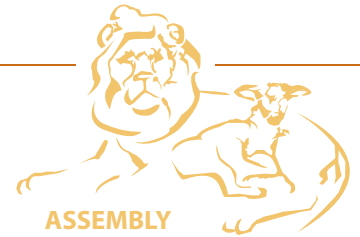


THE LORD APPEARS TO ABRAHAM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 18



*You may want to read or paraphrase sections of the story from Genesis 18.
The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

LESSON IDEAS**GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS**

Ask the children the following questions:

- What is prayer? (Talking to God.)
- Does God hear our prayers? (Yes)
- From our story with Abraham, what were Abraham's prayers? (Remind them of his requests for God to not 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 white board and spend some time with the class praying to God for their requests.

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MEETING WITH GOD

Ask the children to name as many of the people they can that had a meeting with God in some fashion. Play a game to see who can remember the most from this list.

- 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

We will one day in heaven see Him as He is.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (1 John 3:2)

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.

God appeared to Abraham demonstrating that He is a God who desires to dwell with mankind. This means that God desires to dwell with us too. Jesus, came to earth to die so that all men might have fellowship with God. God, through His Spirit, can dwell in each of our hearts.

Paul shares it this way with Timothy:

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:8-10)