

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 2
Abraham and the Angels, Birth of Isaac (Genesis 17, 18, 21)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Before His Advent the Lord appeared to men by filling an angel with His presence.
- B. In the Word literal history begins with Genesis 12.
- C. Abraham's trust in the Lord and obedience to Him are essentials of charity.
- D. Faith is of the heart; the mind tends to doubt.
- E. The Lord cannot lead us to heaven unless we want to trust Him and obey Him.
- F. The promise of an heir is the promise that our obedience to the Lord will have lasting good results.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. Our story today is about Abraham. Abraham was a man who wanted to be taught by the Lord and to obey Him. So the Lord could teach Abraham and be with him and help him.
- 2. The Lord had told Abraham to leave his home in Ur of the Chaldeans and to go to the land of Canaan to live. It was a long journey, but Abraham obeyed. So the Lord helped him to prosper, and Abraham became rich in cattle, silver, and gold. He and his family led a simple life as shepherds and herdsmen, living in tents which could be taken down and moved from place to place when the flocks and herds needed to find new pasture.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read Genesis 17:1,5,15-19
 - a. Who appeared to Abram? (The Lord)
 - b. How old was Abram? (99)
 - c. The Lord gave Abram a new name. What was it? (Abraham)
 - d. The Lord gave Sarai a new name. What was it? (Sarah)

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- e. What did the Lord promise to Abraham? (That he would be a father of nations; that Sarah would be a mother of nations; that Sarah would bear a son)
- f. The Lord told Abraham what he should name his son. What was the name? (Isaac)

2. Read Genesis 18:1-15.

- a. Who came to see Abraham? (3 men)
- b. How did he welcome them? (Invited them to stay and wash their feet, rest under a tree)
- c. What did he tell Sarah to do? (Make cakes)
- d. What other food did he give them? (Butter, milk, calf)
- e. What did they promise to Abraham? (That Sarah would have a son)
- f. Sarah was listening from the tent. What did she do when she heard this? (She laughed within herself) Why? (She was too old to have children)
- g. Even though she had laughed to herself and not aloud, the Lord heard her and asked, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?" What did Sarah say? ("I did not laugh.")
- h. Why did Sarah lie? (Because she was afraid)

3. Read Genesis 21:1-7.

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. The three men who came to Abraham were angels or messengers of the Lord. Abraham recognized who they were and welcomed them and entertained them with the best of what he had.
 - a. Did Abraham laugh when the angels promised that Sarah would have a son? (No)
 - b. Who believed the promise of a son, Abraham or Sarah? (Abraham)
 - c. Which would you say trusted the Lord more, Abraham or Sarah? (Abraham)

D. Further Ideas

- 1. Abraham believed the Lord, trusted Him, and wanted to obey Him. Because of his willingness to follow the Lord, the Lord could make him rich and give him a son. If Abraham had not trusted the Lord, had not obeyed Him and gone on the long journey from Ur to Canaan, the Lord couldn't have kept His promises to Abraham.

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2. If we trust the Lord and do as He teaches, even when we don't understand why He wants us to do something, even when we don't see how things could possibly turn out right—when we're like Abraham, and we trust that the Lord will help us and will keep His promises to us—then the Lord can give us many rewards and much happiness, just as He gave Abraham riches and much happiness.

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III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music (songs of obedience and trust)

1. "Lord, Thou art my portion," Hymnal #168
2. "All that the Lord has Spoken," Hymnal #245
3. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," Hymnal #246

B. Activities

C. Project: "Isaac Born to Abraham and Sarah in Their Old Age"

1. Talk with children about what things make people look old (e.g. wrinkles, gray or white hair and eyebrows, stooped figures, perhaps a beard, etc.). Abraham and Sarah were older than most people's GRANDPARENTS when they had their first baby!
2. Have children draw the elderly Abraham and Sarah with felt markers or colored pencils on white or flesh colored paper.
3. Add bits of yarn for hair and beard, if desired. Baby Isaac can be drawn on also; or provide scraps of light blue, white, or yellow felt out of which to cut a baby-shaped bundle. Glue into Sarah's or Abraham's arms.
4. For the older or more capable students: Draw a tent in the background.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of Abraham and Sarah in their old age.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. I, "Abraham and the Angels" (Gen. 18), pp. 245-250.
- B. AC 2216