

Old Testament

Ishmael and Hagar

Genesis 21:8-21

Younger Verse

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

Older Verse

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

When you have made mistakes in your life, have you had to face some consequences? Most of us have in some way. Let's see what happens to Abraham in this lesson.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Two weeks ago we talked about a mistake that Abraham made. He lied to protect his wife and himself. God was not pleased because Abraham did not trust Him.

Abraham made other mistakes too. The mistake we will talk about today has caused fighting and bitterness even today!

Abraham knew that God told him he would have a son. He waited and waited for the son to come. Then one day, he decided to take things into his own hands. Abraham had a son with another woman named Hagar. Abraham named the son Ishmael.

After Ishmael was born, God told Abraham again that He would give him a son through his wife Sarah. He told Abraham that Ishmael was special but God promised him a son through his wife Sarah. (Gen. 17:21)

Just as God promised, a year later Isaac was born. It was a happy time for Sarah because she knew that God had done a miracle. She was 90 years old when Isaac was born!

When Isaac was small, Abraham had a great party. Sarah saw Ishmael making fun of Isaac. She was very upset. Sarah asked Abraham to send Ishmael and Hagar away.

Lesson Goals

To do things God's way instead of our way
To see that God loved people even when they make mistakes

Abraham was so upset. He loved both of his sons. As he was thinking and praying, God told him what to do. God told him to send Ishmael and his mother, Hagar, away. God again told Abraham that Isaac would be the son that would carry the promise of many descendants. God did tell Abraham that Ishmael would also have children and be a nation. God promised that He would take care of Ishmael also.

Abraham talked to Hagar and gave them food and water for their journey. They traveled in the desert for many hours. Soon, the water was gone and the heat was unbearable. Hagar felt hopeless and put Ishmael under a bush for shade. She walked a little further and started to cry. Ishmael was crying too. She thought that she and Ishmael were going to die in the desert.

Suddenly God opened Hagar's eyes. She saw a well that had water. She ran to the well and filled her container with water. She quickly gave some to Ishmael.

Hagar and Ishmael lived in the desert. Ishmael grew up and became a good archer. God kept His promise and took care of them and helped them.

We can learn several lessons from this story. Abraham decided to do things his way instead of God's way and this caused problems. God still took care of Abraham and even blessed Ishmael. However, He told Abraham that Isaac would be the son through whom the promise would be kept.

Even today, people still argue over who is the blessed son. The Bible tells us that God blessed both sons, but the promise was kept through Isaac. (Teachers: Muslims believe that Ishmael was the promised son. Be sensitive to their needs in a way not to hurt them or point out their wrong. Showing love and compassion will help them see that JESUS is the only way to Heaven).

Another lesson is to trust God and not take matters into our own hands. Sometimes we do things our way and don't wait for God's way. God wants us to talk to Him and do things His way, not just on Sunday, but on every day.

Another lesson is that God still loves us even when we make mistakes. We have seen how Abraham has made many mistakes. God still loved Abraham and kept His promise to him. Sometimes we make mistakes too. God wants us to come to him and tell Him we are sorry. He wants us to do right and follow Him.

Learning Activities

Help the kids learn lessons that will apply to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

Do you believe that NOTHING is IMPOSSIBLE with God. If you do, then you will trust God to help you. Talk about something that seems impossible and pray and ask God to show you how it can be possible with Him. It may not be just like you thought, but GOD can do miracles.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us trust Him more and believe His promises.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snacks and clean up!

Planning for Lesson 13
Abraham is tested
Genesis 22:1-19

Preschool Lesson
For
Ishmael and Hagar

Kids, have you ever done something wrong? (yes)

Abraham made mistakes too. Do you remember the lesson two weeks ago? Abraham lied to the king because he was afraid. God still loved Abraham but he had to tell the king about his lie and tell the king that he was sorry.

Just like us, Abraham made other mistakes too. God promised him that he would have a son. Abraham kept waiting and waiting for that son. One day Abraham had a son from a woman named Hagar. He named him Ishmael.

Abraham loved him and took good care of him. God told Abraham that he would take care of Ishmael too. He also told Abraham that Sarah would have a son.

God kept His promise! Sarah had a son when she was 90 years old! They named him Isaac. God told Abraham that Isaac would be the son that would have lots of family and children. He told Abraham that Isaac would be the son to keep that promise.

God kept His promise! Isaac had 2 sons and they had children too. We can sing about Father Abraham because he had many sons! Sing "Father Abraham."

Pray and thank God for keeping His promises.

Hands-On Activities
For
Ishmael and Hagar

We all make mistakes. God wants us to stop doing wrong and do right. We must admit the wrong we have done, ask forgiveness and start doing right things. If we tell God our wrongs, He will forgive us and clean us on the inside.

Ishmael was an archer when he grew up. An archer is someone who uses a bow and arrow. Make a target out of circles and bring suction cup “arrows.” See if the kids can hit the target. (Be careful to use objects that will not hurt other children.)

Abraham trusted God but also tried to do things himself. Share an experience where you made a mistake and the consequences that happened.

God always keeps His promises. What is a promise that you can make to God this week? Bring ribbon and tie on a finger to help everyone remember to keep their promise to God.

Next week is Easter! Think about all the ways that you can make Easter a special day and help the kids understand that Jesus died and came back to life for them!

Are you doing things God’s way or your way? Talk about how God’s ways are different from our ways. Make a chart and list the differences. Help the kids to understand the importance of doing things God’s way and following His ways.

Do a creative art project for Easter. As you are working, the kids will have to be patient about sharing supplies and working on the project. Talk about how Abraham had to be patient for God to fulfill His promise. Compliment everyone as they show patience with others.
