



Session 4

ISAAC, THE PROMISED SON

FOR THE
LEADER

Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-67

God's call of Abraham is central to every episode in his life. God made several promises to Abraham in that calling. In subsequent encounters, God clarified and explained these promises. At the heart of all of them was God's pledge to multiply Abraham's descendants into a nation that would occupy the land of Canaan. God would bless all humanity through Abraham. Every event moves the narrative one step closer to that blessing. Therefore, every experience in Abraham's life must be interpreted in light of its correlation to the fulfillment of God's pledge.

God promised to make a great nation from Abraham's countless descendants. God is faithful. Within the year specified, Sarah became the mother of Abraham's son. The couple named him Isaac in obedience to the Lord's instructions. God promised to make a great nation from Abraham's countless descendants. Isaac— Abraham and Sarah's only son and heir to the promise—was in his late thirties. Fulfillment of the promise required a new generation, but Isaac was not married and his prospects for a wife weren't particularly hopeful. Abraham opposed any union with the women of Canaan.

Abraham commissioned a servant to go back to Haran and obtain a wife from Abraham's extended family. While he paused at a well in Haran, the servant prayed for success. God granted the servant's petition and led him to Rebekah, Abraham's brother's granddaughter. The servant lavished her with gold jewelry. When her brother Laban saw the expensive ornaments, he invited the servant to dine with the family. Before accepting the invitation, the servant shared in great detail his mission, his prayer, and his perception of Rebekah's advent. After hearing his story, Rebekah's father and brother consented to betrothing her to Isaac. Rebekah and Isaac were married when Isaac was 40 years old. God made a promise to Abraham, and God always keeps His promises.

SESSION FOCUS

TEXT TRUTH

God gave a son to Abraham.

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-67

BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 17:19

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

BIBLE SKILLS: Babies and toddlers will...

- Hear the names of Bible divisions.
- See the Bible used to tell a story. Help open the Bible.



CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Provide these weekly resources to help families explore the Bible together.

- Explore the Bible at Home Printable (Music & Print Extras)
- Diaper Bag Card
- Preschool Family Card



SESSION ACTIVITIES

BABIES EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Babies are sensory learners and they are relational. They learn best when teachers engage them through conversation and play. Prepare two or three activities for babies to enjoy as they explore the Bible.

First hour–

- Roll & Read
- Look for Pictures
- Tumble Scrunchies

Next hour–

- Repeat activities with babies in the next hour.

TODDLERS EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Toddlers are on the go and ready to learn. They learn best through playful exploration and discovery. Offer three or more multisensory activities to lead young preschoolers to discover and learn Bible truths.

First hour–

- Search for Birthday Cards
- Lace Shoes
- Bathe a Baby Doll
- Hop, Roll, & Crawl

Next hour–

- Push Bibles in a Stroller
- Make Music with Baby Rattles
- Match Baby Announcement Cards

PLUS Circle Time!

TEXT TRUTH

God gave a son to Abraham.

BIBLE STORY

Abraham's Son Isaac
Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-67

**BIBLE VERSE
PARAPHRASE**

God said, "Name your son
Isaac."
Genesis 17:19

PACK ITEMS

4 Story Picture: Abraham's
Son Isaac
17 Babies & Toys Cards

LEADER TIP

Ask parents permission to
make and print photos of their
babies at church. Use the
photos this week to talk about
God's blessing of children.

ABRAHAM'S SON ISAAC

Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-67

- *Abraham and Sarah had a baby.*
- *Abraham named the baby Isaac.*
- *Isaac grew to be a man.*
- *Isaac married Rebekah, and they became a family.*

EXPLORATIONS

ROLL & READ

Tools: Bible, several baby board books showing babies and families, church pictorial directory if available, Diaper Bag Card, several hand-size soft vinyl balls

- Spread the books on the floor in a semicircle. Seat a baby a few feet from the books and lay the balls next to him.
- Gently roll a ball toward a book. Comment: "Roll, roll. The ball rolled to the book. I see a picture of a family."
- Nudge the baby's hand to roll a ball toward a book. When the ball touches a book, pick it up and show it to the baby.
- Talk about God's gift of children. Say: "God gave a son to Abraham. The baby's name was Isaac."
- When a ball rolls to the Diaper Bag Card, show the baby the picture of Sarah holding Baby Isaac.
- Tap the Bible and say: "We learn about Isaac in the Bible."

LOOK FOR PICTURES

Tools: Bible, Babies & Toys Cards, Story Picture: Abraham's Son Isaac, small photo album, several plastic bowls or containers, a few photos of babies (See Leader Tip.)

- Lay several of the Babies & Toys Cards on the floor and cover each one with a plastic bowl. Put the photos of babies in your class in a small album to make a book.

- Hold a baby in your lap and show her the Story Picture. Comment that God promised to give Abraham a baby. Say: “God planned for Abraham to have a family. God planned for your family, too.”
- Seat the baby on the floor and watch her move to the bowls. When she reveals a picture card, relate the picture to babies or toys they enjoy.

TUMBLE SCRUNCHIES

Tools: Bible, several colorful unused plastic bath scrunchies, shallow plastic bowl

- Put the plastic scrunchies in the plastic bowl. Open the Bible to Genesis 21 and set the bowl on the pages.
- Gently push against the bowl to tip it and make the scrunchies tumble out. Encourage a baby to retrieve a scrunchie and put it back in the bowl.
- The baby will be intrigued when he tumbles the scrunchies from the bowl. Thank God for the baby’s hands.
- Encourage the baby to drop more scrunchies back into the bowl.
- Pat the open Bible and say: “Abraham and Sarah were happy. They had a baby at last. God said, ‘Name your son Isaac.’ That is what Abraham and Sarah did.”



NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR BABIES)

- Continue and repeat activities from the first hour. Babies learn through repetition and practice.
- As you cuddle, rock, soothe, and tend to babies’ needs, talk about the Bible. Say Bible words and phrases.
- Use the Bible with babies. Let them see, touch, and turn Bible pages.

TEXT TRUTH

God gave a son to Abraham.

BIBLE STORY

Abraham's Son Isaac
Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-67

**BIBLE VERSE
PARAPHRASE**

God said, "Name your son Isaac."
Genesis 17:19

PACK ITEMS

4 Story Picture: Abraham's
Son Isaac
18 Growth Picture Strips

LEADER TIP

Young children like to do things on their own. Some activities will require your help, but as much as possible, allow toddlers to do the activities.

ABRAHAM'S SON ISAAC

Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-67

Sarah was old. Abraham was old. But God had promised Sarah and Abraham they would have a baby.

Then it happened! Sarah had a baby! Abraham named the baby Isaac just as God had told him to do.

Isaac grew and grew. He became a man. Abraham wanted a wife for Isaac. So Abraham sent his servant to look for a wife for his son Isaac.

The servant prayed that God would help him find a wife for Isaac. And God did. The woman's name was Rebekah.

Isaac and Rebekah went back to Abraham's home and became a family.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

SEARCH FOR BIRTHDAY CARDS



Tools: Bible, 2 colorful birthday bags, several birthday cards

- Place the birthday cards at various places in the Bible. Put the Bible in one of the birthday bags. Set the bags on a table.
- Invite a toddler to guess which bag has the Bible in it. Say: "The Bible tells us that God keeps His promises."
- When the toddler finds the Bible, clap and celebrate. Say: "You found the Bible!"
- Take the Bible out of the bag and tell a toddler to find a birthday card. Comment on sending and receiving birthday or other greeting cards to celebrate special events. Relate celebrations to Abraham's joy at having a baby boy born in his family.

LACE SHOES

Tools: Bible, adult's lace-up boots or shoes with laces, child's shoes that lace, Diaper Bag Card, hole punch, shoelace

- Punch holes around the Diaper Bag Card and tie a shoelace to one hole.
- Invite toddlers to choose shoes or the card to lace. Show children how to push the ends of the shoelaces through the holes.
- Talk about the people who might wear the shoes.
- When a child laces the Diaper Bag Card, summarize the Bible story. Remark that Isaac was a baby, but he grew just as children in your class grow.
- Say: "Abraham loved his son Isaac and knew God kept His promise to give Abraham a family."
- Help a toddler put on a pair of shoes and walk in them as he holds the Bible.
- Comment: "Look how big you are getting. You are growing like Isaac."

BATHE A BABY DOLL

Tools: Bible, baby doll, baby wipes, small baby blanket, a few other baby-care items, Preschool Family Card, 1 or 2 books about children and families

- Place the Family Card between the Old and New Testaments in the Bible.
- Hand a baby wipe to a child and invite him to bathe the baby. Say: "Babies need help. Can you help the baby?"
- Talk to a toddler about families caring for babies. Show the toddler a book and picture-read it to him.
- As the toddler washes the doll, comment that he is taking care of the baby just as Sarah took care of baby Isaac.
- Point to the Bible and say: "Sarah and Isaac's story is in the Bible. Would you like to hear it?"
- Open the Bible to Genesis 21 and tell the story in your own words.

HOP, ROLL, & CRAWL

Tools: 2 Bibles, Growth Picture Strips, empty plastic 3-liter bottle, sand, glue

- Tape the Picture Strips around the outside of the plastic bottle. After filling it partially with sand, glue the cap on securely.
- Place the two Bibles on the floor about five feet apart. Place the bottle on one of the Bibles.
- Ask a child if she can stand beside a Bible and hop to the other. Then encourage the child to roll or crawl to the Bible. Talk about ways babies grow and move.
- Instruct the child to roll or bring the bottle to you. Look at the pictures on the bottle.
- Roll the bottle back to the child and say: "Abraham's son Isaac grew to be a man and had a family, too."
- Turn to Genesis 21 and tell the Bible story.

TEXT TRUTH

God gave a son to Abraham.

BIBLE STORY

Abraham's Son Isaac
Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-67

**BIBLE VERSE
PARAPHRASE**

God said, "Name your son
Isaac."
Genesis 17:19

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- several Bibles of different sizes and types
- a few small baby toys, including a rattle

PACK ITEMS

4 Story Picture: Abraham's
Son Isaac
16 September Verse Markers

CIRCLE TIME (2-5 MINUTES)

Your toddlers may be ready for a simple circle time. You decide when and how long to have a group experience.

GATHER

- Sit in the Circle Time area and shake a baby rattle. Put the other baby toys in the center of the circle.
- As toddlers move to the circle, direct each child to choose a toy.
- Go around the circle and ask each child to show his toy. Remark that today's Bible story is about a special baby.
- Direct children to place the toys under their chairs.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Genesis 21 and tell the story in your own words.
- Show toddlers the Story Picture. Ask them who is shown in the picture.
- Say: "Yes, that is Sarah holding Baby Isaac. Sarah and Abraham were very happy that God gave them a son."

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute the Bibles to children. Give each pair of children a Verse Marker.
- Say: "We have heard stories about God's world, Adam and Eve, and Abraham. Let's look for some verses in the Bible that help us remember the stories."
- Ask teachers in the circle to read the verses printed on the Markers and assist toddlers in turning pages in the Bibles to find the verses.
- Say: "Everything written in the Bible is true."

PRAY

- Tell toddlers to hold their Bibles in the air or on their laps and say: "Thank You, God, for the Bible."
- Sing a brief thank-you to God:
*We thank You, God, we thank You,
God, we thank You, God, for the
Bible.*

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR TODDLERS)

Continue activities from the first hour or offer these additional activities to help toddlers explore the Bible.

PUSH BIBLES IN A STROLLER

Tools: Bibles, baby doll stroller, Diaper Bag Card

- Place a Bible in the doll stroller. Lay the Diaper Bag Card and other Bibles nearby.
- Push the stroller to a child and ask: “Would you like to push my Bible in the stroller?”
- Talk about the Bible. Say: “The Bible tells us many things. Genesis is a book in the Bible. The Bible is a special book.” Help the preschooler find Genesis in the Bible.
- While other children wait for their turns, show them the Diaper Bag Card and tell the story about Abraham and Sarah having a baby and naming him Isaac.

MAKE MUSIC WITH BABY RATTLES

Tools: Bible, several baby rattles, Music & Print Extras, Diaper Bag Card

- Play songs and invite toddlers to shake rattles in time to the music. Tell the toddlers to listen for songs about God.
- Say: “Every time you hear God’s name, shake your rattle.”
- After a song, encourage preschoolers to exchange rattles.
- Ask children to hold their rattles quietly. Show the Diaper Bag Card to the toddlers.
- Remark that God promised to give a son to Abraham and Sarah. God kept His promise. Summarize the Bible story.

MATCH BABY ANNOUNCEMENT CARDS

Tools: Bible, several pairs of baby announcement cards, Babies & Toys Cards

- Separate the pairs of baby announcement cards and lay one of each pair on a table. Put the matching cards under the Bible.
- Point to an announcement card and explain to a toddler: “The card tells us a baby is here! Families are happy to know they will have a baby. Abraham and Sarah were happy, too. God promised to give them a son.”
- Guide the toddler to look for announcement cards that match.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 21 and tell about Isaac being born.
- Lead a toddler to sort baby and toy pictures. Thank God for toddlers’ families.

*Look for printable
Next Hour helps in
Media Extras.*