

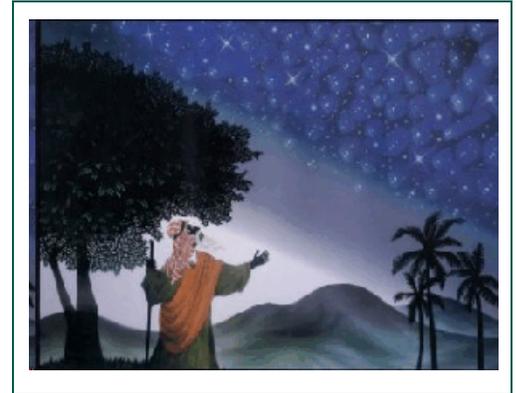
Birth of Isaac Announced

Genesis 15:1 - 18:15

Name some promises that people have made to you.
How do you feel when promises are not kept?
Why is it difficult for some people to keep their promises?
Today, you will learn about Someone who always keeps His promises.

Prayer

Dear Lord, You have made many promises to us.
Through Your Word, strengthen our faith in those promises.
Send Your Holy Spirit to show us that You always keep Your promises! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



The Story - Genesis 15:1-18:15 (excerpts)

God's Promise to Abram

15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

²But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

⁵Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness...

The Sign of God's Promise to Abraham

17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk

before Me and be blameless.² And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

³Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: ⁴"As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. ⁸Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

⁹And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every



male child among you shall be circumcised;...

¹⁵Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."

¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" ¹⁸And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

¹⁹Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him ...²¹But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."²²Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

...²⁶That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael;²⁷and all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

A Son Is Promised

18:1Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.²So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,³and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant."⁴Please let a

little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

⁵And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant."

They said, "Do as you have said."

⁶So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes."

⁷And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it.⁸So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

⁹Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?"

So he said, "Here, in the tent."

¹⁰And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son."

(Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. ¹²Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

¹³And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, "Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?"¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid.

And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

Outer aim – God keeps all His promises.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks below. The answers can be found in the WORD BOX. Then unscramble the letters on the lines which have the arrow > pointing to it, and place them in the last blank to discover a wonderful truth!

son	Sarah	descendants	Savior
Abraham	reward	Lord	covenant
believed	appeared	childless	three
promised	make	circumcise	stars

- The Lord told Abram that He would be Abram's "exceedingly great >_____."
- Abram was concerned that he was ___ >_____.
- The Lord promised that Abram would have as many descendants as the >_____ in the sky.
- This promise was very important because the _____ >_____ of all people was to come from Abraham's family.
- Abram _____ >_____ the Lord.
- When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord again promised to _____ >_____ His covenant with Abram.
- A _____ >_____ is an agreement between two people.
- Abram's name was changed to _____ >_____, meaning "father of many."
- God told Abraham that his _____ >_____ would receive the land of Canaan.
- The Lord commanded Abraham to _____ >_____ all the males in his family.
- The Lord _____ >_____ to Abraham outside his tent.
- Abraham invited the _____ >_____ men to stay for a meal.
- Abraham and >_____ prepared the food.
- The Lord >_____ Abraham that he would have a son by next year.
- She laughed because she felt she was too old to have a >_____.
- God told them, "Nothing is too hard for the _____ >_____."
- The Lord always _____ >_____!

What God's Word Tells Us - Apply these Bible truths to your life.

There are times when our faith, like Abraham and Sarah's, becomes weak.

1. What three things are working to cause us to doubt God's promises?

_____ / _____ / _____

2. How is our faith strengthened? (*Hint: see Romans 10:17 and I Corinthians 12:3b below in PASSAGES*)

3. Where can we hear God's Word? (*Name at least 3 places.*)

Inner aim – Our faith is strengthened by God's repeated promises in His Word.

Your Turn - It's your turn to be strengthened by the Lord's promises! Look up the following Bible passages. Write the promises that the Lord has made and kept for you!

Psalm 50:15

John 3:16

Psalm 91:11

Revelation 2:10b

I John 1:9

Psalm 55:22

Passages

Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

I Corinthians 12:3b - "...and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."

Romans 10:17 - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Hymn - TLH 373 v. 1, 6

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?
Nay; then this word must true remain:
By grace thou, too, shalt heav'n obtain.

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief is flown,
Since I am saved by grace alone.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, the devil, the world, and my sinful flesh are working to keep me from listening to Your promises and following You. Keep me in the faith that trusts Jesus and His Word. Remind me of God's promises. I ask this in the Name of Jesus, my Savior. Amen.