

# GOD'S BIG PLAN

## God Gives Abraham a Son

Genesis 18, 21-22

**Supporting Scriptures:** Romans 9:6-11; Galatians 4:28; Hebrews 11:9, 11-19; James 2:20-22

**Lesson Goals:** To see that God remembers and completes His promises.  
To see the importance of obedience to God even when it doesn't make sense.  
To see God as Provider, through the ram in Isaac's place and Jesus in our place.

### Scripture Memory

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself so much with this story that it can be told as a STORY, not as "He said. . . She said" or read. But, to reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

### The Lesson:

Let's review what we have learned about Abraham and God's Big Plan. (Review the previous story. Encourage more and more students to share.)

Did Abraham grow up learning about God? (No.) Did Abraham's dad believe in God? (No. He worshipped idols, or images of other gods.) How did Abraham learn about God? (God chose to speak to Abraham and make a promise with him.) What did God promise Abraham? (New people and a new place.) What did God ask Abraham to do? (Leave his family and everything he had ever known and go to a place that God would show him.) What did Abraham do? (Abraham believed God and obeyed.)

Did Abraham have children? (No. His wife Sarah couldn't have children.) Let's see what God does next for Abraham and Sarah.

**READ: Genesis 17:1-7 (Remember to hold the Bible in your hands throughout the story.)**

Abraham now lived in the new and special land God had shown him. But Abraham still didn't have the son God had promised him. Then, on a hot day, while Abraham was sitting at the opening of his tent, he looked up and saw three visitors. Abraham begged them to sit under the tree near his tent. Abraham washed their dusty feet and began preparations to feed them. Sarah began to make bread. Abraham was a kind man. He visited with these three strangers. One of the visitors asked about Sarah, who was inside the tent. Sarah had been making bread, but now she was listening at the door of the tent to see what the men were saying! The visitor continued talking to Abraham, "I will be back to visit next year at this time. When I come back, Sarah will have had a baby." A baby! But Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 89. How could this happen? When she heard the news, Sarah let out a laugh at the thought of an old woman caring for a baby. The visitor heard her laugh and said, "Is anything too hard for God to do? I'll be back next year about this time and Sarah will have her son."

And within the year, God completed what He had promised. Sarah became pregnant and had a baby! It was a boy! They named him Isaac, which means laughter. Isaac was the beginning of the new and special people God had promised Abraham. From Isaac, God would make Abraham's descendants, or people, as numerous as the dust on the earth and the stars in the sky. And even though God had told Abraham that these special people would one day be slaves for 400 years, this land where Abraham lived would always be

their special place. God's promise wasn't just for Abraham; it was also for his descendants, or the special people who would come after him through this Isaac, Abraham's son of his old age.

Then one day, God decided to test Abraham. "Abraham," God called. "Here I am," answered Abraham. Then God continued, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, the one you love, and go to the land of Moriah. I will show you a mountain when you get there. It is there that I want you to give Isaac as a burnt offering." What God was asking didn't make sense - to kill the son he had waited so long for; but God is God. And Abraham trusted God and was ready to offer his one and only son. Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac back from the dead. And Abraham continued to believe in God, even though many questions must have been swirling through his head. Abraham got up early the next morning. He cut up fire wood and thought about having to sacrifice this son God had promised him. He got his knife and continued to think about offering Isaac back to God. And Abraham saddled his donkey for the journey, all the while thinking of what would come at the end of this journey. So, Abraham, Isaac and two helpers left home and headed for the land of Moriah.

They traveled one whole day, and then another. And on the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place. To his two helpers Abraham said, "Wait here with the donkey. Isaac and I will go to the mountain to worship and then come back to you." So Abraham gave Isaac the firewood to carry while he carried the fire and a knife; and father and son walked together to the place of sacrifice. While they were walking, Isaac, who was old enough to figure things out, realized they were missing something. "Dad, here's the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb to be sacrificed?" Abraham answered his son, "God will provide the lamb." And they kept walking.

When they got to the place that God showed him, Abraham began to stack rocks together to build the altar. When that was done, He placed the wood on top. And then, he took Isaac, this son that God had promised him and he tied him up and placed him on top of the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham pulled out his knife and lifted it to kill Isaac. "Abraham," came a voice from heaven. "Here I am," Abraham answered. "Don't kill your son. Now I know that you fear God because you were willing to give your one and only son." Abraham turned around and saw a ram caught in the bushes behind him. And just as Abraham had believed, God provided! Abraham took the ram and offered him in place of Isaac. God reminded him of His promise to multiply all of his descendants through Isaac because Abraham had obeyed God.

**Review:**

Now, let's review what you have learned. Who wants to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

Looking back to Adam and Eve, what do we inherit from them? What did they do that we all now do? (Sin.) Did Adam and Eve's fig leaves make them okay with God? (No.) Can we do anything to make ourselves acceptable to God? (No.)

What was God's promise to Abraham? (A new people, through Isaac, but also for everyone to be blessed through him.) How did God start completing that promise? (Through Isaac.) And then what did God ask? (For Abraham to offer his one and only son back to God.) What did Abraham do? (He obeyed.) Abraham's willingness to give God the only son that God had promised him is a picture of the way God would one day bless all people through Abraham and Isaac. God loves us so much that He sent His One and Only Son. Out of all of those descendants that God gave Abraham, came God's One and Only Son. And just as the ram died in Isaac's place, God offered His Only Son, Jesus, to die in your place because all of us have been like sheep who wander off and do whatever we want (sin). But God made all of our sin to fall on His Son, so that we could be made right with Him. Will you accept this gift that God offers?

**Planning for Next Week  
Lesson 10 - A New People  
Genesis 24-35**

# PRESCHOOL LESSON

**SING:** "Father Abraham"

**SHARE:** Abraham now lived in the new land, a special land. It was the land God had shown him. But Abraham still didn't have the son God had promised him.

Then, on a hot day (**WHEW!**), while Abraham was sitting at the opening of his tent, he looked up and saw three visitors (**1. . .2. . .3**). Abraham was a kind man and he begged them to stay and visit (**PLEASE!**). They sat under the tree, in the shade, near his tent. Abraham washed their dusty feet (**SWISH, SWISH.**). Abraham picked out his best calf (**MOO!**) and sent his servant to cook it (**SIZZLE, SIZZLE.**). Sarah began to make bread (**Pat hands together.**) and Abraham brought them milk to drink (**Make milking motions with hands**). They enjoyed their meal (**YUM, YUM!**) and Abraham visited with these three strangers.

After they had eaten, one of the visitors asked about Sarah, Abraham's wife. She was inside the tent. Sarah had been making bread, but now she was listening at the door of the tent to see what the men were saying! (**Put a hand to your ear like you're listening.**) The visitor continued talking to Abraham, "I will be back to visit next year at this time. (**Point at your wrist, signaling time.**) When I come back, Sarah will have had a baby." (**Cross arms in front of you and rock them like you would with a baby.**) A baby! Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 89. How could this happen?

When Sarah heard the news, she laughed out loud (**Hah, hah, hah!**) at the thought of an old woman having a baby. The visitor heard her laugh and said, (**Shaking your finger**) "Nothing is too hard for God to do. I'll be back next year about this time and Sarah will have her son."

And within the year, God did what He said He would do. Sarah became pregnant and had a baby! It was a boy and they named him Isaac.

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for keeping your promises!

# LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Learn John 3:16 by singing it. There are already songs available, but your students might do better with the opportunity to create their own tune or beat.
- Make cookies that require no flour, no stirring, or cook in the oven once the heat has been turned off. Take this opportunity to talk about trust. Abraham trusted God, even when he didn't understand.
- Make an Isaac puppet, or maybe even Abraham and Sarah. This can be done with paper lunch sacks, toilet paper tubes, cardstock, or even clothespins. Be creative!
- Try telling the story from the opening of a tent! You might even want to offer mini-hamburgers (beef and bread) and milk.
- Again, if you have yet to talk about name meanings, this lesson offers the perfect opportunity. If possible, provide your students with a book of name meanings and ask them what name they would choose for themselves and why.
- Give preschoolers the opportunity to play with baby dolls. They will enjoy "feeding" and bathing them. Talk about Sarah's joy at finally having a baby.