

YEAR B | QUARTER 3

1

A Family Tree of God's Love

Community
We reflect God's love in our families.

POWER TEXT

"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him" (Genesis 18:19, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

- Genesis 11:10-12:9
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 11, pp. 125-131
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 133-137; 142-147
- Student lesson on page 22 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 23, Marriage and the Family
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God has plans for their families.
- **Feel** a part of God's plan for their families.
- **Respond** in loving cooperation with their families.

POWERPOINT

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

In Old Testament cultures the family was a central and important reality. When God calls Abram to go to another place, he obeys and takes his family with him. God's promised blessings are not exclusively for Abram but to be passed on to his children.

This is a lesson about community.

In the same way, God promises blessings for those who follow His plans today. The promised blessings are available to each member of our family. Each of us has a part to play. When each person is following God's plan, God is able to bless in a special way.

Teacher Enrichment

Genealogies, lists that trace family lineage (usually through the male), are an important part of Old Testament history. Because the family was such an integral aspect of biblical society, it was important for an individual to be able to establish one's lineage. For example, a priest had to prove that he was a descendent of Aaron.

Families during biblical times were much larger social units than typical families today. When a woman married she left her family and became part of her husband's family. Headed by the eldest male, a family often included several wives, children, grandchildren, grandparents, slaves, and servants.

"The greatest evidence of the power of Christianity that can be presented to the world is a well-ordered, well-disciplined family. This will recommend the truth as nothing else can, for it is a living witness of its practical power upon the heart" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 304).

"God has bound us together as members of one family, and this relationship everyone is bound to cherish. There are services due to others which we cannot ignore and yet keep the commandments of God" (*Ibid.*, p. 339).

How has God led my family? What is my response to His leading? How is my life affected because I belong to the larger family of God?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Family Trees* *B. Family Profiles* *C. Family Metaphor*	paper, pencils, tape categories list, pencils paper, pencils
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 17. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, letter to parents (see p. 144), offering box/basket, variety of faces, tree outline, paper leaves, pencils, tape
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 Bibles, copies of script (p. 145) Bibles, paper, pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Family Puzzles*	pens or pencils, scissors, photocopied paper puzzle
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Missing Piece*	
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ tape

Family Trees

Say: **This morning we are going to trace our family trees. Draw a large tree on your paper. On the trunk write the names of your grandparents or great grandparents as far back as you know about.**

Then, fill in as many names of relatives—aunts, uncles, cousins—as you can. Draw lines to show how they are related to one another. Then, beside those people you know draw a symbol to represent them. It can be a hobby or something that they like.

Tape the trees on the wall and ask some of the students to talk about their family tree or their favorite person on the tree.

Debriefing

Ask: **What are some of the characteristics that many members of your family have in common?** (It may be a particular color hair, a mannerism, a talent.) **What is a characteristic that makes your family unique?**

Say: **God made every family unique. He has a special plan for each family and a special place for you within your family. God gave Abraham special instructions about how to lead his family in the worship of God. Let's say together our power text, Genesis 18:19:**

"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him" (Genesis 18:19, NIV).

Today we are learning that

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ categories list
- ☐ pencils

Family Profiles

Write the following categories list on a sheet of paper, then make enough copies for each student to have one. You may add or delete categories as needed. Hand out a sheet to each student.

Someone who is the oldest child in the family _____.
Someone who is the youngest child in the family _____.
Someone who has twins in their family _____.
Someone who has a big brother _____.
Someone who is an only child _____.
Someone whose family has all boys _____.
Someone whose family has all girls _____.

Say: **When I say go, I want you to find a person who fits each category and have them write their initials. You can ask each person only one question at a time.** If your group is small you may want to add: **You can go back later and ask them another question.**

Debriefing

Go through the categories, asking for volunteers to share their answers, or debrief in small groups with an adult facilitator.

Say: **Everyone belongs to a family; we each have a different place in our families, yet each of us contributes something special to the family.**

Ask: **What unique thing do you contribute to the family you live with? What special thing might you contribute to your church family?**

Say: **God had a special plan for Abraham. Let's say together our power text, Genesis 18:19:**

"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him" (Genesis 18:19, NIV).

Let's repeat also our power point:

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.

Prayer & Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Family Metaphor

Read the following poem about a family to your students:

My family is a pot of soup.
My father is the pot, strong and firm, holding us all together.
My mother is the broth, rich and warm, enfolding us.
I am the potatoes, chunky and chewy.
My little brother is the spice, filling the whole with flavor.

Say: **This is a metaphor. A metaphor uses an image figuratively to describe something else. What are some other metaphors that could describe your family?** Brainstorm with the group. Give them some starting ideas such as: a farm, a medicine cabinet, a computer, a refrigerator, the ocean—anything in which individual elements make up a whole. Pass out paper and pencils and give the students five minutes to write a metaphor to describe their family.

Debriefing

Ask students to share the family metaphor they have written. Say: **All the parts in a metaphor work together to give the whole picture. In our families we all work together to make the whole picture. God has a special plan for each family and a special place for you within your family. God gave Abraham special instructions about how to lead his family in the worship of God.**

Let's say together our power text, Genesis 18:19:

"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him" (Genesis 18:19, NIV).

Today we are learning that

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Father, I Adore You" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 32)
"Behold What Manner of Love" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 42)
"We Are the Family of God" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 114)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins
- ☐ letter to parents (p. 144)

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place. Send a letter to the parents, informing them about the mission offering (see p. 144).

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering box/basket
- ☐ variety of faces

Cover a box with faces of people. Choose a variety of ages and backgrounds to reflect your family community. Say: **Giving an offering is one way of helping others to learn of God's love and become part of God's family.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ tree outline
- ☐ paper leaves
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ tape

Have a branch "planted" in a pot to form a tree or an outline of a tree on the wall that you can use for three weeks. Distribute leaf-shaped pieces of paper. Say: **We all have a place on God's family tree. His tree includes everyone. Write a name of someone in your immediate or extended family that you would especially like to remember in prayer and then hang it on God's family tree.** Pray for each of the individuals on the leaves and for each family represented. Pray that each person will discover God's special plan for them. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **Has your family ever moved to a new neighborhood or a new city? How did you feel?** If there are students who have never moved say: **Imagine after church your dad told you that you were going to move to a new country. How would you feel? What would you miss most? How could moving be part of God's special plan for you and your family? In our lesson today God asked one family to move to fulfill His special plan for their lives.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ copies of script (p. 145)

Experiencing the Story

Ask students to take turns reading aloud Genesis 11:10-12:9. Then choose two students to play the parts of Abraham and Sarah and one person to be the narrator. Prepare a copy of the script from page 145 for each participant.

Debriefing

Ask: **How have you seen God lead your family? What do you feel is God's plan for your family? Are you always happy with what your family does? Why or why not? Why do you think it is important to ask God's will for your family's decisions? Remember:**

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.

Exploring the Bible

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Divide students into six groups and ask each group to research a Bible family. Have them read the following Bible texts and then answer the questions:

1. 1 Samuel 1 (Samuel)
2. 1 Samuel 2:12-17; 1 Samuel 3:11-14 (Eli)
3. Exodus 2:1-10 (Moses)
4. Luke 1:5-17, 56-66; Luke 3:1-18 (John the Baptist)
5. Judges 13; Judges 16:23-30 (Samson)
6. Genesis 6:9-22 (Noah)

- What was God's plan for that family?
- Did they follow the plan?
- What was the reason for their success or failure?

Ask: **What made the difference between those families that succeeded and those that failed?**

Say: **God had a plan for each family. We are part of that plan. Let's say together our power text, Genesis 18:19,**

"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him" (Genesis 18:19, NIV).

Alternative Activity

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Divide the students into four groups. Distribute to each group one of the following genealogies: Matthew 1:2-16; Ruth 4:18-22; Genesis 35:22-26; Genesis 25:1-4.

Say: **In the Bible there are many genealogies. A genealogy lists someone's ancestors. Make a diagram of the genealogy you are assigned and underline the names of those people you recognize and know something about. Try to identify God's special plan for that family through all the generations.**

Ask each group to share with the rest what special plan God had for the family they researched. Say: **God has plans for our families as well, and each member of the family has a special role to play.**

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.

Family Puzzles

YOU NEED:
- ☐ pens or pencils
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ photocopied paper puzzle

Divide the students into pairs. Provide each student with a pen or pencil, access to a pair of scissors, and a "blank" puzzle outline. (On a sheet of paper draw sections that resemble a jigsaw puzzle. Photocopy it so you have enough for one per student.)

Instruct the students to think of names of persons within their extended family, and in each puzzle piece write the name of a family member and one thing that "family" member uniquely contributes. When they have filled in each puzzle piece, ask them to carefully cut apart the sections of their puzzle and exchange puzzle pieces with their partner.

Each partner will then put the other's family puzzle together, discovering the names and contributions that ultimately contribute to God's larger family.

Say: **Our power point reminds us that**

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Missing Piece

Invite students to share with the class their experiences from the past week. Ask: **Whom did you contact among your family members or relatives to let them know how much they mean to you? How did they respond to your call or letter or visit? How do you normally show your family members that you care and love them?**

Continue with the family puzzle idea, asking each pair to take a look at their family puzzles and see if there is anyone in either puzzle who might not know that they are a part of God's plan for the family they are in. Ask the pair to brainstorm ways that they might help that family member realize how very "planned for" they are and how beautifully they belong to God's family.

Say: **Remember our power point:**

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Close with a prayer that each student will be able to share the beauty of God's plan with other members of their family.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Abraham and Lot part ways. When we put others first, we help resolve conflict.**

Notes

Student lesson

A Family Tree of God's Love

Has anyone ever said to you, "You look just like . . . ?" Have you ever thought that it is more than looks that get passed on from one generation to the next? Faith and family customs are also passed on from one generation to the next.

A family reunion suddenly comes alive when the great-aunts drag out the tattered pictures from many years ago. You find that you look amazingly like Grandma when she was your age.

Sometimes those photographs are all we have to connect us to our ancestors. Many times we don't know their stories or even their complete names. But even if we don't know much about our forefathers, some of their traits still live on in us.

While ancestors may not seem particularly important to some people today, that was not the case in Old Testament times. The family was the most important part of society. We can see that in the long genealogies the Bible records in several places, including Genesis 11. Each father and son is carefully noted and remembered. What is important is that we can see traits that were passed down from parents to children.

Thanks to a careful record of genealogy, Abraham knew his ancestry all the way back to Adam. His line traced backward through Shem, Noah, Methuselah, Enoch, and Seth, the son of Adam. These godly men had established a family history of serving God. That tradition had been passed down to Abraham. Through his family Abraham came to know and love God. Even though he lived in a heathen society and was surrounded by idol worship, Abraham worshipped only Jehovah.

Abraham lived at a time when a large family was considered a blessing from God. But God-fearing Abraham and his wife, Sarah, had no children. That must have been a terrible disappointment to them. Perhaps they wondered why God was denying them the special joy of parenthood. Then one day God spoke to Abraham.

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you," said God (Genesis 12:2, NIV). What a promise! The promise of many children! After all those years of childlessness, that must have been enough to excite Abraham. But there was more.

"I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. . . . All peoples on earth will be blessed through you," God continued (verses 2, 3, NIV). Abraham and his children had been selected for a special purpose. God had great plans for Abraham's family. He and his children and his children's children were given the special job of showing God's love to the surrounding nations. One day, far in the future, one of his own line would be born in a manger and die on a cross so all people could be saved. What a tremendous honor for Abraham's family.

But first there was something else. "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you," said God (verse 1, NIV). God wanted Abraham to leave his heathen surroundings. Abraham's family was to be special. God wanted them to live differently. God had a special plan for them.

The rest of the Old Testament is the story of Abraham's family. Just as God promised, his descendants became a great nation—the Jewish people. The blessings God promised to Abraham were given to generation after generation of his children. During their greatest period their fame spread far. Rulers from other countries even came to visit to find the secret to their success.

Family traits are still handed down from generation to generation. God still has great plans for families today. It is in our families that we first learn to feel and give love. It is there that we first learn about God. Our families are the place where we discover the special talents God gives to each of us. We can thank God for our families and for the blessings we receive through them.

KEY REFERENCES

- Genesis 11:10-12:9
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 11, pp. 125-131
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 133-137; 142-147
- Our Beliefs, nos. 23, 14, 11

POWER TEXT

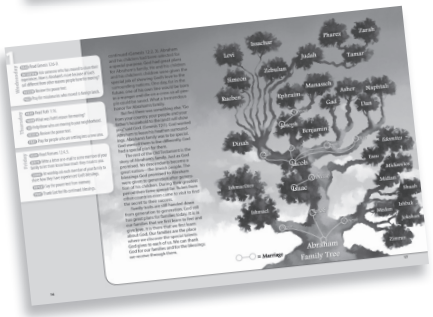
"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him" (Genesis 18:19, NIV).

POWER POINT

We each play an important part in God's plan for our family.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 18.

Sunday

READ Read Genesis 11:10–26 and this week's story, "A Family Tree of God's Love."

WRITE Write out the power text on a tree shape. Put it where you can see it regularly so you may learn it.

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

PRAY Pray for your immediate family.

Monday

READ Read Genesis 11:27–32.

CREATE Create a family tree going back as far as possible. Who are the people on your family tree?

DRAW Draw a Bible beside anyone on your family tree that you know is a Christian.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for your wider family: cousins, aunts, uncles.

Tuesday

READ Read Genesis 12:1-5.

DISCOVER What did Abraham have to do to receive God's promised blessing?

LIST God may not ask you to move physically, but there may be things that He wants you to move away from. In your Bible study journal, list things from which you need to move away in order to remain close to God.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to remove from your life anything that represents an obstacle between you and Him.

Wednesday

READ Read Genesis 12:6–9.

INTERVIEW Ask someone who has moved to share their experiences. How is Abraham's move because of God's call different from other reasons people have for moving?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for missionaries who moved to foreign lands.

Thursday

READ Read Ruth 1:16.

THINK What was Ruth's reason for moving?

DO Help those who are moving to your neighborhood.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for people who are settling into a new area.

Friday

READ Read Romans 12:4, 5.

WRITE Write a letter or e-mail to some member of your family to let them know how much they mean to you.

SHARE At worship, ask each member of your family to share how they have experienced God's blessings.

REPEAT Say the power text from memory.

PRAY Thank God for His continued blessings.