



God Sends Baby Isaac

Genesis 21:1-14



LESSON GOAL

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

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Describe how God kept His promise to Abraham by sending Isaac.
- Explain that sinful people cannot stop God's promises.
- Explain that 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.
- 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



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

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

Additional Reference Materials

The MacArthur Study Bible by John MacArthur

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

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 angry with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and what was He going to do as a result?

They had greatly disobeyed Him, and He was going to judge the cities by destroying them.

What did Abraham ask God to do?

Abraham asked God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah if He could find at least 10 righteous people there.

Did God find 10 righteous people?

No.

What did the angels tell Lot to do?

The angels warned Lot of the impending destruction and instructed him to take his family and flee from the city.

Did the angels have to help Lot leave the city?

Yes. Lot lingered in the city, so the angels grabbed the hands of Lot, his wife, and his daughters and set them outside the city. They were commanded not to look back at the city.

Who did and did not obey the command?

Lot's wife was the only one to disobey the command. She looked back at the city and, as a result, became a pillar of salt.

Are there consequences for us when we sin?

Yes.



1

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.



1

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.



2

3

Review Test

Take this short review test (located at the back of the lesson). Why do teachers give tests? What information do tests provide for teachers? What do we learn about ourselves when we are tested?



Waiting

Ask students whether they have ever waited a long time for something. Were they happy when it finally happened? Ask whether they are waiting for something now. Ask them what they would think if it would take 25 years to happen. Abraham and Sarah had been waiting for 25 years.

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.

Introduction

Does anyone remember what city Abraham came from? It was Ur of the Chaldeans (Gen. 11:31). What did God do for Abraham? God gave him a promise (Gen. 12:1–3). What were the four things that God promised Abraham?

1. a special land
2. a great name
3. many descendants who would be a great nation
4. blessing to the entire world

What else did God promise Abraham? His future son, Isaac (Gen. 17:16). Did Abraham believe that God would do what He promised? Abraham began to doubt God, and so did his wife, Sarah. Why did Abraham and Sarah doubt God’s promise? They did not think that they could have a son because they were very old (Gen. 17:17). But do you think that God would fulfill His promise? Yes, He would do what He told Abraham. Abraham and Sarah would have a son, and his name would be Isaac. And this week, we are going to see God give Abraham and Sarah this son. God is going to fulfill His promise. What a wonderful joy this is!



Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: When did God say that Abraham and Sarah would have Isaac?

Answer: God told Abraham and Sarah that Isaac would be born within one year (Gen. 17:21). So if God was going to keep His promise, then Isaac had to be born in one year. This is just what happened. Genesis 21:1 says that “the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.” Genesis 21:2 continues by saying that “Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.”

LOQ: How did God keep His promise to Abraham and Sarah?

Answer: God gave Abraham and Sarah a son “at the set time” (Gen. 21:2). God made sure that His promise happened just as He had told them it would. Since God did what He had promised He would do, both Abraham and Sarah could know for certain that God keeps His promises.

LOQ: What did Abraham and Sarah do after Isaac was born?

Answer: Abraham made a great feast for everyone (Gen. 21:8). He rejoiced that he had a son from Sarah. Sarah was happy, too, but she did something sinful. When Sarah heard Hagar's son saying bad things about Isaac, she became angry (Gen. 21:9–10).

LOQ: What did Sarah tell Abraham to do?

Answer: Sarah told Abraham to “cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac” (Gen. 21:10). Abraham did not like what Sarah said (Gen. 21:11). But God told Abraham not to be angry (Gen. 21:12). God even told Abraham to listen to what Sarah wanted.

LOQ: Was it wrong for Sarah to be so angry at Hagar and her son?

Answer: Yes, Sarah was wrong to be angry. It was sinful for her to behave that way, but God still was in charge of everything. What Sarah had done did not take God by surprise. God knew that Sarah was going to be angry at Hagar and her son.

LOQ: Why did God tell Abraham to listen to what Sarah had said?

Answer: God told Abraham, “In Isaac your seed shall be called” (Gen. 21:12). God wanted Abraham to know that Isaac, not Hagar's son, would receive God's promise.

LOQ: Do you think that God took care of Hagar and her son after Abraham sent them away?

Answer: Yes, God took care of them. God told Abraham in Genesis 21:13 that a nation would come from Ishmael as well. What is important to remember is that God's promise was given to Isaac, not to Ishmael.

LOQ: Why was God making His promise to Isaac and not to Ishmael?

Answer: God is sovereign. He rules everything and everyone in the universe, and He chooses what to do. We can trust in God that He will make wise choices. Isaac, not Ishmael, was the answer to God's promise.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

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



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



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.

Praise and Worship

*Father Abraham**

God Is So Good

Great Is the Lord

In His Time
Jesus Loves the Little Children
Praise Him, All Ye Little Children
Rejoice in the Lord Always
The Solid Rock

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

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.



1
2

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.



1
2

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.)



"God Sends Baby Isaac"

Give each student a copy of the work sheet at the back of this lesson. Have students complete the work sheet in class or at home with parents.



2
3

Journal Page: "God Keeps His Promises"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. Students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

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).

Review Test

Circle the correct answers.



Name _____

1. On what day of creation were birds and fish made?

day five

day seven

day twelve

2. How was Adam made?

from the dust

in God's image

3. What command did God give Adam?

Do not eat from any tree in the garden.

Do not touch the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Do not eat from the the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or you will die.

4. Which statement is NOT true?

God accepted Cain's sacrifice.

Cain killed Abel

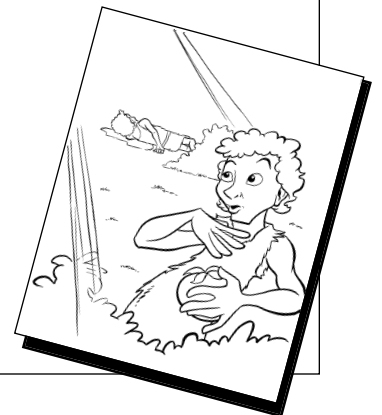
God protected Cain.

5. Which statement is true of Noah?

Noah built ships for a living.

Noah was righteous and walked with God.

Noah died in the flood.



6. The rainbow reminds us that God will never _____.

- destroy all life on earth again
- send another flood
- destroy the earth with a flood



7. What was the reason the people decided to build the tower of Babel?

- to make a name for themselves
- to make a way to get to heaven

8. God promised Abraham _____.

- wisdom
- happiness
- protection, land, and descendants

9. When Sarah heard Abraham's visitor say she would have a son, she _____.

- laughed
- rejoiced
- cried

10. What city(ies) did God destroy because of the people's sin?

- Sodom and Gomorrah
- Zoar

11. Which of these commands did Lot's wife disobey?

- Stay in the city
- Don't look back.
- Flee for your lives.



Picture Circles



God *Sends* Baby Isaac



Genesis 21:1-14

Name _____

1. What did God promise Abraham and Sarah?

a son

a goat

a new home

2. Did God keep this promise? _____

3. What did Abraham and Sarah name their son? _____

4. What does the name Isaac mean?

heartache

gladness

laughter

5. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?

99

100

85

6. True or False: Sarah became angry when Hagar's son mocked Isaac. _____

7. Why did God tell Abraham to listen to Sarah and send Hagar and her son away?

Sarah was right to get angry.

Abraham would be blessed through Isaac.

We do not know the reason.

God Keeps His Promises

God promised Abraham and Sarah a son, and He gave them one—just as He had said He would. Do you know why God keeps showing you in Genesis that He keeps His promises? They are examples for you. He wants you to know that He is faithful and that you can trust Him with any problem you might face.

I can tell Christ my problem about _____

When I am like Sarah and don't believe, I must pray. God promises to take care of His children, and I should turn to Him in faith and trust Him.

I know God cares for His children because _____

God Keeps His Promises

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I know God cares for His children because _____

List below some cares that you have. Draw a smiley face next to the things that you think are very difficult, and then ask God to show you that it is not too difficult for Him.

Thank God that He cares for you and is willing to help you with your problems.

“Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass”
(Psalm 37:5).

List below some cares that you have. Draw a smiley face next to the things that you think are very difficult, and then ask God to show you that it is not too difficult for Him.

Thank God that He cares for you and is willing to help you with your problems.

“Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass”
(Psalm 37:5).



**“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).

