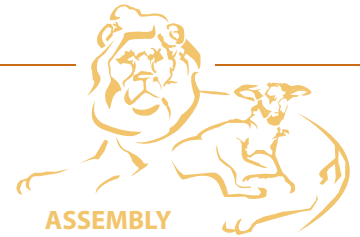


ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 21:1-21



Please do not feel the need to cover the entire portion of scripture in your lesson. The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

HAGAR AND ISHMAEL DRAMA

Ask for volunteers for Abraham, Hagar, and Ishmael. Also pick five children to be the well and three children to be the bush.

Follow the story as it appears in the Bible, giving the children any clues they need to perform the skit. The children who are the bush should hold their hands up over their heads with their fingers spread. The children who are the well should form a circle, each person crouched down and facing the center.

When Hagar's eyes are opened, the children forming the well should, all at once, stand up and wave their arms to suggest a well overflowing with water. Have Hagar pretend to gather some water and give her son a drink. Spend time talking about God's faithfulness in providing for our needs.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS GUESSING GAME

Explain to the children that a faithful person is a person who keeps his promises. Tell them you are going to play a game and see if they can guess all the ways God was faithful in this story. Give them clues to help them along. You can also divide them into two teams and have a competition.

Ways God is faithful in Genesis 21:

1. Sarah had a child in her old age
2. The son was born right on time just as God said he would be
3. The child was a boy just like God said
4. God took care of Ishmael and Hagar in the desert
5. God stayed with Ishmael as he grew up

Ways God is powerful in Genesis 21:

1. God gives a child to Abraham and Sarah
2. God speaks to people
3. God opens Hagar's eyes

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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 intended to give Abraham a son through his wife Sarah. When Sarah grew old, she suggested Abraham take a second wife who was younger in order to produce a son. Ishmael was the fruit of Abraham's own work – his attempt to make God's promise come about by his own effort. Isaac was a child supernaturally born in Sarah's old age. From the story of Abraham and Sarah, we learn that when God makes a promise, He will keep it. God's promise was fulfilled when Isaac is born and His plan was that through Isaac, Jesus would ultimately come. Jesus brought a salvation which is by faith, not works, so no one should boast.

