

THE LORD APPEARS TO ABRAHAM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 18



The STORY

Read the following Bible story of the Lord appearing to Abraham (Genesis 18).

The Lord appeared to Abraham while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. The Lord came with two angels in the form of ordinary men. Abraham invited the three to eat with him. Abraham prepared a special meal. While with Abraham the Lord said, "I will return to you this time next year and Sarah, your wife, will have a son." Sarah heard the Lord and laughed to herself because she was very old and didn't think she could have any children.

The Lord told Abraham He was going to judge the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham asked the Lord if He would spare the city if 50 righteous men could be found there. When the Lord agreed to spare the city for 50 righteous men, Abraham spoke again and again until the Lord agreed to spare the city if only ten righteous men could be found there. When the Lord finished speaking to Abraham, He left and Abraham returned home.

***Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Who were the three men who appeared to Abraham? (We know that two of the three were angels from Genesis 19:1. We know, from Genesis 18:1, that the third man was the Lord.)
- Why did the Lord come? (To see firsthand how great the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah was.)
- What was God going to do to Sodom and Gomorrah? (Destroy the cities.)

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: picture of Abraham sitting at his tent, seeing three men walking toward him. Engage the children by asking:

- Who were the visitors in the picture?
Have the children pick out the visitors.
- Do all angels have wings? (No, some look just like people.)
- 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.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What did Sarah do when she heard the Lord was going to give her a son? (Sarah laughed.)
- Why did Sarah laugh? (Sarah thought she was too old to have a son.)
- What other amazing things has God done that might have been hard to believe? (Parting the Red Sea, worldwide flood, David fighting Goliath with a sling, etc.)



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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 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)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

