

ISAAC IS BORN

Genesis 21:1-8

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 89:1

“I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Surprises (small prizes) in paper bags as the number of children in your class.

Several paper plates and ping pong balls.

A large bowl, a gallon-sized plastic milk container (cleaned and dried), and several clothes pins.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Paper Bag Surprises

Tell the children that you have a surprise for them, but they will have to wait for it. Put a surprise of your choice (things such as stickers, erasers, or pencils) in a paper bag for each child. Remind them several times during class that there is a surprise waiting for them.

Remind them that Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for their promised child, but God never fails in His faithfulness. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

LESSON TIME!

Remember, God keeps His promises. In these eight verses, we will see the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham concerning Abraham's descendants. God had given him a promise that He would make of him a great nation (Genesis 12:2) and that He would make his children and their children (descendants) as the dust of the earth (Genesis 13:16).

After many years of waiting, we learned that Sarai grew impatient and told Abram to have a child by her handmaid, Hagar. Abraham listened and did what Sarah told him to do. The result was the birth of Ishmael. This created problems for Abraham and Sarah and later on, for the Israelites and the descendants of Ishmael.

Abraham, knowing the promise of God, had taken matters into his own hands. But, Abraham's plan to help God fulfill His promise was not God's plan. So, Abraham waited another 13 years, a total of 26 years. This is a long time to wait for a promise to be fulfilled. Yet, **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

Abraham went through many trials concerning his faith. Have you ever had your faith tested? Have situations ever come up that seem to be utterly impossible? We can cling to God's promises.

God never changes; He alone is faithful. Remember in Genesis 9:12-17, God put a rainbow in the sky as a promise to Noah and all the following generations that He would no longer destroy all flesh with a flood? Even today, after it rains, we can see the rainbow. The rainbow is beautiful with the sunlight behind it, the colors smiling down God's faithful promise to us. When the rainbow appears in front of huge, dark threatening storm clouds, God's promise seems ever more vivid. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

Romans 4:18 tells us of Abraham, this man of faith, "who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be..."

GENESIS 21:1-2

And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.

For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

Now the Lord visited Sarah as He had said and did as He had spoken. We see that the fulfillment of promise was all in God's time and according to His Word. Again, He had promised that He would do it, and He did. Nothing can ever stop or hinder God's plans. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

Abraham was old; Sarah was barren. But that was no problem for Almighty God. Sometimes, His promises seem impossible to our natural minds; but His Word is sure. God had given His Word (Genesis 17:15-19, 17:21, 18:14, 21:2). He had a set time for the accomplishing of His Word and will. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

Paper Plate Tennis

Make several "tennis rackets" by stapling two paper plates together, leaving an eight inch space unstapled for a hand to fit inside the two plates. Use a ping-pong ball.

Hang a piece of yarn across your room at about the height of most of the children's heads.

Let two teams attempt to keep the ball going over the yarn without touching the floor. The ball can be bounced three times on each side of the string before it has to go over. Adjust the rules according to the age and ability of the children.

An option is to have your children stand around a table and try to keep the ball from falling off.

When the ball is dropped (and it invariably will be), explain that no matter how hard we try to perfect a task, we always fail at one point or another, but God never fails. When He promises something we can count on it. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

GENESIS 21:3

And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him--whom Sarah bore to him--Isaac.

We see that Abraham named his blessed son "Isaac" which means "laughter." Do you remember back when Sarah laughed as she heard the promise that she would have a child? She could not believe it at first. So Isaac's name would always remind Abraham and Sarah of God's faithfulness.

Isaac was the child of promise. More was said about Isaac before his birth than about any other, except the Lord Jesus. Isaac, himself, is a type of Christ. Isaac was the promised child; his birth was a miracle because Sarah's womb was "dead." When she said in Genesis 18:13, "Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?" The answer to her was, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" In Luke 1:34-37, Mary asks the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" The answer to her was, "With God nothing shall be impossible."

Paper Bag Surprises (Reminder)

Remind the children that you have a surprise for them, but they will have to continue to wait for it.

Remind them that Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for their promised child. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

GENESIS 21:4-5

Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

We see Abraham taking the son he so loves; and in obedience to God, circumcising him on the eighth day. The covenant of circumcision had been established with Abraham. Interestingly enough, medical science has come to discover that in an infant boy, the vitamin "K" content is the highest on the eighth day. Vitamin "K" aids in clotting blood and helps humans heal more quickly. God's wisdom is awesome.

Again, we see that Abraham was one hundred years old; it has been said that man's extremities are God's opportunities. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

GENESIS 21:6-7

And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, so that all who hear will laugh with me."

She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age."

Here we see Sarah laughing. Her laughter is no longer doubt, but a laughter of wonder and joy at God's miracle. We read in Hebrews 11:11, "Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she had judged him faithful who had promised..."

All of us experience the struggle inside our hearts between doubt and faith. Sarah did. Yet, we see her mentioned in "God's Hall of Faith." Though we are weak, God is gracious. Who could ever guess that God should do so much for us who deserve so little? He sent His only Son to die for us. We have been given great promises, and we can rely on them. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

Clothes Pin Drop

Start this game with a pot or bowl. Make it a really easy target. Let several children try. Ask if they are sure they can get all three pins in the target. After a little while, change the target to something more challenging, like a plastic one-gallon milk container. This should prove more difficult.

When the pins miss (and they no doubt will at some point), explain that no matter how hard we try to perfect a task, we always fail at one point or another, but God never fails. When He promises something we can count on it. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

GENESIS 21:8

So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.

Isaac grew. Isaac's weaning, a time when he would need meat in addition to milk, marked his growth. We are "spiritual babies" when we are first born again into God's family. We are dependant upon the milk of the Word (1 Peter 2:2). As we grow in Jesus, we are ready for "solid food" (Hebrews 5:14), the meat of the word.

Paper Bag Surprises (It's time!)

Let each child open their surprise bag.

Remind them that Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for their promised child, but God never fails in His faithfulness. **God is faithful to keep His promises.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's perfect faithfulness. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.