

Session 3

Abraham and the visitors

God keeps his promise to Abraham and Sarah to give them a son.

Scripture: Genesis 18

Supplies:

- Split pins
- Square paper for each child
- Popsicle stick for each child



Welcome

The leaders welcome the children with a handshake and a greeting: “We are so glad you’re here. You are welcome.” (Bend down a little to make eye contact with the children.)

For a bit of a treat: Arrange leaders (or older children) to wait on one side to help wash the children’s hands. You need some bowls, water, soap, towels and some hand lotion. (Later on we’ll hear how hospitable Abraham was.)

“Small talk”

Divide the children into two groups if you have a small group (for bigger groups, divide them into ages and halve the groups.) The one half is the “teapots”. They stand in a line with one hand on the hip (alternate the right hip and the left hip, this way there are “handles” on both sides of the line). The other group also forms a line and moves in a circle around the teapots while music plays (any music). Once the music stops, they hook in with the child closest to them. The leader then asks each new pair to discuss something, for example “What colour are your bedroom curtains?” or “What did you eat for breakfast?” Once the music starts again, the movement is repeated. Repeat it about three times with different questions.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Children lie on the ground and hold each other’s hands. The leader says: “Remember, God binds us together as his children but also to our ancestor Abraham.” Give each other’s hand a squeeze and sit up again.



Word

Tell/read the story

Abraham receives visitors

God said to Abraham: “I will make your descendants as many as there is sand on the earth. If someone can count the sand on earth, your descendants will be able to be counted as well. Leave your land, move away from your people and move to the land that I will show you.”

It was difficult to believe, but because God said so, Abraham believed Him.

Abraham moved away. He and his wife, and all their possessions, slaves, and animals moved to Canaan. He moved around to the big trees in Mamre and went to live there. Abraham and Sarah became old and Sarah still didn't have a child. Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 89. God came to Abraham again and said: "I am God Almighty. Live near me and be righteous! I will make a covenant with you and let many, many people be born from your family." Abraham fell to his knees.

God also said: "I will bless Sarah and give you a son."

Abraham laughed and thought: "Can a man of almost 100 and a woman of almost 90 have a child?" It was difficult to believe. God told Abraham again that Isaac, the son that Sarah would have, would be his heir. Abraham believed because it was God who told him.

While Abraham was sitting outside his tent on a very warm day, he saw 3 men standing nearby. He went to them and said, "Sirs, don't pass by here. Let me get you some water so that I can wash your feet. Come rest here under these trees. I will also give you food." They agreed.

Sarah was in the tent and Abraham asked her, "Knead some dough and let us make bread for our guests." He went back to the cows and asked his slave to prepare some meat. Abraham made sure that the men had meat, bread, butter and milk to eat and drink.

"Where is your wife?" they asked. "Here in the tent," Abraham answered. Then one of them said, "I will come back here next year and then Sarah will have a son." Sarah was eavesdropping from the tent. She laughed and thought: "We are too old to have a child." Then God asked Abraham, "Why is Sarah laughing? Is there anything too difficult for God?"

Sarah got a fright. It was difficult to believe.

The men went away and Abraham knew they were angels who came to visit him. Abraham moved away from Mamre. A year later Isaac was born.

To believe is difficult, but nothing is impossible for God.

Everything that God promised, came true. Abraham's descendants are as many as there is sand on the earth today.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder what you liked in the story.
2. I wonder how you would welcome strangers.
3. I wonder if you have ever heard something that was difficult to believe. What was it?



Working and Playing

- Sarah's baby movable craft: The children colour the pictures. Cut out baby Isaac. Push the split pin through the page where the  is marked. Fasten baby Isaac into Sarah's arms. Now she can "rock" her baby.
- Popsicle stick baby

Closing prayer to end the session



Popsicle stick baby

