

Life Focus

I can obey God.

Who?

Isaac, Isaac's helpers, Isaac's neighbours.

What?

Isaac showed God's love to his neighbours, instead of arguing with them about the wells. (Genesis 26:12 - 33)

When & Where?

During the time of the patriarchs, in the valley of Gerar in the foothills of the Judean mountain.

Why?

To help children choose to show God's love, instead of arguing.

Bible Verse

"Love your neighbour."
Matthew 22:39

Goals

During each segment of this session, help each child to

- 1 NAME the way that Isaac chose to show God's love to his neighbours;
- 2 TELL ways he or she can show God's love to others;
- 3 SHOW love in class

Teaching Tip

To help you in telling the Bible story, each Bible story in this curriculum includes an Introduction and a Conclusion. The Introduction helps you get children's attention. The Conclusion helps you summarise the main truth of the lesson and how children can apply this truth to their everyday lives.

Isaac Digs Wells



Bible Learning Activity Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. Choose one or more of these options that best suit your facilities and available supplies. **20-30 minutes.**

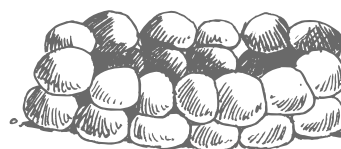
Bible Story Option Art Centre

COLLECT

Bible, play dough.

DO

Give each child a fist-sized amount of play dough. Children break dough into small pieces and roll pieces into balls. Children build wells with balls.



TALK ABOUT

- Our Bible story today tell about some wells Isaac's helpers dug. Isaac's neighbours came and said, "These wells are ours." They were unkind to Isaac. But Isaac showed God's love to them. He did not argue.
- Hold Bible open to Matthew 22:39. The Bible says, "Love your neighbour." We can show God's love to people who live near us. We can show God's love to our friends and families.
- *Thembi*, thank you for picking up *Darren's* play dough. You did just what the Bible verse is talking about. You showed God's love.

Bible Verse Option Blocks Centre

COLLECT

Bible, blocks, magazine pictures of household items (toys, games, sports items, food, etc.) toy people.

DO

Children build houses with rooms using the blocks. Set out magazine pictures for children to choose from. Children use pictures and use toy people to act out ways they may show God's love to others.

TALK ABOUT

- Refer to open Bible. The Bible says, "Love your neighbour." We can show God's love to our neighbours. We can show God's love to our family and friends.
- *Chelsea*, who lives at your house? You have a picture of some biscuits. What can you choose to do with biscuits to show God's love.
- *Nathan*, I see you have a picture of a soccer ball. What can you do with a soccer ball to show God's love.
- *Pray briefly*. Thank You, God, for people who show Your love to us. Help us choose to be loving, too.



Bible Story Time

One teacher leads this large group time.

10-15 minutes.

COLLECT

Bible, trowel or small spade.

BIBLE VERSE

Open Bible to Matthew 22:39. **The Bible says, "Love your neighbour." God's Word, the Bible, tells us to show God's love to our neighbours. Our neighbours are people who live near us, our friends and our family.** Repeat Bible verse with children, guiding children to do a different rhythmic action each time the verse is repeated (clap hands, stomp feet, pat thighs, snap fingers, etc.).

PRAYER

Invite volunteers to name people to whom they wish to show God's love. Lead children in prayer, mentioning people children named in the prayer. **Dear God, thank You for loving us. Please help us show love to (Gugu). In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Isaac Digs Wells

Genesis 26: 12 - 33

INTRODUCTION

Let volunteers take turns pretending to use the spade. **What are some things we use spades for? In Bible times people used spades to dig deep holes that filled with water. These holes are called wells. Listen to find out what happened when some wells were dug.**

ANGRY NEIGHBOURS

Isaac needed a well. His sheep and goats and family were thirsty! Isaac told his helper to dig until they found water.

Isaac's helpers dug. They dug out rocks and sand. Then suddenly water began to come up from the bottom of the hole. They had dug a well!

They were happy! But Isaac's neighbours were NOT happy. When they heard about the well, they came to Isaac and shouted, "That water is ours!" Isaac did not want to argue or fight with his neighbours. He wanted to be their friend. So he did not argue. He let his neighbours have the well and moved to another place. Then Isaac told his helpers to dig another well.

MORE WELLS

Dig, dig, dig - the helpers shovelled out the rocks and sand. They worked and worked! After a while, water began to come into the hole. They had dug a new well!

But again, Isaac's neighbours came. They wanted THIS well for themselves, too. "That water is ours!" they shouted again.

Isaac did not want to argue. So again, Isaac let his neighbours have the well. Isaac and his family moved again. And he told his helpers to dig another well.

It was hard work. Isaac must have wondered if his neighbours would try and take this well, too.

GOD'S PROMISE

One night, God spoke to Isaac. "Do not be afraid, Isaac," God said. "I will always be with you. I will take good care of you." Isaac thanked God for being with him.

It wasn't long until some of Isaac's neighbours were back again. *Do they STILL want to argue and fight?* Isaac must have wondered. He asked, "Why have you come here? You were unkind to me and sent me away before."

They answered, "We know God is with you. He does good things for you. We don't want to argue any more. We want to be friends."

A SPECIAL DINNER

Isaac must have been GLAD to hear that! He invited the neighbours to stay for supper. And Isaac's neighbours promised NEVER to argue with him again.

CONCLUSION

Isaac showed God's love to his neighbours. Isaac chose not to argue with them. We can show God's love to our neighbours, too. We can choose to be kind, instead of arguing. The Bible says, "Love your neighbour."



Bible Sharing Time

Teachers guide small groups of children. 15 minutes.

Activity Page Maze

COLLECT

Bible, copy of *Activity Page 13* for each child, wax crayons or colouring pencils.

DO

Before distributing *Activity Pages*, use your *Activity Page* to demonstrate how to complete the page.

Briefly review the story action. Point to the Bible verse. **Our Bible says, "Love your neighbour."**

We can choose to show God's love to the people who live near us and to our friends and family.

Then distribute *Activity Pages* for children to complete. Assist as needed.

TALK ABOUT

- **What did Isaac's neighbours want?**
- **What did Isaac choose to do? How did Isaac choose to show God's love?**
- **What could Isaac have chosen to do, instead of being kind?**
- Read verse with children. Tell children about a way you plan to show God's love to a neighbour, friend or family member. **What can you choose to do to show God's love?**
- Pray briefly, **Dear God, please help us show God's love to others.**