

Blessing Bearers

Bible Lesson: Genesis 11:1-9

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will have basic understanding of how the confusion of languages at the tower of Babel fits into God's overarching purpose to make his name known to all the nations.

Outcomes

1. Students will be able to explain "God's Story Bookmarks" #1-3.
2. Students will be able to state one way in which God has made them rich or blessed them so that they can be generous and bless others.

Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 9:11a "You will be made rich in every way so that you can always give freely [be generous] ..." (NIRV)

Directions

Note: The snack – "Blessed to Be a Blessing" Bars (pp. 10-12) – includes an object lesson which needs to follow immediately after this Bible lesson.

1. Use the DVD to review the words and motions for the "Two Little Hands" finger play.
2. Use the DVD to review the words and motions for the songs, "My Name Will Be Great" and "Rich in Every Way."
3. Retrieve "God's Story Bookmarks" #1-3.



PREPARATION: 15 min.

TEACHING: 30 min.

Materials

- "God's Story Bookmarks" #1-3 (Introduction p. 23)
- "Two Little Hands" finger play (AS)
- "Rich in Every Way" song (MS)
- "My Name Will Be Great" song (MS)
- TV/DVD player
- wall map or globe

TEACHING (CORE)

FINGER PLAY: TWO LITTLE HANDS

Genesis 3:8b-9 “They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called out to the man. ‘Where are you?’” (NIRV)

Directions

1. Move to the area where the children will hear the Bible lesson each week.
2. Have the students stand in a circle. Play the DVD.
3. As you say each line, have the students do the motions with you, ending up with students seated in a circle with hands folded.

REVIEW: GOD’S STORY BOOKMARKS

Directions

1. Open your Bible, fold out bookmark #1, and say, “*Do you remember the words and motions for this first bookmark? What part of God’s story does it tell?*”
2. Allow time for responses, and then say, “*Yes, we clasp our hands, as if shaking hands with a good friend and say, ‘In the beginning, God created a strong friendship with people.’*”
3. Fold out bookmark #2 and ask, “*What part of God’s story does this bookmark tell?*” Allow time for response.
4. Lead students to review the motions and words for this bookmark: Break clasped hands apart and cover eyes with hands. Repeat the sentence, “*People sinned and broke this friendship with God.*”
5. Tell students, “*Adam and Eve listened to the serpent’s evil plan. They disobeyed God and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve broke their strong friendship with God. Our memory verse says that God came looking for Adam and Eve after they disobeyed.*”
6. Say, “*Let’s review Genesis 3:8-9. It starts out talking about Adam and Eve, ‘They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called out ... ‘Where are you?’ (Genesis 3:8-9)’*”
7. Continue, “*God made Adam and Eve leave the garden. Their sin separated them from God, which made them very sad. Now, all people start out life separated from God.*”
8. Ask, “*But is that the end of the story? Will people always be separated from God, or did he give a promise?*”
9. Allow time for response and then continue, “*God promised to send a Son who would win over the serpent’s evil plan. God has more power than anyone else. God had the winning plan in mind even from the very beginning!*”
10. Fold out bookmark #3 and continue, “*Today we will learn the next part of God’s story.*” Lead students to review the motions and words for this

Materials

- “Two Little Hands” finger play (AS)
- TV/DVD player

Materials

- Bible
- “God’s Story Bookmarks” #1-3 (Introduction p. 23)

bookmark. Raise arms above head and flex fingers to represent stars. Say, *“God blessed Abraham so that he would bless the nations.”*

MEMORY VERSE SONG REVIEW

Malachi 1:11a “My name will be great among the nations.” (NIRV)

Directions

1. Direct students to face the map or globe. Play the DVD and lead students in singing and doing the motions for the song, “My Name Will Be Great.”
2. Tell students, *“Very good! You learned that memory verse well. God told people to spread out and fill the whole earth. He made it very clear that he wanted his name to be great among all the nations over all the earth.”*
3. Ask, *“So what do you think people did? I wonder if they had lots of children and filled the earth? Did you think they made God’s name great over the whole earth?”*
4. Allow time for response and then sit students down for story time, saying, *“Let’s find out. We can read this part of God’s story right here in Genesis 11.”*

BIBLE LESSON: THE TOWER OF BABEL

Directions

1. Open your Bible and read Genesis 11:1-2. Emphasize the words, “they settled there.”
2. Ask students, *“Did God want them to settle down all together like that?”*
3. Allow responses and then say, *“No, God told people to spread out and fill the whole earth.”*
4. Read verses 3-4, emphasizing key words in the last two sentences, *“We’ll make a name for ourselves. Then we won’t be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”*
5. Ask, *“Did God want his own name to be great over all the earth, or did he want the people to make a great name for themselves?”* Allow time for response. Then shake your head “no” and say, *“The people did not do what God told them to. They disobeyed, like Adam and Eve disobeyed.”*
6. Sigh deeply, *“It is never a good idea to disobey God, is it?”*
7. Shake your head back and forth and wonder out loud, *“How is God going to get these stubborn people to obey him? What will he do to make them want to spread over the whole earth?”*
8. Allow time for responses. Because this generation grew up knowing about the Twin Towers disaster of September 11, 2001, do not be surprised if some students speculate that God might destroy the tower of Babel.
9. Say, *“Let’s read on and find out what God did!”* Read Genesis 11:5-7 and ask, *“Have you ever heard people speak a language you did not understand,*

Materials

- Bible
- wall map or globe
- TV/DVD player
- “My Name Will Be Great” song (MS)

Materials

- Bible

maybe in the grocery store, or at school, or at church? How did that make you feel toward that person?"

10. Allow time for responses. Say, *"Yes, sometimes we get frustrated because we do not know what questions they are asking. Or, sometimes we do not know what they are telling us to do. Sometimes when two people are speaking a language we do not understand, we even wonder if they are talking about us! Yes, speaking the same language can bring people together, to live and work with each other easily. On the other hand, speaking different languages can make it very hard for people to live and work together."*
11. Read Genesis 11:8-9 and say, *"So that is how God made people want to spread over the whole earth! Now, we know! He mixed up their languages. God made everyone speak different languages so no one could understand what anyone else said. How would that feel?"*

IN CLOSING: MEMORY VERSE SONG REVIEW

2 Corinthians 9:11a "You will be made rich in every way so that you can always give freely [be generous] ..." (NIRV)

Directions

1. Have students sit down in a circle.
2. Play "Rich In Every Way" on the DVD player.
3. Lead students in singing and doing the motions for the song.
4. Explain the word "generous" in this verse as "kind, thinking of others, and sharing what we have with others."
5. Let students think of one thing they can share with others or a way they can be kind to someone else. Let students share their ideas.
6. Pray for students to be generous with what they have.

Materials

- Bible
- TV/DVD player
- "Rich In Every Way" song (MS)



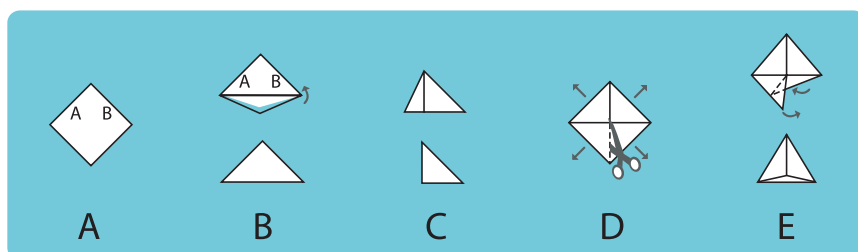
CRAFT: QUADRAMA

Before the Activity Directions

1. Cut the “Blessed to Be a Blessing” Quadrama squares out.

Directions

1. Pass out the “Blessed to Be a Blessing” Quadrama to each student.
2. Show the students how to turn their paper to make a diamond shape with Sections A and B at the top. (See figure A.)
3. Have the students fold the bottom half of the paper up on the dotted line to make a triangle, covering Sections A and B. (See figure B.)
4. Next, have students fold across, making a smaller triangle. (See figure C.)
5. Pass out the scissors. Have the students open their paper and cut on the solid line from the edge to the center. (See figure D.)
6. Pass out the crayons and a set of “Pass It On” pictures to each student.
7. Have the students color and cut out pictures of Abraham and the two children.
8. Pass out the glue. Show the students how to glue the picture of Abraham in section A.
9. Have them glue the picture of the boy and girl in section B.
10. Show the students how to put glue on the empty triangle below the pictures of the children.
11. Overlap the two bottom triangles so that the one with the words “Blessed to be a blessing to the world” is on top. Gently press down. (See figure E.)



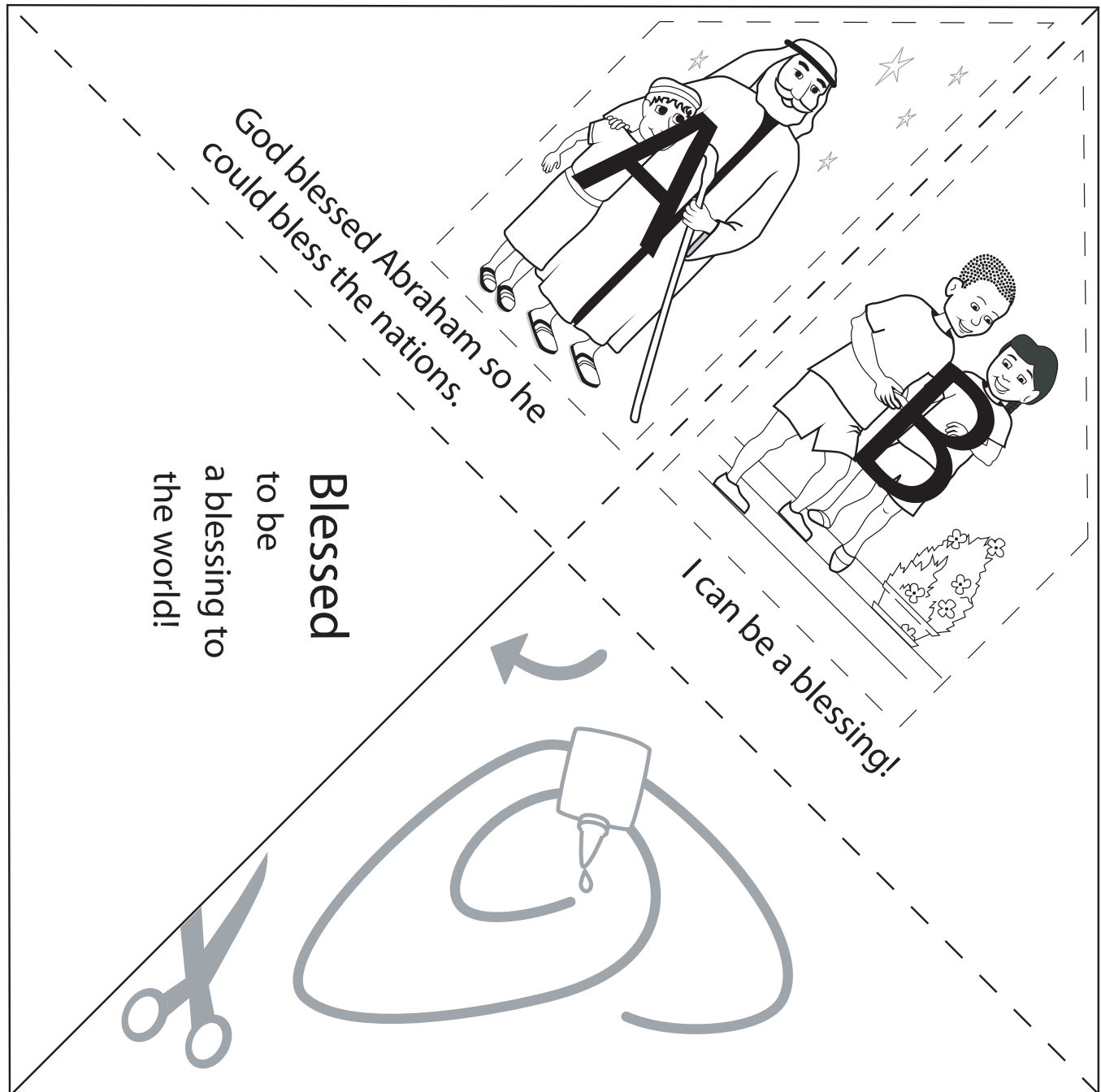
PREPARATION: 20 min.

TEACHING: 25 min.

Materials

- one copy of the “Blessed to Be a Blessing” Quadrama for each student (p. 6)
- one set of “Blessed to Be a Blessing” Pictures for each student (p. 7), one copy makes two sets
- scissors
- glue
- colored pencils, crayons, or markers

"Blessed to Be a Blessing" Quadrama



"Blessed to Be a Blessing" Pictures





GAME: SPREAD OUT, SETTLE DOWN

Note: Play this game after the Bible story.

Before the Activity Directions

1. Before this activity, mark off a large area to be the seven continents of the world. Here are several options:
 - Use masking tape to form seven, 6 x 6-foot squares on the floor. These squares should be near the walls of the room with an open space in the middle.
 - Use seven pieces of construction paper. Tape these to walls or to the floor around the outer edges of the room, leaving an open space in the middle of the room.
 - Place seven chairs around the edges of the room.
 - If you are playing this game outside on a playground or parking lot, use chalk to mark off seven areas around the edges of the play area. Leave an open space in the middle of the play area.

Directions

1. To begin the lesson, invite students to sit in the middle of the play area. Open your Bible and say, *"In Genesis 9:1 God told Noah to have lots of children and 'fill the earth.' Noah did have lots of children. And Noah's children had lots of children. Finally, there were lots and lots of children and grown-ups, too!"*
2. Point to the boundaries you have set as the earth and say, *"Pretend that this is the whole earth. These are the seven continents. You are those lots and lots of children back in the days of Noah. Please stand up now, spread apart from each other, far enough so that we fill up the whole earth, just like God wanted."*
3. Help the students space themselves around the room so that each is close to one of the continents. Spread your arms wide and say, *"You will need to watch me closely. When I spread my arms out like this, everybody spread out throughout the earth and fill it up."*
4. Bring your arms together over your head and clap three times. Tell the students, *"When I bring my hands together like this and clap three times, you all hurry back to the middle and squat down in a scrunched up little group."*
5. Have the students practice scrunching in a tight group in the middle of the play area and say, *"Be careful not to squish each other. Watch out for each other's fingers and toes!"*
6. Spread your arms wide. When students have spread out over the area well, tell them, *"Good job! You have spread out over the whole earth, just like God wanted."*
7. Clap your hands three times. When the students have crowded together in the center of the play area, ask, *"Is this what God asked the people to do?"*



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- masking tape
- seven pieces of construction paper in different colors
- seven chairs, or chalk
- Bible

8. Allow time for response and reinforce the message. *“No, God did not want people to settle down like this, all cramped and so close to one another!”*
9. Repeat this “Spread Out, Settle Down” game several times, going a little faster each time. End with everyone spread out. Say, *“The reason God wanted everyone in Noah’s day to spread out was so that God’s name would be great all over the world”*



SNACK: “BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING” BARS

Note: This snack includes an object lesson. All the snacks are served to two “blessed” students who will, in turn, share their treats with the others.

Makes 28 servings (one serving = two mini candy bars)

Directions

1. Do this activity just before snack time for maximum impact.
2. Form a circle and say, “*Let’s imagine that we are the whole world.*”
3. Now move two children into the center of the circle and tell them, “*You two are the ‘blessed’ people of our little world.*”
4. With both palms upturned, gesture toward the two blessed children and declare, “*Let’s review what 2 Corinthians 9:11 says.*”
5. Lead students in reviewing this first part of the verse by singing together, “*‘You will be made rich in every way ...’*” Move both of your upturned palms downward slightly, as if receiving a heavy gift.
6. Now bring in two of the nicest chairs you can find, or beautiful cushions, or a fancy carpet. Make a show of seating the two children comfortably and then ask, “*Are you comfortable now? Good.*”
7. Once again, lead the class to repeat the verse address, do the motions, and sing the first half of the memory verse: “*2 Corinthians 9:11 says, ‘You will be made rich in every way ...’*”
8. Next, bring in a mouth-watering snack for all to see. Deliver the whole platter, or bag, to the two “blessed” children. Ask the children, “*What does 2 Corinthians 9:11 say?*”
9. Lead them to do the motions and sing: “*You will be made rich in every way ...*”
10. If the two blessed children begin to eat, stop them saying, “*Wait, there’s more!*”
11. Bring in all kinds of material goods, either toy replicas, pictures, and even some real items. These could include a phone, laptop computer, house, car, vacation brochure, etc. With each item, repeat the first part of the verse together.
12. Present each of the blessed children with a pile of rolled up papers, which look like diplomas, and say, “*You have been blessed with the chance to go to school, finish college, and do any job you want when you grow up. What job might God want you to do?*”
13. Allow time for the two to tell you what God might want them to do when they grow up. Again, lead all the children to do the motions and repeat, “*2 Corinthians 9:11 says, ‘You will be made rich in every way ...’*”
14. Deliver a children’s Bible with beautiful pictures. Then bring in another version, and another, until there is a big pile of Bibles, enough for each child in your little world.
15. When the piles grow so huge that they nearly bury the two blessed



PREPARATION: 15 min.

TEACHING: 10 min.

Materials

- many Bibles to pile high, one should be a children’s illustrated Bible
- a variety of material goods: toy replicas, pictures, or real items. These could include a phone, laptop computer, house, car, vacation brochure, stethoscope, thermometer, coat, etc.
- sheets of 8 ½ x 11-inch paper, rolled up and tied with ribbons to look like diplomas
- two nice chairs, cushions, or carpet squares
- two 11-ounce bags of mini candy bars
- platters or serving bowls
- napkins

children, say, *“Some people in our world are made rich in every way. Like these two, they are blessed with a Bible to read, possessions, food, time, and even education so that they know how to use all these items.”*

16. Ask, *“Does it seem fair that God makes some people rich in every way, like 2 Corinthians says?”*
17. Allow time for response, and then tell children, *“We have only been singing the first part of what 2 Corinthians says. Let’s sing the whole song together!”*
18. Sing the entire song and say, *“Raise your hand if you know what the word ‘generous’ means.”*
19. Allow time for responses and then say, *“Yes, generous people share. They do not keep everything to themselves. Generous people look around at the needs of others. Generous people use food, education, possessions, time, and all kinds of riches to bless other people.”*
20. Sing again together, *“2 Corinthians 9:11 says, ‘You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous ...’”*
21. Ask the two blessed children, *“What would God want you to do with all of these riches?”*
22. Allow time for response. If they have difficulty responding, ask leading questions like these: *“Would God want you to be generous? Do you think God might have given you all this food so that you could feed these other people he loves? Could God have given you a good education so that you could teach others? Do you think God may have given you all these Bibles so that you could pass one out to all the people who do not have one?”*
23. Have all students sit down and instruct the two blessed children to pass out the snacks, Bibles, and diploma replicas, saying, *“Yes, God makes us rich in every way, so that we can be generous. We are blessed so that we can pass on God’s blessing to others.”*



PRAYER ACTIVITY: BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Note: This prayer follows direction #22 in the snack activity (p. 10) and precedes #23.

Directions

1. Following the #22 in the snack activity, lead the students in a prayer of thanksgiving for all the blessings God has heaped upon us.
2. Thank God for the snack and eat.
3. During snack time, continue to talk with the students about the blessings we have and what God may want us to do with them.



PREPARATION: 1 min.

TEACHING: 5 min.

Materials

- “Blessed to Be a Blessing” Bars (pp. 10-11)