



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 Keeps His Promises

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 18; 21

WORD OF WONDER: From Psalm 90:2

Have you ever longed so much for something that you fabricate reasons for why it hasn't happened? I think this is part of human nature, but it is not what God desires for us. God desires for us to be near Him and learn His ways. What if our longing is an invitation to meet God more deeply?

Read Genesis 18:1–2, 10–15; 21:1–6. Abraham and Sarah had longing in their hearts since the moment God made the covenantal promise to give Abraham more descendants than he could count stars in the sky. God sent messengers to Abraham and Sarah to tell them that their longing for a family would end, and they would (finally) have a baby. But when Sarah hears this news, what is her reaction? Laughter. Perhaps she is caught off guard by this promise finally becoming a reality. But Genesis 18:14 reminds us of who God is: Is anything too hard for the Lord?

We can all relate to Sarah, can't we? When we wait long enough for something, it's hard to believe when it actually happens. But nothing is too hard for God. Longing for God's promises to finally happen is a gift. It is a gift that we can laugh about, a gift that draws us closer to the Promise Keeper. What

are you longing for? May you draw closer to God in your longing and know deeply that God keeps His promises.

—**Kirsten Hitchcock**

Children's Pastor and Curriculum Developer

Wonder Ink Development Team

LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS
ABRAHAM AND SARAH HAVE A BABY

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Abraham was chosen by God as the man through whom He would bless the world. God appeared to Abraham through three messengers to assure him that within the next year, Sarah would deliver a son, Isaac, as He had promised.

WHAT?

Genesis 3:15 reveals that God had a plan for redemption. Through the covenant with Abraham, God would carry out this plan. Through the appearance to Abraham of the men at Mamre, God assured Abraham that he would indeed have a son through Sarah.

WHERE?

Abraham was still living “near the great trees of Mamre” (Genesis 18:1) when he was visited by the Lord through three messengers. This was where Abraham chose to live when he was called by God to Canaan and where he built an altar to the Lord.

WHEN?

The Lord appeared to Abraham through the three messengers approximately 24 years after God had promised Abraham a son. Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah was 90 when she gave birth to Isaac.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

God made a covenant with Abraham to build a nation through which He would send a redeemer. Despite Abraham and Sarah’s age, God kept His promise, and Sarah gave birth to Isaac. The long list of Isaac’s descendants would one day include Jesus—the Redeemer!



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: hourglass sand timers; kitchen timers; stopwatches; coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Abraham and Sarah Have a Baby Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

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

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

Play Station: Time's Up!

Set up: Set out timers (including hourglass sand timers, kitchen timers, and stopwatches).

Play: Let the kids take turns playing with the timers. Ask them which timer takes the longest and which is the shortest. Encourage them to do different actions while the time runs out. For example—can they jump up and down until all the sand in the timer runs out? Can they keep their hands above their head until the timer runs out? Hold their breath? Sit quietly without talking?

Leader Tip: Check your board games for timers or make your own. To make your own hourglass timer, fill an empty water bottle with rice and put another empty bottle on top. Tape the two open mouths of the bottles together.

Play Station: Abraham and Sarah Have a Baby Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out the coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their family.



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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 loving us so much. Help us listen and understand this part of Your big story! Thank You for always keeping Your promises. Help us always remember we can trust You to do anything You say You're going to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? ***The Bible***

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

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 46-51

The Visitors

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What did God promise Sarah and Abraham?** *(that they would have a baby; that they would have as many children as stars in the sky; to bless the world through their family)*
- **How did Sarah respond when she heard about God's promise?** *(She laughed.)*
- **What did Sarah and Abraham name their baby?** *(Isaac)*
- **Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? How did you feel while waiting?**
- **The messengers asked, "Is anything too hard for God?" What is something that is hard for you to do? Would it be too hard for God?**
- **How would you respond if God told you something was going to happen that you thought was impossible?**
- **What is a promise God makes us? Do you believe He will keep that promise?** *(If kids need help, offer ideas such as, to save and forgive us, to adopt us into His family as children of God, to love us, to never leave us.)*

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Before You created the whole world, You are God. You will always be God.

—from Psalm 90:2



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Game: Red Light, Green Light

Play a game of Red Light, Green Light. Have the kids line up along one side of the room while you stand at the other. When you shout, “green light,” the kids should all run toward you, but when you shout, “red light,” they must stop and freeze. Anyone who moves when you say, “red light” must go back to the starting line and start again.

The first child to reach you wins. Vary the amount of time the kids must wait before you say, “green light” again.

Even though you’re only waiting a short time to be able to move, Abraham and Sarah had to wait a long time. Even though we may have to wait for God’s promises to come true, like Abraham and Sarah, we can trust that God always keeps His promises!

Leader Tip: For more fun, have the kids do different actions while moving toward you, such as skipping, hopping, walking backward, or tiptoeing.



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Responding in Worship: Promises of God

SUPPLIES: tambourines, ribbons

In today's story, we learned that God kept His promise to Abraham. Sarah had a baby just like God promised. God keeps His promises to us too! We can praise and thank Him. We're going to have a praise parade! Have the kids line up behind you. Follow me around the room while I do different actions (such as marching, walking slowly, skipping, walking backward). As I walk, I'll stop sometimes and shout out a promise from God. After I say each promise, you'll shout, "God keeps His promises!"

March and shout the promises from the Promises from God below as you march. Play worship songs from the Early Childhood flash drive during the parade.

After your parade, ask the kids if they can remember any of the promises from God they just learned. Give them prompts if they need help remembering. For example: "God hears our ____." After a child recites a promise, shout out, "God keeps His promises!"

For extra fun during your parade, let the kids use tambourines or wave ribbons to praise God.

Promises from God

- God will give us everything we need.
- God is always with us and will never leave us.
- God will forgive us.
- God hears our prayers.
- God will always love us.
- God will help us.
- God will be our shelter and safe place.
- We can trust Jesus as our Savior and become adopted into God's family as a child of God!