



3rd-5th

August 6-7, 2016

DATE

Extreme Earth Unit: Abraham and Sarah

LESSON TITLE

Genesis 12-21, Lamentations 3:22-23

WHERE TO FIND IT

God keeps his promises.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you all have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

We're talking about how God started a family with Abraham and Sarah, so ask kids who's in their family! Don't make assumptions though; not all kids live with blood relations, so their families might mean the people they live with or spend the most time with.

check-in/out

As kids leave, ask them why they outlined their feet!

large group heads up

Abraham and Sarah's story illustrates a central facet of God's character: he ALWAYS keeps his promises. Today we want kids to understand and believe that no matter how long we have to wait, God will always do what he says he'll do.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

BALLOON TOSS

- Divide kids into **small groups** and blow up a **balloon** for each group.
- Each group should stand in a **circle**, while the leader stands in the center.
- Assign each kid a **number**, starting with 1 and counting up.
- The leader will toss the balloon into the air and call out a number. When a kid hears her number, she has to hit the balloon back to you before it touches the floor. You can then call out another number.
- After you've gone through every number once, change it up a little bit. After you toss the balloon in the air and call out a number, whoever hears his number has to hit the balloon back up and call out a new number **himself** (instead of you calling it out.)
- Remind kids to:
 - Only call out numbers between 1 and the number of kids you have (For example, between 1 and 12.)
 - Hit the balloon towards the center of the circle.
 - Think of numbers that haven't been called a lot.
 - **Don't pop the balloons!**

TALK ABOUT IT

- Have you ever had to wait a long time for something you were looking forward to? What was it?
- Have you ever made a promise? Did you keep it? Why or why not?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand how God kept his promise to Abraham and Sarah, (2) recognize that God always does what he says he'll do, and (3) identify one of God's promises to us.

Why? Kids may not yet realize that God has a plan that's bigger than us. But we hope that as they get older, they'll learn to recognize that all the events in the Bible are connected.

Tip: What's a promise that God has made to you? Has it happened yet, or are you still waiting? Share it with kids and help them understand what it means to trust and have faith.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What were some of the promises God made to Abraham and Sarah? Did God keep his promises? (A family, descendants as numerous as the stars, Abraham would be the father of a great nation; yes)
2. What was special about Abraham and Sarah's family? What was God going to do through it? (Send the Rescuer.)
3. How would you feel if God asked you to leave your home, friends, and family, and go to an unknown place? Would you do it?
4. Describe a time when you had to wait for something. Was it hard or easy? When you finally received what you were waiting for, was it worth it?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid a **"Step out in faith" template** and set out **markers**.
- Remind kids that when God promised Abraham and Sarah a family, they had to step out in faith and follow him. They had to trust him no matter what. We can do the same thing! God wants us to take a step of faith and trust his promises.
- Tell kids to stand on their paper so that both feet fit.
- Next, have kids trace their feet!
- Remind kids of the promises that God has made us in the Bible:
 - **God promises to care for us and protect us.**
 - **God will guide us and watch over us.**
 - **God will always be with us.**
 - **We can ALWAYS trust God's promises.**
- Tell them to choose one and write it inside one of the feet outlines. If there's time, let them decorate their feet outlines however they like!

(Continued on next page.)

Extra time? Play the Balloon Toss game again! To change it up, assign kids a letter or a color, instead of just a number.

special notes

Today you'll need to prepare a personal example of something you had to wait a really long time for. Maybe you're still waiting!

presenter tips

Here's a link to a video we'll be watching today!

God's Story / Abraham and Sarah:

<https://vimeo.com/44930545>

script

WELCOME AND INTRO

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and introduce the lesson

Notes:

***Click to play intro music.**

- **Welcome:** Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club, we're so glad to have you here!
- **Say:** I hope you had fun playing that balloon game! You had hit the balloon up in the air when your number got called, but what about when it wasn't your turn? What were you doing then? (Let kids respond.) Yep, just...waiting.
- **Ask:** What was it like when you were waiting? What exactly were you doing? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yeah, maybe you were just standing there, not doing anything. Or maybe you were looking at the balloon and you were really alert in case your number got called! Either way, you had to be prepared while you waited. Otherwise you'd miss the balloon and it would fall to the ground, which would be disastrous, of course!
- **Say:** Let's play a little waiting game right now. I want to see how long you can wait while you sit in a special position. Are you ready? Everybody sit up with your feet stretched out in front of you. (Let kids respond.) Now, lift your feet up in the air while you're still sitting, and lift your hands out to your sides. (Let kids respond. Make them try to sit in this position for at least a minute!)
- **Say:** Okay, you can let go now! Good job. That kind of waiting took a lot of strength and muscles!

WE ALL HAVE TO WAIT

Main Goal: Talk about examples of things we have to wait for in real life

Notes:

- **Ask:** Have you ever had to wait a really long time for something? What was it? (Let several kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yeah, all those things sound awesome, and it would be SO hard to wait a long time for them! Sometimes it's hard just to wait for dinner!
- **Say:** One thing I've had to wait for is ... **(Give a personal example of something important you waited a long time for – or are still waiting for.)**
- **Say:** Today we're talking about some people from the Bible who waited a very long time for something. Their names were Abraham and Sarah, and God used them to start his special family.

OLD FAITHFUL

Main Goal: Use Old Faithful to illustrate the concept of faithfulness

Notes:

- **Say:** Before we talk about them though, we're going to talk about a really cool natural phenomenon called Old Faithful. Has anybody heard of it? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Old Faithful is a geyser, which is basically a hole in the ground that sprays out steaming hot water hundreds of feet into the air! This particular geyser is special though, because it sprays water almost every 90 minutes, every single day! And it's done this as long as people have known it existed, for hundreds of years. Let's watch it!
- **Video: Old Faithful**
- **Say:** The reason it's called Old *Faithful* is because people it keeps spraying water every day, *faithfully*. It always does what it's supposed to do, and we can count on that. We can have faith that it will spray water. As we hear more about Abraham and Sarah, we're going to find out how God was faithful to them.

GOD'S SPECIAL FAMILY

Main Goal: Understand why God started a special family

Notes:

- **Say:** Remember, back when God first made the world, everything was perfect. People got to be close to God, and there was no pain, sickness or death. But then Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sin entered the world. It was no longer perfect, and we became separated from God.
- **Say:** Well God wanted to send a rescuer to save us from all our wrong choices, and to help us be close to him again.
- **Ask:** Can we be close to God on our own? (Let kids respond.) Nope, we need a rescuer to help us do that! So God decided to send the Rescuer through a special family, and he used Abraham and Sarah to start it!

ABRAHAM AND SARAH

Main Goal: Introduce Abraham and Sarah and what they were waiting for

Notes:

- **Say:** Now Abraham and Sarah wanted something really badly. Does anybody know what they wanted? (Let kids speculate.) Yep, they wanted a baby! The thing is, Sarah was barren, which means she couldn't have a baby. She didn't think she would EVER have one!
- **Say:** God did something pretty special for Abraham and Sarah. He made them a promise. Who can tell me what a promise is? (Let kids respond.) Yep, a promise is when someone says they're going to do something, and then they do it!
- **Say:** We're going to watch a video now and see how Abraham and Sarah trusted God to keep his promise, even though they had to wait a long time for it to come true. As you watch, try to figure out the specific promise that God made to them.
- **Video: God's Story / Abraham and Sarah**

GOD'S PROMISE

Main Goal: Identify the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah

Notes:

- **Ask:** So what promise did God make to Abraham and Sarah? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yep, he promised to give them a family. But not just any family. He said that their family would be as numerous as the stars! They would give birth to a kid who would have his own kids, and those kids would have more kids, and then those kids would have more kids!
- **Ask:** Do you remember what was extra special about this family? Who was going to come out of this family one day? (Let kids respond.) Yes, the rescuer, Jesus!
- **Ask:** When God promised Abraham and Sarah that he would give them a family, do you think it was hard for them to trust him? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, they might have been impatient, or maybe afraid that after all that time, it wouldn't happen. Even though it was hard, though, they still trusted and obeyed him because God ALWAYS keeps his promises. He always does what he says he'll do.

GOD WANTS US TO HAVE FAITH

Main Goal: Define faith, and use some real life examples to illustrate it.

- **Ask:** Why do you think Abraham and Sarah trusted God's promise, even though it was difficult? (Let kids speculate.)
- **Say:** Great answers. There's a couple reasons we'll talk about. First, Abraham and Sarah had faith. What does it mean to have faith? (Let kids respond.) Yep, faith is when you believe or trust in something, even though you don't know exactly how it will turn out.

GOD WANTS US TO HAVE FAITH (Cont.)

Main Goal: Define faith, and use some real life examples to illustrate it

Notes:

- **Say:** Let's talk about some examples of faith.
- **(Click to show image of roller coaster.)**
 - **Ask:** What if you were about to go on a really tall, scary roaster coaster, like this one! Would it take some faith to trust that you would be safe, even if you felt scared? (Let kids respond.)
 - **Say:** Yep, definitely! You would have to trust that whoever built this roller coaster, built it right, and that your seat belt would stay on tight!
- **(Click to show image of airplane.)**
 - **Ask:** Has anybody ever flown in an airplane? (Let kids respond.) Well, when you get on a plane, who would you have to trust to fly the plane? (Let kids respond.) Yep, the pilot!
 - **Say:** You have to trust that the pilot knows how to do his job, and will safely fly the plane in the sky!

GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Main Goal: Understand why we can trust God to keep his promises

Notes:

- **Ask:** Now, will regular people ALWAYS keep their promises to us? (Let kids respond.) No, not always.
- **Say:** That's because people aren't perfect. We mess up, and make mistakes, and sometimes when we say we'll do something, we don't do it.
- **Ask:** Do you think God breaks his promises sometimes too? (Let kids respond.) Nope, not EVER.
- **Say:** People might not be perfect, but God is. He has the entire world in his hands, and he has a plan for all of our lives, just like he had for Abraham and Sarah and their baby. God will always keep his promises, no matter what.
- **Ask:** Now when God makes a promise to us, will he always do it right away? (Let kids respond.) Not always. Sometimes we might have to wait a little while, like Abraham and Sarah did. And that's when we need faith.
- **Say:** Remember Old Faithful, and how it shoots water out every single day, almost every 90 minutes? Well God is kind of like Old Faithful. We can ALWAYS count on Him to do what he says he'll do, no matter how long it takes.

WHAT HAS GOD PROMISED TO US?

- **Ask:** Do you guys think that God makes promises to us, just like he did to Abraham and Sarah? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** He does, all the time! We're going to look in the Bible to see some of the promises he's made and kept to us.

WHAT HAS GOD PROMISED TO US? (Cont.)

Main Goal: Identify specific promises God has made in scripture

Notes:

- **Say:** I'm going to put up a verse on the screen, and then you all will tell me what promise you see God making! (Read each of the following verses and then let kids speculate on what God's promise is. Summarize with the promises in parenthesis.)
- **Slide: Psalm 121:7-8** **The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever. (God promises to care for us and protect us.)**
- **Slide: Psalm 32:8** **The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. (God will guide us and watch over us.)"**
- **Slide: Joshua 1:5** **No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. (God will always be with us.)**
- **Say:** Those are all promises that God makes to each and every one of us, just like he made to Abraham and Sarah. They had to trust that God would take care of them. That He would watch over them and provide them with a baby. That He would always be with them no matter what. And God kept all those promises, to them and to us.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Main Goal: Understand God's faithfulness in sending us a rescuer

Notes:

- **Say:** Now remember, when God kept his promise to Abraham and Sarah, he was actually carrying out his rescue plan to save the entire world! One day, Jesus the Rescuer would be born out of this family, and he would take the punishment for all our wrong choices.
- **Say:** God's special family waited a long time for this rescuer to come. And did God keep his promise? (Let kids respond.) Yes, he did! God is always faithful. That's a way of saying He keeps his promises no matter what.
- **Say:** If you want to trust in God and accept the promises he's made to you, than silently tell him that right now. Bow your head, close your eyes, and tell him that you have faith in his promises. (Let kids respond, then lead into prayer.)
- **Prayer:** God, thank you for being faithful in everything you do. We trust you, and we know that you will keep your promises to us no matter what. We love you. Amen!



script continued

WRAP UP AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Close the lesson with prayer and worship

- **Set up worship:** Let's show God that we trust him by worshipping! This is a chance to tell him out loud how much we love him, so sing as loud as you can!
- **Music Video: Trust in the Lord**
- **Music Video: Dance Laugh Love**

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per small group: 1 balloon (provide a few extra to each room in case some pop)

small group supplies

Per group: Bible, markers

Per kid: “Step out in faith” page (page 12) in color on paper

large group supplies

Per Group: Bible

a/v needs

1. Summer Series Extreme Weather Unit Intro loop (KC/SM media videos songs>slides>summer series slides>extreme weather)
2. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
3. Video: Old Faithful (0:10-1:35)(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wE8NDuzt8eg>)
4. Video: God's Story / Abraham and Sarah (<https://vimeo.com/44930545>)
5. Image: roller coaster
6. Image: airplane
7. Slide: Psalm 121:7-8 The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever. (God promises to care for us and protect us.)
8. Slide: Psalm 32:8 The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. (God will guide and help us, and watch over us.)
9. Slide: Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. (God will always be with us.)
10. Music Video: Trust in the Lord (<https://vimeo.com/153815987>)
11. Music Video: Dance Laugh Love (<https://vimeo.com/153805634>)

connect questions

Tell me about Abraham and Sarah.
What does God promise us?

Step out in faith