

LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is Faithful

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 24

WORD OF WONDER: Deuteronomy 7:9

I often read the Bible and wonder how people could mistrust God. He spoke directly to you! You heard Him with your own ears. How could you not trust that He will do what He said?

But I look back at my own life and realize that even if I heard God's audible voice, I would still struggle to trust. It is who we are. God shows up in smoke and fire and a booming voice, and the next day we wonder if it really happened. The enemy continues trying to persuade us to mistrust—did God really say that?

When have you struggled to trust Him, despite God's past faithfulness to you?

The journey with Jesus isn't a sprint. Abraham had a long road with God—ups and downs, all caused by Abraham's unfaithfulness. But by the end of his life, Abraham seems to have finally realized that God is faithful and knows He will provide a wife for Isaac.

As I ponder this story, my prayer is that it won't take me until the end of my life to consistently put my faith in the Lord. May my trust overflow as I look back and see how God showed up. May I be able to remember that God is faithful.

-Denise Morris Snyder

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Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

ISAAC AND REBEKAH

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The "best servant" in Abraham's house is likely the same head servant mentioned in Genesis 15:2. His name was Eliezer of Damascus. He oversaw all of Abraham's possessions. Before Ishmael and Isaac were born, he was considered the heir of Abraham's fortune and property.

WHAT?

Isaac has grown up. Abraham knows that part of God keeping His promise of having as many descendants as the stars means his son will need to marry. Abraham sends his servant to find a woman from Abraham's home country for Isaac. His servant finds Rebekah, and she marries Isaac.

WHERE?

Abraham is living in Canaan, which is the land God promised to give him and his children (Genesis 17:8). It's found in modern-day Lebanon, southern Syria, and Israel. Abraham's servant travels to Abraham's home country of Mesopotamia in the Euphrates Valley.

WHEN?

Abraham probably lived between 2100 to 1800 BC. Sarah had just died, and Abraham purchased from the Hittites a place to bury her (Genesis 23). The Hittites were a major power in the nineteenth century BC. Abraham died soon after Isaac was married, and he left everything to Isaac.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Through Isaac, God's promise to Abraham grows. Isaac and Rebekah have a son named Jacob, whom God blesses and calls Israel is the nation from whom the Messiah would be born. Israel's Messiah—Jesus—fulfills the Abrahamic promise through which the blessings of God open to all nations.



Curiosity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Curiosity Activity: Dancing Raisins

SUPPLIES: translucent cup or jar, unopened club soda (1 bottle), raisins (small handful)

Today you're going to see something cool that you may not think is possible! You're going to see raisins dance! Raise your hand if you think raisins can dance. Pause to give kids time to respond. Watch closely and follow along—you will understand soon.



Pour club soda into the cup or jar as soon as you open it (don't let it sit opened before the experiment) and immediately drop a few raisins into it. The raisins will begin to move up and down in the soda as if dancing.

There are many things—like today's experiment—that we may not understand at first. Sometimes we have to trust and wait to experience something great. In God's big story today, we'll hear about a man who watched and waited a long time to see God fulfill a promise, and in the end, God did everything He said He would do.



Belief

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: God, thank You for each kid and leader here today. Help us hear You and Your Word today through the power of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible important? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Beginner's Bible, pages 52-57

A Bride for Isaac

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What were the names of the people in today's story who got married? (Isaac and Rebekah)
- Why did Abraham send his servant away? (to find a wife for Isaac)
- Where did Abraham's servant meet Rebekah? (at the well)
- What did Rebekah do to help Abraham's servant? (She drew water for him and his camels.)
- How do you imagine Abraham felt when his servant returned with a wife for Isaac?
- What is something good that God has given you or done for you?

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

He is the faithful God. He keeps his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him.

— Deuteronomy 7:9

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- · How does it make you feel to know that God is faithful?
- · How can you praise God for being faithful?



Faith

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Game: Well Relay

SUPPLIES: buckets (4), paper cups (2), blue pom-poms (20)

In the story today, Rebekah helped get water for the servant and the camels. You're going to play a game where you can practice carrying water from a well just like Rebekah did in God's big story!

Divide the kids into two teams and give each team a paper cup. Put a bucket filled with blue pom-poms at the starting line of each team. Put one empty bucket for each team at the finish line on the other side of the room. Kids will take turns using a paper cup to scoop up a few pom-poms from the full bucket and carry it to the empty bucket. After they dump the pom-poms into the empty bucket, they'll run back and tag the next player. The team that empties the full bucket first wins!





LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Responding in Worship: Journey of Faithfulness

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, gifts coloring sheets, bucket coloring sheet, paper plates

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Well Sheet (optional)

Make It Inclusive! Be sensitive to any kids in your group who might be experiencing difficult circumstances over a prolonged period. Acknowledge their pain and assure them they are not alone. Remind kids that God is always with them, and while they are waiting for things to change, encourage them to look for glimpses of God's faithfulness on their journey.



Wonder Ink

LESSON 2 WELL SHEET

Ahead of time, set up the following stations in your room for kids to engage with during their journey of faithfulness:

- 1. Gifts of Gratitude: Set out gifts coloring sheets
- 2. Well of Waiting: Tape the Well Sheet to the wall or set it on a table as the focal point of the station and set out bucket coloring sheets.
- 3. Promise Prepared: Set out paper plates and coloring utensils.

Today you'll all move around the room on a journey of remembering God's faithfulness. You'll visit each of the three "faithful stations" and respond to God's faithfulness at each one.

God is faithful! However, just like in today's story, God's faithfulness can take time. Abraham loaded up his camels with gifts because he expected God to be faithful. His servant didn't understand how God would provide, so he waited and prayed. God answered the servant's prayer in

10:45 Service

a big way and had a bride for Isaac.

Lead kids to the first station: Gifts of Gratitude. Abraham knew God would provide a wife for Isaac. Abraham was so grateful for God's faithfulness that he loaded up camels with gifts. Show kids the coloring sheet and crayons. At this station, we will practice trusting God for promises that haven't been fulfilled yet, just like Abraham did. Let's decorate this present to show God we trust that He is faithful! Allow kids several minutes to decorate their gift. They can draw pictures of something they are trusting God for or decorate it like a fancy gift. Encourage kids to repeat after you: "God is faithful!"

Next, lead kids to the Well of Waiting. Who remembers what Abraham's servant did while he waited at the well? Allow kids to respond. Yes! He prayed! Do you have a prayer you're waiting on God to answer? When you are ready, come up to our well (point to the picture) and get a bucket to color. As you do, remember that God is faithful, and He hears your prayer.

Allow kids to spend time praying as they color a bucket.

Lastly, lead kids to the Promise Prepared station. When Abraham's servant arrived in Abraham's home country, Rebekah was waiting, and her family prepared a special meal for him. God did what He said He would do! Show kids the paper plates and crayons. Let's thank God for how He prepares and provides! Give kids time to draw on the paper plates times they've seen God's faithfulness. Be ready to share an example.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His faithfulness.

God, You are always faithful. Long ago, You made a promise to Abraham and Isaac, and You kept it. Everything they needed You provided and prepared, and You do the same for us today. You are our faithful God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God is good and keeps His promises, so may you always expect Him to be faithful. The same God who kept His covenant to Abraham will remain faithful to you because He does not change. In seasons of waiting, may your faith grow, and may your life tell of God's faithfulness.