Teaching Concept:

There are many stories in the Bible about important people and events such as the creation of the world and God sending his only son to save the world from sin, but sometimes we forget about the important women in the Bible and the roles they played in God’s great story. Mother’s day is a great day to think about and review some of the mother’s in the Bible who played an important roles in this great story.

Early Arrivals Activity

1. Make a “Mom, You’re Beary Special!” Mother’s Day Card Craft for Kids

Remove the little bear from the mother’s bear’s arm and the words “Mom, You’re Beary Special!” are revealed. Print out the pattern onto brown card stock and all you have to do is color the ears pink and cut out the patterns.

What you will need:

Card stock (heavy paper), Scissors, Colored Pencils, and Glue

How to make the “Mom, You’re Beary Special!” Mother's Day Card Craft:

1. Before class print out the Patterns for the bears onto card stock.
2. In class have your children cut out the bears and cut around the arm of the big bear so that the little bear can be inserted under the big bear’s arm.

2. Mother Hugging Child Paper Craft

What you will need: Card Stock (Heavy Paper, but if you don’t have it printer paper will work.)

Colored Pencils or Crayons

Clear Tape and/or Tacky Glue
How to Make the Mother Hugging Child Paper Craft:

1. Before class print out the patterns on to card stock or printer paper. **Mother Pattern and Boy and Girl Pattern**.

2. In class have your children color the patterns, cut them out, and then tape them together. The mother is tape together in the front and the child in the back. Fold up the feet. The child paper doll can be placed in the mother’s arms by bringing it up through the bottom or the mother paper doll.

The Lesson

**Preparation:** This lesson is taught using a series of pictures (or one picture) and sentence cards. Before class print out the pictures and staple them to your bulletin board. Print out the sentence cards and cut them apart. You can use one picture for each mother, or use the legal-sized paper with pictures of all the mothers and the name cards. Read about the five mothers before class. See the Bible references below.

There are a lot of stories in the Bible about important people and events such as the creation of the world and God sending his only son to save the world from sin, but sometimes we forget about the important women in the Bible and the roles they played in God’s great story. Mother’s day is a great day to think about some of the mother’s in the Bible and the important roles they played in the events.

You may be familiar with the stories we will be reviewing today, but instead of focusing on what happens in the Bible stories; we will be focusing on the mothers in the stories. We will think about how they may have felt about their children, what happened to their children, and what role they might have played in their children’s lives.

Show your children the cartoon pictures displayed on the bulletin board. Hold up the sentence cards like a hand of cards. Let a child pick one of the cards and read it to the other class. Ask that child which picture the sentence card represents. (Some cards may go with more than one picture, but use the Bible reference on the sentence cards.) Have that child tape the card under the appropriate picture or name.

As you go through the sentence cards you may want to add more to the sentences. Some examples are included below.

Rebekah was the mother of Jacob and Esau

Her twin sons fought inside her womb. - Rebekah asked God why they fought and he said that they represented two nations; one will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.

One of her sons threatened to kill the other. When Rebekah helped Jacob steal his blessing, Esau threatened to kill him, and Jacob had to flee. Jacob didn’t see his brother for over twenty years. Rebekah may not have
seen him at all after that depending on how long she lived.

One of her sons was a hunter and the other liked to stay at home. Although her sons were twins they were very different. They didn’t look the same, and had very different personalities.

She loved one son more than the other. She loved Jacob more, while her husband loved Esau more.

She helped one son cheat the other out of his birthright. She helped Jacob steal his brother’s blessing by deceiving her husband into thinking Jacob was Esau.

Elizabeth was the mother of John the Baptist

She had a son when she was old.

Her son would prepare the way for Jesus.

Her son spent time in prison and was beheaded.

People thought her son might be the promised messiah, but he wasn’t.

She was righteous before God.

Mary was the mother of Jesus

An angel told her she would have a baby.

Her son was God’s very own son.

Her son was crucified when he was a young man.

Her son was a great teacher and became King of Kings.

She was highly favored by God.

Eve was the mother of Cain and Abel

One of her sons killed the other son.

One of her sons was a farmer while the other was a shepherd.

God was not pleased with the offering of one of her sons.

God punished one of her sons and made him leave.
She became the mother of all living things.

**Hannah was the mother of Samuel**

She prayed so hard for a son that the priest thought she was drunk.

She promised God that she would give her son back to him.

God spoke to her son even when he was very young.

Her son became a great prophet and served God his entire life.

She saw her son once a year when she brought him a new coat.

**When you have reviewed all the cards ask your children the following questions:**

Do you think these women had important roles to play in God’s great plan?

Do you think their lives were hard, rewarding, enjoyable, exciting, etc.?

Which women do you admire the most?

Think about your mother or the person who is responsible for you, do you think that person has a hard job?

**Prayer**

Father, we want to thank you for our mothers. Help us to remember that our mothers have an important job to do. Help us to be respectful and obedient. Help us to remember that they are only human and make mistakes just like everyone. Use them to fulfill your great plan. Amen

**Activity**

1. **Have your children act out different Bible stories that include mothers.**

   Assign groups of three or four children different Bible stories and give them about fifteen minutes to read the story in the Bible and then develop a play to act out in front of the other children. See if the other children can guess which story they are acting out. Tell them to concentrate on the mother and how she might have felt or how she might have reacted to the events in the stories.

   If you don’t have a lot of students, give each child a different mother and have him or her describe the story...
from the mother's point of view.

Eve - Mother of Cain and Abel - Gen. 4:1-16

Sarah - Mother of Isaac - Gen. 17:15-22,

Rebekah - Mother of Esau and Jacob - Gen. 25:21-34 and Gen. 27:1-45

Jochebed - Mother of Moses - Exodus 6:20, Exodus 2

Hannah - Mother of Samuel - 1 Samuel 1:3-28 2:18-21,26 7:15


Ruth - Mother of Obed - Ruth 1 - 4:1-12


Rachel - Mother of Joseph and Benjamin - Gen. 30:22-23

If you don’t have a lot of time, you can have your children read the following paragraphs, and have the other children try to guess who they are describing:

Rebekah

Hi, I am the wife of Isaac. My husband and I were pretty well off, but I was not happy because I didn’t have a child. My husband prayed to God for me to have a child and God answered his prayer. I was so excited! However, this pregnancy was not like most pregnancies. I had twin boys, but they were so different. They even fought in my womb. I should have known that it was a sign that they wouldn’t get along. My first son loved the outdoors. He was a good hunter, and wasn’t afraid of anything, but he wasn’t disciplined. He didn’t like his studies. He would rather be outside fishing and hunting. One day he came home from hunting and he was so hungry that he gave his birthright to my second son just to satisfy his stomach. That was the kind of person he was. My second son was completely different from the first. He loved to study and learned everything he could. He liked to stay around the house and help out whenever he could. It was no secret that he was my favorite. My first son was my husband’s favorite.

I don’t like to talk about this, but one day I did a terrible thing. I overheard my husband who was quite old talking to my first son. He told him he wanted to give him his blessing. I didn’t want him to get the blessing because I didn’t think he deserved it so I told my second to dress up like my first son and pretend to be him. When my first son was out hunting for his father my second son went to his father and asked for the blessing. His father gave it to him because he thought he was my first son. My first son was so mad when he heard that his brother received the blessing instead of him that he threatened to kill him. I told my second son that he better run away and hide at his uncle’s house until his brother wasn’t so angry. It was over twenty years before my precious boy came back home. I learned a lot over the years. For one thing, God can use bad situations for his good. He is a loving and forgiving God, and he forgave me for what I did. My first son finally forgave his brother for what he did, and God did as he promised and blessed both my boys.
Mary

Hi, I have an amazing story. I was just an ordinary girl, no one special, but one day this magnificent angel appeared in front of me. I was so scared I was shaking. The angel told me not to be afraid because I had found favor with God, and that I would have a son and he would be great. He would be king of the Jews and reign forever. I was so surprised because I wasn’t even married. But everything the angel said came true. My son was amazing. I think I learned more from him than he did from me and his father. I was constantly amazed at what he knew and how he treated others. He was an amazing teacher, and healed many people both physically and mentally. Many people loved him, but he also had many enemies. People did not understand who he was and wanted to kill him. His death was tragic and I will never forget it, but when I think about who he was and what he did I am comforted with the fact that he fulfilled the word of God.

Eve

It is hard for me to image that everyone who is born is related to me and my husband. They are all my children. It makes me so sad to see their suffering and know that my decision to disobey God was the cause of their suffering. If I could have known the results of my actions, I never would have done it. In any case, when my husband and I were thrown out of Eden everything changed. We lost that close relationship to God and things began to go downhill quickly. I had two sons that were very close, but there was always some jealousy between them. When God rebuked my older son for his offering, and praised my younger son for his, he became very jealous. I still can’t believe what he did. He broke my heart when he killed his brother. But now I realize that God had a plan from the very beginning to save us. He knew that we would sin and that we would need a savior. We all make mistakes, but we all can be forgiven of our sins, no matter what we have done.

Elizabeth

I’ve always tried to follow God’s laws to the best of my abilities. I tried to trust God that he was working out his plan for my life, but I must admit I was a little discouraged because I wanted a son. I wondered why God didn’t answer my husband’s and my prayers to have a son. I was starting to get pretty old, and had almost lost hope, but one day while my husband was at the temple an angel appeared to him and told him that his prayer had been answered. He would have a son, and he would be great in the sight of God. I did have my son, and he was amazing. He was a great speaker and many, many people came to know the Lord through him. People even asked if he was Elijah. However, not everyone was fond of my son. King Herod was very angry with him because he told him that he was sinning. Herod locked him up in prison, and then . . . I still can’t believe what he did. He promised his daughter that she could have anything she wanted for her birthday. When she said she wanted my son’s head on a platter, he couldn’t refuse or he would look bad. I don’t think he really wanted to kill him, but he had no choice. I could be very angry with him and even hate him, but that is not what God would have wanted, or my son. My son was an amazing man and he accomplished much, and I thank God that I could be his mother even if it wasn’t as long as I would have liked.

Hannah

I was married to a man that had another wife, and she had many children. I could not have children, and felt very bad about it. Back then you were looked down upon if you didn’t have children. The other wife kept making fun of me and making me feel even worse. One day I went to the Lord’s house to pray. I begged God for a son. I promised God that if he gave me a son, I would give him back to the Lord to serve him all the days of his life. I was praying so hard that the priest thought I was drunk. God answered my prayers! I had a beautiful boy, and as I had promised God, I gave him back to the Lord. When he was very young I took him to the priest and grew up to be a man of God. I visited once a year and brought him a new coat every year. God blessed me with three more sons and two daughters, but Samuel was always special to me. He served as Israel’s leader the rest of his life.
Mom, You're Beary Special!

Glue to the back of the big bear

Glue to the back of A
An angel told her she would have a baby.

Mary - Luke 1:28-31

Her son was God’s very own son.

Mary - Luke 1:35

Her son was crucified when he was a young man.

Mary - Matthew 27:26

Her son was a great teacher and became King of Kings.

Mary - Luke 1:32-33

She was highly favored by God.
Her twin sons fought inside her womb.

One of her sons was a hunter and the other liked to stay at home.

One brother threatened to kill the other.

She loved one son more than the other.

She helped one son cheat the other out of his father’s blessing.
She prayed so hard for a son that the priest thought she was drunk.

Hannah - 1 Samuel 1:12-16

She promised God that she would give her son back to him.

Hannah - 1 Samuel 1:11

God spoke to her son even when he was very young.

Hannah - 1 Samuel 3:4

Her son became a great prophet and served God his entire life.

Hannah - 1 Samuel 3:20

She saw her son once a year when she brought him a new coat.

Hannah - 1 Samuel 2:18-19
Elizabeth

John the Baptist
Elizabeth

John the Baptist

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Elizabeth - Luke 1:7

She had a son when she was old.

Elizabeth - Luke 1:15-17

Her son would prepare the way for Jesus.

Elizabeth - Luke 3:20, Mark 6:16

Her son spent time in prison and was beheaded.

Elizabeth - Luke 3:15

People thought her son might be the promised Messiah.

Elizabeth - Luke 1:6

She was righteous before God.
One of her sons killed the other son.

One of her sons was a farmer and the other was a shepherd.

God was not pleased with the offering of one of her sons.

God punished one of her sons and made him leave.

She became the mother of all living things.

Eve - Genesis 1:8
Eve - Genesis 4:2
Eve - Genesis 4:5
Eve - Genesis 4:10-14
Eve - Genesis 3:20
Hannah and Samuel
Rebekah - Jacob and Esau
Eve - Cain and Abel
Elizabeth - John the Baptist
Mary and Jesus