

Lesson B1.3 - God Makes Promises



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Genesis 18:1-15

- Bible Characters: Abraham, Sarah, visitors

In today's story, Abraham and Sarah are old — well past the time of bearing children, they believe. But when the Lord visits them unexpectedly, they receive the promise of a son in their old age. Months later, their baby boy, Isaac, is born. This is a story about God's faithfulness and ability to do far more than we ever could imagine.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Ancestors

God gave his promise to a family of wandering herdsman, which included Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob, Rachel and Leah; and Joseph and his brothers.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." No accompaniment needed.

*Thank you, Jesus, for this day, for this day, for this day.
Thank you, Jesus, for this day and everything you do.*

*Help us as we learn and pray, learn and pray, learn and pray.
Help us as we learn and pray and turn our hearts to you!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

In regular life, people sometimes make promises to one another. But here's something that might surprise you: **God Makes Promises** too! Say it with me: **God Makes Promises**. What does God do? **God Makes Promises!**

- Raise your hand if you can tell me what a promise is. (*Choose a child to answer.*)
- Has someone ever made a promise to you? When? (*Choose a child to answer.*)

In our story today, we will hear about Abraham and his wife, Sarah, who thought they were too old to have a baby. What they learned was this: **God Makes Promises**. Not only that, God *keeps* promises, too!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Abraham and Sarah were a very old couple. They lived in tents under the oak trees in a place called Mamre (MAM-ree).

Read the caption: One hot day, Abraham saw three men standing not very far from his tent. The Lord had come to visit.

- *Look at the picture. Which man is Abraham? How many visitors do you see? [Three] Where do you think Sarah is? [Maybe inside the tent or tending animals.]*
- *Who do you think these guests were? [The Bible tells us, "It was the Lord." So we know these were not regular men, but the Lord.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: Abraham quickly ran to greet the visitors and welcome them to his home. He offered to give them water and some food as they rested.

Read the caption: Abraham went to find Sarah. "Please make a loaf of bread for our guests," he said. "I will get them some meat."

- *Look at Sarah's face in the picture. What is she doing? How might she be feeling? [She is listening carefully, and she seems pleased to have visitors.]*
- *Has your family ever had unexpected guests before? What did you do to help them feel welcome? [Call on volunteers.]*

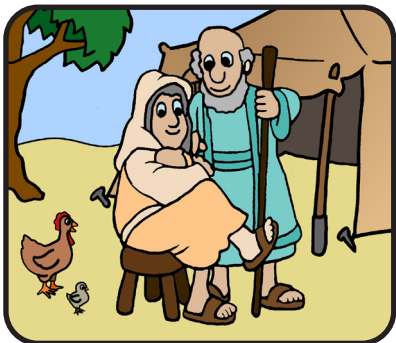


Picture 3

Tell the children: As they were eating their meal, the guests asked Abraham, "Where is Sarah, your wife?" Abraham explained that Sarah was back in the tent.

Read the caption: The Lord said, "Next year at this time, I will visit you again. By then, Sarah will have a son." Sarah laughed.

- *Look at Abraham. What is he doing? [He is pointing at one of the guests in shock. Abraham and Sarah thought they were too old to have children.]*
- *Where is Sarah? What is she doing? [Peeking out of the tent. She is listening and laughing. She can hardly believe this news. After all, she is quite old!]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Hearing Sarah laugh, the guest said, "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?" Sarah pretended she didn't laugh, but the Lord knew better. "Yes, you did," he said.

Read the caption: Sure enough, months later, Sarah had a baby boy. They named him Isaac, which means "laughter."

- *Look at the picture. Where is baby Isaac? [He's being held by his mother, Sarah.]*
- *Have you ever heard news that seemed too good to be true, but then the good thing actually happened? What was the news, and what happened?*

Remember today's message: **God Makes Promises!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

By his tent sat Abraham.

He looked up and saw three men.

Abraham wondered: "Who is it?"

The Lord had come to pay a visit.

*The old man had them stay to eat
and brought some water for their feet.*

They asked where his wife Sarah went.

He said: "She's inside the tent."

The Lord told Sarah, to her joy,

"You will have a baby boy."

Sarah laughed to hear the news,

but in a year, it all came true.

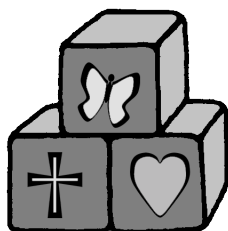
g. Young Children's Craft (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Baby Blocks

Materials needed:

Small wooden craft blocks (available at large box stores or craft stores), markers that work on wood. A clear box or gallon bag to store completed blocks.



Instructions:

Give each child one or more wooden blocks and access to markers. Explain that as a class, you are going to make a block set that babies and toddlers who come to the church nursery can use. Just as Abraham and Sarah were delighted to welcome a baby, the church is happy to welcome little children, too! Invite kids to decorate all sides of their blocks. Some ideas include: Coloring two opposite sides of the block a plain color, drawing faith symbols on two sides (cross, heart, water drop, flame, etc), making geometric designs on two sides (stripes, polka dots, zigzags, etc.). Kids could also draw things from nature like a sun, a tree, a wave of water, etc. When everyone is finished, collect the blocks, put them all in the provided box or bag, and bring this to the church nursery area for anyone to use.

h. Song (optional)

This classic children's song has motions that can be found online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites.

Father Abraham

Father Abraham had many kids. Many kids had Father Abraham. And I am one of them, and so are you. So let's all praise the Lord! Right arm!

Verse 2: **Father Abraham... Right arm! Left arm!**

Verse 3: **... Right arm! Left arm! Right foot!**

Verse 4: **...Right arm! Left arm! Right foot! Left foot!**

Verse 5: **... Right arm! Left arm! Right foot! Left foot! Chin up!**

Verse 6: **... Right arm! Left arm! Right foot! Left foot! Chin up! Turn around!**

Verse 7: **... Right arm! Left arm! Right foot! Left foot! Chin up! Turn around! Sit down!**

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Old Abraham was surprised to see three visitors standing outside his tent. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

For all our friends, and family too,

Please bless them, Lord, in all they do.

Thank you for helping us today

So we could learn and grow and play.

Be with us as we leave again.

And bring us back next time. Amen.