

**Then God Said**

## **Promise**

**I was blessed to grow up in a home in which I could trust my parents to do what they promised. In addition to being Christian, as my mother was, my father was a career Army man, and he valued fulfilling promises. I know that this is not the case for all families and all children. But all people can turn to God to do what he has promised. And while some things are impossible for people, nothing is impossible for God. We can trust in him absolutely and always.**

**There are times when it may not seem God is going to come through for us. We are in a situation where we are relying on God, and time passes. We begin to wonder, maybe there are things that are too hard for God, maybe the Lord won't provide.     **PICTURE****

**God promised Abraham and Sarah a son. He was 99 years old and Sarah was 90. Both of them laughed at God's promise.**

**Then God said, "*Why did Sarah laugh...Is anything too hard for the Lord?*" Gen:18; 13-14. But then, the son, whose possibility was laughed at, was born. He was named Isaac, which in Hebrew means laughter! "The Lord did for Sarah as he had promised." (Genesis 21:1)**

**Later, when Isaac was a young boy, God asked a great deal of Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son to show his faith. But God, who would ultimately give up his son, his only son, provided a way out of the test for Abraham. God brought a ram in the thicket near where Abraham was so that the ram could be sacrificed instead of Isaac. Abraham was able to say at this time, “*The Lord will provide.*” (Genesis 22:14)**

**Are you in a situation now, which is challenging? Do you wonder if there may be things that are impossible for God? Do you wonder if God will provide?**

**Then turn to the Bible, and read the story of Isaac in Genesis. See how God fulfilled his promise of what seemed impossible, a child of laughter. And see how God provided a way out for Abraham, to spare Isaac’s life. Then think of how God gave his only son for us, and *did what seemed impossible, raised him from the dead, providing for us a way out of sin, the power to live in love, and eternal life.***