

# LARGE GROUP WORSHIP

Session

4



## ISAAC, THE PROMISED SON

**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

### BIBLE PASSAGE

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

### MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 17:19

### MEMORY VERSE PARAPHRASE

You will have a son, and you will name him Isaac.

### TEXT TRUTH

God gave a son to Abraham.

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham and promised him that one day his descendants would be God's special people and one day, He would send a Messiah—Jesus—to rescue them.

## ABRAHAM'S SON ISAAC

### Based on Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-67

*Day after day Sarah waited. God had told her and Abraham they would have a baby.*

*Sarah grew very old. Then one day God went to Sarah as He promised. Sarah was going to have a baby. It was just as God had said it would be.*

*The baby arrived, and Abraham was a happy father. When the baby was eight days old, Abraham named him Isaac as God had told him. God gave Abraham a special sign so Isaac would remember the promises God made to his father Abraham. God promised He would love Abraham and give his family the land of Canaan.*

*Isaac grew. When he became a man, Abraham knew it was time for Isaac to get a wife. Abraham wanted Isaac to have a wife from the land where Abraham's family had lived before they moved to Canaan.*

*So Abraham called his servant and told him to begin the search for a wife. The servant took camels loaded with special things and began the journey.*

*Outside a town, the servant stopped at a well to let the camels drink. The servant then prayed that God would help him find a wife for Isaac.*

*And that is what happened. God helped the servant know that Rebekah was the wife for Isaac. Isaac and Rebekah went back to Abraham's home and became a family.*

## WELCOME AND SING

- Play a song as the preschoolers enter the room. Greet each child on their eye level. Encourage the boys and girls to sing along with the song.
- Instruct the preschoolers to line up at one end of the room. Direct them to crawl to the other side of the room. Challenge them to see how fast everyone can crawl. Repeat several times. Use a timer on your phone or other device to time how long it takes. Encourage the preschoolers to crawl faster each time.
- Mention: “When you were babies, you crawled. Now you can walk and run. Today we will learn about when **God gave a son to Abraham**. Abraham named his baby Isaac, just like God told him to.”

## PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place the Bible on the table. Place the bucket on the ground near the table. Lead a preschooler to toss the bean bag into the bucket, then to open the Bible to the Book of Genesis. Continue until each child has a chance to toss the bean bag and open the Bible.
- Display the Genesis Bible Book Card.
- Say: “Genesis is the first book in the Bible. Genesis is in the Old Testament.”
- Distribute a Bible to each pair of children. Challenge the preschoolers to open the Bibles to Genesis.

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

- Play a song. Guide the preschoolers to pass the doll around the circle as the music plays. Instruct the child holding the doll when the music stops to state something a baby might do. Start and stop the music at various intervals until each child has the opportunity to tell something a baby does.
- Comment: “**God gave a son to Abraham** named Isaac. God kept His promise to Abraham. Listen to hear what happened when Isaac became a man.”
- Open the Bible to Genesis 21. Vary the volume of your voice as you tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Display the Story Picture. Ask: “What did Abraham name his son? Where did Abraham’s servant find a wife for Isaac? What was Isaac’s wife’s name?”

### TOOLS

#### Welcome and Sing

Enhanced CD

#### Practice Bible Skills

Bibles, “Bible Book Cards” (print item), bean bags, bucket

#### Tell the Bible Story

Bibles, Story Picture:

“Abraham’s Son Isaac” (print item), Enhanced CD, doll

#### Find What is Missing

diaper bag, bottle, rattle, baby blanket, story book, and doll clothes

#### Worship

Enhanced CD, offering basket

#### Learn the Memory Verse

Bibles, “September Bible Verse Markers” (print item)

#### Listen and Pray

none

### BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Begins to recognize names of books in the Bible. Knows that Genesis is the first book of the Bible.
- Helps open the Bible to a Bible book.

## FIND WHAT IS MISSING

- Place the bottle, rattle, baby blanket, storybook, and doll clothes in the diaper bag. Remove each item one at a time and discuss how a baby might use each item. Instruct the preschoolers to close their eyes. Place one item in the diaper bag. Guide the boys and girls to open their eyes and guess which item is missing. Continue until all items have been placed in the diaper bag.
- Mention: “God always keeps His promises. We can trust and obey God. **God gave a son to Abraham.** Abraham named him Isaac, just like God told him to. God kept His promises to Abraham. Abraham obeyed God.”

## WORSHIP

- State: “**God gave a son to Abraham.** God promised to love Abraham. God kept His promises. God loves us, too. We can show our love to God by worshiping Him. We can worship God by giving our offerings and singing songs of praise.”
- Pass the offering basket around the room. Play a song while the offering is being collected.
- Play another favorite song. Encourage the boys and girls to sing along with the song. Lead the preschoolers to make up motions to go along with the song.

## LEARN THE MEMORY VERSE

- Place today’s Bible Verse Marker in the Bible at Genesis 17:19. Invite a preschooler to open the Bible at the marker. Read the verse. Guide the boys and girls to recite the verse with you.
- Direct the preschoolers to repeat the verse. Lead them to pretend to rock a baby as they say the verse.

## LISTEN AND PRAY

- Comment: “**God gave a son to Abraham.** God keeps His promises.”
- Encourage the boys and girls to share any prayer requests they may have.
- Lead the preschoolers in prayer. Pray for any requests the children mentioned.

## EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

### DECORATE NAMES

*Tools: permanent marker, paper, glue, tissue paper, paint brushes*

- Before the session, use the permanent marker to print each child's name on individual pieces of paper.
- Instruct the preschoolers to use the paint brushes to paint glue on the letters of their names. Demonstrate how to tear the tissue paper into small pieces. Place the pieces of tissue paper on the glue.
- Remark: "You decorated your names. **God gave a son to Abraham.** When the baby was eight days old, Abraham named him Isaac, just like God told him to."

### BUILD A WELL

*Tools: blocks, large plastic hoop, small bucket, jump rope*

- Place the hoop on the ground. Instruct the preschoolers to make a well by stacking the blocks around the hoop. Demonstrate how to use the jump rope to lower the bucket into the well. Lead the preschoolers to pull the bucket out of the well and pretend to use it to water camels.
- Suggest: "**God gave a son to Abraham.** When his son grew up, Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac. The servant found a lady named Rebekah at a well. She became Isaac's wife."



## TAKE CARE OF BABIES

*Tools: dolls, doll clothes, baby blankets, bottles, Bible storybooks*

- Guide the preschoolers to take care of the babies. Suggest they dress the dolls. Demonstrate how to swaddle the dolls with the blankets. Encourage the preschoolers to feed the babies. Mention that the children can pretend to read the dolls a Bible story.
- State: **“God gave a son to Abraham.** After eight days, Abraham named his baby, Isaac. God kept His promises to Abraham. God keeps His promises to us, too”

## POUR WATER

*Tools: plastic container, cups, funnels, bowls*

- Fill the container with three inches of water. Lead the preschoolers to use the cups to pour water. Suggest they explore what happens when they pour water through the funnels. Encourage them to fill the bowls with water, then pour the water back into the container.
- Comment: “God gave Abraham a son, Isaac. When Isaac grew up, Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac. God helped the servant find a wife for Isaac at a well while she was getting water. Rebekah became Isaac’s wife.”

## SORT CLOTHES

*Tools: various adult-sized clothing items, various child-sized clothing items, three laundry baskets*

- Place all the clothing items in one laundry basket. Place the empty laundry baskets nearby. Invite a child to choose a clothing item from the basket. Challenge the preschooler to decide if the clothing item would be worn by an adult or a child. Instruct the preschooler to place the clothing item in one basket if it is for adults or in the other basket if it is for children. Continue until all the clothing items have been sorted.
- Mention: **“God gave a son to Abraham.** Abraham named his baby, Isaac. When Isaac grew up, God helped Isaac find Rebekah to be his wife. God kept His promises to Abraham.”