



Date: _____
Series: Father's Day
Summer Year 1, Lesson 3

Our Father in Heaven Leads Us

Take Home Point: *God, our Father, leads us.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Matthew 6:28-34; Exodus 15:13a

Note: On this Father's Day, please be sensitive to every child, as some may not have a father. Yet they can be thankful for a special man or male family member in their lives, such as a caregiver, uncle, grandpa etc. You will want to be discreet and discuss this with the children so they do not feel left out because they do not have a father.

We will help children know:

- God, our heavenly Father, loves us and leads us as we grow up.
- God has given most of us earthly fathers who help us grow up.




We will help children feel:

- Secure in knowing that God helps them grow up.
- Thankful and appreciative for their earthly father.

We will help children do:

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that reminds us of footprints leading us.
- Make a card for their fathers or significant men in their lives.
- Play Follow the Leader along a path.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the leaning of today's Take Home Point: ***God, our Father, leads us.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of toys
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bubba puppet • baby shoes
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 10	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an artificial flower <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oval-shaped crackers • napkin, cups and water <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendices A and B, copied on white paper, one of each per child • Appendix C, one copy per child • crayons or washable markers • glue sticks • ribbon, cut into 12" lengths, one per child • scissors for teacher <i>Activity 4: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plain pieces of paper • masking tape
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of music • craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation:

God, our Father, Leads Us

Supplies:

- Bubba puppet
- baby shoes taped to Bubba’s hand (If baby shoes are not available, Bubba can simply refer to the shoes.)

Presenter: Hi, kids, let’s call for Bubba!

Kids call Bubba. **Bubba...Bubba...Bubba.**

Bubba: Hi, everyone.

Presenter: Hi, Bubba. What do you have?

Bubba: I’ve got my shoes. I’m so excited.

Presenter: Why are you excited?

Bubba: My daddy showed me how to put on my shoes all by myself!

Presenter: Wow. You are really growing up.

Bubba: I’m a big boy now.

Presenter: You are blessed to have a dad who loves you and helps you grow up. Dads are great at showing you how to do things.

Bubba: Yeah, my dad shows me lots of things.

Presenter: That’s wonderful. Did you know that today is Father’s Day?

Bubba: Yes, but what does that mean?

Presenter: That means you get to do special things for your dad—like giving him a special present. It’s a way to say, “Thank you for loving me and helping me grow up.”

Bubba: I wonder what I should give him?

Presenter: Give him a present that helps him feel special.

Bubba: I know. I’ll give him an elephant. That’s what I would want.

Presenter: That would make a wonderful gift, but maybe an elephant would be a bit too much. Can you think of something else?

Bubba: Like what?

Presenter: How about some new shoe laces? Your mom could help you pick some out.

Bubba: I think he would like that.

Presenter: It will remind you how your dad showed you how to put on your shoes. Then as you grow up, your dad will lead you to grow up to be the best person you can be.

Bubba: What about the kids that don’t have dads?

Presenter: Well, not everyone has a dad. But everyone has someone that loves them and helps them grow up.

Bubba: Like who?

Presenter: Like God, our Father in heaven.

Bubba: What does he do?

Presenter: God is our Father in heaven. He helps us grow every day – by helping our bodies grow; by helping us learn more; and by helping us follow him so we can be good and kind.

Bubba: Does that mean that God is kind of like my daddy?

Presenter: Yes, he is your heavenly “daddy.” God wants us to know that he loves us and wants to lead us. He loves everyone so much that he gave his Son Jesus to the world. Because of Jesus, we can all be

called the children of God the Father. He gives us everything we need.

Bubba: Even elephants?

Presenter: Yes, God even made elephants. But more importantly, he is with you every day to help you grow. Bubba...kids...please say these words after me: *God, our Father, leads us. God, our Father, leads us.

Bubba, will you help us learn our new song?

Bubba: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

GOD our FATHER LEADS us ALL,
LEADS us ALL, LEADS us ALL.
GOD our FATHER LEADS us ALL.
And DAddies LEAD us, TOO.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for Jesus.
Thank you for dads. Thank you for dads.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds. Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Supplies: artificial flower

Part One: Act Out the Bible Event

Jesus told us about our Father in heaven.

- **Kids, help me act out today's Bible Event. You do the action when I do it.**
- **Jesus is God's Son. When he lived here he taught all about our Father in heaven.** (Finger points to heaven.)

Jesus gathers the followers.

- **Many people were following Jesus and wanted to learn about God our Father. He asked them to gather near and sit down.** (Gathering motion. Sweep arms to yourself and have the children be seated.)

Our Father sees us, loves us, leads us.

- **This is what he said. "You have a Father in heaven.** (Point to heaven.)
- **Your Father can look down and see you, even if you can't see him.** (Hand over eyes, looking down.)
- **Your Father in heaven loves you very much.** (Arms hugging self.)
- **Your Father in heaven wants to lead you.** (Fingers walking up forearm.)
- **He leads us by helping us love others just like he does.**

Our Father in heaven made the birds.

- **Look at the birds.** (Arms flapping like a bird.)
- **See how they fly? Who made the birds?** (Point to heaven.)
- **Our Father in heaven did. He made them very special.**

Our Father made us more special than birds.

- **Our Father in heaven made you** (point to others) **and me** (point to self).
- **He made you and me more special than the birds that can fly. See what we can do? We can jump** (jump), **wave** (wave), **and show others we love them** (hug self).
- **You are more important than the birds.**

Our Father in heaven feeds the birds.

- **Our Father in heaven feeds the birds. He made bird food for them to eat. Can you pretend you are a bird and eating bird food?** (Eat pretend bird seed on the palm of your hand.)

Our Father in heaven feeds you.

- **Our Father in heaven feeds you and me.** (Make eating motions.)
- **You are more important than the birds.**

Our Father in heaven shows us how to love others.

- **Our Father in heaven shows us how to love others.** (Hug yourself.)
- **Your Father in heaven leads you and shows you how to love others.**

Our Father in heaven made the flowers.

- **Our Father in heaven made the flowers. They are very beautiful. Can you pretend to pick a flower and look at it?** (Pick an imaginary flower and look at it, or use an artificial flower and look at it.) **What color is it?**

Our Father in heaven made you.

- **Our Father in heaven made you. You are more beautiful than the flowers. You are special. Point to your beautiful eyes.**
- **Point to your ears.**
- **Point to your feet.**

Our Father in heaven made the flowers grow.

- **Our Father in heaven made the flowers grow. The flowers are special. Let's pretend to be a flower. Pop out of the ground and slowly grow.** (Kneel down and slowly rise up. Use arms as budding flowers.)
- **Our Father in heaven made you grow, also.**

Our Father sees us, loves us, and leads us.

- **This is what your heavenly Father said.** “You have a Father in heaven.” (Point to heaven.)
- **Your Father can look down and see you, even if you can’t see him.** (Hand over eyes, looking down.)
- **Your Father in heaven loves you very much.** (Arms hugging self.)
- **Your Father in heaven wants to lead you.** (Fingers walking up forearm.)
- **He leads us by helping us love others just like he does.**

Part Two: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let’s fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for Jesus.

Thank you for dads. Thank you for dads.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus’ name. In Jesus’ name.

Amen. Amen.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**GOD our FATHER LEADS us ALL,
LEADS us ALL, LEADS us ALL.
GOD our FATHER LEADS us ALL.
And DAddies LEAD us, TOO.**

Take Home Point:

Let’s practice the Take Home Point. I’ll say it first and you repeat after me: *God, our Father, leads us. God, our Father, leads us.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies: oval-shaped crackers, napkin, cup and water

<p><i>BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE YOU GIVE THE CHILDREN ANY FOOD TO EAT.</i></p>
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Boys and girls, today we are going to eat a snack that reminds us of footprints that lead us, just like our Father in heaven leads us. Let's fold our hands and say a prayer before we eat our snack.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for Jesus.
Thank you for dads. Thank you for dads.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Pass out a napkin, cup and water to each child. Give each child two or three crackers.

See how these crackers remind us of footprints? Footprints can lead us to where we need to go. God, our Father, leads us, just like your own father can lead you. Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God, our Father, leads us. God, our Father, leads us.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**GOD our FATHER LEADS us ALL,
LEADS us ALL, LEADS us ALL.
GOD our FATHER LEADS us ALL.
And DADDIES LEAD us, TOO.**

Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- *Appendix A and B copied on white paper, one of each per child—Place pages side by side so that they read correctly and taped on the back side at the seam.*
- *copies of Appendix C cut out before class—one page per child*
- *glue sticks*
- *crayons or washable markers*
- *12" lengths of any kind of ribbon, one per child*
- *scissors for teacher*

Boys and girls, today we are going to make a card for our daddies or a special man in your life. First you can color the footprints, then you can glue them to your card. Don't glue the footprints over any of the words. After you are finished, I am going to roll them up and tie a ribbon around them so you can give them to your daddies.

Make sure the child's name is put in a place that can be seen when craft is rolled up.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *God, our Father, leads us. God, our Father, leads us.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer:

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for Jesus.
Thank you for dads. Thank you for dads.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

GOD our FAtHer LEADS us ALL,
LEADS us ALL, LEADS us ALL.
GOD our FAtHer LEADS us ALL.
And DAddies LEAD us, TOO.

Activity 4: Learning Game

Supplies: plain pieces of paper (scrap paper or recycled paper is okay), masking tape

Make a meandering path through the room and have the children follow the path. You can have the children walk or hop along the path. Make four or five places where the children stop and do an action. An adult will have to instruct the children about what the action is.

Suggestions: jump up and down; touch toes; spin around; stomp; stand on toes, etc.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *God, our Father, leads us. God, our Father, leads us.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

GOD our FAtHer LEADS us ALL,
LEADS us ALL, LEADS us ALL.
GOD our FAtHer LEADS us ALL.
And DAddies LEAD us, TOO.

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for Jesus.

Thank you for dads. Thank you for dads.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the take home point: ***God, our Father, leads us.**

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for Jesus.

Thank you for dads. Thank you for dads.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

GOD our FATHER LEADS us ALL,

LEADS us ALL, LEADS us ALL.

GOD our FATHER LEADS us ALL.

And DADDIES LEAD us, TOO.

Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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GOD, OUR FATHER, LEADS US. . . Thanks, Dad, for

leading us, too!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

