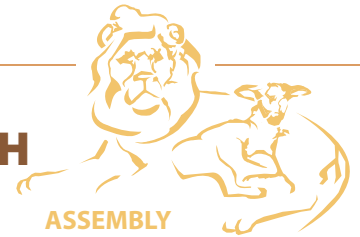


ABRAHAM, A FATHER TO ALL BY FAITH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ROMANS 4:13-25



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS**A WALK OF FAITH****Supplies**

- a bunch of grapes
- plastic tarp
- a blindfold

Explain to the children how Abraham believed God who told him to leave his homeland and go to place that God would show him (Genesis 12:1-3) and then he trusted God to give him a son when he was very old (Genesis 17:15-21). Cover the floor, and then take the grapes and place about ten of them randomly on the floor of the room. Explain to the children that you are going to blindfold one of them and have them walk across the room following your directions. (For younger children who may not know their left and right, just say, "Don't step there" or "Yes, that is safe.") Move any furniture out of the way and then blindfold the first volunteer. See if you can guide him across the floor with him simply trusting in your directions.

Afterwards talk about faith being a trust for things you cannot see. Ask the children if they trusted your commands to walk across the room. Then compare the grapes exercise with Abraham trusting in God and then with our own need to trust God. We are trusting that God did indeed raise Jesus from the dead, see Romans 4:24-25.

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BELIEVING IN GOD'S WORD

Supplies

a fake beard (can be made out of cotton balls) and a costume for Abraham

The object of this lesson is to help the children understand how we can trust in God's Word. Abraham believed what God told him when God said he would give Abraham a son. Abraham's friends would have found this hard to believe.

Have one of the teachers dress up like Abraham. Have him paraphrase the story of Genesis 17 and 18 for the children telling how even he and his wife Sarah thought it funny that they should have a child in their old age. Have him suggest that there were others who did not believe but that God's Word is true. Then have him read the account of Isaac's birth directly from Genesis 21:1-7. Then have Abraham charge the children to believe God's Word with words like: "You can bet if it says it in the Bible it is true." Have the teacher thank Abraham for stopping in for a visit. Then ask, "What does the Bible teach us we need to believe?" The teacher can direct the children to believe (trust) in the Gospel in God's Word: Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins and rose again on the third day.

WHERE IS the Gospel?

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.

Paul directly ties the faith of Abraham trusting in God's future redemption with our trusting in God's past work on the cross and resurrection. Just as Abraham's faith was "counted to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:22) so "It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." (Romans 4:24-25)

