



Special  
Days

# LESSON PLANS

for

Internationally recognized

**SPECIAL DAYS**

*[with an animal component]*



The **United Nations** has designated certain days in the calendar as **International Days** in order to shine a spotlight on **important aspects of human life.**



**15 MAY**

The content of this  
Lesson Plan supports  
the  
International Day  
of **families**

**15 May**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**DAY OF**



**FAMILIES**



## There are three main types of family:

### **Traditional family**

*Made up of two parents with one or more children all living together.*

### **Single-parent family**

*One parent with one or more children all living together.*

### **Extended family**

*Includes relatives like grandparents and aunts and uncles, all living together.*

No matter how many people the family consists of, it is true to say that a loving and supportive family is something to be treasured.



# English

VERSION

Also available in Afrikaans, isiXhosa, isiZulu, SeSotho and SeTswana.





## The story of Thabo and Thabisile

by Tozie Zokufa

On a sunny Sunday morning Thabo and Thabisile dressed in their best clothes to go to a church service with their father Mr Mokoena. The previous two days had been very hot. Already the cicada beetles were buzzing loudly in the trees promising that this day too was going to be hot. As he set off down the dusty road with his twin boys,

Mr Mokoena stopped at the fence of the kraal to inspect his cattle and sheep. He was proud to see them fat and contented.

Mrs Mokoena did not attend the church service that morning. She stayed home to prepare Sunday lunch. She cooked a scrumptious potjiekos, which was a family favourite.

By mid-morning, grey clouds had begun to fill the blue sky. As they stood up to sing the hymn *Avulekile Amasango Ezulwini* (Heavens doors are opened) Thabo and Thabisile heard thunder rumble in the distance.

By the time Mr Mokoena and his boys emerged from church, a light rain had started. Thabo and Thabisile squeezed their eyes tight shut and turned their faces to the sky to feel the drops on their faces. They breathed deep to smell the good scent of damp soil.

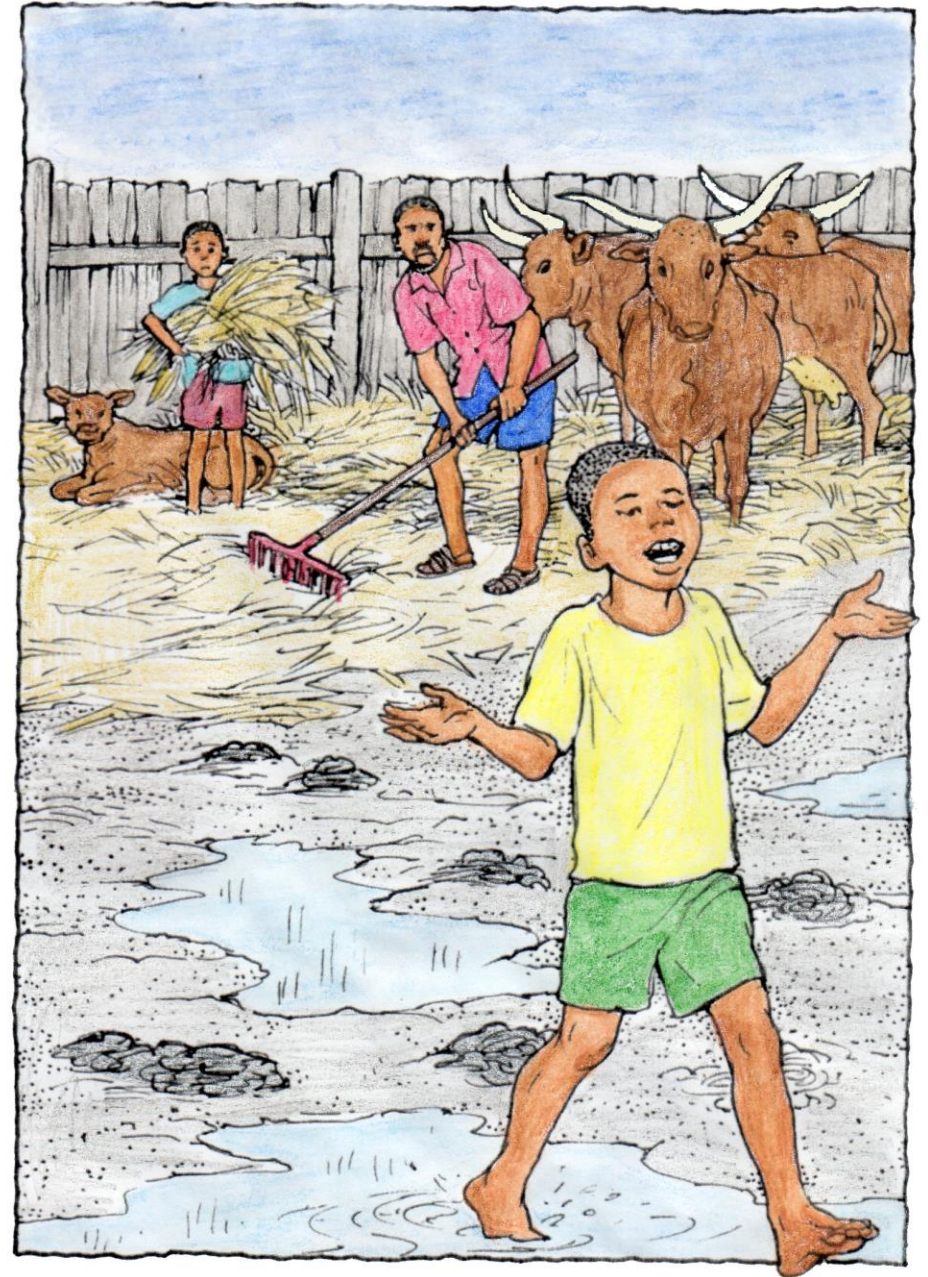
Mr Mokoena was worried about his cattle and sheep. The thunder was coming nearer. Lightning streaked the sky. The drops of rain grew bigger. They still had a long walk to get home. He knew his cattle and sheep were afraid of the big claps of thunder. "Let's jog all the way back," he suggested to the boys.



The three of them were drenched by the time they reached home. Mama, with towels ready, waited at the door for them. A wonderful smell from the kitchen made their mouths water but Mr Mokoena said he first had to make sure the thunder had not disturbed the sheep and cattle too much, before he could sit down to eat.

By evening, the rain was still pelting down. Mr Mokoena asked his boys to help him put sand and straw in the kraal so that the cows and sheep could sleep dry and warm for the night. But Thabisile said: "Tata, I am too tired. Let Thabo help you instead."

Mr Mokoena was disappointed at his son's laziness. He replied: "Alright, but then, my son, you must not expect the cows and sheep to do anything for you either." Relaxing on the couch, Thabisile nodded his head and gave a big yawn.





Thabo and his father put on their plastic raincoats. They went outside to the kraal to lay the sand and rake straw over it. In this way, the rain would sink through the straw and sand and down into the earth, and the cows and sheep would be able to settle down for the night to sleep on bedding instead of in puddles. As Mr Mokoena and his son worked, the drenched animals stood to one side, patiently cudding, fully aware that soon they would be able to lie comfortably.

The next morning Mama prepared breakfast. The twins were sitting at the table when Thabisile noticed that his mother had forgotten to add milk to his bowl of porridge.

“Pass the milk please,” he said to Thabo.

But his father was quick to answer. “No, Thabisile,” he said. “Remember, you should not expect anything from the cows.” Thabisile frowned. Then he shrugged crossly.

During the lunch break at school Thabisile noticed that the sandwiches in his lunch box did not have cheese in them. He glanced at Thabo’s lunch box. His brother’s sandwiches were filled with grated cheese. Thabisile felt a sudden surge of anger. He felt like boxing Thabo right on the nose. Thabo saw his twin was angry. “I will tell Mama and Tata if you touch me,” he warned Thabisile.



“Don’t you remember? You didn’t help the cows and sheep yesterday. Only I helped Tata.”

When the twins reached home after school Thabisile saw that his mother was busy preparing Umphokoqo (African Salad with Amasi) for supper. He knew right then and there that there would be no Amasi for him that night.

When his father came home from work, Thabisile ran to greet him. “Tata, what can I do to help the cows and sheep? I know I was selfish and lazy yesterday. I’ve learnt my lesson.”

Mr Mokoena asked: “What lesson did you learn, my son?”

Thabisile answered sheepishly: “I know now that life is about giving and receiving and not just about receiving,” he said.

“Good”, said Father. “Come let’s talk about how you can be of help.”



NOTE  
TO  
TEACHER

***Encourage class discussion***

about the following statements inspired by the story,  
and give learners the chance to express their own related experiences.  
Learners can also be asked to put ***their thoughts into sentences.***



***A happy family...***

is one where **parents love their children unconditionally.** Mother demonstrated her love in the following ways:

- Mother **prepared** delicious and healthful **meals** for her family
- Mother **waited** at the door with towels **to help dry** her drenched family
- Mother **supported** Father in **teaching** that there are consequences to every action



*your thoughts*

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## A happy family...

is one where the **children are protected** against bad influences like alcohol and drugs, and **are safe** from people wishing to take advantage of them. Here is an example of Father's protection of his twins:

- Father did **not** send his children to worship **on their own**.
- He took the journey to church and back **with them** so as to be sure they were **safe** from harm.



*your thoughts*

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## A good parent...

is a role model, **leads by example** and does not punish physically or emotionally. Instead, a good parent **helps children understand** that there are consequences to every action. For example:

- Father did not order the twins to go and lay dry bedding down for the cows and sheep while he lay on the couch. Instead, he **led by example and set to work himself.**

- Although Father was disappointed that one of his twins was too lazy to help, he did not shout or demean or become violent, but simply **advised his son to expect consequences for such laziness.**



write

your thoughts

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## Good parents...

demonstrate family **values of care and concern** for others, including animals. Responsibility for the **well-being of animals** is based on the **Five Freedoms for Animals**.

### We know the family looked after their animals well, because:

- The sheep and cows were **fat and contented**.
- **Father** was in a hurry to get back to the animals because he **knew they would be afraid** of the big claps of thunder.
- The sheep and cows were given special bedding to **keep them dry and warm** for the night.



*your thoughts*

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*Note to  
Teacher*

***Explain to the learners  
that Father ensured his  
animals enjoyed the  
Five Freedoms for Animals.***

***These principles  
are endorsed by the  
World Organization for  
Animal Health.***

# 5 FREEDOMS for ANIMALS



5 FREEDOMS FOR ANIMALS

Endorsed by The World Organization for Animal Health

Freedom from hunger and thirst

Freedom from discomfort

Freedom from pain, injury & disease

Freedom to express normal behaviour

Freedom from fear and distress





**A good parent...**

**encourages** family **togetherness** and tries to make meal-time a family-together time. For example:

- Mother made good and delicious food for the family to **eat together** at the table.
- Mother **supported Father** in keeping family rules and showing that there are **consequences** to every action.



*your thoughts*

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**Good parents...**

encourage children to **discuss things** that are causing them concern or anxiety, without passing judgment, and **by keeping their confidence.**

- When the (previously) lazy twin ran up to Father to offer help in caring for the cows and sheep, **Father was pleased and encouraged** his son's change of attitude **with discussion and support.**



*your thoughts*

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- These **insects** were buzzing loudly in the trees promising that the day was going to be hot: .....
- Mother stayed home to prepare this **special Sunday meal**: .....
- Father stopped at the fence to inspect his cattle and sheep. There was something that **pleased** him. What was it? .....
- Father knew his cattle and sheep were **afraid** of this: .....
- Father felt this **emotion** about his son's laziness: .....
- The lazy twin noticed that the sandwiches in his lunch box did not have a certain **ingredient** in them: .....
- The absence of this ingredient made him feel this **emotion**: .....



- The story tells us that the lazy twin learned this important **lesson**. What is it?

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- The World Organization for Animal Health supports these **five principles** in our care of animals:

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