

General Church Education



The Family

Exodus 2:1-10

Lesson 4

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

THE FAMILY

EXODUS 2:1-10

It is the Lord's plan that we live in families. He knows that families can give friendship, comfort and safety. He also knows that within a family, we will find opportunities for use and can experience feelings of satisfaction and happiness that come from serving others. These feelings are a gift from the Lord. They can bind a family together into a strong unit.

For the Lord loves all and so wishes to do good to all, and good is service [or use]. Since the Lord performs services indirectly through angels, and in the world through people, He gives those who faithfully perform services a love of service and its reward, which is inward blessedness, and this is everlasting happiness. *True Christian Religion* 736

Every family is unique and different. The common thread available to all families is the leadership of the Lord, our Heavenly Father. When we look to the Lord as the ultimate leader of our family, we are placing our family in His tender care. We can trust that He will help and guide us as we navigate the challenges that all families face. The Lord will be the builder of the house of our family as described in our recitation.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- Within the family we have opportunities to bring religion into life.
- Uses surrounding the love and care of children are precious to the Lord. He supports us in these uses by allowing us to feel the presence of angels who have similar loves.

FROM THE WRITINGS

Conjugal love is the fundamental love...of all celestial and spiritual loves. It is truly the seedbed of the human race and consequently of the angelic heaven. *Conjugal Love* 143

From the marriage of good and truth in heaven all loves are descended, which are such as the love of parents towards their children, the love of brothers for one another, love towards other relatives. *Arcana Coelestia* 2739

As to the duties of parents to children in particular, they are inwardly different with those who are in charity and those who are not, although externally they appear alike. With those who are in charity, that love is conjoined with love towards the neighbor and love to God; for by such children are loved according to their morals, virtues, good will, and qualifications for serving the public. *True Christian Religion* 431

THE FAMILY

IMPORTANT IDEAS

Parents care for their children in a similar way as the Lord cares for each of us.

Every person in the family is special and different.

When we are useful, the Lord sends His angels to be near us and brings us happiness.

Did you know that from the very beginning of the Lord's creation the Lord put people in families? The Word tells us stories about many families. Can you think about some families that you have read about in the Word? (*Answers may include - Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus; the family of Noah; the large family of Jacob; the family of Moses; etc.*)



In our story today, we will read about a sister's love for her little brother and how she helped to save his life. This Hebrew family lived in a country called Egypt. There was a wicked king called Pharaoh who hated the Hebrews. He tried to kill all Hebrew baby boys who might grow up to be soldiers and fight against him. As we read, listen to the mother's plan. How did she arrange it so the sister could watch and protect her baby?

Read Exodus 2:1-6.

We read that the daughter of Pharaoh "had compassion on him." This means that she felt sorry for the baby. She guessed it was a Hebrew baby. Because she was a daughter of Pharaoh and a princess, she had the power to save the baby. Listen to how the baby's sister thought up a plan to take care of the baby.

Read Exodus 2:7-10.

How do you think the baby's sister felt when she saw that her brother would be safe? It was because of his sister that this baby, Moses, was able to stay with his mother while he was little.

The daughter of Pharaoh adopted Moses and raised him in the king's house. You may know the story of how Moses remembered his people when he grew up. With the Lord's leading, as an adult, Moses saved the Hebrews from their Egyptian slavery. We will read in a later story about how the Lord gave Moses something very important that we still have today.



DISCUSSION

- Every family is different from every other family. Some families are large and include grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters. Some families are small. Think about families that you know.
- The Lord is the Heavenly Father of all people. Do you remember what He does for us as our Heavenly Father? (***Answers may refer to the first lesson.***)
- Parents who look to the Lord care for their children in much the same way that the Lord cares for us. What are some of the things that parents do for their children?
- A family is a gift from the Lord. Being in a family can bring great happiness. Can you think of special times with your family that make you very happy? (***Answers may include going to church, vacations, stories, birthday parties, etc.***)
- Families often have brothers or sisters. The Lord wants them to live happily together. Our recitation says that it is the Lord who is to build the house. How does the Lord build the house? Think of a family that lives in a house. If we follow what the Lord teaches us about loving the neighbor, we will treat our brothers and sisters with kindness, like Moses' sister in our story. When the Lord's teachings are the rules of the house, "the Lord builds the house."
- What are some ways family members can be useful? (***Helping Mom or Dad, sharing toys, playing with siblings, protecting them, etc.***) When you do useful things the Lord gives you a happy feeling. This feeling comes from heavenly angels being near to you.
- Do you think babies can be useful? Mothers and fathers are useful. Brothers and sisters can be useful. What about babies? The answer is "Yes!" How do you feel when you are near a baby? (***Answers may include - happy, smiling, wanting to hold the baby, etc.***) Babies are very close to angels in heaven who are nearest the Lord. They bring the peace and gentleness of these angels to everyone close to the baby. What a lovely use for the baby to perform!
- Do you think Pharaoh's daughter felt these feelings when she held the baby?

THE FAMILY | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation
Unless the Lord builds the house,
they labor in vain who build it.
Psalm 127:1

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Song

- **Moses in the Bulrushes**
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-moses-in-the-bulrushes/>

Sheet music at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/song-moses-in-the-bulrushes-exodus02.pdf>

Video

- **Moses in the Bulrushes (song)**
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-moses-in-the-bulrushes-song/>

Projects

- My Family Book
- Picture to color

My Family Book

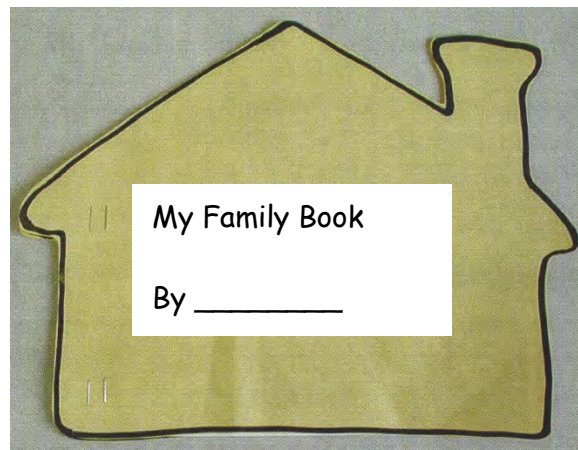
Each person born on earth grows up in a family. Some families are large, some are small. We practice treating others with love and respect by using the Golden Rule to treat our parents, brothers and sisters well. Families do many things together, such as worship the Lord, read the Word, sing songs, play games, go on trips and have fun. Make a book about your family. Decide whether it will be fun to create a page for each person that shows the things each person loves doing, or to draw the whole family doing something fun on one page.

Supplies needed

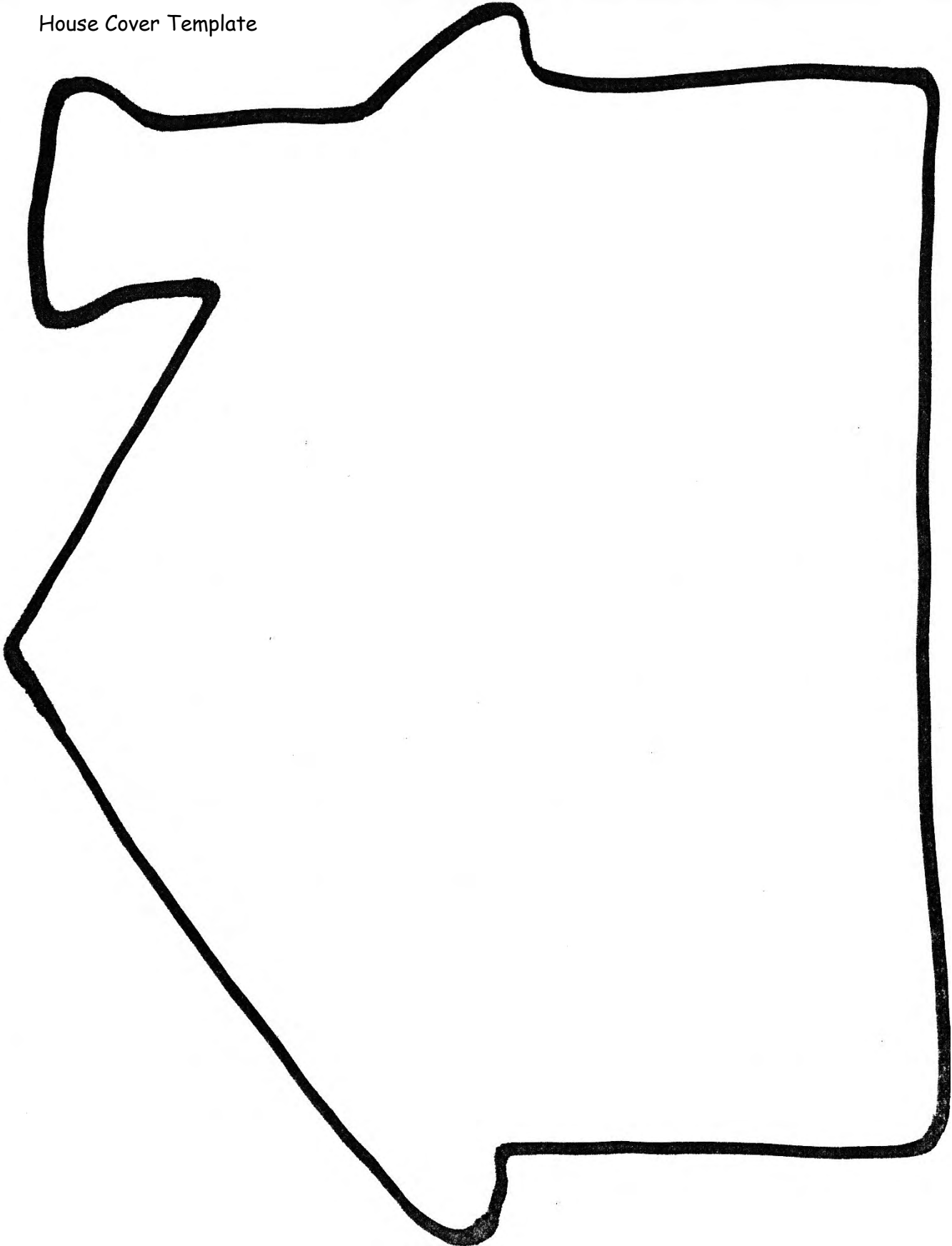
- 2 copies of the Cover Template printed on stiff colored paper
- pieces of white paper cut to fit inside the House Cover Template, 8½" x 5½" (21cm x 14cm)
- crayons, colored pencils or markers
- stapler
- scissors

Directions

1. Cut around the Cover Template on the dark lines to make the back and front covers for the book.
2. Draw pictures of your family on the book pages. Orient the page so the widest side forms the top and bottom of the picture.
3. Write the names of family members above or below their pictures.
4. When the drawings are complete, staple the pages into the book between the front and back page.
5. Write "My Family" by _____ (child's name) on the cover.
6. Invite the child(ren) to read the book to you.



House Cover Template





Recitation Award | Lessons 3 and 4

