

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 REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read Genesis 18 from the Scriptures or read story 11, “The Lord Appears to Abraham,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN**
Rotten Potatoes
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
How Close Is Sodom?
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ whiteboard
 - ✓ dry-erase markers
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 11—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**
If There Are Only Ten
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ one hundred small paper or plastic drinking cups

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God reminds Abraham of his promises—God came to Abraham over and over again to remind him of the promise. God is the one who takes the first step in reaching out to those he loves, promising to save us and help us. And then, over and over again, God reminds us of what he has promised, just like he did with Abraham.

All people have sin in their hearts. That's why we all tend to drift from God and his truth. If God did not give us ways to be reminded of his promises, we would forget them and drift away from him. In Abraham's day there was no Bible to remind him of God's promises, so God came to Abraham personally.

It is important for us to read the Bible every day and spend time discussing it with other Christians. When we do that, the Holy Spirit reminds us of the promise we have in Christ and the gospel. We need the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and others to help us continue to obey and follow Jesus.

God increases Abraham's and Sarah's faith—God reminded Abraham of the promise because he knew that Abraham and Sarah needed more faith. When God said again that Sarah would have a baby, Sarah laughed because having a baby at her age seemed impossible.

God heard her laugh but did not rebuke her for her unbelief. God knew that the promise was sure. He knew that Sarah would have a baby and that one descendant of that baby would be Jesus, who would die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins—even the sin of Sarah's unbelief!

God hears Abraham's prayers—In these amazing verses we catch a glimpse of how God hears our prayers and responds to them. In the passage, God announces his plan to judge the wickedness of Sodom. Abraham then appeals to God over and over on behalf of any righteous people in Sodom: first on behalf of fifty righteous people, then forty-five, then thirty, then twenty, and finally ten.

Truly, God will not destroy anyone whom he has chosen. But in fact there was not even one righteous person within Sodom when it was destroyed. As we see later in Genesis, God's angel rescued Lot by dragging him by the hand against his objections. God will always save those whom he has chosen.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Luke 1:26–28.

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."

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Genesis 18 from the Scriptures or read story 11, "The Lord Appears to Abraham," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Rotten Potatoes

Read the following list to the children and ask them what you should do with each item—sort out the good from the bad or throw the whole lot away?

- You buy a bunch of bananas and one banana is bad. Should you save the rest or throw them all away?
- You buy a bag of peanuts in the shell and the third one you eat tastes terrible. Should you spit it out but eat the rest or throw them all away?

- You take out a slice of bread to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and discover green mold on it. Should you cut off the bad part and eat the rest or get a new slice or throw the whole loaf away?
- There's a white fuzzy texture to the top side of a slice of cheese. Should you wash off the mold and eat it anyway, get another slice from the same package, or throw them all away?
- You are helping to peel potatoes. You reach in the bag and the very first potato you touch is soft and slimy. Should you check the bag and pick out the good potatoes or throw them all away?
- If out of the city of Sodom most of the people are wicked, should God save the ten who are righteous or destroy them with the city?

The wickedness of sin is a greater offense to God than a moldy slice of bread or a rotten potato is to us. Yet God not only saves us, he saves us in spite of the rottenness of sin. We are all like those in Sodom, yet because of Christ's death, God reaches out to us in love and transforms our lives.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

How Close Is Sodom?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard
- ✓ dry-erase markers

Draw a rectangle on the board and write the word Sodom in the middle of it. Ask the children where they would place Abraham in relation to the city (Genesis 18:16) and where they would put Lot (Genesis 13:12). Read the description of Sodom to the class from Genesis 13:13. Ask the children to decide which man was wiser and why. Try to help them understand that if we live in the shadow of temptation we are more vulnerable to it.

Here are some practical examples:

- Where should you sit to do your homework, at your desk or near the TV set?

- Where is the best place to do your early morning devotions, lying in bed (where you can fall back to sleep) or in the living room with a light on?
- Where is the best place to sit waiting for dinner, in the kitchen next to the cookie jar or at the table in the dining room?

Help the kids realize that their environment can affect their ability to withstand temptation.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

If There Are Only Ten

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one hundred small paper or plastic drinking cups

Use the cups to illustrate Abraham's conversation with God in Genesis 18:23–33.

Recruit the children's help to stack the cups in two fifty-cup pyramids.

Follow the narrative in Genesis 18:23–33. When Abraham asks God, "What if there are fifty righteous people?" point to the stack on the left and tell the class that the left stack has fifty cups and that each cup represents a person in Sodom. Then take five cups from the "righteous" left side and move them to the right stack and then repeat Abraham's next line. "What if there are only forty-five righteous people?" Continue moving cups from the left stack to the right stack to follow the narrative. Finally, for Abraham's last appeal you should only have ten cups in the left stack and ninety in the right.

Tell the children that God said if there were only ten righteous people in Sodom, he would spare the whole city, but in fact all the people in the city were sinful. But God did save Lot and his wife and two daughters. Take away six of the ten and move them to the right so that there are only four cups left. Tell the class that God could have destroyed Lot and his family because they were sinners too, but God chose to spare them.

Then talk about how we are all sinners and deserving of hell, yet God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven!

LESSON 11 - THE LORD APPEARS TO ABRAHAM

