

Lesson 6

Cross

Formed

Kids

How did Abraham and Sarah first respond to God's promises?

Abraham and Sarah laughed because God's promise seemed impossible.

Read aloud: Genesis 17:15-21

Recommended Illustration

Guess what! I can stand flat-footed and do a quadruple-twisting-backflip in the air! Raise your hand if you think I can do it.

What? Why are ALL of you not raising your hand? Ok here's something else I can do. I can turn you all into little garden gnomes. Ready? No? You don't believe me? Hmm...maybe you guys just do not trust me.

The truth is it is okay to think I am silly, and it might even be okay to laugh. If I say I can do a triple back flip in the air, it might be absolutely necessary to laugh. That is because I am just a human being. Human beings cannot do flat-footed quadruple- twisting-backflips in the air.

God tells Abraham and Sarah that they are in fact going to have a child. Not only that, he tells them their child is going to be the beginning of a great family that will spread throughout the world. It sounds crazy to them. It is crazy. But when God says he is going

to do something crazy through a person, it is not time to laugh. It is time to prepare for the craziness.

Helpful Insights

In Genesis 3:15, God begins to reveal his plan to make everything right in the world. It is not clear from the beginning, but it is there, it is his offspring. Following Genesis 3:15, we start to see a literary device that will be prominent for the rest of the Old Testament and even the Gospels. That literary device is a genealogy. For many of us, genealogies are just an opportunity to skim over for a moment, only to resume our real reading once they are over. For others, they are just something fun to memorize. In the grand scheme of scripture, there may be nothing more important. In each genealogy is contained the hope that in time, God will provide the offspring who will prove to be THE offspring, the Savior of the world. Abraham's promised offspring is not the Savior of the world, but he is another step on the way. God's promise to provide offspring to Abraham is another step towards showing the world through whom they would be saved.

Help the kids to see that God's promise to Abraham is not just important to Abraham, it is important to everyone! This promise would prove to be the hope, not just of Abraham's family, but of the whole world!

The Point

God's promise to Abraham seems impossible. Because of God's power and faithfulness, we can believe everything he promises.

