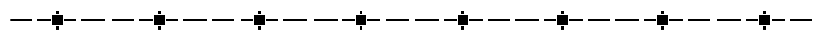


# Old Testament

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 Has Laughter

Isaac Is Born

Genesis 21

A Family Has Laughter

Genesis 21:1-7

### Memory Verse:

When there was no reason for hope, Abraham believed because he had hope.

**Romans 4:18 NIV**

### Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that God promised Abraham descendants.
2. Understand that Abraham believed God.
3. Understand that both Abraham and Sarah were old.
4. Understand that God is faithful to keep His promises.

Last week, we learned about Lot. Lot lived in a city full of evil. The sin was so great that God was going to destroy the city. Because of his concern for Abraham, God saved Lot.

### Read the Bible

**READ: Genesis 21:1-7 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

### Begin with Prayer

Today we will see how God kept His promise to Abraham. You may remember that when God first called Abraham, He promised to make him a great nation. (Genesis 12:2)

Abraham was 75 years old when he left Haran. (Genesis 12:4) God told Abraham that his children would be as numerous as the stars. (Genesis 15:4-6) Abraham and Sarah were both too old to have children, but Abraham believed God. (Genesis 15:6) The Bible tells us about Abraham's faith because God wants us to trust Him the way Abraham did.

It may have been hard for Abraham and Sarah to wait for God to keep His promise. From the time God called Abraham, until the time that God told him that he and Sarah would have a child, 25 years had passed. That is a long time in human terms, but for God, the time was just right.

Has anyone ever made a promise to you? Was it hard for you to wait for them to keep their promise? When God makes a promise, He keeps it.

Well, God told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a child. Abraham laughed at the wonderful thought that a 100 year-old man and a 90 year-old woman would have a child. (Genesis 17:17, 21) That seems like an impossible thing, but not for God. Do you know anyone who is 90 years old? 100 years old? Who is the oldest person you know? The Bible tells us, "God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us." (Ephesians 3:20 NIV)

God said that He would return and Sarah would have a son. (Genesis 18:10). God not only told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a child, but God told Abraham that the child would be a boy. Today, people can know if their baby is going to be a boy or a girl, but back then they didn't have a way of knowing until the baby was born.

Having a son was an important part of the culture. A son carried the family name. A son provided a way for the family to continue.

The Bible tells us, that when there should have been no hope, Abraham had hope and believed God. (Romans 4:18-19) God honored Abraham's faith.

When Sarah learned that she would have a child, she laughed because she knew she was too old. (Genesis 18:12) But the Bible says Sarah became preg-

### Bible Facts– Lot and Sodom

1. Abraham was 75 when God promised him descendants.
2. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.
3. Sarah laughed thinking she was too old to have a baby.
4. Abraham believed God.
5. Isaac means laughter.

nant. God did what He said He would. Sarah gave birth at the “exact time God had promised.” (Genesis 21:1-2) God wants us to believe that He will do what He says He will do, at the time He says He will do it, just like He did for Abraham.

It must have been an exciting time for everyone. They had probably never seen an old woman and an old man have a baby. It was even more exciting for Abraham and Sarah. Sarah now had a child. That was very important to women. It was considered a special blessing from God. Sarah received her special blessing at an impossible time in her life. Have you ever had a blessing that you thought was impossible?

Abraham must have been pretty excited. A 100 year old man with a brand new baby boy was probably more than he could have ever imagined. But God is able to do the impossible and He did. “God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us.” (Ephesians 3:20 NIRV)

Abraham and Sarah named their baby boy Isaac. Isaac means laughter. (Genesis 21:3-7) “Sarah said, ‘God has given laughter to me. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.’” (Genesis 21:6 NIRV) Can you imagine a 90 year-old woman with a baby?

Our God is an awesome God. He made it possible for Abraham and Sarah to become parents, even though they were both too old. “Abraham believed that the One who made the promise was faithful.... He became the father of many nations, exactly as God had promised.” (Hebrews 11:11 NIRV) There was another time when God sent a son to a couple. It seemed impossible, too. Joseph and Mary cared for Jesus. He brought joy to His parents just as Isaac brought joy to Abraham and Sarah. God sent His Son, Jesus, to us. The Bible says that God loved us so much, that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.

### Review questions.

1. What did God tell Abraham? (He would give him descendants)
2. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? (Abraham was 100 years old)
3. What did Sarah think? (She laughed because she thought she was too old to have a baby)
4. What did Abraham think? (Abraham believed God)
5. What does Isaac mean? (Isaac means laughter)

**Do you know Jesus?** God sent His Son, Jesus. It seemed impossible that a virgin could give birth, but Mary did. God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. (Ephesians 3:20 NIRV) God’s love is greater than anything we can understand. God sent His Son Jesus because He loves us. (John 3:16) Jesus died on the cross, and on the third He rose from the dead. Because Jesus lives, we can have eternal life. We can invite Jesus into our heart and life. We can ask God to forgive us of our sins and make us pure. (1 John 1:9)

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins.
3. Ask God to help you have faith.
4. Pray that the members of your family will have faith.

### Application

“When there was no reason for hope, Abraham believed because he had hope. He became the father of many nations, exactly as God had promised.... Abraham accepted the fact that he was past the time when he could have children. At that time he was about 100 years old. He also realized that Sarah was too old to have children.” (Genesis 17:15-24) God wants us to have faith like Abraham. God wants us to know that nothing is impossible for Him. (Luke 1:37)

### Planning for the next week:

Ishmael and Isaac (A Family Faces Rivalry) — Genesis 21

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: Genesis 21:1-7 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

(If possible have the parents bring baby pictures of the children in your Bible study. Also ask for current pictures of their grandparents. Look for pictures of people who are 90 and 100 years old. Bring pictures of yourself as a baby, and of your grandparents.)

Has anyone ever made a promise to you? Was it hard for you to wait for them to keep their promise? When God makes a promise, He keeps it.

God told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a child. Abraham laughed at the wonderful thought that a 100 year-old man and a 90 year-old woman would have a child. (Genesis 17:17, 21) That seems like an impossible thing, but not for God.

Do you know anyone who is 90 years old? 100 years old? (Show the children the pictures you brought of people who are 90 and 100 years old.) Who is the oldest person you know? (Show the children pictures of their grandparents.) The Bible tells us, "God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20 NIV)

God said that Sarah would have a son. (Genesis 18:10). God not only told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a child, but God told Abraham that the child would be a boy. Today, people can know if their baby is going to be a boy or a girl but back then they didn't have a way of knowing until the baby was born. (Show the children their baby pictures.)

God kept his promise to Abraham by giving him a son. Abraham and Sarah loved their son, Isaac. Parents love their children. God loves us with a love that is even stronger. God also kept another promise by sending Jesus. God sent Jesus so that we can know His love.

## Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know His love.
3. Thank God for keeping His promises.

**Did you know?** Preschoolers will follow your example.

Consider this: If you make a promise, keep it. Keep your promises simple. If you are not certain that you will be able to do something, say, "I don't know if I can do that." "I will try." "I can't promise."

# Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity**— If possible, use birth announcements to write the Bible verse. Explain how the birth announcement is used. Have the children memorize the verse.
- **Test your memory**— Use blocks (primary colors) and write key phrases from the story. Ask the children to retell the story.
- **Taste activity**— Bring baby food (like applesauce) and allow the children to taste it. Talk about the excitement of having a new baby.
- **Think about it** — Ask the children if any of them have great-grandparents. Ask them if they have grandparents. Tell them that Abraham and Sarah were probably old enough to be their great-great grandparents when they had Isaac. Talk about Ephesians 3:20.
- **Touch activity**— Go to the nursery. Allow the children to touch the babies. If they are older and the parents give permission, allow them to carry the babies.

Another option is to bring dolls that cry, wet, etc.

- **Run and play**— Play a game where the children run to tell that, “It’s a boy.” Let several run together to tell the good news. Talk about how exciting the birth of Isaac was for Abraham and Sarah. Tell that God wants us to get excited about the Good News.
- **Listen**— Ask the children take time for silence. Tell to think about people who have new babies. Thank God for new babies.
- **Sing**— Sing “Jesus Loves Me,” or a song related to the story.

## Memory Verse

When there was no  
reason  
for hope,  
Abraham  
believed  
because  
he had hope.

ROMANS 4:18 NIRV

## Word Art

Trace the letters.

God

gave

Abraham

a son.

## Word Puzzle

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

ABRAHAM

ISAAC

SARAH

OLD

LAUGHTER

PROMISE

HOPE

BELIEVED

IMPOSSIBLE



# Word Puzzle



ABRAHAM

ISAAC

SARAH

OLD

LAUGHTER

PROMISE

HOPE

BELIEVED

IMPOSSIBLE

## Anagram

1. RPEIOSM-
2. RTHEUAGL-
3. CSAIA-
4. HRSAA-
5. RMBAAAH-
6. PLEIBOIMSS-
7. OEPH-
8. DEVEBELI-

## Anagram

1. RPEIOSM-PROMISE
2. RTHEUAGL-LAUGHTER
3. CSAIA-ISAAC
4. HRSAA-SARAH
5. RMBAAAH-ABRAHAM
6. PLEIBOIMSS-IMPOSSIBLE
7. OEPH-HOPE
8. DEVEBELI-BELIEVED