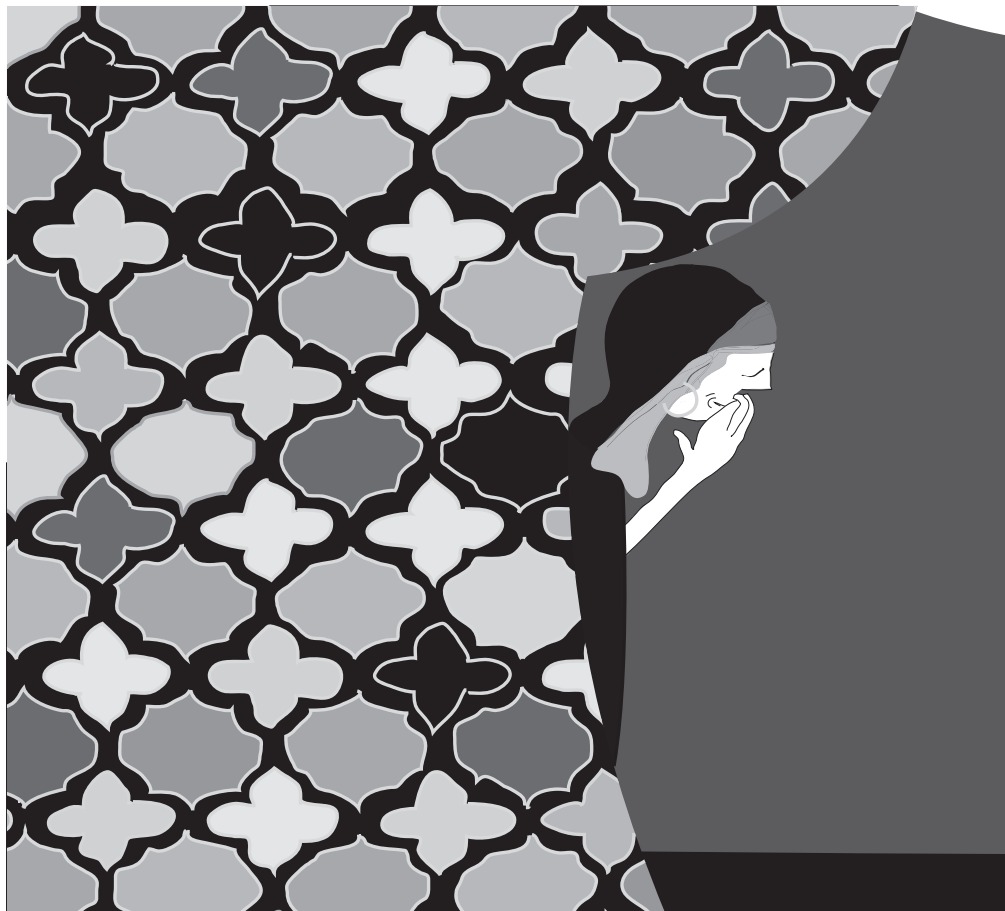


LESSON 11

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**
Believe It or Not
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper
 - ✓ pencils
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Who Am I?
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
Sarah Laughing
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper
 - ✓ colored pencils
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Write Out a Prayer
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ three-by-five-inch cards (one for each student)
 - ✓ pens or pencils

TOTAL 80 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Being Righteous

Righteousness is one of those theological words that many people cannot define. If you think of being righteous as fully keeping the law of God, it is easy to understand why we read in Romans 3:10 that “none is righteous, no not one.”

When appealing to the Lord, Abraham was thinking that there would be people in Sodom who had not sinned and who served the Lord. He was likely thinking there might be some who were not so evil as others.

Just like Abraham, we are sinners who are not righteous in and of ourselves. Abraham started out as an idolater. It was only in believing God’s plan that his faith was counted to him as righteousness (Romans 4:9). Whose righteousness was credited to Abraham’s account? The same that is credited to our account—Jesus’ righteousness. He is the only one who was able to fully keep the law.

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

Believe It or Not

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ pencils

Share the following ten facts and have the children write down which they think are true and which they believe are false.

1. The tallest man in history was Robert Wadlow who was measured to be 8 feet, 11.1 inches. He also has the record for the biggest feet, shoe size 37, but died of an infected foot.
2. Toilet paper was invented in 1857 to replace old store catalogs people had used.
3. The most push-ups done by a man in one hour is 3,416.
4. The largest snowflake ever reported and listed in *Guinness World Records* was fifteen inches wide and eight inches thick.
5. Umbrellas were originally invented in the Middle East around the time that Joshua entered the Promised Land to protect against the heat of the sun.
6. Kleenex tissues were originally invented as an air filter material for army gas masks.
7. The coin toss so familiar at the start of football games was originated by Julius Caesar, who instituted the practice to help people settle disputes. If heads came up then it was said that Caesar agreed.
8. The tuxedo was invented in Tuxedo Park, New York, as a less formal jacket option.
9. Cinderella is an adaptation of a Scottish story. In this earlier version, Cinderella is named Rashin-Coatie, the fairy godmother is a baby calf and the glass slipper is made of satin. But the details of the prince, the ball, and the slipper remain the same.
10. The world’s largest crayon is 10 feet long and weighs 332 pounds.

After reading all the items on the list, go through them one by one and find out, by a show of hands, who thought each statement was true. The class should be surprised in the end to discover that they are all true!

Ask them which of the bits of trivia surprised them most. Then go on to talk about why Sarah would have doubted the Lord's words and laughed about having a child in her old age. (The children may also laugh as you share the facts!) To Sarah, the idea of having a child seemed impossible. Yet, that is exactly what happened. God had chosen Abraham and Sarah to be the family through which Jesus would eventually come. God is able to bring his plan to pass.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Who Am I?

Read Romans 3:10–18 to the class. Then review the story of Abraham pleading for Sodom.

There were no righteous people living in Sodom and Gomorrah. Though Abraham pleads for the righteous, we learn from Romans 3:10–18 that apart from Christ, none are righteous, not even one. Even when the angels save Lot, it is not because Lot is righteous; indeed, he is portrayed as a wicked man willing to sacrifice his daughters. Lot is not saved because of what he does but because of God's mercy. In fact, if it hadn't been for the angels physically grabbing hold of Lot (Genesis 19:16), he would have been destroyed as well.

Ask the children the following questions:

- When you read the story of the judgment of Sodom, who do you most identify with?
- After reading the passage in Romans, do you wonder if in fact you are really more like the people of Sodom?

Apart from Christ, we are sinners bent on rebelling against God. It is only because of God's mercy that we have the power to withstand sin and be counted as righteous.

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 15 MIN

Sarah Laughing

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ colored pencils

Have the children draw a picture of Sarah hiding behind the door laughing.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Write out a Prayer

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three-by-five-inch cards (one for each student)
- ✓ pens or pencils

Tell the class that Abraham boldly approached God and asked him to spare Sodom if only ten righteous people could be found there. When Abraham was asking God about Sodom, he was really praying. Praying is simply talking to God! Ask them whether they know that God tells us that we also can come boldly (with confidence) to ask him for things. Read Hebrews 4:16 to the class and explain that God wants us to come boldly to his throne in heaven and ask him for help in our time of need.

Have the children write out a prayer on their card and then spend some time as a class praying for these needs. Have the children put their cards in their Bibles to remind them to keep praying when they get home.