9:00 Service



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

Spiritual Formation Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

9:00 Service

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.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: baby dolls, stuffed animals, toy food, plates, spoons, bowls or plastic containers, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Isaac and Rebekah Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Animal and Doll Play

Set-up: Set out baby dolls, stuffed animals, toy food, plates, and spoons

Play: Encourage kids to have fun as they practice feeding and taking care of animals and baby dolls. Tell them they'll be learning today about someone who fed some animals.

Play Station: Isaac and Rebekah Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw gifts they would send if they were meeting a special person.



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

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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Craft: Waiting Well

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), paper cups (1 per kid), coloring utensils, tape or glue, kid-safe scissors

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Waiting Well Sheet (1 bucket per kid)

Ahead of time, print the Waiting Well Sheets. You'll need one bucket for each kid. Cut out the buckets.

In the part of God's big story that we heard today, Abraham's servant arrived at a well where he sat down and prayed. He knew God had answered his prayers when Rebekah arrived and not only gave him water but also gave it to his camels. God



showed His faithfulness by not only providing him water because he was thirsty but also leading him directly to Rebekah.

Today we're going to make a well to remind us that God is faithful! Hold up the paper cup. What can a cup do? Pause for kids to answer. That's right—it holds water, like a well. This cup is going to be our well today, and you can decorate it with crayons and markers. Hold up the bucket. What does a bucket do? Pause for kids to answer. That's correct—buckets are used to carry water. Every well has a bucket that allows people to carry water. Here is a bucket for your well. Hold up paper cup. You can use crayons, markers, or colored pencils to color it!

Pass out paper cups and coloring utensils. Let the kids color the cups and decorate them. They can also color their buckets. Then they can tape or glue the buckets inside the cups. Consider having a sample well and bucket made to show the kids an example of a finished product.



Identity

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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Closing Game: Color Match

SUPPLIES: various toys or objects from around the room (such as a marker, toy, hat, etc.)

Abraham knew God wanted him to find a wife for his son Isaac, so Abraham sent his servant on a journey back to his hometown. It may have seemed like it would be difficult, but God is faithful! You're going to go on a journey right now to find the object I call out. Listen carefully to the instructions and bring back to me what I call out.

Choose a few toys or items found in your room and call them out one at a time as you encourage the kids to find them and bring them to you. When the item is brought to you, ask the kids what color it is. Challenge kids to find another object in the room with the same color. Repeat, using different colors of objects or objects that are the same size, shape, texture, etc.

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.