

Lesson #21

Hebrews 11:8-19, Genesis 22:17a

March 25, 2014

In the Bible we learn about a man named Abraham. God called Abraham “friend” and “the man of faith.” The Lord made Abraham some very big promises and Abraham trusted that God would keep His promises.

Raise your hand if you can tell me what a promise is. *Call on a few children to share what they think it means. If needed, give clarity by letting them know that a promise is telling someone that you will definitely do something or that something will for sure happen. Remind them that we talked about promises a couple months back. We heard a story about a boy who asked to borrow his brother’s remote control car and he promised to take good care of it. (Lesson #13, Jan. 21st.)*

When God makes a promise, do you think you can trust Him to deliver on that promise? What if the thing He promises seems **impossible**? What if it takes Him **a long time** to fulfill His promise?

Well, in Abraham’s case, both of those things were true.

God promised Abraham that he and his wife Sarah would have a child. That may not sound like such a big deal, but in Abraham’s situation, it seemed impossible. You see, Abraham and Sarah had been married a long time. And in all that time, Sarah was never able to have a baby. Then, many years after God made that promise, when Sarah was quite old, she did have a baby! They named that baby Isaac, which means “He laughs.” So, Isaac was Abraham’s son. Isaac was a **descendent** of Abraham.

As if that promise wasn’t exciting enough, God made Abraham an even bigger promise! God told him: “I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore... (Genesis 22:17a NLT). And God did bless him. This promise didn’t mean that Abraham and Sarah were going to have millions and billions of children! It meant that through Abraham’s descendants (starting with Isaac and then Isaac’s children and then Isaac’s children’s children...) many, many people would come to know and follow God through faith.

Here’s something I want you to remember—God was pleased with Abraham because he chose to trust Him and believe that He would make good on His promises. As a result, God greatly blessed Abraham. Abraham wasn’t perfect—he was only a man, a person like you and me. He made mistakes. But, he had great faith and took God at His word. That’s what God wants us to do, too!

Abraham didn’t have an easy life. God told him to leave his country and go to the land of Canaan. He wasn’t sure why God told him to do that, but he obeyed anyway. Then, God told Abraham he would have a son and many descendants, but God didn’t deliver right

away. Abraham had to wait, and wait and WAIT! It's not easy to be patient and wait for things we want, is it? It took a lot of years before Isaac was born. In fact, by the time Isaac was born, Abraham was 100 years old! There were many other times when Abraham had to trust God and wait on him. We need to do that, too.

Let's pray and ask God to help us to have faith in Him no matter what. Let's also thank the Lord for being a wise and loving God who can always be trusted—even if we have to wait on His promises.

“Lord, we love you and know that you love us. Help us to have faith in you always and trust that the plans you have for us are for our good and Your glory. Help us to wait on you and obey. Amen.”

Grow At Home #21
Hebrews 11:8-19, Genesis 22:17
March 25, 2015

Today the children learned this God fact:

- God keeps His promises so we can trust that He'll do what He says He'll do.

Live It Out: Abraham and Sarah were never able to have children, yet God not only promised them a child, but that Abraham would have many descendants—as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. We are descendants of Abraham! The Lord's promises seemed impossible, but we learn from the Bible that Abraham believed and God fulfilled His promises to him.

Discuss with your child that it's not always easy to have faith that God will do what He promises. Like Abraham, sometimes we have to wait a long time before we see a promise fulfilled. But, it pleases God when we hang in there and have faith that He will do what He says He'll do. Abraham believed and God called him "friend."

As a symbol of a promise, have your child draw a picture of Abraham and Isaac, or a nighttime sky full of stars to represent God's promise of many descendants. Display the picture as a reminder for the whole family that God keeps His promises.

Prayer: "Lord, help us to have faith that You will do what you say You'll do. Thank You for being a wise and loving God who can always be trusted—even if we have to wait on Your promises."

Bible Verse: "I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore...(Genesis 22:17a NLT).