



Here We Come!

Have available a container of colorful bandages. As the children gather, talk about times when they have had injuries and needed a bandage. Who puts it on? What is it supposed to do? Does a cute bandage work better than a plain one? Who cares if you get hurt? Pass out bandages and let the children put them on each other.

Scripture Words and Worship

Children have fears and worry about things. Let them tell you about some of these. Talk about what to do when you are worried or afraid. Who is there to help? Why do they help?

The first scripture is based on the words of the angel speaking to Hagar in the wilderness.

Story Talking

Use dolls as a way to provide caring opportunities for the children. They can feed, dress, play with, sing to, and put the dolls down for a nap. Provide bandages for when the dolls need that kind of caring. Talk about how they learn to care for someone else. Who are their models?

Does God Care?

Absolutely!

Scripture Words

What worries you? Do not be afraid.—Genesis 21:17 adapted

Care for one another.—1 Corinthians 12:25 adapted

Up and at 'Em

Sing "The Wiggle Song" (below).

The Wiggle Song

Traditional.

1. My thumbs are start - ing to wig - gle. My thumbs are
2. My thumbs and fin - gers are wig - gling. My thumbs and

start - ing to wig - gle. My thumbs are start - ing to
fin - gers are wig - gling. My thumbs and fin - gers are

wig - gle A - round, a - round, a round.
wig - gling A - round, a - round, a round.

3. My hand is starting to wiggle
4. My arms are starting to wiggle . . .

5. My head is starting to wiggle . . .
6. Now all of me is a-wiggling . . .

Live and Learn

The scripture story comes from Genesis 21:8–21. In their belief that God would give them children, even when Sarah was barren, Abraham conceived a child with Sarah's slave, Hagar. It was a perfectly legitimate arrangement for that culture and time. When Ishmael was born, he took over first place in inheritance. Up to that point, all that Abraham had would go to a slave named Eliezer.

Now Sarah had also conceived and Isaac had been born. As the story begins, Isaac has been weaned and a great feast has been planned to celebrate the heir. Tell the story with props like sand, tents, a canteen, an uncut loaf of bread or tortillas.

- Ishmael and his mother watched the festivities. Everyone seemed so happy.
- The people were eating and drinking and celebrating.
- But Ishmael and his mother didn't feel much like celebrating.
- It was a little like being part of a royal family.
- A son would become king when the old king died.
- Until Isaac had been born, Ishmael was in first place.
- And there could only be one son to grow up and become the leader.
- Hagar had been right to worry.
- The next morning Abraham came to her tent.
- "Hagar, I am sorry, but it is time for you and your son Ishmael to go away."
- "But where will we go? What will we do? How will we live?" Hagar asked, her voice shaking.
- "Here is a skin of water and some bread. You will go south, into the wilderness of Beer-sheba. This should be enough to keep you going until you find a place to live."
- Hagar felt very sad and a little afraid.
- She called Ishmael to her, put the bag of water and bread over her shoulder, and started out.
- They walked and walked. The sun was hot and the sand was burning on their feet.
- They would stop when there was a little shade to eat some bread and drink some water.
- But the water finally ran out. Hagar was thirsty and her son was moaning.
- Hagar didn't know what to do.
- She helped Ishmael lie down in the shade of a bush and walked a little distance away so he wouldn't see her crying.
- Then she heard a voice. "What's wrong, Hagar? You don't have to be afraid."
- It wasn't Ishmael's voice. It was the voice of an angel.
- "God has heard Ishmael's cries. God cares about you and your son. He will grow up to marry and have lots and lots of children."
- Hagar could hardly believe her ears.
- And then she could hardly believe her eyes!
- She could see the top of a stone that covered a well.
- Stones had to be put over the opening so sand wouldn't blow in.
- But Hagar pushed it aside and dipped her container into the cool water.
- She quickly gave Ishmael a drink and then took one for herself.
- She was glad God was never very far away.
- She was glad God cared about her and her son.
- And she was glad to know that someday she would even get to be a grandma.

Sense-ations

- Taste bread and water.
- Color the picture in the pattern section of Ishmael and Hagar at the well (page 26).
- Let the children try lowering a cup on a string into a pail of water and bring it back up without spilling.

Moving Music

- "Jesus Loves the Little Children" *HS 223*. Replace the words "Red and yellow, black and white" with "Shades of brown from dark to light."
- "God Is Right There" (page 18)
- "If You're Happy" (page 22)

There We Go

Encourage the children to share what they learned with family and friends. Ask God to bless each one.

Hagar and Ishmael at the Well

