



God Sends Baby Isaac

Genesis 21:1–14



LESSON GOAL

Students will learn that God is faithful to keep His promises.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- God kept His promise by sending Isaac.
- Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.
- Sinful people cannot stop God's promises.
- God keeps all His promises.

KEY VERSE

“And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken” (Genesis 21:1).

APPLICATION

- Trust God to keep His promises to you.
- Be patient to wait for God to fulfill His promises.
- Keep the promises you have made to others.

NEXT WEEK

God Tests Abraham
Read Genesis 22.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

4

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Waiting on God’s promises is difficult for almost everyone. God rarely operates according to our timetables and expectations. He is not bound by time. He may make promises that take many years to fulfill. Second Peter 3:8–9 says, “With the Lord, one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness.” We, then, must learn to abide by His timetable and not ours. That certainly was the case with Abraham and Sarah. In the previous chapters of Genesis, we have seen failure after failure in trusting God’s promise. But God was still faithful. His faithfulness is a source of great joy to His children. A key lesson from the book of Genesis is that God is faithful even when men are faithless.

This is evident in Genesis 21. After 25 years, God fulfilled his promise to Abraham and Sarah. The Lord helped them conceive, and Sarah gave birth to Isaac. Both Abraham and Sarah were overwhelmed with joy at the faithfulness of God. The child of promise finally had arrived.

Sadly, Abraham’s joy was quickly muted. Trouble arose over Ishmael, Abraham’s son from his concubine Hagar. He was forced, with great sorrow, to drive out the young son he dearly loved. God comforted him in his sorrow by promising that Ishmael would also become a great nation. It was a sad consequence of the sin of mistrust that took place 13 years earlier. In the end, God was the only hero.

Genesis 21:1–8 is a record of the miraculous birth God promised in Genesis 17. Both Abraham (100) and Sarah (90) were well past childbearing years. The thought of a baby was so preposterous that it was a laughing matter. Both parents were overjoyed and named the child Isaac, which means “he laughs.” This name—a sort of double entendre—was to remain as a reminder of God’s promise. A year earlier Sarah had laughed, scoffing at the angel’s promise that she would have a child (Gen. 18:12–15). God would have the last laugh. He was able to give Sarah a child in her old age. Sarah enjoyed the laughter of amazement and joy at finally having a son. Her friends and family would all rejoice because of God’s special grace in her life.

Abraham circumcised Isaac on the eighth day, as God commanded. He made sure he and his son would receive their promised blessing by obeying the Lord’s command (Gen. 17:6–14). Both Abraham and Sarah were eager to share their joy with their friends and family. All who heard celebrated with them. On the day Isaac was weaned, Abraham made a great feast to celebrate this miraculous gift from God.

The family’s joy was silenced quickly by the attitude and actions of Ishmael (Gen. 21:9–21). Ishmael was the firstborn and was considered a legal heir of Abraham. At the feast Ishmael watched Isaac and scoffed at him. It is not clear what Ishmael was mocking, but Galatians 4:29 calls it persecution and indicates that it was against Isaac. He undoubtedly was upset by the change in his relationship to

Additional Reference Materials

The MacArthur Study Bible by John MacArthur

Paradise to Prison: Studies in Genesis by John J. Davis

Abraham. He was no longer the heir to the promise; it was through Isaac that God would establish His covenant (Gen. 17:9).

Sarah was outraged and threatened by Ishmael's attitude. She demanded that he be sent away from the family. Ishmael had to leave because there could be only one heir. Sarah demanded that Abraham drive out Hagar and Ishmael. Abraham was very distressed (Gen. 21:11) because he obviously was very attached to Ishmael (Gen. 17:18). However, God spoke to Abraham directly (Gen. 21:12), telling him to do what Sarah said. God reassured Abraham that He would also make a nation from Ishmael.

Abraham gave food and water to Hagar and sent her and Ishmael out. They wandered in the wilderness of Paran until the food and water were gone. Both Hagar and Ishmael were shattered and hopeless. God was faithful to them even though they were not to be part of the promise. The Lord spoke to Hagar and told her that He was a God who hears and cares. He revealed to Hagar a well of water. She and Ishmael settled in the wilderness, and God prospered them as He had promised (Gen. 21:18).

Note: This portion of the Bible explains the origin of the conflict between Jews and Muslims. Muslims claim to be the spiritual sons of Abraham. They believe that Ishmael was the rightful heir and not Isaac. The Koran contains a contradictory account of the events that happened. The Bible, which is the true revelation of God, makes it clear that Isaac was the heir to the promise. The sons of Ishmael would be at odds with the sons of Isaac from that time forward. To a large degree, the fighting that goes on in the Middle East can be traced back to this event.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Why was God going to punish the people of Sodom?
The people were selfish and wicked.

Why did Abraham ask the angel of the Lord to save the good people of Sodom?
Abraham's nephew Lot and his family were living in Sodom.

What happened to the angels when they went to Sodom?
The wicked men of Sodom wanted to hurt the angels, but the angels blinded them so they couldn't find the door.

What happened to Lot and his family the next morning?
The angels took Lot and his family out of Sodom. Lot's wife disobeyed God when she looked back. Because of that, she became a pillar of salt.

How did God punish Sodom?

God sent fire from the sky and burned the houses, crops, and people.

Did God answer Abraham's prayer for Lot?

Yes. Lot was taken from Sodom before it burned.



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Baby Face

Allow the students to leaf through magazines and cut out pictures of babies. Have them glue the pictures onto a piece of construction paper to make a collage. For younger students, cut out the baby pictures before class. Tell the students that in today's lesson, a very special baby will be born. Abraham and Sarah have waited 25 years for this baby.



Guess Who

Bring a baby picture of yourself to class. Hold up the picture so the class can see it. Have the students guess who the baby is. Once the answer is given, explain that in today's lesson, they will learn about a promised baby, Isaac.



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My Family Sheet

Let each student color a picture of his family on a blank sheet of paper. Talk about the fact that our families all are different—some have lots of sisters and brothers, some don't have any, etc.—but that God gave each of us the family that is best for us, just as God gave Abraham and Sarah to Isaac to be his daddy and mommy.



Teach a Puppet Bible Names

Introduce a new puppet to the students. Help the puppet learn the names of the Bible characters whom the students have been hearing about over the last few weeks. Let the students review with the puppet as they talk about Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah. Help them say "Isaac" and "Ishmael" in anticipation of today's lesson.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included to use during worship time. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of Text

Read Genesis 21:1–14.

Have you ever waited a very long time for something? Maybe you have waited for a birthday or a Christmas present. Some things seem to take forever. Some of you

have younger brothers and sisters. When your mommy was pregnant, it seemed like the baby would never come.

God promised Abraham that he would have many children and grandchildren. God waited 25 years to fulfill His promise. Then a special baby was born to Abraham and Sarah. God kept His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son. God always keeps His promises. God gives us each a family, the right family for us. God gave you a mommy, a daddy, and maybe a sister or a brother. God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby named Isaac. Can you say "Isaac"? [Say the name with the students several times.]

The name Isaac means "laughter." Abraham and Sarah gave Isaac this name because of the great joy God gave to Abraham and Sarah in their very old age. Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 when Isaac was born. It truly was a miracle. God can do anything. He keeps His promises even when it takes a long, long time.

In Genesis 12:2, God promised that Abraham's grandchildren and great-grandchildren would become a great nation. There would be so many people in Israel that to count them would be like counting the stars. Do you think you could count the stars? Counting the stars is impossible because there are so many. Also, this nation would be given land as a gift. The people would live on that land and become a nation with a king and important leaders. In that land, they would worship God. This nation would show everybody in the world how to worship God. God was going to fulfill his promise through this new baby, Isaac. How exciting for Abraham to see God keep His word.

But not everyone was happy about the birth of Isaac. Isaac's older brother, Ishmael, was not happy. [Say the name Ishmael with the students several times.] Isaac was the promised child to Abraham. He was the child of Sarah. God promised to make the promised child the head of a great nation.

One day Ishmael was making fun of Isaac and treating him badly. Sarah was very upset. Ishmael was not her son. She didn't want him around anymore. So she went to Abraham and said, "Make Hagar and Ishmael leave." Abraham didn't know what to do. He loved Ishmael. But God told Abraham to do what Sarah wanted. God would take care of Ishmael and would make him a great nation, too. The next day, Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away. And God did take care of Ishmael. He grew up in the wilderness with his mother and had many, many children. God made him into a nation. The Arabs who live in and near Israel today are descendants of Ishmael.

Isaac is one of the ancestors of Jesus. He is the fulfillment of the final promise given to Abraham. Remember, God keeps His promises. He keeps His promises even when we don't trust Him. But we need to learn to trust Him and wait patiently for Him to keep His promises.



Lesson Questions

Who was the special baby promised to Abraham?

Isaac.

How old were Abraham and Sarah when Isaac was born?

Abraham was 100, and Sarah was 90.

Why was Isaac's birth a miracle?

Sarah was too old to have a baby.

Why did Abraham and Sarah name their son Isaac?

They had great joy, and they named him "laughter." (That is what the name Isaac means.)

How did Ishmael react?

He treated Isaac badly.

Where were Ishmael and Hagar sent?

They were sent into the wilderness, but God still took care of them.

In what ways can you trust God?

[Let the students give their own answers.]

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



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Baby Talk

Show a boy doll to the students. Ask if any of them were ever babies. This should start a lively discussion. Allow the students to comment on this question for a few minutes. Ask the students to tell you who gives babies to mommies and daddies. Explain that Abraham and Sarah waited for 25 years to have a baby. Then tell the students that in today's lesson, they will learn about a promised baby, Isaac.

Praise and Worship

*Father Abraham**

God Is So Good

In His Time

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

Rejoice in the Lord Always

**Replace "so let's just praise the Lord" with "if Jesus is our Lord."*



Family Finger-Play, Version One

Here is my mother.

(Thumb out.)

Here is my father.

(First finger up.)

Here is my brother tall.

(Middle finger up.)

Here is my sister.

(Fourth finger up.)

Here is the baby.

(Put fifth finger up.)

Oh, how we love them all.

Family Finger-Play, Version Two

In this house you will see
(Place backs of hands together, join fingers, and bring palms together to look inside.)

A very happy family.
(Smile.)

There's a daddy, there's a mother,
(Wiggle thumb and pointer finger.)

There's a sister and a brother.
(Wiggle third and fourth fingers.)

Who can this one be?
(Wiggle pinkie finger.)

Why, this little one is me!
(Point to self.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Review Necklace

Provide pieces of yarn (with masking tape wrapped around one end) and cups of dry cereal for the students to string on their yarn. Let the students add pictures to their necklace as reminders of the Bible lesson today. Copy a sheet of picture circles from the past three lessons (located at the back of this lesson). Talk about the lesson questions as the students work. Encourage the students to tell their parents what they learned today. Be sure to ask the parents whether students can eat the cereal.



Thank-You Bracelet

Before class, cut paper-towel tubes or toilet-paper tubes into 2-inch lengths. Slit the tubes down one side so that they will open up and can fit over a child's hand. During class, students can add stickers and glue a picture of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac on the piece of paper-towel tube. Glue on the words "Thank You, God." (Before class, make a page with "Thank You, God" ovals that can be cut out and glued.)

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. Students can color the pictures in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

"And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness" (Genesis 15:6).

Picture Circles





**“For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age,
at the set time of which God had spoken to him”
(Genesis 21:2).**



**God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby in their old age.
They named him Isaac (Gen. 21:1-7).**



Abraham and Sarah sent away the Egyptian maidservant Hagar and her son, Ishmael (Genesis 21:8–14).

