

Unit 3: Harvest

Faith Focus: God provides for our needs.

The LORD bless you and protect you. (Numbers 6:24)

SESSION 11

GROW IN FAITH

God Provides People at the Right Time—

1 Samuel 25:1-35

Today's Bible story is about a woman named Abigail who was married to a man named Nabal. Nabal was a sheep owner, and he was celebrating during wool-cutting time. Another man, named David, sent some of his men to Nabal, asking for food. Nabal refused, so David reacted by preparing to attack Nabal. This could seem harsh, but during these times hospitality to strangers was expected. Nabal's refusal was like calling them enemies. When Abigail found out what Nabal had done, she made a feast and took it to David and his men. Her actions prevented the loss of lives.

It might be hard to see gratitude in the story. However, sometimes gratefulness isn't neat. Even in this harsh situation, Abigail's presence and the help she provided David can be an example of God's presence in difficult circumstances.

- Use a current event that helps children find the good in chaos.
- Discuss God's presence in the Bible story.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Provides
for Our Needs

Explore the Scripture Passage
(Reflection/Math)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 7–12
Leader Guide • Fall 2024

FUN WITH FAITH

Load It Up
(Game)

Color by Equation
(Math/Coloring)

Who Is There for You?
(Art)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

SUPPLIES

pencils

colored pencils

sticky notes

crayons

two large containers

timer

paper

*device to play "We Gather
Together" hymn*

*TV and DVD player or
streaming device*

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the “Fall Sticker Page” (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the donkey sticker on the Session 11 space.

SAY: God helps us in unexpected ways. Sometimes God helps people by miraculously sending food from the sky. But sometimes God uses people to help us when we need it most. Today we will learn all about a woman who followed God to help God's people.

Faith Focus—God Provides for Our Needs

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20).

- Show children the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is “God provides for our needs.” In today's story, God uses a woman named Abigail to help David.

ASK: Have you ever helped someone when they needed it? Why did you help?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

Explore the Scripture Passage

Supplies: Activity Sheets, CEB kids' Bibles, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Tear out “Explore the Scripture Passage” (Session 11 Activity Sheet) for each child.

SAY: Let's open our Bibles to 1 Samuel 25:18-19. Use the story to help you answer the questions.

- Invite the children to add numbers under the pictures and then work out the answers on the other side.

SAY: Let's find out more about why Abigail had so much to offer David.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read 1 Samuel 25:1-35 in your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: What did Abigail give David? Why did Abigail provide so much for David? How did David respond?

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 11 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, in small groups, or all together.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the Bible story?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) if you haven't already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: God used Abigail to give David and his people everything they needed. David was living in the wilderness with his men. He had been on a big adventure and his men needed to eat. Instead of taking Nabal's sheep, he sent his servants to ask for help. But Nabal refused. David's men had protected Nabal's people and tried to take good care of the people. When Abigail heard about this, she made sure that David and his men had everything they needed.

ASK: Why do you think David wanted to be kind to Nabal at first? Why do you think Abigail decided to provide for the men?

- Place the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

ASK: What do you see on our poster?

- Instruct each child to write on his or her sticky note one thing he or she can do to give to someone in need and stick the note on the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Load It Up

Supplies: two large containers, objects in the room, timer

SAY: Abigail packed lots of things onto her donkeys. Let's pack up these containers with as much stuff as we can.

- Have the children divide into two teams.
- Invite the children to use the objects around the room to load their team's container. Set a timer for three minutes. At the end, count how many objects each team put into their container.

Color by Equation

Supplies: colored pencils

Prepare Ahead: Make copies of "Color by Equation" (Leader Guide—p. 76).

SAY: Abigail helped solve David's problem. Help solve the problems on the picture to make it colorful.

- Give each child a copy of "Color by Equation."
- Have the children solve the equations.
- Have the children color each space with the color that matches the number of the answer there.

Who Is There for You?

Supplies: paper, colored pencils

SAY: The church is full of people who are ready to help. Let's think of someone at church or in our neighborhood or school who takes care of us. You can draw a picture of the ways that person helps you.

- Give each child a piece of paper and colored pencils.
- Encourage the children to draw their pictures of the helpers they thought of.

SAY: Next time you see the helper you drew, tell the person how grateful you are for all his or her help.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, phone or other device to play "We Gather Together" hymn

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Photocopy the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) if needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: We know that God provides for us in lots of different ways. Sometimes God provides people to help us when we need help. We know that God cares for us when other people care for us. A traditional song that Christians sing during the harvest is a song called "We Gather Together." The song reminds us that God loves us and cares for us through our community.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Invite the children to listen to a recording of the hymn "We Gather Together" using your close up or other device.

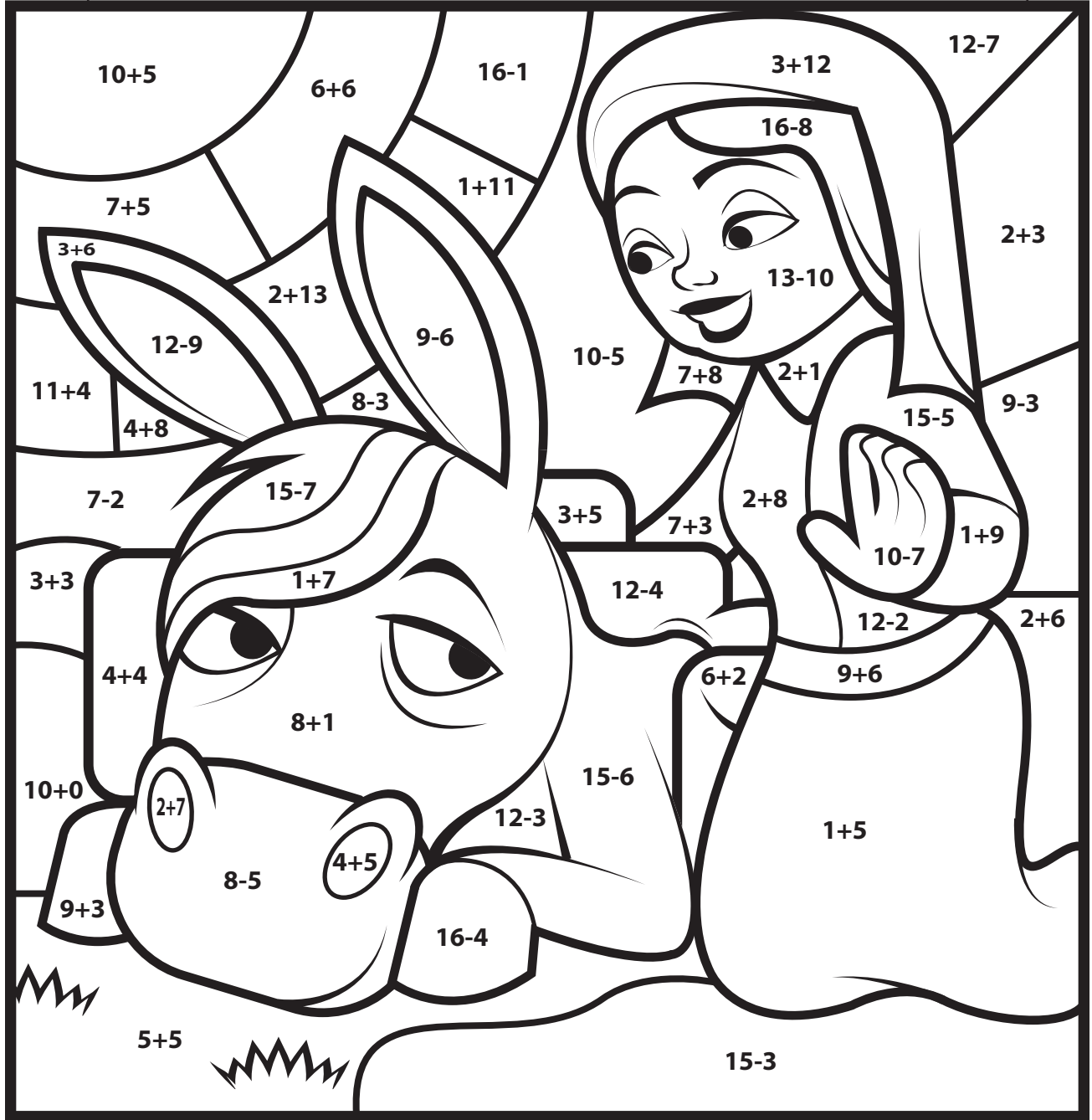
PRAY: Dear God, thank you that you gather us together. Amen.

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child who hasn't received one.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 11 Color by Equation

Solve the equations. Use the answer in each space to find out what color that space should be and color it in.

3: Pink	5: Light Blue	6: Purple	8: Brown
9: Gray	10: Green	12: Orange	15: Yellow



Art: Mark Collins/Illustration Online LLC