

LIVING  
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS



# STARTERS

Beginners • Age Birth to 6 • Teacher Guide

May • June • July • August • 2023



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## 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: Jacob's Family

### Unit Description:

#### UNIT THEME: FAMILY

The May lessons will allow **Beginners** to understand the ways in which family members can care for each other and that God is pleased when we take care of our family members.

### Unit Central Truth:

God is pleased when we take care of our family members.

### Unit Teaching Aim:

**Beginners** will discover ways in which they can take care of family members as they learn how God took care of Jacob's family.

### Unit Beginner Needs:

- ✂ to know that family members should treat each other well
- ✂ to understand that God wants them to forgive family members
- ✂ to know that God is pleased when they treat family members well

May 7  
2023

#### Lesson Title: Jacob Is Unkind

Scripture: Genesis 25:29-34

Bible Thought: Do what is right and good.

Based on Deuteronomy 6:18

May 14  
2023

#### Lesson Title: Rebekah Helps Jacob

Scripture: Genesis 27:41-45, 28:1-5

Bible Thought: A mother cares for her child.

Based on Isaiah 66:13

May 21  
2023

#### Lesson Title: Jacob Dreams

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-22

Bible Thought: God said, "I am with you."

Based on Genesis 28:15

May 28  
2023

#### Lesson Title: Jacob Meets His Uncle

Scripture: Genesis 29:1-14

Bible Thought: Be kind to one another.

Based on Ephesians 4:32

JACOB'S FAMILY—MAY 2023



**SESSION 1:** Make sock puppets of each character from the story. Use the puppets to tell the Bible story of Jacob and Esau. Tell the story simply. Sing “I’ll Be Kind” on page 77 in *CariSing*.

**SESSION 1:** *BLOCK*—Do the **BLOCK ACTIVITY** on page 6 in the *Teacher Guide*. Use the puppets to tell the story of Jacob and Esau briefly. Sing “I’ll Be Kind” on page 77 in *CariSing*.

**SESSION 2:** Provide a blanket or sheet for the babies to sit on or lie. Prepare six 12-by-12-inch letter cards from stiff paper. Write a letter of the word, MOTHER, on each card. Say: Today is Mothers’ Day. God wants mothers to care for their children and to love them. Briefly tell the Bible Story. Sing “When I Was a Baby” on page 86 in *CariSing*.

**SESSION 2:** *ART*—Do the **ART ACTIVITY** on page 9 in the *Teacher Guide*. Say: Rebekah was Esau and Jacob’s mother. She wanted to protect her son Jacob. We should love our mothers and other women who take care of us. Sing “When I Was a Baby” on page 86 in *CariSing*.

**SESSION 3:** Along with your assistants, sing “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”. Help the babies to clasp and unclasp their hands as you sing. Say: Stars come out at night. When Jacob went to sleep one night, God spoke to him in a dream. God loved Jacob, even when he did wrong things. Tell the Bible story briefly.

**SESSION 3:** *NATURE*—Do the **NATURE ACTIVITY** on page 12 in the *Teacher Guide*. **Do not give the children the safety pin.** Rather, bore the holes in the paper for them. Have the children hold up the star gazers to the light to see the ‘stars’. Tell the Bible story briefly. Sing “God Has a Plan” on page 112 in *CariSing*.

**SESSION 4:** Provide stuffed animals and other toys for the babies. Ensure that the toys are not broken or dirty. Place a clean sheet or blanket on the floor and, then, lay the toys on it. Put the babies on the mat. As they play, encourage them to share toys with one another. Tell the Bible story briefly.

**SESSION 4:** *ART*—Make copies of the *Teaching Picture*, “Jacob Meets Laban”. Provide crayons and markers for the children. Have them colour the picture. Lead them in a brief discussion about what they see in the picture and, then, tell the Bible story briefly. Sing “The Family” on page 66 in *CariSing*.

**Unit Title:** JACOB'S FAMILY

**Lesson Title:** JACOB IS UNKIND

**Scripture:**

GENESIS 25:29-34

**Bible Thought:** Do what is right and good.

*Based on Deuteronomy 6:18*

**Central Truth:** Family members can cause trouble when they do unkind things to one another.

**Aim:** **Beginners** will understand that family members should be kind to each other to prevent trouble in the family.



### BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Isaac and Rebekah's twin sons were Esau and Jacob. Esau was older than Jacob. One day, Esau came home tired and hungry from possibly a full day of hunting. Esau asked Jacob to share with him some of the stew he had prepared. Jacob selfishly sought to take advantage of his brother's hunger. He asked Esau to sell him his birthright in exchange for the food. Esau, thinking that he was about to die anyway, agreed to Jacob's terms. Jacob, however, was not satisfied until Esau swore an oath to him (Genesis 25:33 NIV), thereby solidifying their agreement.

In ancient times, a verbal agreement was as legally binding as a written contract. Jacob was aware that the birthright entitled the firstborn son to a double portion of the father's inheritance. In addition, the firstborn became the head of the household and the priest of the home (Deuteronomy 21:17); thus, the firstborn commanded a greater level of respect and had more influence and responsibility when the father died.

By willingly exchanging his birthright for the temporary satisfaction of having a meal, it seems that Esau forgot the value of it. His actions were impulsive and irrational. Even though the pot of stew must have smelt irresistible, it was unlikely that he would have died of hunger from denying himself that meal.

Jacob, which means 'heel grabber' (Genesis 25:26), saw an opportunity to gain dominion and took it by exploiting Esau in his weakened state. Family members sometimes take advantage of and manipulate each other. This is not what God wants as it creates great discord within the family. God wants us to be our brother's keeper (Genesis 4:9). Instead of mistreating each other, we should strive to demonstrate kindness and show God's love to one another.

#### REFLECTION

Think of ways in which you can use Esau's wrong actions to help **Beginners** learn that they should treat their family members well.



## GET READY TO TEACH



- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help **Beginners** to:
  - † understand that God is displeased when we mistreat family members
  - † be aware that they must be kind to family members
  - † identify ways in which family members can treat each other kindly
- 2) Complete the tasks listed in the **Unit Preparation** and **Lesson Preparation Checklists** on page 2. Make copies of the *Teaching Picture*, “Jacob Is Unkind” and, then, colour it.
- 3) Collect all the materials needed for the lesson. Ensure that there is enough to be shared among the children.
- 4) Learn the song, “I’ll Be Kind”, on page 77 in *CariSing*.
- 5) Arrange the teaching-learning space to allow the children to move freely from one **Activity Area** to another.
- 6) **Block Activity Area:** Provide tissue rolls, markers, glue, crayons and yarn.
- 7) **Art Activity Area:** Provide pencils, crayons and a sheet of white paper for each child.
- 8) **Homeliving Activity Area:** Provide play dough. (Make play dough by combining 1 cup flour, 1/4 cup salt, 1 tablespoon cooking oil and food colouring. Mix ingredients with enough water to make a soft, but not sticky dough.)



## TEACH THE LESSON



### **LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS** (About 30 minutes)

As the children enter, greet them with a smile. Call each by name, mark the register and collect the offering.

#### **BLOCK ACTIVITY AREA**

- ▶ Give each child a tissue roll, lengths of yarn and glue. Tell the children that they will be making finger puppets.
- ▶ Help the children to glue the lengths of yarn to the tissue roll for the hair. Then, encourage them to use the markers to draw eyes, arms and hands onto the puppet. Praise them for their efforts.
- ▶ Have them use the puppets to enact the story among themselves.

#### **ART ACTIVITY AREA**

- ▶ Give each child a sheet of paper, a pencil and some crayons. Have the children fold the paper in half and then fold the half into a quarter.
  - ▶ Let the children open their papers completely. They will see four squares once the paper is opened.
  - ▶ Instruct them to draw in each square a different picture showing someone doing kind things, like sharing his or her food.
- Say: Jacob was unkind to his brother Esau. God does not want us to be unkind to others, especially those in our family. We must be kind to everyone.

## HOMELIVING ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Give each child a piece of playdough to make models of Jacob and Esau. Then, give them pieces of dough and have them mould food items also.
- ▶ Arrange the children in pairs or small groups. Have them enact, using their playdough figures, ways in which family members can share a meal amongst themselves. Praise them for their efforts.
- ▶ Say: God wants us to share what we have with the persons in our family.

**Clean-up Time:** As you tidy the teaching-learning area, have the children help you by picking up the waste materials and putting them in the bin.

## WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE LARGE GROUP (About 15 minutes)

- ✚ Display the *Teaching Picture* and **BIBLE THOUGHT** at the children's eye level.
- ✚ Teach the song, "I'll Be Kind".
- ✚ Teach the **BIBLE THOUGHT** by helping the **Beginners** to read it several times. Then, hide the strip and encourage the children to say the **THOUGHT** on their own. Praise them for their effort.
- ✚ Before you tell the story, explain the word "firstborn" by saying that the first baby whom Mommy and Daddy have is called the firstborn son or daughter.

### JACOB IS UNKIND

Esau and Jacob were twin brothers. They looked very different. They loved to do different things, too. Esau loved to be outside. He loved to hunt. Jacob was quiet. Maybe he liked to help his mother at home.

One day, Jacob was at home cooking a tasty stew. Esau came home while Jacob was cooking. Esau was very hungry and wanted some of the stew.

"Jacob," Esau said, "I am very hungry. Give me some of the stew that you are cooking." Jacob said, "Esau, sell me your birthright. Then, I will give you some of the stew." A birthright is a special gift which a father gives to his firstborn son. Esau was the first son to be born to their father, Isaac.

"Alright, Jacob," Esau replied. "I will sell my birthright to you." Then, Esau made Jacob a promise, giving him his birthright. In return, Jacob gave Esau some of the stew with bread.

Jacob did a bad thing. He tricked Esau into giving him his birthright for food! That did not please their father, Isaac. God was not pleased either. God wants us to show kindness to others, especially to the members of our family.

We show our family members that we love them when we do kind things for them.

### Closing Time



**Discuss** the *Teaching Picture*. Then, give each child some crayons and a copy of the *Teaching Picture*. Encourage the children to colour the picture.

**Ask** questions about the story.

**Have** the children form a circle and dismiss the class with a short prayer.

**Unit Title:**

JACOB'S FAMILY

**Lesson Title:****REBEKAH HELPS JACOB****Scripture:**

GENESIS 27:41-45; 28:1-5

**Bible Thought:** A mother cares for her child. *Based on Isaiah 66:13***Central Truth:** God wants mothers to protect their children from danger.**Aim:** **Beginners** will understand how they can show love and gratitude for what their mothers do for them.**BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS**

It seemed that Rebekah never forgot the promise that God had made that her older son, Esau, would serve her younger son, Jacob (Genesis 25:23). One day, Rebekah overheard her husband, Isaac, asking Esau to make special preparations in order to receive his birthright (27:1-10). Jacob was Rebekah's favourite son. She did not wait on God to keep His promise. Unwisely, Rebekah encouraged Jacob to impersonate Esau and receive Isaac's blessing (27:6-17). Esau, therefore, lost his birthright and his blessing (v. 35).

When Esau discovered that Jacob had stolen both his blessing and his birthright, he was enraged and hated his brother. He vowed to kill Jacob when their father died. When word of Esau's plan reached Rebekah, she realised that she could lose her favourite son. Rebekah was determined to protect Jacob.

She encouraged Jacob to seek sanctuary with her brother, Laban, in Haran until Esau's anger subsided. Rebekah convinced Isaac to send Jacob away under the pretense of finding a suitable wife from among her own people. Isaac blessed Jacob accordingly (Genesis 28:1-4).

Though it was Rebekah's actions that helped to further deepen the discord between the brothers, her plot to send Jacob away protected them both. If Esau had killed Jacob, he might have suffered a fate similar to Cain's when he killed Abel. Unknown to Rebekah, the time apart helped Esau and Jacob to be reconciled later on (Genesis 33:1-12).

A mother may not recognise her mistakes at the time they occur. When she does, however, she should endeavour to make amends. Even if there is a child whom she likes more than the others, a wise mother will never allow her children to sense it. True love should override favouritism.

**REFLECTION**

How can you help the **Beginners** to be thankful for their mothers and other women who take care of them?



## GET READY TO TEACH



- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help **Beginners** to:
  - ✦ thank God for mothers and other women who protect them
  - ✦ identify ways in which their mothers take care of them
  - ✦ love and obey their mothers and the women who take care of them
- 2) Complete the tasks listed in the **Unit Preparation** and **Lesson Preparation Checklists** on page 2.
- 3) Collect all the materials needed for the lesson. Colour the *Teaching Picture*, “A Mother Loves”.
- 4) Write the **BIBLE THOUGHT** on stiff paper.
- 5) Learn the song, “When I Was a Baby”, on page 66 in *CariSing*.
- 6) Arrange the teaching-learning space to allow the children to move freely from one **Activity Area** to another.
- 7) **Art Activity Area:** Provide stiff paper, glue, glitter, markers, pictures from old postcards or magazines, newspaper and scissors. The **Beginners** will make *Mother’s Day* cards.
- 8) **Homeliving Activity Area:** Provide sheets or blankets, pillow cases, stuffed animals or dolls and items of clothing to dress them.
- 9) **Nature Activity Area:** Prepare to take the children outdoors for a nature walk.



## TEACH THE LESSON



### **LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS** (About 30 minutes)

As **Beginners** arrive, greet each one by name. Welcome the visitors. Record their names in the register and thank them for coming. Lead them to an **Activity Area**.

#### **ART ACTIVITY AREA**

- ▶ Spread newspaper over the area where the children will work. Give each child a sheet of stiff paper, a picture, glue and glitter.
- ▶ Have the children fold the paper in half and, then, paste their picture to the front of their leaflet. Help them to write the **BIBLE THOUGHT** on the inside of their card. Then, allow them to use the glue and glitter to decorate their *Mother’s Day* cards freely.
- ▶ Say: Today is *Mother’s Day*. God wants us to honour and respect our mothers or the women who help to take care of us. Give your mother this card and tell her that you love her.

#### **HOMELIVING ACTIVITY AREA**

- ▶ Display all the items for the children to see. Say: Today, we are going to show each other some ways in which we see Mommy or Aunty or Grandma take care of us and our home.
- ▶ Have the children use tables or chairs to demonstrate how to make the bed and, then, use the clothing to dress the dolls or stuffed animals. Praise them for their effort.

### NATURE ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Take the children outside for a brief nature walk, allowing them to observe their surroundings and note the various plants, flowers and birds.
- ▶ Ask: Does your Mommy or the woman who takes care of you do the gardening? How can you help her when she is gardening? If needed, guide the discussion by giving examples, like watering the plants.
- ▶ After the discussion, have a brief time of organised games with the **Beginners**.

**Clean-up Time:** Lead the **Beginners** to clean up their **Activity Area**. Thank them for helping. Bring them together for **Worship Time**.

### WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE LARGE GROUP (About 15 minutes)

- † Display the *Teaching Picture* and **BIBLE THOUGHT** at the children's eye level.
- † Encourage the children to tell one thing that they enjoyed doing in their **Activity Area**.
- † Teach the song, "When I Was a Baby".
- † Teach the **BIBLE THOUGHT**.
- † As you tell the Bible story, maintain eye contact with the children.

### REBEKAH HELPS JACOB

Esau was very angry with his brother, Jacob. Their father, Isaac, was to give a special blessing to him as the firstborn son. A firstborn son is the first baby boy to be born to a mother and father. But Jacob had tricked Isaac into blessing him instead. Esau was angry with Jacob for stealing his special blessing. Esau planned to kill Jacob when their father died.

Their mother, Rebekah, heard what Esau was planning. Rebekah had to protect Jacob. Rebekah did not want Esau to kill him.

Rebekah said, "Jacob, you must leave quickly. Esau wants to kill you! Go to my brother, Laban. He will protect you." Jacob obeyed his mother. He got ready to go to his Uncle Laban's house.

Isaac said a special prayer for Jacob before he left. Then, Jacob travelled to the town where Uncle Laban lived.

Jacob must have been happy that his mother protected him. We must thank God for our mothers who take care of us. God wants us to love and obey our mothers and the other women who help to take care of us.

### Closing Time

**Discuss** the *Teaching Picture*.

**Ask** questions about the story, such as: Why was Esau angry with Jacob? What did Esau plan to do to Jacob? What did Jacob's mother tell him to do?

**Ask** for a volunteer to say the closing prayer.

**Dismiss** the class and let the **Beginners** leave in an orderly way.



# TRIBUTE

to the late

## Reverend Samuel Vernon and Mrs. Maeve Vernon

**W**e recall with great gratitude the contribution of Reverend Samuel Vernon and his precious wife Maeve for over 50 years. Mrs. Vernon passed in October 2021 and Rev Vernon a year later, both after a lifetime of stellar service to Christian ministry spanning Jamaica, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, British Columbia and finally the USA.

In 1970, Caribbean churches formed the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, which then became a regional grouping of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). Reverend Vernon was elected chair of the Literature and Publications Committee of the CBF. The committee was tasked with producing, publishing and circulating the Caribbean Baptist News and Information Journal. This he did ably and effectively assisted by his wife Maeve.

The CBF came to recognise the need for culturally relevant Bible study materials for the region's Sunday Schools. The Literature Committee formed a sub-committee to spearhead this project. This sub-committee was also chaired by Reverend Vernon and was charged with publishing biblically grounded, educationally sound, and culturally relevant, age-graded Bible study material. These came to be known as Caribbean Bible Lessons (CBL), which were first published in 1976. By 1980 the work of the committee led to the foundation of a newly formed CBF agency called Caribbean Christian Publications (CCP). In 1989 CCP relocated from El Paso in Texas to Hollywood, Florida.

In lieu of the occupancy permit, Reverend Vernon, Pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Florida graciously made available a section of the church's educational building to serve as a temporary literature production office. In addition, Mrs. Vernon joined the editorial staff and used her computer, literary and creative skills to the benefit of the literature ministry.

This ministry, which has produced Christian discipleship literature in the region for some 45 years, is a part of the legacy left by Reverend Samuel Vernon and Mrs. Maeve Vernon. Caribbean churches and people will forever be in their debt. To God be the Glory.

*Adapted from a tribute by Reverend Arthur Edgar presented at a memorial service held at Parkway Baptist Church in October 2022.*

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