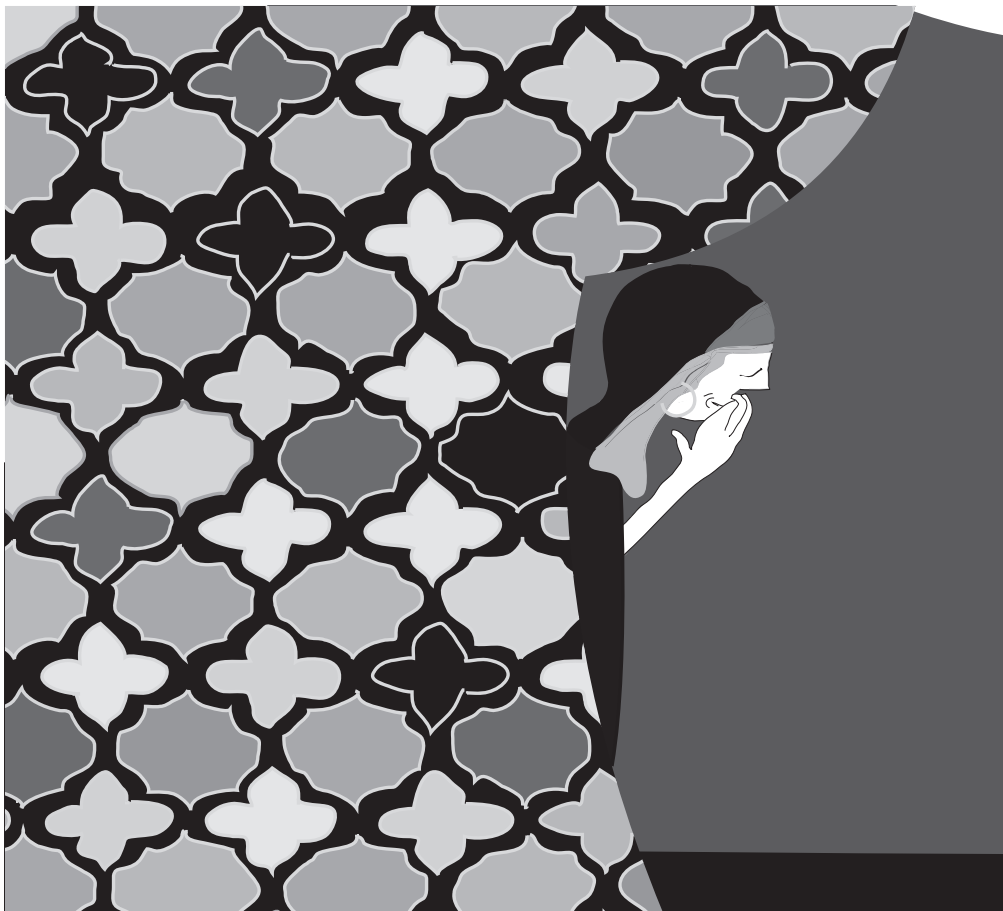


LESSON 11

The Lord Appears to Abraham

GENESIS 18



BIBLE TRUTH

IN THE MIDST OF GREAT WICKEDNESS, GOD BRINGS HIS PEOPLE
INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 11)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 11

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Laughing at God’s Promise

SUPPLIES: puppet

God Hears Our Prayers

SUPPLIES: whiteboard; dry erase marker

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn how God confirmed his promise to Abraham.

Ask the children to name people they can think of who had a meeting with God in some fashion. Keep track of whom they mention. See how many the class can name from among the following:

- Adam and Eve walked with God prior to the fall.
- Moses saw God in the burning bush.
- Abraham saw God in the form of a man with the angels.
- Jacob wrestled with God.
- Jesus was God as man and many people saw him.

Allow a few minutes for the children to think of names, giving hints if necessary. Save Abraham's encounter with the man and the angels for last. Once you share his meeting with God, use that to transition to prayer and the Bible story.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 11, "The Lord Appears to Abraham," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What did Abraham do when the Lord came to visit?
(He greeted them, washed their feet, and made food for them.)
- What did the Lord say to Abraham?
(He promised Abraham that Sarah and he would have a son and his family would become a great nation.)
- What was God going to do to Sodom and Gomorrah?
(destroy the cities)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- What did Sarah do when she heard the Lord was going to give her a son?
(Sarah laughed.)

- Why did Sarah laugh?
(Sarah thought she was too old to have a child.)

- What other amazing things has God done that might have been hard to believe?
(some examples: parting the Red Sea, flood in Noah's day, David defeating Goliath with a sling)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Luke 1:26–38

As God works out the salvation of his people, over and over again he demonstrates his power through miraculous births, so it will be clear that God deserves all the credit for our salvation. In this passage, God promises Mary she will give birth to Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. God also says that Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, will have a child at a very old age, after she is too old to have children—just like Sarah the wife of Abraham! When Mary asks how God could do what seemed impossible, the angel Gabriel says something we should always remember: "nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 11—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Who are the visitors in the picture?
- Do all angels have wings?
(No, some look just like people [see Hebrews 13:2].)
- Why did God speak to Abraham?
(God delights in reaching out to us. We cannot know God unless he shows us who he is. Jesus is God coming down to show us who he is. We learn about God through all that Jesus taught and did.)

Laughing at God’s Promise

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet

Try using a puppet to reenact Sarah’s laughing and lie. (Remember you don’t have to be a puppet expert to work with toddlers. Don’t try to memorize this skit, just get the rough idea and ad-lib it.) After reading the Bible story, put on a puppet and review some of the details of the lesson. When you get to the place where God tells Abraham that Sarah is going to have a son, have the puppet laugh. As soon as you look down at the puppet, have him stop laughing. Then ask the puppet, did you laugh? The puppet should say no, that he only sneezed, and then have the puppet sneeze several times. Tell the puppet that it didn’t sound to you like a sneeze, it sounded to you like a laugh. Repeat this a couple of times, causing the puppet to laugh more and more each time. Then engage the children and confirm that the puppet laughed. You can confront the puppet, talk about lying with the children, and have the puppet confess and ask forgiveness.

Go on to ask the children if they remember who laughed in today’s story. (Sarah laughed.)

Talk about lying some more and how it revealed that Sarah didn't believe that God could give her a son. Remind them that she was old enough to be a great-grandmother.

Ask the children whether they think that God could give her a son? (They should say yes.)

God Hears Our Prayers

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry erase marker

Ask the children the following questions:

- What is prayer?
(talking to God)
- Does God hear our prayers?
(yes)
- From our story about Abraham, what were Abraham's prayers?
(Remind them of his requests for God not to destroy even ten righteous men in the city.)
- Did God answer Abraham's prayers?
(Yes, he did. God promised not to destroy the city if he found at least ten righteous men there.)

Ask the children for prayer requests they would like to make to God. Write them on the whiteboard and spend some time with the class praying to God for their requests.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 11 - THE LORD APPEARS TO ABRAHAM

