

# 3

# Who Needs a (Up)Lift?

NUMBERS 27:1-11



## GOAL

By hearing the story of the daughters of Zelophehad, children explore what it means for a community to care for itself and those beyond it.

- A** Art
- AM** Active/Movement
- C** Conversation
- D** Drama
- F** Food
- G** Game
- M** Music
- NS** Nature/Science
- QC** Quiet/Contemplative
- S** Service
- T** Technology
- X** Extra Prep

Note: bit.ly addresses are case-sensitive.



## PRAYER

Gracious God, you know all the ways we need uplift and care. Help me to know the grace of asking for help. Help me learn this alongside these children. Amen.

## THIS SESSION

The beauty of living in community is that we can ask for help and let others and God's Spirit care for us. The community has many opportunities to demonstrate its ability to care for those in need. You'll demonstrate this concept through role play with the children. You'll be the driver of a magical car that is big enough for the children and keeps getting bigger for each new person that you meet who needs a lift and needs to be uplifted too.

## THE BIBLE STORY

Zelophehad's five orphaned daughters ask for their inheritance. In that time, women alone were not granted status and could end up destitute. The sisters had to reject this system and ask for what they needed. A community founded on something other than a covenant with the Lord might have dismissed them. Moses and the Lord sided with the sisters, uplifting them to their own unique status in the community.

## CONNECTIONS WITH CHILDREN

Young children know how to uplift and care for others. You can see it in their play: they play family and work out the conflicts that arise. They play superheroes and work out good vs. evil and what rescue looks like. Every box and napkin becomes a warm bed for a toy that needs it. Every stick becomes a powerful weapon to wield in defending the powerless. Young children know what it is to care for others. Your work as their guide is to add the faith component to the loving skill that God has already given them.

## SESSION PREPARATION

- "Singing Together" (p. 28): Obtain the lyrics to "O Look and Wonder" written on newsprint from session 1. Keep the newsprint for session 4.
- "Let's Go for a Drive!" (p. 28): Create a pretend car that you will use throughout the session. This could be a series of cardboard boxes taped together with a windshield and doors, chairs set up with extras for the characters you will pick up along the way, an upturned table, or even tape on the floor. Use your imagination as you invite the children to use theirs!

Depending on the options you choose:

- "A Deacon Needs a Ride" (p. 29): Invite a deacon or someone from a caring ministry of your church to join your session.



## GETTING STARTED

Throughout this session, you will take the children for a *ride* in a pretend car with a dance party as the final destination. Along the way, you will give different characters a *lift* as a way to uplift and care for members of your community.

- Paper plates
- Crayons, markers, or paints and painting supplies
- Decorative items, such as buttons, feathers, sequins, and so forth
- Glue

### STEERING WHEELS

A

Welcome the children as they arrive and invite them to make a pretend steering wheel with paper plates and decorative items. Cut out the centers of plates or keep them whole as the children desire. Be sure and make a steering wheel for yourself to use throughout the session. Set aside the steering wheels for “Drivers and Riders” (p. 30).

If children get done early, ask them what kind of horn sound their pretend car would make. Then send them on a *drive* around your space with their new steering wheel.

- Prepared newsprint with lyrics to the song “O Look and Wonder” from session 1
- Internet-connected device (optional)

### SINGING TOGETHER

M T X

Display newsprint with the lyrics to the song “O Look and Wonder.” Talk through the words to the song, then listen to the tune. If the whole song seems too ambitious, just sing the refrain, and perhaps the first verse in this session. Repeat it several times, especially the refrain.

To hear the tune, go to [bit.ly/FMOLookTune](https://bit.ly/FMOLookTune) (0:21). To sing along in Spanish (words not provided on the video), show the YouTube video “*Miren que Bueno* (O Look and Wonder)” ([bit.ly/FMMiren](https://bit.ly/FMMiren), 1:52). Try to sing the refrain in English and Spanish.



Keep the newsprint with the lyrics for session 4.



## INTRODUCING THE PRACTICE

- Pretend car with room for all
- Chair or stool
- Steering wheel from “Steering Wheels” above

### LET’S GO FOR A DRIVE!

D X

Show your *car* to the children and describe it with some details! Pretend to open the doors and invite them to climb in the car. Your car might need a lot of doors depending on your group size!

Have the children all pretend to put their seatbelts on and make a click sound. Have them make engine noises when you pretend to turn the key. Tell them to say, “Oh my! What is it, driver?” whenever you make brake screeching noises. You’ll be doing this a lot in this session. We’ll call it the *Click, Vroom, Screech* sequence!

Tell the children that you’re all driving to a super awesome dance party! Tell them to keep their eyes peeled, though, because sometimes when you’re on your way to a super awesome dance party, you might need to give someone a lift when they need it.



If the children get too wiggly sitting in your pretend car as the session goes on, just pretend to pull over at a car wash and have the kids wash the pretend car, or pretend to take a few turns too fast and have the kids lean, or go over a bumpy road and have the children bounce. You could even have the children suggest some pit stops. Your imaginations are your only limit.



## FINDING THE PRACTICE IN THE BIBLE

### FIVE SISTERS NEED A RIDE



Have the children pretend to put on their seatbelts. *Click!* Turn the key. *Vroom!* Time to drive to the dance party. Pretend to drive along for a bit and then *Screech!* your brakes. The children should respond, “Oh my! What is it, driver?” Show the children the picture of the five sisters puppet made from Resource Page 2. Introduce them to the children, saying that these five sisters were very brave daughters of a man named Zelophehad. Read the adapted Bible story from Numbers 27:1–11 on Resource Page 1.

Tell the children that the five sisters need a lift to see Moses so that the community can make a fair and just decision for them. Ask the children if they can make a quick stop to drop them off on the way to the dance party. Have a volunteer hold the five sisters.

- Pretend car, chair or stool, your steering wheel
- Resource Page 1
- Resource Page 2, glued to a piece of cardboard with a large craft stick attached for a handle



## FINDING THE PRACTICE ALL AROUND US

Choose one or both options.

### A DEACON NEEDS A RIDE



This time you’ll be picking up one of the people in your congregation who helps uplift others in the community.

After pretending to drive along a little bit, *Screech!* your brakes and have the children say, “Oh my! What is it, driver?” Tell the children that it is one of the people who helps care for others from your church. Invite your guest into the pretend car, provide them a seat, and ask them the following questions:


- ➔ What is your role in the church? (If there is a particular name for this function, such as deacon or Stephen’s minister, suggest your guest share that too.)
- ➔ What do you do in this role?
- ➔ What do you have in that dish that smells so good; who might you bring something like that to and why?

Do the *Click, Vroom* part of the sequence, driving for a bit with your guest in the car. Invite the children to ask your guest questions as you drive. *Screech!* the brakes, have the children say, “Oh my! What is it, driver?” and drop off your guest, thanking them for riding with you.

Have your guest take a seat in the room because you will need them again soon!

- Pretend car, chair or stool, your steering wheel
- Five sisters puppet from “Five Sisters Need a Ride” above
- Invited guest with a covered casserole dish

- Pretend car, chair or stool, your steering wheel
- Resource Page 3, glued to a piece of cardboard with a large craft stick attached for a handle

 You can do this same activity as many times as you like, or change the people who need a ride, using all sorts of different community helpers (in person or with a picture): first responders, community organizers, teachers, elected officials, public health officials, and so forth.

## A SOCIAL WORKER NEEDS A RIDE

AM C D X

*Click! Vroom!* Drive a bit. *Screech!* and stop. Show the children the puppet with the picture of the woman holding a map from Resource Page 3. Introduce her as Sana, the social worker. Explain that she uplifts her community by zig zagging all over town, going to every neighborhood, crossing every boundary, to visit her clients and help them get the services they need to live better lives. Ask the children if they would like to give Sana a lift to see all of her clients. Tell the children that it is a very zig-zaggy route. Have someone hold Sana. *Click, Vroom,* and tell the children to zig right when you turn right and zag left when you turn left. Do lots of zig zagging. *Screech!* and drop Sana off.



## PRACTICING THE PRACTICE

Your pretend car will get a flat and all the community folks you helped will come help you! It is important to learn that living in community means helping when you can and accepting help when you need it.

Choose one or both options.

- Pretend car, chair or stool, your steering wheel
- Five sisters puppet
- Invited guest
- Sana puppet
- Small inflated balloon

## FLAT TIRE

D AM

Tell the children that it is almost time for the dance party so you better get going. *Click! Vroom!* Drive for a moment and then pop a small balloon. Tell the children you have a flat tire, and everyone has to get out of the car. Wonder together who can help you fix the tire. Look around and notice who is there to help you—the five sisters say that they are hard workers and would like to help, the caregiver has delivered the casserole and is there to help, and Sana the social worker has brought some tools (*retrieve the Sana puppet!*)

Invite everyone to pretend to:

- Jack up the car (*bend over and pretend to pump a handle up and down*)
- Take off the lug nuts (*pretend to use a wrench and move one hand back and forth in an arc*)
- Put on the spare tire (*pretend to roll, lift, and spin a tire*)
- Put back on the lug nuts (*pretend to use a wrench and move one hand back and forth in an arc*)
- Lower the car (*bend over and pretend to pump a handle up and down*)

Thank everyone for their help. Invite all of them to come to the dance party with you. *Click! Vroom!* And drive!

- Steering wheels from “Steering Wheels” (p. 28)

## DRIVERS AND RIDERS

AM

Give one of the children the paper plate steering wheel they made. Have the other children spread out in the space and hold out their hand like they are hailing a taxi. Explain how the game will be played.

- The child with the steering wheel (driver) is driving a taxi and needs to pick up a rider.
- The driver stops by a child who says, “I need to go to [name of a place].”
- The driver says, “Hop in! I’ll give you a lift!” and leads the rider over to you, where you give the rider their steering wheel, and they now become a taxi driver as well. Now there are two drivers to go pick up others.

Keep the play going until all the children have their steering wheels and are pretending to drive around. Ask the children to park their cars. Wonder together how one person uplifting another person turned into two people uplifting others, which turned into everyone getting uplifted.

Thank everyone for their help in getting people where they needed to go. Have everyone hop back in your car for your last stop. *Click! Vroom!* And drive!



## FOLLOWING JESUS

### DANCE PARTY



Pull up in your car to your final destination. Have a dance party to celebrate how the community came together to care for one another! Play some music and let the children just dance it all out for a bit. Show the YouTube video “High School Musical—We’re All in This Together (with lyrics)” ([bit.ly/FMAllTogether](https://bit.ly/FMAllTogether), 3:53) followed with some children’s dance videos or music such as “Koo Koo Kanga Roo—Get Your Body Movin’ (Dance-A-Long)” ([bit.ly/FMKooKoo](https://bit.ly/FMKooKoo), 2:17), or play music of your choice.

Wind down the dance party with your closing song.

- 
- Pretend car, chair or stool, your steering wheel
  - Internet-connected device or music player

### A PLACE IN THE CHOIR



Lead the children in singing or saying the chorus to the song “All God’s Creatures.”

Show the children the YouTube video “A Place in the Choir Lyric Video” ([bit.ly/FMAllCreatures](https://bit.ly/FMAllCreatures), 2:52) and invite them to sing along with the chorus as it becomes familiar.

Or, have the children repeat your words and actions to the chorus of the song. You may want to incorporate this with the singing of the chorus as the children become more familiar with the tune and pace of the song. To begin, invite the children to choose an animal and make a movement or sound like it. Explain that will be what they do to respond to the first line. (If you are using the motions with the song, this will go very fast!)

All God’s creatures (*make animal actions and/or noises*) /  
got a place in the choir. (*move hand out from mouth and sing*  
“Laaaa!”) /

Some sing low (*crouch down low*) /  
and some sing higher. (*stand on tiptoes*) /  
Some sing out loud (*move arms open wide*) /  
on a telephone wire. (*move hands from center outward as if holding*  
*a thin wire*) /

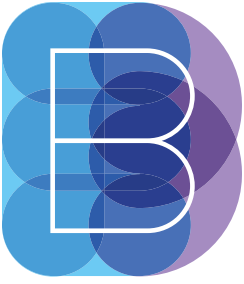
Some just clap their hands, (*clap hands*) /  
or paws, (*clap hands*) /  
or anything they’ve got now. (*clap hands on each beat*) /<sup>1</sup>

After the song, close with the following blessing:

You are not creatures, but beloved children of God.  
May you always take your place in God’s family choir  
gathered to sing out grace, hope, peace, and love.

- 
- Internet-connected device (optional)

1. “All God’s Creatures,” © Bill Staines. All rights reserved.



## BIBLE STORY

### BASED ON NUMBERS 27:1–11

Hello, from right to left in alphabetical order we are: Hoglah, Mahlah, Milcah, Noah, and Tirzah. We are five sisters. We are the five daughters of Zelophehad, and we have no brothers. We know all the names of our family back to Joseph. We are part of God’s people who Moses led out from Egypt. We know our family’s story, and it is important to us.

We must go speak to Moses and the other leaders at the meeting tent. Our father, Zelophehad, has died. Right now the law states that, because he didn’t have any sons, everything our father had will go to . . . to . . . well, who even knows? All we know is it is not us, his daughters! We helped our father build and grow what he had, and because we are daughters and not sons, we can’t inherit any of it from him. It will go to some distant relative, a complete stranger who doesn’t know any of the names of our family.

Does that seem right to you? Does that seem just? We don’t think so. We should be able to inherit what our father had. That’s why we’re on our way to speak to Moses. He always takes our community’s concerns to the Lord. He has led us through a desert, and he will make a just decision in our case. We just know it.

Can you help us get to the meeting tent? We know that the Lord is faithful. We know we must speak up for what is right for us and the community. Moses will listen to us and to the Lord. He will make a just decision that will help us and uplift the whole community. We are five sisters, so it might be a tight fit, but can you give us a lift?









