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GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Theme : God fulfils His promises in His time.

AIM:

To understand that God is faithful in His promises.

TEACHER PREPERATION:

Abraham is considered the father of the Jewish religion and his faith can be seen throughout his life. Whether it be moving to an unknown land hundreds of miles away or sacrificing his only son, Abraham did as God commanded him to do. His life is an example to all believers on what true faith is. It is through this faith, we see the fulfillment of God's promise. As children of God, we are called to be like Abraham and trust in God's plan for us. The master of the universe knows what's best for us much better than what we may think.

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY

Ask the children, "What is a promise?"

Why is it important to keep our promises?

- ◇ Did anyone ever promise you something but you never got what was promised?
- ◇ How did you feel when that happened?
- ◇ Would you trust that person again?

Explain how God made a promise with the main character of today's story but the promise was only fulfilled years later.

Another option: Have the students imagine their grandparents having children in their old age. Discuss how unbelievable that is. Explain that God made a promise with Abraham but he only fulfilled it in Abraham's old age.

2

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Theme : God fulfils His promises in His time.

Genesis 15:1-7

AIM:

To understand that God is faithful in His promises.

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4 But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." 5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."

Genesis 21:1-7

1 The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for

Sarah as he had promised. 2 Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." 7 And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."



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Introduction

How many children in your class have a smart phone? How would you feel if everyone in your class had a smart phones except you? Sad? Angry? Then one day to your surprise, your parents promise to get you the latest iPhone! How would you feel now? But there is a catch... they did not mention when you would get it. It could be when you graduate High School!! After finding out that piece of information, would you still be excited? Probably not. Would you begin to bother your parents each and every day about what happened to their promise? Waiting for something without knowing when it will happen is not fun.

In today's lesson, we learn about a man who trusted and waited for the fulfillment of God's promise even though it seemed impossible. No wonder, Abraham is called the 'Father of believers'!

Bible Exploration

Background

Abraham (formerly known as Abram) was born in the city of Ur of the Chaldeans about 2,000 years before Jesus was born. The people of Ur worshipped many false gods. Abraham traveled about 500 miles to Haran with his family and stayed there until his father Terah's death.

God's Covenant

God appeared to Abram in Haran and made a covenant with him (Genesis 12: 1-4). The Lord had said to Abram "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:2-3) When God called Abraham, he set out from Haran and traveled 400 miles south to the land of Canaan and lived there.

Though God had promised to make Abraham's descendants into a great nation, Abraham had no children. In Genesis 15:4, we see that God promised Abraham a son through whom these promises would be fulfilled. However, Abraham and Sarah were growing older and according to human understanding, it was not possible for them to have a child. Yet Abraham trusted God.

As any human being, Abraham also faced difficult experiences in his life. God tested Abraham on multiple occasions but his unwavering faith, trust and obedience to the will of God prevailed.

Covenant

**An Agreement
or promise**

WHERE ARE THEY TODAY?

UR OF THE CHALDEAN
PRESENT DAY IRAQ

HARAN
PRESENT DAY TURKEY

ISAAC

means

“HE LAUGHED”

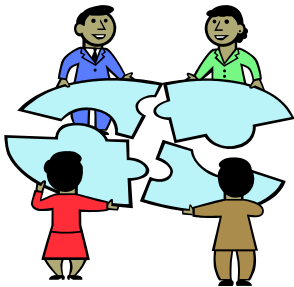


Fulfillment of the covenant through Isaac

“The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him” (Genesis 21:1). Abraham was about 100 years old and his wife about 90 when the promised son, Isaac, was born to them. This was the beginning of the great nation that God had promised and the fulfillment of God’s promise.

Fulfillment through Jesus Christ (John 3:16)

In Paul’s letter to the Galatians, he writes “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:29) Today, we are in a covenant with God which God has fulfilled through His son Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection has made the covenant a reality for the entire human race. Whoever believes in him shall have eternal inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.



Activities

GOD’S COVENANT WORD SEARCH

A	S	F	L	L	H	R	P	K	S	S	T
Q	A	D	W	T	J	R	E	K	V	N	B
S	F	B	I	Y	O	E	I	H	E	U	D
Y	A	A	R	M	J	B	V	M	T	T	J
X	F	R	I	A	T	V	L	R	K	A	I
L	I	S	A	B	H	L	Y	V	N	R	F
A	E	V	A	H	I	A	N	F	A	S	R
U	F	A	Z	F	S	K	M	X	H	F	E
G	C	V	L	D	E	R	D	N	U	H	Y
H	W	U	C	O	V	E	N	A	N	T	A
E	F	I	S	A	A	C	X	G	Z	T	R
D	Z	O	G	K	B	U	P	O	E	X	P

- ABRAHAM
- COVENANT
- FAITH
- FATHER
- FULFILLMENT
- HUNDRED
- ISAAC
- LAUGHED
- PRAYER
- PROMISE
- SARAH

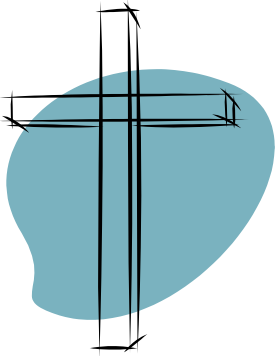


Let's Review



1. God called Abraham from _____ of the _____.
2. _____ was born to Abraham when he was _____ years old.
3. _____ means agreement or promise.
4. The name Isaac means “_____”.
5. What are the three parts of God’s covenant with Abraham (Gen. 12:1-4)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Values For Life



Though obeying God’s call may lead us to face challenges and demand a great deal of patience, God in His right time will fulfill His promises. We may think we know the right time, but God definitely does. What matters is our faith and willingness to obey Him. God can make our tests a testimony, turn our trials into triumphs and our mess into a message. Shall we listen to God’s calling?

Faith In Action

- Let us have faith in God and trust in His ways.
- God has our best interest at all times and will provide in His time

Memory Verse



He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Genesis 15:5



Closing Prayer

Thank you Lord, for your promise that you will never forsake us. Help us to put our trust in you and never lose faith, no matter what happens in our lives. Amen.

