are. Let the children take turns playing them. Point out the differences in their sounds. Bring in earmuffs or headphones and place them on a volunteer. Have the child stand with her back to the rest of the group. Tell her to raise her hand when she can hear music



Learning Centers (Cont.)

and then try to guess which instrument is being played. Choose a volunteer to play an instrument. Have him play it as quietly as he can at first, and then play louder until the first child indicates she hears the music. Let her try to guess what instrument is being played. Repeat with other volunteers as long as there is interest. Ask, **If you couldn't hear, how could you know what was going on behind you?** (*by turning around and seeing it, hearing the louder sounds, feeling the vibration, etc.*)

★ Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week ★



Getting Started

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

Prayer Time

Sing **GOD GAVE ME EYES** from *All the Best Songs for Kids*. As you pray with the children, thank God for giving them eyes, ears, noses, tongues, and hands so they can learn about all the things God has made. Thank God for making them just the way they are.

A Visit from Cubby

Before the meeting, tape a few feathers on Cubby Bear.

LEADER: Cubby, why are you wearing feathers?

CUBBY: I want to look like a bird. I like the way the fluffy feathers feel. Maybe I can learn to fly!

LEADER: (Feels the feathers). The feathers are nice, Cubby, but I like your fur. It feels soft. And no matter how many feathers you put on, you won't be able to fly.

CUBBY: Oh, I was afraid of that. I guess my fur is okay.

LEADER: Your wanting to be different reminds me of today's Bible story. It's about two very different brothers who were twins. One loved the outdoors and one loved the indoors.

CUBBY: That sounds interesting. I can't wait to hear it.



Bible Story

(Allow 15-20 minutes)



Listen to the Bible Story

Before the meeting, cut the figures of Rebekah, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, the Tunic, and the two Bowls of Food from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheets 5 and 6. Glue felt or flannel to the back of each piece.

Tell the children what their five senses are — the ability to taste, touch, see, hear, and smell. Have them point on their bodies to where each sense is as you say it. Then place the visuals of Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob on the flannel board. Introduce each character. Move the figures appropriately as you tell the story.

A MISSED BLESSING

(Genesis 27:1-38, 42-43)

It was the custom long ago in Isaac's time for the father to bless the oldest son with a special blessing before the father died. (Point to Isaac.) Isaac knew he was going to die soon. He could not see well.

★ Second Meeting Options ★

1. Getting Started OPTIONS

Song Time

Sing **WITH MY VOICE, GOD GAVE ME EYES, JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE ONES,** and **WONDERFULLY MADE** from *All the Best Songs for Kids*.

2. Bible Story OPTIONS

Listen to the Bible Story

You may dress in a costume and pretend to be Rebekah as you tell this story. Remind the children what our five senses are. Have them point to the correct body part as each sense is mentioned. Tell them that this is a true story from the Bible.

A MOTHER TELLS HER STORY

Boys and girls, my name is Rebekah, and I am Isaac's wife. We have twin sons, Esau and Jacob. My husband was very old, and he thought he was going to die soon. He wanted to give the family blessing to our older son, Esau. I was outside when I heard (point to ears) Isaac tell Esau to make him his favorite meal (mouth) and then he would bless Esau.

I couldn't believe what I heard (ears)! When the twins were born, God told us that Jacob would be the one for the special blessing. So I told Jacob to get two goats. I cooked the meat just the way Isaac liked it. (Pretend to cook with the pot and spoon; "smell" the food.) I put Esau's clothes on Jacob and tied goatskins on Jacob's hands and neck so he would smell (nose) and feel (feel arms) like hairy Esau.

Because Isaac couldn't see (eyes), he thought Esau had come back early. Jacob brought the tasty food to his father. His father touched and smelled Jacob. (hands and nose) "You sound (ears) like Jacob, but you smell (nose) and feel like Esau," Isaac said. He ate (mouth) the delicious food Jacob gave him. Then, since Isaac thought Jacob was Esau, he blessed him. When Esau found out that Jacob got his blessing, he said he would kill Jacob. I heard (ears) what Esau said (mouth), and I sent Jacob away so he would be safe.

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Bible Story (Cont.)



(Point to Esau.) Isaac loved his older son Esau more than Jacob. Maybe that was because Esau liked to do outdoor activities with his father. Rebekah, their mother, loved Jacob more than Esau. Jacob was quiet and liked to do indoor things close to his mother.

One day, Isaac called Esau and asked him to make his favorite meat dish before he gave Esau his blessing. Esau happily set out into the woods to catch some fresh deer meat, or venison, and make a meal that would please his father. (Remove Esau.)

But somebody else heard Isaac talk to Esau. (Point to Rebekah.) Rebekah wanted Jacob to receive the special blessing. So she made a sad plan. She told Jacob, “Go get two young goats from the flock so I can cook meat for your father, just the way he likes it.” Then she brought one of Esau’s tunics and put it on Jacob. (Put the Tunic and Jacob’s Food on the figure of Jacob.) She also covered his smooth hands and neck with goat skins so they would be hairy like Esau. (Move Jacob beside Isaac.) Jacob brought the food to Isaac. Because Isaac couldn’t see, he smelled Esau’s clothing on Jacob and felt his hairy hand. Isaac said it must be Esau, even though he sounded like Jacob. So Isaac ate the tasty food and gave Jacob the blessing. (Remove Jacob and add Esau and his food.)

After Jacob left, Esau came into his father’s tent with some meat and bread he had cooked. Isaac was confused, and Esau was upset. Jacob had gotten his blessing. Esau was so angry, he said he would kill Jacob. So Rebekah sent Jacob away to safety.

Review the Bible Story

Discuss with the children which of his senses Isaac used in the story. (*smell, touch, hearing, taste*) Say, **God helped Isaac use his other senses when he could no longer see.** Hand out crayons and page 1 of *Cubby Bears Bible Friends* for Meeting 9 to the children. Point out Esau bringing back the deer he had hunted, and show them where Isaac is. Read the directions aloud. Have the children help Esau find the correct path to Isaac by tracing it with their finger and then drawing it with a crayon. Ask them which sense they used to find the path and which sense they used to trace it. (*sight and touch*)

Read the Bible story from *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers* for Meeting 9.

Bible Words Memory Time

Psalm 107:1 — “*O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good.*” (KJV)

“*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.*” (NIV)

Read the Bible Words to the children. Have them repeat the Words after you. Say, **God is so good to us to give us our senses so we can see, feel, taste, smell, and hear the things in God’s wonderful world.** Then have the children stand up and clap their hands to the memory verse. (O-clap, give-clap, thanks-clap, etc.). Say, **We give**

Second Meeting Options

2. Bible Story (Cont.) OPTIONS

Let’s Play a Bible Game

Have the children play a game of Jacob Says. Tell them to follow your actions only if you say “Jacob says.” Say, **Jacob says, we thank God for our [noses].** Point to your nose. **Jacob says, we thank God for [feet to jump].** Jump. If you do not say “Jacob says” and the children do what you say, they sit down. After a few rounds, choose a child to be Jacob. Be sure to include all of our senses, and other things God made that we should be thankful for.

Bible Words Game

Bring in a beanbag and have the children sit in a circle. Read aloud the Bible Words from your Bible. Ask the children to repeat them with you. Say, **Our Bible Words say that we should give thanks to God because He is good. God loves us.**

Begin playing music and have the children pass the beanbag around the circle. When the music stops, the group repeats the Bible Words, and the child holding the beanbag must name something he thanks God for. Continue as interest holds.

3. Bible Application OPTIONS



A Visit from Cubby

CUBBY: (Excitedly) I listened to the boys and girls and learned that my eyes and ears are gifts from God.

LEADER: That’s right, Cubby. And what other gifts did God give you?

CUBBY: God gave me my paws so I can touch things, and He gave me my tongue so I can taste good food.

LEADER: That’s true, Cubby. And God gave you a nose so you can smell flowers.

CUBBY: (Sniffs) Yes. I can smell many things. I’m glad God gave me five senses.

Let’s Read a Story

Read the fiction story from today’s *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers*. Show the pictures as you tell the story. Then talk about the questions.

Snack Time

Serve each child chunks of different fruits and water to drink. Ask them to smell how good each fruit smells and notice how good it tastes. Thank

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Bible Story (Cont.)



thanks to God for giving us hands to clap with and ears to hear the Bible Words with. Have the children sit down and point to different parts of their body while repeating the verse several times.



Bible Application

(Allow 10-20 minutes)



Apply the Bible Lesson

Before the meeting, cut a piece of burlap and a piece of smooth fabric for each child. Have the children turn to page 2 of *Bible Friends*. Hand out glue and a piece of each fabric for them to glue on Esau's and Jacob's tunics. Say, **Imagine how two boys can be so different and yet be twins. God makes each of us special. No one else is exactly like you!** Have the children point out what was different and the same with Esau and Jacob. Ask the children what senses were used in the Bible story. (*Isaac smelled and tasted the food. Isaac could not see well, Rebekah heard Isaac talk to Esau, etc.*)

Read the fiction story from *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers*.

Snack Time

Before the meeting, cut several different fruits into chunks to make a fruit "stew." Ask a volunteer to thank God for the fruit He made. Serve water to drink. As you are putting the stew in bowls, smell it and remind the children that God gave us the sense of smell so we can smell the good fruit, just like Isaac in the Bible story smelled the good food he was given.



Bible Learning

(Allow 10-15 minutes)



Bible Craft Time

Before the meeting, cut a 12-inch length of ribbon for each child. Bring colored macaroni. (See the Leader Tip.) Give each child page 3 of *Bible Friends* for Meeting 9. Read the directions aloud and display a completed craft. Hand out paper plates, scissors, crayons, and colored macaroni. As the children are coloring the plate rims and gluing on the macaroni, review the Bible story. Punch a hole at the top of each child's plate, and help him thread ribbon through it for a hanger. Remind the children to thank God for our five senses.



Closing

(Allow 5-10 minutes)



Lead the children in prayer, thanking God for giving us our five senses and for being so good to us. Sing the CUBBY BEARS GOOD-BYE SONG. At the close of the First Meeting of the Week, remind the children to bring their award books to the second meeting. Hand out *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers*, today's craft, and *Bible Friends* to each child.

Second Meeting Options

3. Bible Application (Cont.) OPTIONS



God for fruit that tastes and smells so good. As the children are eating, ask, **What colors are the fruits? What can you hear when you bite the fruit?**

Ask, **Aren't you glad God gave us our five senses so we can enjoy this good fruit He made?**

4. Bible Learning OPTIONS

Esau Hot and Cold

Have one child leave the room with your helper. Hide a stuffed animal in the room. Have the child come back into the room and look for the animal. As she gets closer to the animal, the class says, "Esau, hot." As she gets further away, the class says, "Esau, cold." Repeat as time allows.

Craft Time

Help the children make play binoculars. Hand out crayons, stickers (optional), masking tape (or blue or silver tape), and two cardboard tubes to each child. Have them decorate the tubes as they wish, then tape the tubes together. Say, **Let's use the eyes God gave us to see some of the things He made.** Have the children look through the binoculars and name colors and other things they see.

Leader Tips

Color Your Own Macaroni

You will need uncooked pasta, rubbing alcohol, and food coloring (liquid or paste — the paste colors darker). Pour enough rubbing alcohol into a zipper bag or bowl to lightly coat (but not soak) the macaroni. Add a lot of food coloring. Add the desired amount of macaroni and mix. Let it sit for a few minutes. When the pasta is the desired color, lay it in a single layer on wax paper to dry.

God Doesn't Approve of Lying

Preschoolers may be confused about Rebekah deceiving Isaac. Remind the children that the Bible story is true, and sometimes people do things that are not right. Emphasize that God never approves of lying. But Rebekah knew that God said Jacob would receive the blessing. She thought she was helping God, even though her methods were questionable.