

The Lord Appears to Abraham- Genesis 18:1-11

THE POINT

Focus:

God promises to provide Abraham with a son to make a great nation
God can do the impossible

Application:

We trust the Lord to fulfill his promises even when circumstances seem unlikely

Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

HEART CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- 1 blindfold for every 2 participants
- a small obstacle course including activities like: throwing a ball, jumping rope, crawling, spinning in a circle, etc.

Content: Have everyone find a partner and introduce the obstacle course to the children. One partner will be the leader and the other will be blindfolded. You can use words and touch to help, but you have to keep the blindfold on!

Consider designating a half-way “switch guides!” point so both people get a chance to play both roles.

Discuss:

How did it feel to go through with he blindfold? What was the hardest part? Did you have a hard time following your guide’s directions?

How did it feel to guide someone? What was the hardest part?

Today in our story we’re gong to learn about a time when the Lord appeared to one of his followers, Abraham, and asked for Abraham’s trust. The Lord gave Abraham a big promise, but Abraham had to trust God’s guidance.

STORY CONNECTION (8-12 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- Name-tags or costume pieces to designate
 - Abraham
 - Sarah
 - 3 visitors
 - Abraham and Sarah's servants (the rest of the class)

Optional:

- *Bibles to follow along (the text below is in the NIrV)
- A tent to help set the scene

Instructions:

This is a fun story to act out. You'll need to designate an Abraham, 3 visitors, and Sarah. The rest of the class can pretend they are some of Abraham and Sarah's many servants and observe.

Acting usually works best when the main teacher reads the story aloud and directs the acting, and the kids go-and-do according to the verbal instructions. An assistant teacher can either help direct the acting children or help with the rest of the class who are the servants. Acting stories out like this often leads to everything being verbalized twice (once when read aloud, once when instructed to the child), but the repetition is helpful for learning the story.

*Looking up the passage in the Bible takes time, but it's a valuable skill that is certainly possible for most children by age 6. You can help them find this passage by reminding them that Genesis is the first book in the Bible, and that the chapters are the big numbers on the page. The chapter numbers all go in order.

If they're not acting the story out, have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

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There's some debate over who the 3 visitors are: Jesus and 2 angels, a representation of the Trinity. You can either ask a leader in your church their opinion, or you can just say they were "special people sent by God".

Genesis 18:1-11

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the large trees of Mamre. Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent. It was the hottest time of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. So he quickly left the entrance to his tent to greet them. He bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, "My lord, if you are pleased with me, don't pass me by. 4 Let me get you some water. Then all of you can wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat to give you strength. Then you can go on your way. I want to do this for you now that you have come to me."

"All right," they answered. "Do as you say."

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick!" he said. "Get about 36 pounds of the finest flour. Prepare it and bake some bread."

7 Then he ran over to the herd. He picked out a choice, tender calf. He gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 Then he brought some butter and milk and the calf that had been prepared. He served them to the three men. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"Over there in the tent," he said.

10 Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year. Your wife Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old. Sarah was too old to have a baby.

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what Abraham felt when he first saw the visitors.

I wonder how the visitors felt when they saw Abraham bring out his best food.

I wonder what Abraham thought when he realized that his visitors were very special- the Lord himself!

I wonder what Abraham and Sarah felt when they heard God say they would finally be parents, when they were very old!

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.