

Mamre: Promise of a Son—A Son is Born

Genesis 15:1-4



Old Testament 2
Part 1: Abraham

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 2 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Genesis 15:1-4; 17:1-22; 18:1-8,15-19; 21:1-8; Hebrews 6:13-15; 11:11-12; Romans 4:18-21

MEMORY WORK:

“Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Genesis 12:3”](#)
- [“My God is So Big”](#)
- [“Every Promise in The Book”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [Abraham & Israel](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “O.T. 2 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- “Summary of the Bible” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- “Genesis Chapter Summary” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- A Beka Flash-A-Card Series: Abraham and Isaac (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- [“Map of Abram's Journeys”](#) (provided in the map section of the curriculum site)
- On the wall map, place a tree, tent, figures of Abraham, Sarah, and the three visitors at Mamre.
- Have adults or teenagers come in and act out the story dressed up like Abraham and Sarah
- [“God Keeps His Promises Visual”](#) (provided in activity sheets)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can believe that God keeps His promises, because nothing is too hard for God.

LESSON STARTS HERE

TEACHING ALERTS:



- Note that angels when on Earth are consistently portrayed as having the appearance of a human male (i.e., without wings; e.g., Genesis 18-19; Hebrews 13:2; Judges 13), though sometimes glowing/shining (e.g., Luke 24:4; Daniel 3:25).

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Who have we been studying about? (Abraham and Sarah) Does anyone remember the three promises that God made to Abraham? God always does what He says He will do. We can always believe God! Today, we are going to talk about when God kept one of His promises to Abraham.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Review the three promises God made to Abram.

Is it important for us to do what we say we will do (Matthew 5:37)? What happens when we don't keep our word? (We lie and cause others to not trust us.) What would happen if God didn't do what He said He would? We never have to worry about that, because God always keeps His word (Titus 1:2). Today, we're going to learn about how Abraham and Sarah had a baby just like God said they would.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review the meaning of "promise." Discuss promises that children may have made in the past. Discuss the reason why it is not a good idea for humans to make promises (Matthew 5:33-37; James 4:13-16). Only God can make a promise and know that He will be able to keep it, since He knows everything, including what tomorrow will bring. Review the promises that God made to Abraham.
2. When Abraham was 75 years old, the Lord spoke to him and promised him a son. When he was 99 years old, the Lord and two angels (in the form of people looked like men) came to visit Abraham. Abraham likely did not know at first that they were angels. He welcomed them into his tent as guests. He prepared a meal for them, washed their feet, and offered them a place to rest (These two angels brought bad news as well: Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed.).



HISTORICAL NOTE: When a man greeted a traveler, he wouldn't shake hands. The visitor was greeted with a kiss. The host would place his right hand on the guest's left shoulder while he bowed his head over the right shoulder of the traveler. Then with his left hand placed on the visitor's right shoulder, and his head bowed over the traveler's left shoulder, he would speak his greeting (after touching his head and mouth):

The host would say, "Salaam, ala kaam" ("Peace be with you.").

The visitor would reply, "Wa alahaam essalaam" ("And peace be to you.").

Then the visitor would go inside the tent or house, leaving his shoes at the entrance. It was customary to wash a visitor's feet—often with perfumed water—because the roads were so dusty and dirty. In addition, bacteria on the roads and city streets would often get into blisters that formed on long journeys and lead to infections.

3. While the three strangers were eating, they told Abraham that in the following year Sarah would have a baby boy. Sarah was listening from inside the tent, and when she heard this news, she laughed to herself. The Lord knew she had laughed, and He knew what she was thinking. Sarah thought it would be impossible for her to have a child, because she was very old. But the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?"



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article "[Are We to Believe That a King Was Attracted to Sarah When She Was 90?](#)" on the Apologetics Press Web site for an article concerning the incident recorded in Genesis 20 concerning Abraham, Sarah, and Abimelech.

4. Sarah lied and denied that she laughed, but the Lord knew. He promised her that at that same time the following year she would have a son. He said they should name the baby, "Isaac," which means "laughter."
5. Just as the Lord promised Sarah and Abraham, the next year a baby boy was born to them. Abraham was 100 years old; he had waited 25 years for God's promise of a son to be fulfilled. They were so happy; God had given them the son they had wanted so desperately.
6. They learned that God always keeps His promises, because nothing is too hard for God.



NOTE: Sometimes God waits a long time before fulfilling His promises, but we can be certain that He will always do what He says He will do. Read 2 Peter 3:3-14.

7. God's promises to us: Jesus will return (judgment); heaven for those who obey Him (Revelation 2:10b; 1 John 2:25; 1 Kings 8:56; Hebrews 6:17-18; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Peter 5:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9); happiness to those who obey Him (Proverbs 29:18).
8. It is just as important for **me to keep my word**. When I give my word, I am committing myself to keeping it! A Christian's word is very important, because it reflects on the Church and God. We should be very careful about giving our word, since we cannot control the future, and we would not want to be found a liar and untrustworthy.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Keys](#)

Ages 2-5:

- [“A Son is Born Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Provide a baby doll, blanket, etc. so that children can act out the story, taking turns being Abraham and Sarah with their baby son.
- Spread a tablecloth on the floor and as the children come into class, have them sit down on the tablecloth with you. Have small loaves of bread, tortillas, or dinner rolls, as well as cheese, olives, milk, and water. Tell the children that in today’s lesson, Abraham and Sarah treat some visitors very kindly, even preparing a meal for them.

1st-2nd Graders:

- [“Morse Code Activity”](#) worksheet (provided in activity sheets)
- On index cards write clues about the people and places in this and previous lessons (examples: Abraham, Sarah, angels, God, Egypt, etc.). Use the cards to play “Who’s Who,” Tic-Tac-Toe, or Jeopardy (with designated categories) ([Instructions](#) and [Board](#) provided in activity section of the site)
- [“A Son is Born”](#) crossword puzzle (provided in activity sheets)
- Memory Verse Review: Write scrambled verses on the chalkboard, one at a time, giving the children time to unscramble the letters and/or words for the memory verses of this and previous lessons (or have fill-in-the-blank verses). Then write the Scripture references on the board, and ask the children to match the unscrambled verses with the correct references. Examples:

srutt ni eht rold thiw lal oury eahrt nad eanl nto on ouyr won nuredantsdngi

Let each of you _____ not only for his _____, but also for the _____ of _____.

- Make a page of multiple-choice questions about the lesson.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the kids read Genesis chapters 15-17 (and chapters 11-14 and 18-20 if they did not read those chapters this quarter). [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Genesis 11-15 and 16-20 quizzes from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.
- Have the children read “Abraham, Sarah, and Two Confusing Questions” from *Discovery* magazine ([April, 2017](#)) [NOTE: [Advanced Bible Reader](#) quizzes exist for many issues of *Discovery* magazine]
- [“Morse Code Activity”](#) worksheet (provided in activity sheets)

- On index cards write clues about the people and places in this and previous lessons (examples: Abraham, Sarah, angels, God, Egypt, etc.). Use the cards to play “Who’s Who,” Tic-Tac-Toe, or Jeopardy (with designated categories) ([Instructions](#) and [Board](#) provided in activity section of the site)
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srutt ni eht rold thiw lal oury eahrt nad eanl nto on ouyr won nuredantsdngi

Let each of you _____ not only for his _____, but also for the _____ of _____.

- Make a page of multiple-choice questions about the lesson.
- Have the children read *Abraham, Sarah, & Isaac*, by Joanne Bader, Arch Books (DISCLAIMER: Skip the note to parents).
- Have the children read pp. 36-37,42-43 of *Noah and the People of Faith*, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia, Contemporary English Version (DISCLAIMERS: p. 8—change “give life to” to “bring forth”; p. 13—remove “before the day is over” from the last sentence; p. 20—change “destroy” to “rule over”; p. 24—change appropriate sentences to “every kind of land animal...” and “Noah took males and females of every...”).

SONGS:

“GENESIS 12:3”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” CD)

“MY GOD IS SO BIG!”

Author: Unknown*

[See Internet for words and tune]

“EVERY PROMISE IN THE BOOK”

[See Internet for words and tune]

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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Genesis 15:1-4



Old Testament 2
Part 1: Abraham

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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MEMORY WORK:

“Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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- Have adults or teenagers come in and act out the story dressed up like Abraham and Sarah



- [“God Keeps His Promises Visual”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can believe that God keeps His promises, because nothing is too hard for God.

INTRODUCTION:

- [Abraham & Israel](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “O.T. 2 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 2 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. With older students, briefly review Sunday’s lesson about the birth of Isaac (see OT2 Review Questions for example questions). Then discuss the account of the birth of Ishmael from Genesis 16.
2. Sarah blamed God for her childlessness and decided that she would “help” God to fulfill His promises to her husband (that he would have many descendants; that he would have a son; that all people would be blessed through one of his descendants). Sarah had an Egyptian servant girl named Hagar. [She may have been one of the “gifts” of Pharaoh when he forced Abraham to leave Egypt (Genesis 12:15-16).]
3. When Abraham was about 85 years old, he allowed his wife Sarah to persuade him to do something wrong. Sarah did not fully trust God’s promise to Abraham and convinced him that the only way he would have a son would be to treat Hagar as his wife. He was about 86 when Ishmael was born. (Ishmael’s name means, “God hears”).
4. When Isaac, the son of promise, was born, Sarah made Hagar and Ishmael leave, because she was jealous. She did not want Abraham to treat Ishmael as his firstborn son (Genesis 21:9ff). [Ishmael would have been about 14 years old when Isaac was born. Eventually, Ishmael had 12 sons (Genesis 25:13-15). His descendants have been enemies of the Jews for thousands of years.]
5. Galatians 4:21-31 compares the old and new covenants with Sarah and Hagar. Sarah was a free woman, but Hagar was a slave, bound by law to her owners. Christ makes us free from sin under the new covenant; the old law enslaved the Jews (Acts 15:10; Galatians 5:1ff.).

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning lesson

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