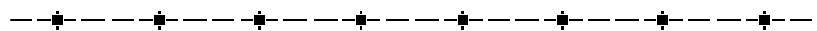


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Family Faces Jealousy

Sarah and Hagar

Genesis 16

A Family Faces Jealousy

Genesis 16:1-15

Memory Verse:

Let us not become proud.
Let us not make each other
angry. Let us not want what
belongs to others.
Galatians 5:26 NIV

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Hagar was a slave.
2. Understand that Sarah was Abraham's wife.
3. Understand that jealousy can have serious consequences.
4. Understand that God wants us to let Him lead us.

Last week, we learned about Abraham and Lot. We learned that Abraham humbled himself and ensured peace between Lot and himself. God blessed Abraham. Abraham honored God by worshipping Him and by obeying Him.

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 16:1-3 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

Today we will look at the relationship between Sarah and Hagar. Hagar was an Egyptian slave. (Genesis 16:1) Even though it was her idea for Abraham to have a child by her slave, Sarah was not happy. (Genesis 16:5) *[Teacher: You may want to explain to the children that this was a cultural practice which was not a part of God's plan.]* Sarah started the problem. She was wrong not to trust God. She was probably afraid that she was too old to have children. She blamed God for not having children. (Genesis 16:1) Remember Adam and Eve? Eve blamed the serpent. Adam blamed Eve. Have you ever blamed someone else for something you did? What happened? When we do wrong, God wants us to go to Him and He will forgive us. (1 John 1:9)

Sarah thought she would help God, so she told Abraham to have a child by her slave. (Genesis 16:1) Abraham was wrong to do what Sarah said. He probably wanted to please Sarah. The same thing happened to Adam and Eve. Eve was wrong to eat of the fruit. Adam was wrong to eat the fruit when Eve told him to do it. Have you ever made a serious mistake? What did you do? What did you learn from it? Waiting for God can be a difficult thing. But God wants us to wait on Him. (Psalm 27:14) God is faithful to fulfill his promises. (Psalm 86:15) We can trust him.

Sarah was not happy and Hagar was not happy, either. Hagar began to look down on Sarah. (Genesis 16:4) Being childless, (not have any children) was not a good thing. Children were considered a blessing from God, so not to have any meant that God had not blessed. But that was not true. Sometimes people don't understand what God is doing. They think they need to help God. Have you ever done that?

Sarah complained to Abraham. By this time, probably, Abraham was not happy. Abraham told Sarah to do what ever she needed to do. Sarah treated Hagar badly. (Genesis 16:6)

Sometimes people are treated in ways that are not right. It does not please God when people are not treated right. "Let us not become

Abraham Bible Facts

1. Sarah was Abraham's wife.
2. Hagar was a slave.
3. Sarah told Abraham to have a child with Hagar.
4. Sarah was unhappy and mistreated Hagar.
5. Hagar ran away.

proud. Let us not make each other angry. Let us not want what belongs to others.” (Galatians 5:26 NIV) God wants us to allow Him to help us so that we can do the things He wants us to do. He wants us to spend time with Him so that we can have a good attitude. Attitude is the way we feel about somebody or something. He wants us to “march in step” with His Spirit. (Galatians 5:25) When we spend time with God, it is easier to “march in step” with His Spirit.

Has anyone ever treated you badly? How did you feel? What did you do? Hagar ran away, but God told her to go back. God let Hagar know that He knew what was happening. God told her to go back. So she went back because she knew that God could see her. (Genesis 16:6-9) God sees everything. We can be sure that He sees how others treat us. God cares about us.

Jealousy can cause problems in a family. It caused problems for Hagar and Sarah. God does not want us to be jealous and want what others have. God sent Jesus to show us how to live. God wants us to be happy with those who are happy. (Romans 12:15) God wants us to be kind to each other and to forgive each other. (Ephesians 4:32) We can pray and ask God to help us. He will help us know how to behave. God will help us to obey Him.

Review questions.

1. **Who was Hagar?** (an Egyptian slave)
2. **Who was Sarah?** (Abraham's wife)
3. **What did Sarah do?** (Told Abraham to have a child with Hagar)
4. **What did Abraham do?** (Abraham did what Sarah told him to do)
5. **What happened?** (Hagar began to look down on Sarah; Sarah began to mistreat Hagar so she ran away)

Do you know Jesus? God want us to have right attitudes and good feelings about each other and about Him. God wants to help us do what is right. To do that, we have to know Him. In order to know Jesus, we have to ask God to forgive our sins. We need to invite Him to come and be a part of our lives. When we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, then we are saved. (Romans 10:9-10) When that happens, we can be friends with God and know Him.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we know how to live.
3. Ask God to help you have right attitudes and good feelings about others.
4. Pray for friends and family members who may feel jealousy.

Application

Sometimes in families, people have trouble getting along. In the Bible, God gave us instructions which help us know how to treat each other. (I Corinthians 13, Romans 12:9-21) Sarah did not wait for God to give Abraham children. Abraham tried to please Sarah. Hagar began to look down on Sarah. Sarah was jealous. Her jealousy caused her to behave in a way which hurt Hagar. Hagar ran away, then obeyed God and returned. God wants us to “march in step with His Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25) When we do that we will have right attitudes and right feelings about others.

Planning for the next week:

Lot and Sodom (A Family Faces Destruction) — Genesis 19-21, 25

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 16:9-10 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Sing: “God is so Good”

Have you ever been unhappy because someone got something and you did not? The Bible says, “Let us not want what belongs to others.” (Galatians 5:26 NIRV)

Hagar was going to have a baby. Sarah did not have any children. Sarah became jealous. To be jealous is to be unhappy because someone has something you do not have. Later on, we will learn that Sarah had a baby, too.

God knows what we need. He wants to give us good things. (Jeremiah 29:11) Waiting for God can be a difficult thing, but God wants us to wait on Him. (Psalm 27:14) God will do what He says. (Psalm 86:15) We can trust him.

God wants us to be happy when others are happy. When others get good things, we should be happy with them. God wants us to have good feelings towards other people.

We practice by sharing. What can you share today? We practice by being kind? How can you be kind today? Can you practice by taking turns?

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we know how to live.
3. Ask God to help you have right attitudes and good feelings about others.

Did you know? Preschoolers experience feelings of jealousy. Talk with your preschoolers about what they are feeling. Reassure them that each one is special. Consider this: If you use the name of one preschooler, use everyone’s name. If you don’t know the names of the preschoolers, play a game that will allow you to learn their names. Write their names on their work. Create special name tags that you can read. Play “Simon Says” and let each child lead. Ask them their name if you don’t remember it or don’t know it.

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity**— Jealousy is often referred to as “the green-eyed monster.” Make some green-eyed monsters out of card stock or construction paper. On the back, write in a word from the memory verse. Have the children practice by putting the memory verse in order. Talk about jealousy. Remind the children about what God wants us to do.
- **Test your memory**— Tell the children the memory verse. Ask if anyone can repeat it. Now say it in short phrases. Ask if anyone can repeat it. Now ask the children to repeat the phrases several times. Then ask if anyone can say the whole verse.
- **Taste activity**— Bring milk and cookies or hot chocolate (make sure it is not too hot). Talk about things that can bring comfort. Tell the children that God’s word can give us comfort. Share some verses that are meaningful to you.
- **Think about it** — Create a drama where one child wants what another child has. Use puppets to tell the story. Talk about jealousy. Talk about how God wants us to behave. Reassure the children that God made us all special. He loves each one of us.
- **Touch activity**— Bring in some new toys or books that the children can use. Wrap them like birthday gifts. Form a circle. Have the children open the gifts. Use a timer and let the children look at the items for 15 seconds and then pass them to the person on their right. When everyone has looked at the gift items, ask the children to put the items in their proper place with other toys. Tell them that taking turns is something that pleases God.
- **Run and play**— Bring a green drape, towel, or hat that children can wear. Play tag. Have the person who is “It,” be called the green-eyed monster. They will wear the green drape or hat. Remind the children that God does not want us to be jealous. He wants us to be happy when others receive good things.
- **Listen**— Record someone singing or saying nice things. Then record someone screaming or whining and complaining. Play both for the children. Ask them which is more pleasant to hear. Remind them that we can trust God to provide for all our needs. He hears us when we pray, and He answers.
- **Sing**— Sing a song related to the story.

Memory Verse

Let us not
become proud.

Let us not
make each other
angry.

Let us not want
what belongs
to others.

Galatians 5:26 NIV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

God wants us
to have
right
attitudes.

Word Puzzle

Y L B T N E P T E S F D
Q X P H A R A S M X E N
M G B R L R R E O S H T
A E G R A G A H P S F R
D E S S E L B E E E A N
A L P K I N D V V L V D
R F I H E U S P I B E H
B S R D T J R B G D N P
A V I I M H L O R V Q I
F J T A I A T S O G A V
L T D N M E S I F O R P
A A J E A L O U S L H R

SARAH

HAGAR

JEALOUS

BLAME

BLESSED

SPIRIT

ATTITUDE

KIND

FORGIVE

Word Puzzle

Y	L	B	T	N	E	P	T	E	S	F	D
Q	X	P	H	A	R	A	S	M	X	E	N
M	G	B	R	L	R	R	E	O	S	H	T
A	E	G	R	A	G	A	H	P	S	F	R
D	E	S	S	E	L	B	E	E	E	A	N
A	L	P	K	I	N	D	V	V	L	V	D
R	F	I	H	E	U	S	P	I	B	E	H
B	S	R	D	T	J	R	B	G	D	N	P
A	V	I	I	M	H	L	O	R	V	Q	I
F	J	T	A	I	A	T	S	O	G	A	V
L	T	D	N	M	E	S	I	F	O	R	P
A	A	J	E	A	L	O	U	S	L	H	R

SARAH

HAGAR

JEALOUS

BLAME

BLESSED

SPIRIT

ATTITUDE

KIND

FORGIVE

Anagram

1. EB NIKD- _____

2. REIOFVG- _____

3. HACMR NI EPTS- _____

4. HIGRT DEVIATTT- _____

5. VEJOASL- _____

6. ALEBM- _____

7. ETG OGANL- _____

8. HTIGR OIASNTC- _____

Anagram

1. EB NIKD- BE KIND
2. REIOFVG- FORGIVE
3. HACMR NI EPTS- MARCH IN STEP
4. HIGRT DEVIATTT- RIGHT ATTITUDE
5. VEJOASL- JEALOUS
6. ALEBM- BLAME
7. ETG OGANL- GET ALONG
8. HTIGR OIASNTC- RIGHT ACTIONS