



Preschool Ministry Curriculum for  
*July 3, 2016*

Dear Teacher,

This week we continue our summer curriculum, which is following the theme and preaching from the Sanctuary service. Just to note, we are a few weeks ahead of the Sanctuary service in case there is any confusion. This summer we will look back at most of the characters we studied this past year. The point of each lesson will center on the journey each person was on and how they ultimately looked to Jesus “as the author and perfecter of our faith.”

This week we continue on in our journey with Abraham’s wife, Sarah. The promises God makes with Abraham include his wife too. As we discovered last week, the promise and gift of a son is to come. This would seem outrageous for a pair of elderly people to have a child, but the Lord keeps his promises. The Lord’s promises, though, do not happen immediately. In fact it took 25 years for Abraham and Sarah to hold Isaac. This requires faith from Sarah to believe in the promises of God for a very long time. The same is true for every believer; faith is required of every child of God to believe in His promises especially the promise that we are loved, accepted and cherished by God because of Christ.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

**Lesson:** The Journey: Sarah

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God’s promises require faith especially since God’s promises do not happen immediately.

**Scripture:** Hebrews 11:11-12; Genesis 17:15-19, 18:1-15

**Story:** Vos Children’s Bible, Pages 21-23; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 56-61; Gospel Story Bible, Pages 22-23; The Beginner’s Bible, Pages 48-53.

**Teaching Points:**

- God chooses Abraham – and we do not know why – to make a promise (covenant) with and God had a special purpose for him.
- God speaks to Abraham, and he makes promises to Abraham about a son. This promise would be true for Sarah too.
- God’s promises do not happen immediately. They take time. It took 25 years for God’s promise to come true for Abraham and Sarah.
- To believe that God’s promises will come true is called faith.
- Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham, did not believe God at first, and his wife Sarah did not believe God’s promises either. It took them many years to believe God’s promises.
- If we doubt God’s promises, we must be reminded of God’s words to Abraham, “Is anything too hard for God?”
- Abraham and Sarah were promised a baby boy by God and God promised (covenanted) that many, many people would come from this one baby boy.
- Three strangers visit Abraham and Sarah. They reassure Abraham that God will keep His promise, but Sarah laughs at the idea.
- Caught in her laugh, Sarah lies to the three strangers, but again is reminded, nothing is too hard for God.

## Preschool Ministry – Morning Overview

For the Sunday Schedule, please see “Sunday Schedule for Preschool” found in Handbook on the teacher’s table.

### First Hour

#### **Cherub Church**

- Kindergarten/5’s – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom’s: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s/4’s – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom’s: 169, 168, 167, 166, 165, 164)

Craft: NO CRAFT – EXTRA COLORING SHEETS

Supplies:

Instructions:

#### **Snack**

### Second Hour

Craft: NO CRAFT – EXTRA COLORING SHEETS

Supplies:

Instructions:

**Story:** The Journey: Sarah

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: In the story today, Abraham and his wife Sarah are very, very old. Older than your mothers and fathers, and probably the same age as some of your grandparents. Abraham was about 75 years old, and Sarah was about 65 years old. God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation, but Abraham had been waiting a very long time for that promise to come true. Abraham believed that whatever God said, well, it would happen. The Bible tells us that Abraham had faith in God. The Bible also tells us that God spoke to Abraham often. In today’s story we will see God talking to Abraham and Abraham’s faith in the promises God made to him
3. **TELL** the Story. When applicable or desired, use the Vos Children’s Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner’s Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

#### **Singing**

#### **Scripture Memory (Hebrews 12:1-2)**

#### **Catechism Questions (1-10)**

#### **Optional Activities**

### Scripture

#### **Hebrews 11:11-12**

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

## Questions for Review

### Questions for Younger Children:

- How many stars can you count?
- What did God promise Abraham?
- Why was God's promise so hard to believe?
- What did God promise Sarah?
- Why did Sarah laugh?

### Questions for Older Children:

- Who were the three strangers?
- What is the word that means you believe God will keep his promises?
- How are you and I like the stars in the sky?
- Why did Sarah try to hide her laughter from God?
- What didn't Sarah have that Abraham did have?

## Scripture Memory for Summer:

### *2 and 3 year olds:*

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus." Hebrews 12:1-2

### *4 and 5 year olds:*

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2

## Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

## Story

### **The Journey**

Let us continue on our journey together. Remember, we won't actually go to a far land or country. And we won't have to pack up our suitcases or food, get in a car or plane, or travel to some place across the world. Nope, we will stay right here! This journey is special. This journey takes us into the Old Testament and we get to see how people trusted in Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Today in our journey, we hear our story from a different perspective, Sarah. It's the same story continued, but we hear from Abraham's wife about what it means to trust God and that His promises will come true. Sarah overhears a conversation between her husband and some strangers; what she hears makes her laugh because it sounds like a crazy idea. But we must remember, there is nothing too hard for God.

### **A Child Promised (17:15-19)**

God kept telling Abraham of the promises to come. And Abraham kept waiting for the promises to come true. Abraham would tell his wife Sarai what God would say, and Sarai too would have to wait. Waiting was hard. Waiting for God's promises to come true meant that Sarai had to be patient. Waiting meant trusting God when it did not seem like the promises would come true. I bet sometimes Sarai did not even believe the promises would come true! Then one day God decided to change Sarai's name to Sarah. God told Abraham, "I will bless Sarah, your wife, and I will give her a baby boy. He will be your's and Sarah's child together. From her many, many, many people will come; kings, princes and royalty will be part of her descendants." Once Abraham heard this, he fell to the ground and began to laugh. He said to himself, "I am too old, nearly 100 years old, how can I have a child at this age? Sarah is too old too! How can she have a baby?!?!" Abraham turned to God and said, "Oh that my other son, Ishmael, would be the one these promises are for!" But God responded, "No, your wife Sarah will bring a baby boy into this world, and you will call his name Isaac. I will make promises (covenant) with him, and my promises to him will be for forever. My promises to him will also be for his children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren. It will be for everyone in your family and in his family."

### **Visitors Come to Abraham and Sarah (18:1-15)**

One day Abraham was sitting at the door of his tent. The tent was near some very large trees. I bet there was shade beneath those trees where Abraham could sit. It was hot outside that day, and the visitors probably came to visit Abraham in the afternoon.

Abraham sat there resting; he may have had a very busy morning tending to his cattle and sheep and needed the break. Then all of a sudden, the Bible says, Abraham looked up and saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he hurried to greet the three strangers.

Abraham walked towards them, stopped and bowed low to the ground in front of the strangers. He bowed like this (demonstrate). Abraham bowed to be polite and kind to the strangers. Then Abraham said to one of the strangers, "My Lord, come and stay under the tree here. Rest yourself and I will bring a little water to wash your feet and some bread that you might eat." The strangers said, "Very well."

So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, his wife, and said, "Hurry, hurry Sarah, make some fresh bread for our guests." Sarah had probably been busy that day too, and may have been tired. But she knew that it was important to take care of guests and travelers. Sarah quickly found flour and water, and began to make some bread. It was hard to move as quickly as Abraham wanted, you see, as Sarah was getting to be quite old. Then Abraham made his way out to his animals and found the very best calf he could find. He said to one of his servants, "Prepare this for our guests." And the servant did. Abraham got some milk, and then he brought the delicious meal and sat it down before the three guests. While they ate, Abraham stood near them under the tree. As the strangers ate, Sarah peered out of the tent opening wondering what was happening. She could hear the strangers ask Abraham a question.

"Where is your wife Sarah?" the strangers asked. "Over there, in the tent," Abraham told them. As Abraham pointed towards the tent, Sarah quickly stepped back so as not to be seen.

Now Abraham didn't know it, but one of the strangers was the Lord. The Lord had come to Abraham's tent that day to give Abraham a special message. The other two strangers were angels. Abraham and Sarah had prepared a meal for the Lord and two angels!

Then the Lord told Abraham a very important message, "I will surely come back to you about this time next year, and Sarah, your wife, will have a baby boy!" Wow! Abraham must have been so excited. Sure, Abraham was old and so was Sarah, but God had said he would have a baby boy. Now remember Sarah was listening from inside the tent. The Bible says she was standing right by the door. Sarah was probably very curious as to who the three visitors were.

She didn't know that those visitors are the Lord and two angels. She had been very quiet, but when she heard the stranger say, "Sarah will have a baby," well, Sarah thought to herself, "I am way too old! Younger ladies have babies, but not me." Sarah didn't believe that something like that would happen to her! And so the Bible says she laughed. She laughed quietly to herself (demonstrate a soft giggle). Surely nobody would hear Sarah, she just made a tiny sound and she was standing inside the tent. Abraham and his guests were way outside under the tree.

But Sarah didn't realize that the Lord hears everything. It doesn't matter if we laugh loudly or make a little sound. He knows everything we say, think or do. God knows if people believe His word is true or if they don't believe Him. God knows all the people who believe and have faith in Him. God knew that Sarah didn't believe that she would have a son just like He had said.

So the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, "Will I really have a child now that I am old?" Then the Lord asked Abraham another question. "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Sarah denied laughing; she did not want to be embarrassed. But it was true, she did laugh and she knew it.

Abraham knew that nothing was too hard for the Lord to do. Sure, older ladies like Sarah and older men like Abraham do not have children, but if God said they would, then they would.

Sarah knew God could do anything. It was a miracle that Sarah and Abraham could have a little baby. A miracle is something great that only God can do. Sarah had a hard time believing that God's promise of a little baby would come true. It just seemed impossible for an old lady to have a child.

I'm sure once Sarah realized she was pregnant, her faith in God grew. Everyday that passed and the closer it came to Isaac being born, Sarah believed that God always keeps His promises. Within a year, Sarah bore a son and named him Isaac. What the Lord said would happen happened. God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah. Isaac was one promise among many that God told Abraham would come true. And next week we learn about how Isaac trusts in God's promises too.