



Session 4



ISAAC, THE PROMISED SON

Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-57

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: Preschoolers will ...

- Know there are two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Know that everything in the Bible is true.



CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

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

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

MISSIONS ACTIVITY: DESIGN & SEND CARDS



Tools: Bible, stamp pads with washable bright ink colors, large blank cards, envelopes, hand wipes, washable fine-tipped marker, names and mailing addresses for a few shut-in adults from your church

- Invite children to make Friend Cards for some people in your church who do not have friends or family living near them.
- Write the words *Jesus loves you* on the cards. Lay as many cards on a table as you have children in the class. Put stamp pads on the table.
- Direct children to walk around the table. Tell children to press a thumb into the ink then make one thumbprint on each card.
- After all children have stamped their thumbprints on all the cards, guide them to put the cards into envelopes. Address the cards later.
- Say: “Jesus said to love one another. Working together to make these cards to send to lonely people is a way for us to show love.”

LEADER TIP!

Include this special missions-focused activity in addition to preschoolers’ Bible Explorations.

ABRAHAM'S SON ISAAC

TEXT TRUTH

God gave a son to Abraham.

BIBLE STORY

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

BIBLE VERSE

You will have a son, and you
will name him Isaac.
Genesis 17:19

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.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the session Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

Sarah will bear you a son, and you will name him Isaac. Genesis 17:19

Paraphrase:

You will have a son, and you will name him Isaac. Genesis 17:19



CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

GATHER

- Tell the children to find a friend, link arms with that friend, and walk together to the Circle Time area.
- When all the children are seated, play a song and lead the children in clapping, snapping, and tapping to the beat of the music.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask if any boys and girls have babies in their homes. Talk about things people must do to care for a baby.
- Say: “In our Bible story today, you will hear that God gave a baby to someone. We’ll hear what happened to that baby when he grew up.”
- Open the Bible to Genesis 21 and tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Show the Story Picture and let each child have a moment to hold the picture.
- Ask questions to review the story:
What was the name of Abraham’s son? (*Isaac*)
Why was Isaac a special child to Abraham and Sarah? (*They were old when Isaac was born. He was their first child.*)
What was the name of the wife Abraham’s servant found for Isaac? (*Rebekah*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: “We are learning from the Book of Genesis. Say ‘Genesis’ with me.”
- After the children repeat the word, continue: “Genesis is in which part of the Bible, the Old Testament or New Testament? That’s right, Genesis is in the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible. Good job!”
- Open your Bible to today’s marker placed at Genesis 17:19. Say the Bible verse. Lead children to say the verse and reference with you.
- Form two groups, giving each group half the verse to say. Everyone says the reference. Repeat several times. Thank preschoolers for listening.

PRAY

- Thank God for true stories from the Bible and for always keeping His promises.

TOOLS

- Bible
- Music & Print Extras

PACK ITEMS

- 4 Story Picture: Abraham’s Son Isaac
- 17 September Bible Markers

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

TEXT TRUTH

God gave a son to Abraham.

BIBLE STORY

Abraham's Son Isaac

Genesis 21:1-8; 24:1-57

BIBLE VERSE

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

Genesis 17:19

PACK ITEMS

4 Story Picture: Abraham's Son Isaac
17 September Bible Markers

PRINTABLES

Bible Names Tracing Page: Isaac

LEADER TIP!

For an additional activity today, use the Bible Names Tracing Page: Isaac. Print a page for each child. Give preschoolers crayons or colored pencils to write over the letters in the name, then decorate the page.

READ ABOUT FAMILIES



Tools: Bible, September Bible Markers, blanket or quilt, clean throw pillows, 2-4 books about families and children

- Arrange the books and pillows on the blanket in a quiet spot in the room. Place the marker in the Bible at Genesis 17:19.
- Invite children to find a comfy spot to sit down to read a book. Remark that the books are about families.
- Say: "God's plan is for people to live in families. God wants families to love and obey Him."
- Open the Bible to the marker and say: "God gave a son to Abraham. God told Abraham his family would have many children."
- Ask preschoolers to tell about their families.

DRAW A FAMILY PICTURE



Tools: Bible, Activity Page, paper, washable markers, crayons, colored pencils

- Place the art materials on a table with the Activity Page and the Bible.
- Invite preschoolers to draw pictures of their families. If children agree, write the names of their family members on the pictures.
- Talk about the Bible story as the children draw. Show children the picture on the Activity Page.
- Say: "Abraham and Sarah had a son, and they named him Isaac."
- Turn to Genesis 17:19 and point to Isaac's name.

**CARE FOR BABY
DOLLS**

Tools: Bible, 2 baby dolls, baby-care items, doll clothes, blankets, child's rocking chair and doll bed, Preschool Family Card

- Wrap the dolls in blankets and place them with the baby-care items. Place the Family Card in the Bible at Genesis 17:19.
- Encourage children to care for the baby dolls. As preschoolers pretend to bathe, feed, and rock babies, relate their play to the Bible story.
- Say: "God promised a son to Abraham and Sarah. When the son was born, Abraham named the baby *Isaac*. Isaac grew to become a man and he had a family. We read about Isaac in the Bible."
- Open the Bible to the Family Card and point to the baby. Tell the Bible story.

**WORK BABY PICTURE
PUZZLES**

Tools: Bible; Story Picture: Abraham's Son Isaac; preschoolers' baby pictures, scissors

- Ask parents to email baby pictures of their children or make a copy of a baby picture that you can use during the session.
- Cut the children's pictures in half and scramble them. Place the pieces facedown on a table.
- Invite children to take turns turning over two pictures at a time to try to match friends' baby pictures. Thank God for each child.
- Show children the Story Picture. Remark that God promised to give a baby to Abraham and Sarah. God told them to name the baby Isaac.
- Find Isaac's name in the Bible at Genesis 17:19.

MAKE BABY TOYS

Tools: Bible, small empty water bottles, pony beads, small jingle bells, small pieces of ribbon, small paper plates, hot glue (teacher's use), colorful gift bag

- Place each of the items for the bottles on a paper plate. Put these on the table and sit near them to guide children.
- Invite preschoolers to make a few baby sensory toys to give to a baby class at church.
- Preschoolers can put a few beads, jingle bells, and colorful ribbons in the bottles. Secure the caps with hot glue.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 21 or 24 and tell the Bible story.
- Put the sensory toys in a colorful gift bag to deliver to the baby classroom.

LEADER TIP!

If preschoolers' baby pictures are not available, use stock photos of babies to make puzzles.

TEXT TRUTH

God gave a son to Abraham.

BIBLE STORY

Abraham's Son Isaac

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

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Genesis 17:19

PACK ITEMS

4 Story Picture: Abraham's Son Isaac

17 September Bible Markers

LEADER TIP

Items for the guessing game might include a baby rattle, a baby bib, a child's shoe, a ball cap, a toy hammer or paintbrush, a small dustpan.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

Look for printable Next Hour Helps in *Music & Print Extras*.

LOOK THROUGH BINOCULARS

Tools: Bible, children's binoculars, Activity Page, tape

- Tape the Activity Page on a window, door, or chair.
- Give the binoculars to a child. Say: "Somewhere in the room is a picture of a special baby. Can you look through the binoculars to find the picture?"
- When the preschooler finds the Activity Page, comment that the baby was named Isaac. Say: "God told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a baby, and they should name him Isaac."
- Recall the Bible story, remarking that God planned for Abraham's family.

GUESS WHO USES IT

Tools: Bible; 6 items representative of a baby, child, grownup; bath towel

- Arrange the items on the floor and cover them with a towel. Open the Bible to Genesis 21.
- As children wonder what is under the towel, comment that babies grow to be children, and children grow to be adults. Talk to preschoolers about ways they have grown.
- Say: "Isaac was the baby son God promised to Abraham and Sarah. Isaac grew to be a boy, then he grew to be a man." Point to the Bible and find Isaac's name on a page.
- Invite a child to remove one item from under the towel. When he reveals the item, ask him who might use the item—a baby, a child, or a grownup.

PICK UP VERSE STICKS

Tools: Bible, September Bible Markers, craft sticks, permanent marker, paper

- Print single words of today's Bible verse on individual craft sticks. Also print the verse on a sheet of paper. Place today's Bible Marker in the Bible at Genesis 17:19.
- Lay the paper on a table. Help a child open the Bible to find the marked verse. Read the verse from the Bible, then point to the words on the paper.

- Drop the sticks showing the verse words. Lead children to take turns picking up sticks. Guide preschoolers to work together to put the words in order by matching them to the ones printed on the paper.

DRAW A MURAL

Tools: Bible, long piece of paper, tape, washable markers, Activity Page

- Tape paper to a wall at children's eye level. Place the markers on the floor below the paper. Tape the Activity Page in the center of the paper.
- Invite boys and girls to draw whatever they choose on the paper. Or suggest that children draw pictures of families or family members.
- Say: "Abraham and Sarah waited a long time to have a baby. God gave them a son, and Abraham named him Isaac."
- Point to the picture of Abraham and Sarah on the Activity Page. Recall the Bible story as children continue to draw.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Direct boys and girls to walk to Circle Time as they pretend to rock a baby in their arms.
- When the children have gathered, play a movement game. Tell them to follow your actions as you reach up high, touch the floor, turn around, and sit down.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show the Story Picture to the children and pass it around the circle.
- Review highlights of the story.
- Say: "God made a promise to Abraham. God remembered His promise and gave a son to Abraham and Sarah. The son's name was Isaac."

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Hold a Bible for preschoolers to see. Say: "The Bible helps us learn about God. The Bible tells us about God's promises. Today we have been learning from Genesis, the first book in the Old Testament."
- Pass the Bible to a child and help him open it to Genesis 17:19.
- Lead the group to say the Bible verse together.
- Call on other children to find words such as *Genesis*, *God*, and *Abraham*. (Ask teachers in the group to help preschoolers.)

PRAY

- Thank God for the Bible and for helping us learn. Thank God for keeping His promises.