



STORIES OF THE PATRIARCHS

LESSON PLANS

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INTRODUCTION



Wesleyan Publishing House is happy to provide Speed Sketch Bible Stories customers with these free lesson plans and resources, which offer options and ideas for how to build a children's lesson around a Speed Sketch Bible Stories video. The "Review and Memory Time" options provided at the bottom of each lesson page refers to the additional Review Options PDF resource also available at www.speedsketchbible.com. Some of the options provided in the Review Options resource suggest the use of an additional product available for purchase: BibleStoryCards, which is available for purchase at www.wphresources.com/biblestorycards.

Blessings to you in your ministry,
The WPH Staff

PROMISE FOR ABRAHAM



Story Reference: Genesis 12:1–5; 13:5–18; 15:1–6

Memory Verse: Genesis 15:6—“Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

The passages for this lesson weave together a foundational story of Abram (Abraham) being called by God and the man’s choice to obey. We don’t know how God communicated to him. Today everybody is privileged to have direct access to God’s communication in the Bible. The same challenge faces us as Abram, though: Will we listen to God’s Word and will we obey? When we do, we have the same promise given to Abram—it will be counted to us as righteousness.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A constellation projector lamp, a star chart app, or an astronomy picture book

Giveaway: Sticker sheets of stars or any candies shaped like stars

Story/Object Association: Each of us who believes in Jesus is numbered among the stars, which represent Abram’s countless offspring in faith.

Review Questions

1. What did God first ask Abram to do? (**Leave his home and relatives and go to the land God would show him.**)
2. Why did Abram and Lot choose to live in different places? (**Their shepherds started arguing with each other because there wasn’t enough room for them all.**)
3. How did they decide who would get to live where? (**Abram let Lot choose first; then Abram took what was left.**)
4. When God promised Abram that he would be blessed, what question did Abram ask? (**How he could be so blessed when he and his wife Sarai were too old to have children.**)
5. What was the only thing Abram needed to do in order for God to count him as righteous? (**Believe**)

Life Application Question: What are some things God’s Word asks you to do that, when you obey, he will count as righteousness? (**Any command in the Bible is good: Love God, Love neighbors, love enemies, obey/honor your parents, obey authorities, pray, confess your sins, etc.**)

Prayer Focus

Show us each day how to obey you, God, so that our faith might be counted by you as righteousness.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Bible Bingo #5
Balloon Pop Review #13
Newspaper Search #17
Bible Story Map #24

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Book #1
Memory Verse Pocket #6
Chalkboard Verse #10

Memory Object Options

Bible Biography #1
Name That Object #4

MIRACLES FOR SARAH



Story Reference: Genesis 17:1–5, 15–16; 18:1–15; 21:1–7

Memory Verse: Genesis 21:6—"Sarah said, 'God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.'"

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

It's important that we remember God's promises are what he says, not what we want him to mean. God promised that all of the world would be blessed, and God kept that promise—two thousand years after Abraham and Sarah died, through Jesus. We might wish God would promise we or our loved ones wouldn't have to die at all, but we can trust what he did promise. Though we will die, if we believe in him, we will live again (John 11:25). That's a promise that, like Sarah, should bring smiles to our faces.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A child-appropriate joke book, funny toy, or picture

Giveaway: Laffy Taffy or Snickers

Story/Object Association: Everyone who understands Sarah's joy will laugh with her.

Review Questions

1. How old was Abram when God changed his name and made a promise to him? (**Ninety-nine years old**)
2. What did the name Abraham mean, and why did Abraham laugh when he bowed to God's promise? (**It meant "father of nations," but Abraham was nearly one hundred years old and still didn't have a son.**)
3. What was Abram's wife's first name, and what new name did God give her? (**Sarai, Sarah**)
4. What did Sarah do when she overheard the Lord say she would have a son when he returned the next year? (**She laughed quietly to herself.**)
5. What name did God have Abraham and Sarah give their son, and what did the name mean? (**Isaac, which means laughter.**)

Life Application Question: What are some good things God has given you that make you laugh (especially along with friends or family)?

Prayer Focus

Give us the gift of laughter even when things don't happen how we'd like.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

- Bible Tic-Tac-Toe #4
- Character Quotes #8
- Bible Pictionary #9
- What Am I #10

Memory Verse Options

- Memory Verse Match #7
- Balloon Pop Race #21
- Memory Verse Bulletin Board #24

Memory Object Options

- Object Bag #3
- Musical Objects #6

PROMISE FOR ISHMAEL



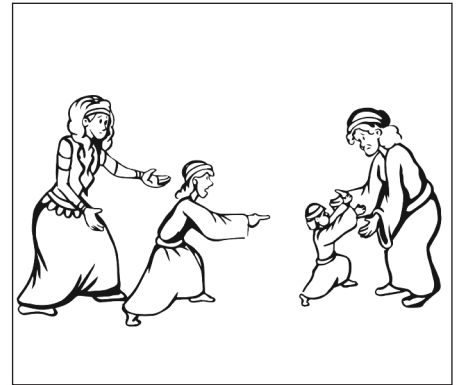
Story Reference: Genesis 16:1, 15–16; 21:8–21

Memory Verse: Psalm 46:1—"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

This story may push the boundaries of "age appropriateness" for some because of the awkward way Sarah and Abraham chose to second guess God's promise for a son. Too often when we choose to impose our will rather than follow God's, we'll cause such collateral damage, hurting the innocents. Hagar and Ishmael were not at fault, but they suffered from others' faithlessness. Yet despite unfair circumstances, God always fulfills his promises and protects his children.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A bucket with a rope attached (as if from a well)

Giveaway: Small water bottles

Story/Object Association: God's rescue by providing water for dying Ishmael in the desert

Review Questions

1. Why was Ishmael's birth different from God's promise of a son for Abram? (**Abram was the father, but Sarai was not the mother—Hagar was. God's promise was for Abram and Sarai.**)
2. What does the name of Abram's son "Ishmael" mean? (**God listens.**)
3. What happened at Isaac's party that angered his mother Sarah? Note: God changed Sarai's name to Sarah at this point. (**Ishmael was teasing and making fun of her son, Isaac.**)
4. What did Sarah tell Abraham to do about Hagar and Ishmael, and what did God say? (**Sarah told Abraham to send them away into the desert. And God told Abraham to do what she said, but he would take care of them.**)
5. What did God do to protect Hagar and Ishmael when they were dying of thirst in the desert? (**He sent an angel, who showed Hagar a well of water nearby.**)

Life Application Question: When and how has God protected you, and whom (like the angel) has God given to be a protection and provide you with what you need?

Prayer Focus

Thank you, Father, for providing me protection and what I need to live and grow.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

- Bible Bingo #5
- Bible Pictionary #9
- Balloon Pop Review #13
- Bible Story Map #24

Memory Verse Options

- Memory Verse Book #1
- Memory Verse Pocket #6
- Memory Verse Match #7

Memory Object Options

- Bible Biography #1
- Name That Object #4

ABRAHAM OFFERS ISAAC



Story Reference: Genesis 22:1–19

Memory Verse: Genesis 22:18 — "And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

Children are self-centered by nature. Asking them to give up a special toy or game may not always be easy for them. God wants us to give of our time, talents, and resources, so it is never too early to learn this lesson. When God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son on an altar, this was the ultimate gift that Abraham could give. Little did Abraham know that many years later God would ask the same thing of himself. When children hear this story, they should think about the gifts that they could give to God.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A rubber knife

Giveaway: A small plastic knife

Story/Object Association: The knife Abraham was going to use to sacrifice his son

Review Questions

1. Who was Abraham's son? (**Isaac**)
2. Where did Abraham travel for the sacrifice? (**Mount Moriah**)
3. What did God tell Abraham to do with his son? (**Sacrifice him**)
4. Why did God test Abraham? (**To see if Abraham would do whatever God asked**)
5. What did God send for Abraham to sacrifice? (**A ram**)

Life Application Question: What would you give up for God? (*Allow for a variety of answers.*)

Prayer Focus

Giving our gifts or talents for God's glory

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

- Give Me a Clue #2
- Bible Basketball #6
- Balloon Pop Review #13
- Card Collection #20

Memory Verse Options

- Memory Verse Envelope #3
- Clothespin Review #5
- Memory Verse Puppet #19

Memory Object Options

- Object Bag #3
- Musical Objects #6

MARRIAGE OF REBEKAH AND ISAAC



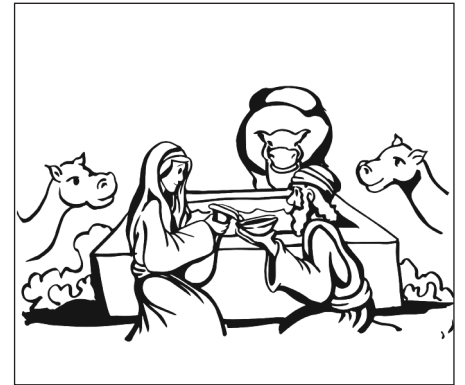
Story Reference: Genesis 24

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:6—"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation . . . present your requests to God."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

Children often can be better than adults in going to God in prayer when facing difficulties; so this story is a valuable reinforcement of the power of prayer. But we also need to keep our focus upon the importance of asking, not upon expectations that God should do our bidding. As with the anonymous servant in this story, we present our requests to God and trust him to do what is right and good.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A camel: a stuffed toy, puppet, statuette, or some other representation of the creature.

Giveaway: Circus animal crackers

Story/Object Association: Camels that were given water by Rebekah

Review Questions

1. What promise did Abraham ask his servant to make and fulfill? (**Go and find a wife for his son, Isaac, from Abraham's home country and family.**)
2. When the servant prayed at the well, he asked God for proof of the chosen wife for Isaac: When he would ask for a drink, what did he want the right woman to say? (**"Drink, and I'll water your camels too."**)
3. When Rebekah responded to the servant's request for water by watering his camels too, what did the servant do? (**He asked who she was and if he could stay with her family.**)
4. When Rebekah's father and brother heard the servant's story of searching for Isaac's wife, how did they respond? (**They asked Rebekah, and she agreed. So they said, "This is from God."**)
5. When did Rebekah first see Isaac? (**Returning with the servant on camel, she saw him meditating in a field.**)

Life Application Question: What are some hard things you might have to do that would be good to pray and ask for God's help?

Prayer Focus

Help us to remember to always pray and ask you for help whenever we have a hard thing to do.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Overhead Game #3
Bible Basketball #6
Character Quotes #8
Story Diorama #22

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Card Drill #4
Memory Verse Match #7
Memory Verse Puppet #19

Memory Object Options

Name That Object #4
Memory Object Bookmark #9

JACOB AND ESAU; JACOB'S DREAM



Story Reference: Genesis 25:19–34

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:21 — “Test them all; hold on to what is good.”

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

When Esau traded his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew, all he was thinking about was satisfying his hunger. He wasn't thinking of what he would lose in the end. As adults, we may have already learned a similar lesson and now think of long-term effects before making quick decisions. But, as you well know, children are not long-term thinkers. They live for the moment. This story can teach a valuable lesson to children. They will still make mistakes, but as they get older, they can always look back on this story and relate to Esau and the loss that he felt.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A can of beans or soup

Giveaway: A dried bean

Story/Object Association: The soup that Jacob offered Esau in exchange for his birthright

Review Questions

1. Who were Isaac and Rebekah's twin sons? (**Jacob and Esau**)
2. Which son was the oldest? (**Esau**)
3. What special honor did the oldest son receive? (**A birthright**)
4. Why did Esau trade his birthright? (**He wanted a bowl of stew to eat**)
5. Why would Jacob want Esau's birthright? (**So he could be the next leader of his family and receive many of his fathers belongings**)

Life Application Question: What wouldn't you give away? Why? (*Allow for a variety of answers.*)

Prayer Focus

Wisdom to make wise choices

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Overhead Game #3
Guess My Name #11
Who Am I? #16
Story Review Cards #23

Memory Verse Options

Chalkboard Verse #10
Memory Balloon-a-Thon #11
Memory Choir #15

Memory Object Options

Name That Object #4
Memory Object Bookmark #9

JACOB WRESTLES WITH THE LORD



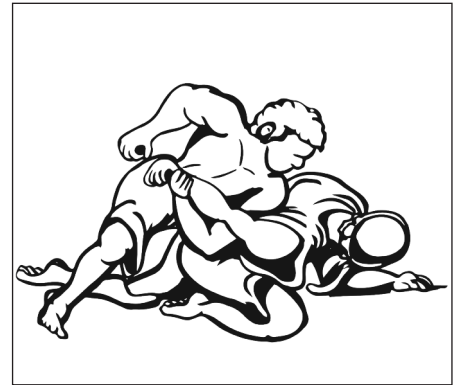
Story Reference: Genesis 32:22–32

Memory Verse: Genesis 32:28 — "Then the man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.'"

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

The Israelite people in the Old Testament knew what it meant to have a blessing from God. Many times, a blessing meant protection and prosperity. It was something they didn't take lightly. Anything good that happened, they knew, came from God. Our world tries to tell us that whatever good comes our way is by pure luck, or because we worked hard enough to earn the reward. With this story, you can show that when we work to serve God, He will want to send blessings our way. And when he does, we need to remember that they came from him.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A name tag

Giveaway: A name tag for each child. If possible, ahead of time write the meaning of each child's name on his or her name tag.

Story/Object Association: When God changed Jacob's name to Israel

Review Questions

1. Who was Jacob traveling home to meet? (**His brother, Esau**)
2. What did Jacob and God do? (**They wrestled.**)
3. What did Jacob want from God? (**A blessing**)
4. Why was God pleased with Jacob? (**Jacob wanted a blessing badly enough to fight for it.**)
5. What new name did God give to Jacob? (**Israel**)

Life Application Question: How has God blessed you? (*Allow for a variety of answers.*)

Prayer Focus

Thankfulness to God for his many blessings

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Character Quotes #8
Guess My Name #11
Beach Ball Review #15
Bible Story Bag #27

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Golf #18
Memory Verse Mobile #22
Memory Verse Bulletin Board #24

Memory Object Options

Object Match #2
Object Mural #8