

Birth of Isaac Announced

Genesis 15:1 - 18:15



The Story

The Lord had blessed Abram with many things. However, there was one blessing that Abram did not have yet. He had no children.

God appeared to Abram while he was asleep and said, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I will protect you. I will be your great reward."

Abram said, "Lord God, you have promised me a son. Sarah and I do not yet have a child. What shall I do?"

The Lord told Abram to go outside and look at the sky. "Try to count the stars. You will have as many people come from your family as there are stars in the sky." God also told Abram that his family would be slaves in a strange land for 400 years. Then his family would return to Canaan and own that land. Abram believed the promises that the Lord had made to him.

Many years went by, but Abram and Sarai still had no son. When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him again. Abram fell down on his face.

God said, "I will make a covenant between you and Me." A covenant is a promise between two people. The Lord again promised to give Abram a son. "Your name will not be Abram anymore. You will be called Abraham, which means 'father of many.' Your wife will not be called Sarai, but Sarah, which means 'princess.'"

The Lord soon appeared to Abraham again. Abraham was sitting in the shade by his tent. He looked up, and saw three men standing by him. These three men were actually the Lord and two angels! Abraham ran to meet the visitors, and bowed down.

"Please stop here, wash your feet and have a meal with me," Abraham said. The three men agreed to stop and rest.

Abraham ran in to Sarah. "Quickly, get some flour and bake some bread," he said. Then Abraham ran out to his herd, chose a calf, and prepared the meat. When everything was ready, Abraham served his guests bread, butter, meat, and milk.

One of the men asked Abraham where his wife was. Abraham replied, "She is in the tent."

The Lord said, "I will come back to you next year. By that time, Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was listening from the tent. She laughed because she thought that she was too old to have a child.

"Why did Sarah laugh?" the Lord said to Abraham. "Is anything too hard for Me to do? I will come back next year, and you will have a son."

The Lord and the two angels got up and started on their way.

God keeps all His promises.

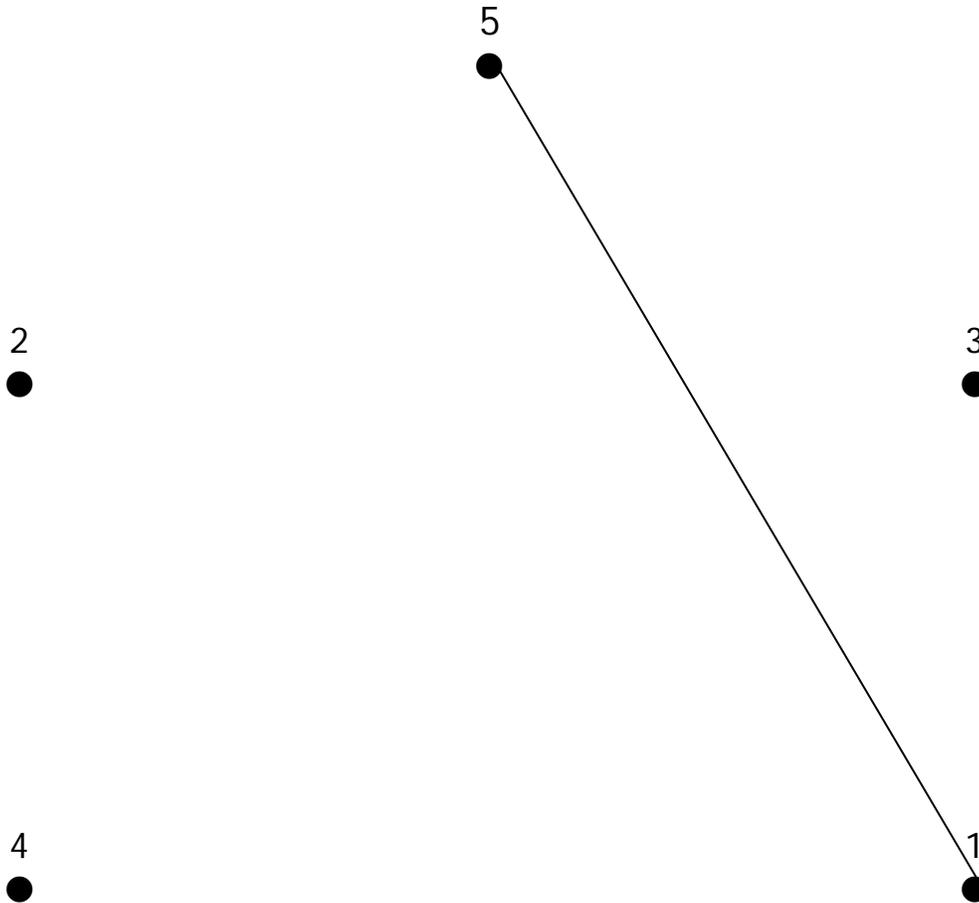
Activity One

- Match the following.

1. Draw a line to Abram's new name ● ● Sarah
2. Draw a line to Sarai's new name ● ● Isaac
3. Draw a line to the baby's name ● ● Abraham

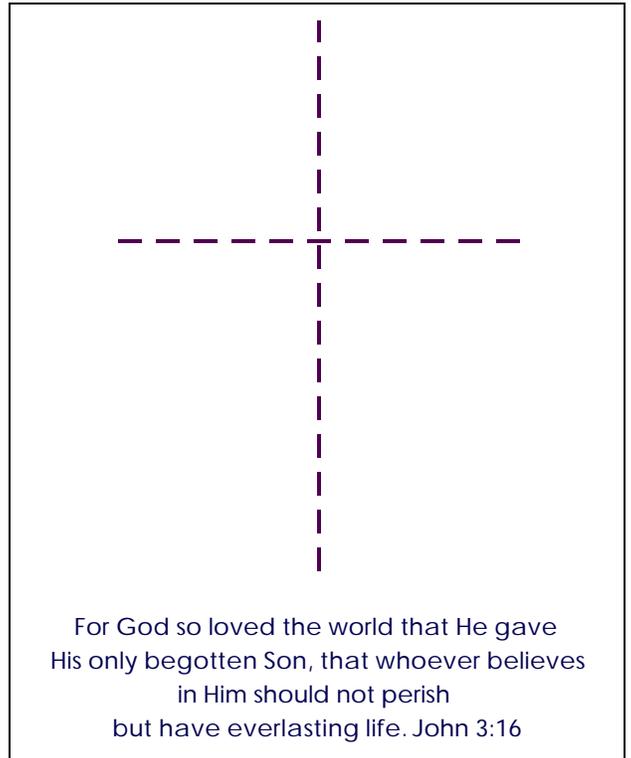
Activity Two

- Follow the dot-to-dot to make something God showed Abraham.



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

Activity Three - The Lord makes many promises to you in His Word. Color the picture that shows what God promised to Abraham and Sarah. Trace the cross to show that God kept His promise to send Jesus to die for our sins.



Passages

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."

Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit,

The devil, the world, and my flesh don't want me to listen to You or follow You. Help me to listen to Your Words in the Bible and keep me in the faith that trusts in Jesus. Remind me of God's promises, and make my faith stronger through His Word. I ask this in the name of Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

Hymn - TLH 373 v. 1

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.

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Many years went by, but Abram and Sarai still had no son. When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him again. Abram fell down on his face.

God said, "I will make a covenant between you and Me." A covenant is a promise between two people. The Lord again promised to give Abram a son. "Your name will not be Abram anymore. You will be called Abraham, which means 'father of many.' Your wife will not be called Sarai, but Sarah, which means

'princess.'"

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One of the men asked Abraham where his wife was. Abraham replied, "She is in the tent."

The Lord said, "I will come back to you next year. By that time, Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was listening from the tent. She laughed because she thought that she was too old to have a child.

"Why did Sarah laugh?" the Lord said to Abraham. "Is anything too hard for Me to do? I will come back next year, and you will have a son."

The Lord and the two angels got up and started on their way.

God keeps all His promises.

Activity One - Fill in the blanks below using the words in the WORD BOX

hard meal	son stars	laughed men	promises year	believed
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1. The Lord had promised Abram a _____.
2. God told Abram to go outside and count the _____.
3. Abram _____ God's promises.
4. Three _____ came to Abraham's tent.
5. Abraham invited them to stay for a _____.
6. The Lord promised that Abraham would have a son by next _____.
7. Sarah _____.
8. The Lord asked, "Is anything too _____ for Me?"
9. The Lord always keeps His _____.

Activity Two - The Lord will always keep His promises. Where can you hear these promises? Unscramble the letters below to find 3 places. Also unscramble the 2 words.

c _____
hruchc

h _____
mhoe

S _____
dSnuya

S _____
cohSlo

When I hear God's promises, my faith grows s _____ . rngoerst

God kept the greatest promise of all, the promise of a S _____ . irsvoa

Activity Three - The Lord makes many promises to you in His Word. Read each Bible verse. In each box with the verse, write or draw one promise that the Lord has made.

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. Ps 50:15

For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. Ps 91:11

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10b

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

Passages

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."

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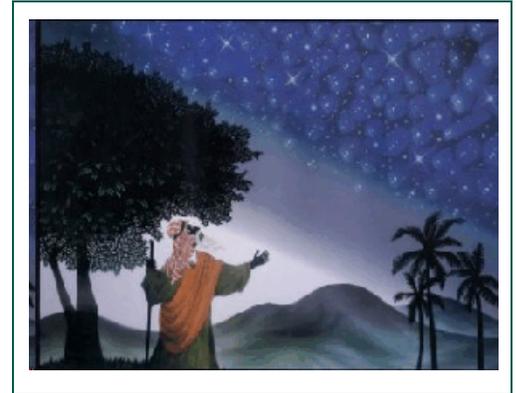
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Name some promises that people have made to you.
How do you feel when promises are not kept?
Why is it difficult for some people to keep their promises?
Today, you will learn about Someone who always keeps His promises.

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.

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They said, "Do as you have said."

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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 ___ >_____.
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- 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.*)

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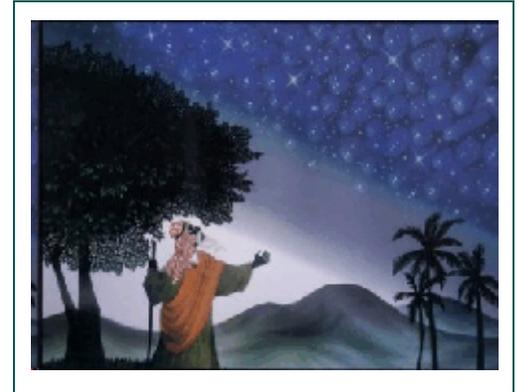
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Holy Spirit, the devil, the world, and my sinful flesh are working to keep me from listening to Your promises and following You. Keep me in the faith that trusts Jesus and His Word. Remind me of God's promises. I ask this in the Name of Jesus, my Savior.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

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16. God told them, "Nothing is too hard for the __ > _____ ."
17. The Lord always _____ !

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

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

8/5/03

The Promise of a Son - Genesis 15:1-18:15

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord God, You have promised in Your Word that You will give us all things we need in this life. You have promised to guard and watch over us. Even when things look bleak and discouraging, we can trust in Your Word. I know that You have promised me everlasting life through faith in Jesus. Help me to trust Your promises completely as Abraham trusted You, that You would give him a son in his old age. Lead me to be a good example of a faithful, trusting child of God for my children. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Covenant- a mutual agreement or promise between two or more persons

Circumcision- cutting of the foreskin of the male organ done when the male child was 8 days old

OUTER AIM

God keeps all His promises.

INNER AIM

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

BACKGROUND (Rupprecht *Bible History References Vol. 1*, pp. 56-59)

When God first came to Abraham and asked him to leave his home and family, He promised to be with him and to bless him. In our story today we see how the Lord kept this great promise which strengthened Abraham's faith.

Genesis 15:2

Abraham reminds God of the promise He had given him.

In Old Testament times it was considered a curse and a shame to not have children.

For Abraham, this was even a greater burden because of the promise that God had given him concerning the Messiah coming from His seed.

v. 4

God repeats His promise He had made earlier to Abraham.

It won't be Abraham's servant, Eliezer, but the heir will come from Abraham's body.

v. 5

God gives Abraham a visible sign of His promise--the stars in the sky.

v. 6

Abraham put his trust in God's Word, His Promise.

Paul calls Abraham, "the father of all those who believe." (Romans 4:11)

Abraham was justified in the eyes of God, not because of his works, but by faith in the promised Savior.

We see that the Old Testament believer is saved the same way the New Testament believe is--through Jesus. (Acts 15:11)

Genesis 17:1

Many years have gone by since that first promise. Abraham is now 99 years old and still has no son.

With God nothing is impossible. He is able to fulfill all His promises.

Abraham walked in faith in the promised Savior.

Abraham was righteous in God's eyes because of his faith in Jesus.

v. 3

In worshipful reverence, Abraham throws himself down on the ground before his Lord.

v. 5

Abraham means "father of a multitude" or "father of many nations."

His new name was another outward sign to strengthen Abraham's faith.

vs.10-13

Circumcision is the seal of the righteousness of faith and a type of Baptism--the seal of the forgiveness of sins promised in the Gospel and made ours through faith. (Romans 4:11)

v.15

Sarah means "princess." Not just Abram's princess (Sarai="my princess"), but a princess of nations, eventually of Jesus Himself.

18:1

Mamre was a district of Hebron, 20 miles south of Jerusalem. (See Rupprecht p. 57)

v. 2

One was the Son of God who had assumed the form of a man. The other two were angels in human form.

vs.3-5

Abraham was a very gracious host even to these strangers (two angels and the Son of God), this being fruits of his faith. (Hebrews 13:2)

v. 10

God calms Abraham's fears and doubts, even though it had been 24 years since that first promise. God's words, "I will certainly return to you...your wife shall have a son," gave to Abraham the confident assurance of the fulfillment of that promise. This promise would be fulfilled within the next year.

v. 12

Sarah doubted. She looked at her aged body and that of her husband and she could not believe it would happen. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) God does answer all of our prayers, sometimes it is many years before we see or realize the answer. Never doubt HIS PROMISES!!!

v. 13-14

The LORD repeats His promise also showing Sarah that He is omniscient and knows what is in her heart.

v. 15

Sarah denies that she laughed and is convicted of her sin when the LORD says, "No, but you did laugh." (Hebrews 11:11) "Through faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised."

STUDENT PRAYER

Holy Spirit, the devil, the world, and my flesh are against my listening to Your voice and following You. Keep me in the faith that trusts in Jesus and His word. Remind me of what my God has said, whenever I am tempted to sin. I ask this in the name of Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

PRESENTATION

- 1) God used His Word, His Promises to make Abraham's faith stronger. God makes our faith stronger in the same way: through His Word which we hear in church, read at home, and learn in Christian Day School, Sunday School, Confirmation and Bible Class.
- 2) There are times when our faith, like Abraham's and Sarah's becomes weak and we begin to doubt God's love and His promises toward us. This is when we especially need to remain in the Word. **ONLY GOD'S WORD CAN MAKE OUR FAITH STRONGER!** Proverbs 3:5 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."
- 3) The keeping of this promise of a son was so important because from Isaac the Messiah--Jesus--would come who is the Savior of all people.
- 4) Our salvation is by faith alone, by faith alone in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Believers in Jesus are righteous before God because by faith we have accredited to us Christ's perfection. Righteousness is not by our own works, but by faith - trusting, resting upon God's promises! Faith in God's Word, His Promise of a Son, Savior, Forgiveness, Salvation! This faith is also a gift of God worked in us by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 2:8-10; I Corinthians 12:3

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

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

Middle any of the above and...

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."

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

Upper any of the above and...

Galatians 3:11 - "But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for The just shall live by faith."

Romans 4:3-5 - "For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness."

HYMN CHOICES

By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and Boundless - TLH #373

Not What These Hands have Done - TLH #389

The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace - TLH #297