Special Mothers in the Bible

A lesson to celebrate mothers everywhere, for Mother's Day or anytime of the year. Children learn about three special mothers in the Bible and take home special gifts for their own mothers.

TOPICS
Mother's Day, Family

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)
Who is my Mommy? (Coloring Activity) page 7

BIBLE VERSE (5 minutes)
"Honor your father and your mother." Exodus 20:12a NIV
Explain what honor is. Some of the children may be familiar with the ten commandments and may remember that this is one of them. Help the children understand that to honor your parents means to be nice to them, love them, and obey them even when you don't want to. Honor also means to appreciate everything your mom and dad do for you, and to show it by the way you act around them and other people. Also be mindful of children that may not have one or the other parent, or may be living with other relatives. This command still has application for whoever is raising the child.

Discussion Questions:
1. What does the Bible say we should do for our mom and dad? *(Honor them.)*
2. How can we show mom and dad that we honor them? *(By being nice, loving, polite, and by obeying.)*
3. Why do you think honoring your parents is important to God? *(Allow for answers.)*

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)
Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story about three amazing mommies.

Introduction:
Today, we are going to read about three special mothers in the Bible. There are many, many more, but we don't have time to cover all of the special moms mentioned in the Bible. So today, we will take a closer look at Eve, the first mother, Sarai also known as Sarah, the mother of Isaac, and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Amazing Mommies (Story) page 3-4

Discussion Questions:
1. What is the name of the very first mommy in the Bible? *(Eve.)*
2. What is the name of Jesus' mom? *(Mary.)*
3. Who was very, very old when she became a mommy? *(Sarai.)*
4. Who helped all of these mommies have children? *(God.)*
5. How many names of sons mentioned in our story can you remember? *(Cain, Abel, Seth, Isaac, Jesus.)*
6. Why are these mommies so special and amazing? *(Besides what is mentioned in the story, encourage the children to share their own thoughts as to why these women are special.)*
7. Do you know someone who is special and amazing? Who? Why? *(Allow for answers.)*

FUN TIME (10 minutes)
Naomi's Basket (Activity/Craft) page 5-6
Children who arrive early can help with the preparation, such as cutting out the Care Cards or hiding the boxes in the classroom

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)
Mother May I (Game)
As the children are waiting to be picked up, play a traditional game of "Mother May I." Give a Biblical twist to the names of steps, for example: Goliath Step (giant step); Baby Jesus Step (baby step); Frog Hop (bunny hop); Virgin Mary Step (normal step), etc.

Game Rules:
Have the children line up along one wall of the room

Special Mothers in the Bible

Choose an older person to be "Mother"
Mother selects any child at random, and says for example, "Jamie, you may take 2 goliath steps"
Mother can choose any number and any type of step.
Child must say "Mother may I." If the child forgets, he or she must return to the start.
First child to touch Mother wins the game.

AMAZING MOMMIES

Mother's Day is a great time to remind the children how mothers are special. This story is about some mothers found in the Bible, who we honor and remember for whom they really are: amazing mommies.

TOPICS:
Family, Mother's Day

DURATION:
Approximately 10 minutes

A long time ago, when God first created the world, it was just the land and sea and the animals that lived there. Then God decided to create the first man, who he named Adam. Adam became the companion and friend of many animals.

One day, God decided that Adam needed a different kind of companion. So He put Adam to sleep and pulled a rib from his body to help form a woman. God created the woman especially for Adam, and she was perfect. Adam loved her and named her Eve. She became the first mother and named her first two sons Cain and Abel. Later, she had another son and named him Seth. This first woman and wife of Adam was very special because she was created out of the first man on earth.

Many hundreds of years later, after Eve, another special woman came along. We know her as Sarai, the wife of Abraham. Sarai was a faithful wife and she loved the Lord very much. According to the Bible though, Sarai was very old, as old as or even older than any grandmother we know, and she didn't have any children. But one day God told Abraham that he will be the father of all nations through his wife Sarai who was going to give birth to a son shortly.

God promised Abraham that his sons will be as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the sea. Sarai was concerned because she knew that she was too old to bear a child, let alone be the mother of countless children. She looked at herself and counted the folds in her old skin.

"It's impossible, I am just too old," Sarai laughed at the thought.

But God, who created all things out of nothing said to Abraham, "Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time, and Sarai will have a son."

After many weeks and months, God fulfilled his promise by letting Sarai bear her first child, who they named Isaac. After Isaac was born, Sarai praised and loved the Lord more because of the blessing of a son. Sarai will always remind us of God's promise, that we can be one of the many children that God calls his sons and daughters.

Many years passed after Sarai gave birth to Isaac. One year, two years, three years, and hundreds of years afterwards, an angel of the Lord came to visit another amazing woman. Her name was Mary. She was destined to become the wife of a young man named Joseph. But before she could marry him, Gabriel the angel told Mary that God will bless her by having a really, really, special son.

"How can this be?" she asked the angel.

"Mary, since you are faithful to the Lord, He has favored you to bear His one and only Son," the angel replied.

And so Mary, because she was special, became the amazing mother of the one we call the King of all Kings, Lord of all Lords, and most of all, Savior of mankind. When Mary gave birth to Him, she put Him in a manger, yet

all the angels in Heaven rejoiced with praises and singing. Magis came and gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Mary felt so blessed and special because of her child. Can you guess Mary's son's name?

God blessed us all through these amazing mommies. First God gave us Eve, then He created many special mommies finally ending with Mary, the mother of Jesus. And there are many more amazing mommies in the Bible. Because God blessed many women, we can be thankful that he also blessed us to have mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and sisters who love us and care for us in so many ways.

THE END

NAOMI'S BASKET

Children will have fun gathering goodies and Care Cards for their moms, just as Ruth gathered food for herself and Naomi.

TOPICS:
Caring, Kindness, Love, Mother's Day, Ruth

MATERIALS:
Clear plastic cups
Ball of heavy duty jute twine
Care cards page 8
Assorted candy, stickers, pencils
Mini silk flowers (from craft store)
Several small boxes
½ yard brown burlap (optional)
Glue gun and glue

DURATION:
Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:
Before class, print enough "Care Cards" so each child can collect several for their basket. Purchase or obtain the other items as well to be placed in the baskets.

Make baskets in advance out of plastic cups, decorating with approximately 2 yards of jute twine by gluing the twine around the middle section of cups several times. Then poke holes on top of the cup at opposite ends, and use about 12 inches of twine to make handles. (see example.) Baskets should only be constructed by adults.

Note: Use caution when using hot glue. Paper cups wrapped with brown burlap material is a good alternate, but the baskets will not be as sturdy.

Fill different boxes with candy, stickers, flowers, pencils, and "Care Cards". Place the boxes in different places around the room.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:
The children move around the room to where you placed the boxes, and fill their baskets with goodies.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:
Another very special mom in the Bible is Ruth. Does anyone know who Ruth is? She lived a long time ago, long before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Her mother-in-law was named Naomi, and Ruth loved her very much. Even after her husband died, Ruth went with Naomi to live in Bethlehem, so she could take care of her.

Ruth showed how much she cared by gathering food and presenting it to Naomi. She never complained about the hard work and didn't even mind that Naomi was not her real mom. God blessed Ruth, through a man named Boaz who later became her husband. Ruth became the mother of Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David.

Just like Ruth, we should always remember that mothers are important in our lives and that we should always love, respect, and obey them.

(Give each child an empty basket) On this Mother's Day, we will gather up treats for our moms, just like Ruth did when she took care of her mother-in-law. Hidden around the room are boxes filled with different items. Take one item out of each box, and place it into your basket. One box has some "Care Cards." Take two or three of these "Care Cards," and place them in your basket as well. You will take your "Naomi's Basket" gift home with you as a special gift for your mom.
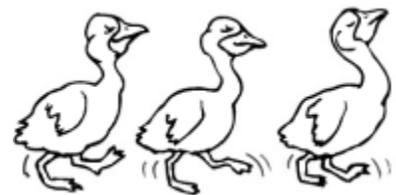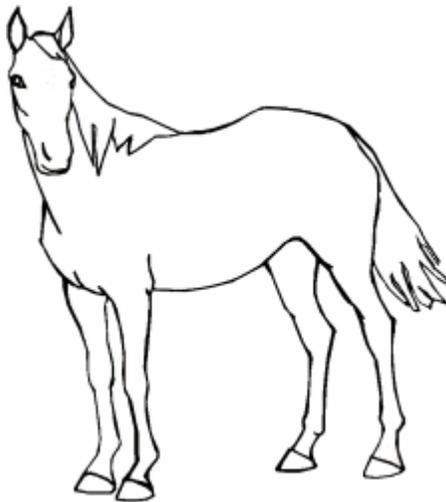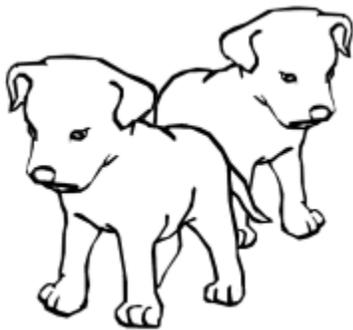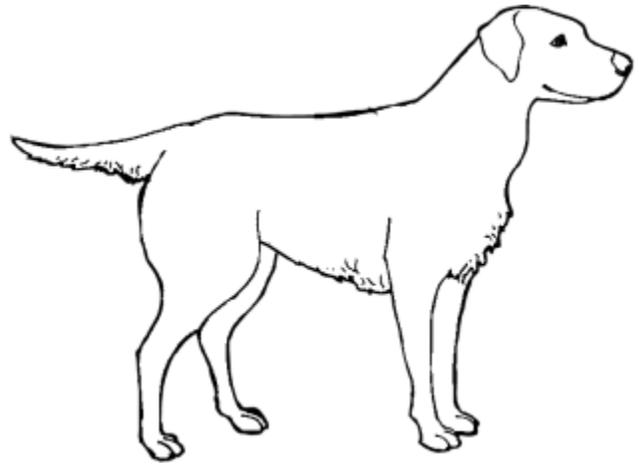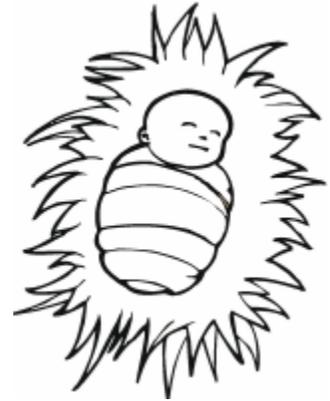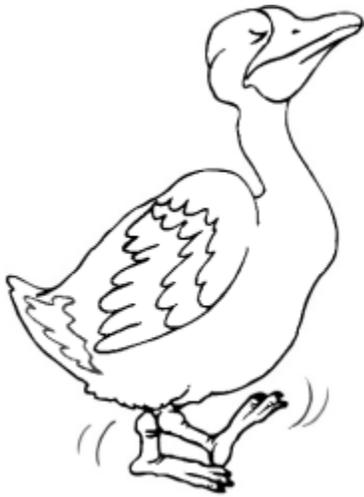
Who is My Mommy?

Draw a line connecting the babies with their correct mommy, then color the pictures.

Instructions:
Cut out each "Care Card" and place in one or more boxes.

TODAY IS HUGS AND KISSES DAY

I WILL EAT ALL OF MY FOOD

I WILL PUT AWAY MY TOYS

I WILL OBEY AND NOT ARGUE

I WILL READ YOU A BOOK

TODAY IS HUGS AND KISSES DAY

I WILL OBEY AND NOT ARGUE

I WILL PUT AWAY MY TOYS