

# LESSON 5: GENESIS: GOD PROMISES SARAH A SON

Leader Guide for One Room

Classroom: My One Room Classroom

 Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-6

05/17/2020

## Teachers Dig In

### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-6
- In This Passage: God and two angels visit Abraham and Sarah. Sarah hears God promise she'll have a son within the next year. Sarah is very old, so she laughs at the idea that she could have a baby. But by the next year, she has a son. She names him Isaac, which means laughter, because God brought her laughter. God brings us laughter, too.
- Bible Point: God brings us laughter.
- Summary Verse: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God brings us laughter.* Kids love to laugh! They'll experience a lot of laughter throughout this lesson. Help them see that whenever they laugh, the joy they feel is a gift from God. Let laughter remind them of the joy God brings to our lives.
- Think About: What's the last thing you laughed about? Thank God for that laughter.

### Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God will bring joy and laughter to hard situations your kids might be facing.

### Quick Tip

- Here's a counterintuitive tip: It may seem friendly to ask kids where they were last week if they weren't in class. But it's awkward and embarrassing for kids living with different parents on different weekends. Simply share your joy when you see kids come to class. Say, "I'm so glad you're here, Aiden," or "I love it when you come to our class, Savannah."

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids act out the Bible story in a silly way.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- gray yarn
- chenille wires
- paper
- basin of water
- washcloth
- modeling dough
- mixing bowl
- spoon
- snacks (crumbly, messy snacks could be fun)
- name tag
- doll (optional)

#### Easy Prep

- Cut some gray yarn and tie the strands together at one end to make a silly-looking wig for Sarah.
- Tie another bunch of gray yarn to a long piece of yarn, big enough to tie around a child's head, to be a beard for Abraham.
- Make some funny glasses out of chenille wires.
- Fold a piece of paper into an accordion fan.
- Write "Isaac" on the name tag.



### OBJECT LESSON

Kids blow soda cans and flip them into mugs.

#### Supplies

- empty soda cans (1 for every 2-4 kids)
- mugs (soda cans should be able to fit inside) (2 for every 2-4 kids)



### CRAFT

Kids make changeable funny faces on cups.

#### Supplies

- magazines with pictures of people
- scissors
- 8-ounce foam cups (1 per child)
- toothpicks (at least 20 per child)
- transparent tape

#### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



### MUSIC VIDEO

Kids sing songs of praise to God.

#### Supplies

- "I Won't Be Afraid" (watch or download [here](#))
- "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (watch or download [here](#))
- "Made for This" (watch or download [here](#))



## TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

### Supplies

- “Smile Awhile” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



## TAKE-HOME

Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

### Supplies

- this week’s “Dig In @ Home” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

### Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the “Dig In @ Home” handout.



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids will draw laughing faces on their hands.

### Supplies

- washable markers

*\*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.

**Supplies**

- Bible

**Welcome**

Thank kids for coming.

Just for fun, have kids show their goofiest faces to everyone around them.

Make announcements.

Introduce new kids.

Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” in a funny voice. Collect the offering.

**Introduce the Lesson**

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God brings us laughter. We’ll see what made one woman in the Bible laugh. Let’s start by making each other laugh.**

**Share**

Tell kids the funniest joke you know. Here are some ideas if you’re stuck.

- Why don’t crabs like to share with their friends? They’re a little shellfish.
- How do dolphins make a decision? They flipper coin!
- Why did the builder fall asleep on the job? He was board.

Have kids form pairs and tell their partners funny jokes. (If you feel it’s necessary, set parameters of appropriate jokes.)

After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group one of the jokes they shared with their partners.

**Summarize**

Open a Bible to Genesis 18, and say: **It’s so fun to laugh! God brings us laughter. Let’s see what kind of laughter and joy he brought to Sarah in the Bible. One way God talks to us is through the Bible. It’s his special book. God is always with us and ready to talk to us. Let’s talk with God now.**

Pray, thanking God for bringing us laughter.



## Supplies

- Bible
- gray yarn
- chenille wires
- paper
- basin of water
- washcloth
- modeling dough
- mixing bowl
- spoon
- snacks (crumbly, messy snacks could be fun)
- name tag
- doll (optional)

## Easy Prep

- Cut some gray yarn and tie the strands together at one end to make a silly-looking wig for Sarah.
- Tie another bunch of gray yarn to a long piece of yarn, big enough to tie around a child's head, to be a beard for Abraham.
- Make some funny glasses out of chenille wires.
- Fold a piece of paper into an accordion fan.
- Write "Isaac" on the name tag.

## Make a Prediction

Say: **Today's Bible story involves God promising something that seemed totally bizarre! It seemed so bizarre, it made a woman named Sarah laugh.**

**Let's make some funny predictions of our own. I'll start. I predict that an elephant will stampede into our room in five minutes, make a loud trumpeting sound, and then fall through the floor because he's so heavy!**

Ask kids to share their own funny predictions.

Ask: • **Do you believe any of our predictions could actually happen? Explain.**

Say: **We came up with some pretty silly predictions. God's prediction to Sarah was that she would have a baby. That might not seem so strange...but she was 90 years old! I don't know any 90-year-old women having babies. Sarah laughed when she heard God's promise, but later, God brought her joyful laughter. Let's see how God brings us laughter.**

## Perform a Funny Skit

Choose 12 elementary-age kids to act out the story. (If you have fewer than 12 kids, you can just have one guest instead of three and use a doll for baby Isaac. With these adjustments, you'll need six kids.)

Have the actors form pairs with kids of a similar size. Assign one pair to play the role of Abraham, one pair to play the role of Sarah, three pairs to be the guests, and one pair to be baby Isaac.

Say: **You're going to act out the Bible story as I tell it. But because God brings us laughter, this is going to be a funny performance. There are two actors per character because one person will stand behind the other and stick his or her arms under the front person's armpits. The person in back will be the arms and the person in front will be the face for each character. So for every action your character does, only the person in front can see and only the person in back can move his or her arms. Kids who aren't acting, including preschoolers, will be able to help by bringing props to the actors.**



Have the kids playing the guests each remove their shoes and wash their hands before standing together. Then say: **First, we need to dress some of you up!** Have a child in the audience bring Sarah her wig. Sarah will need to take it and put it on herself using the hands of the child in the back.

Next, have a child in the audience bring Abraham his beard. In the same way, Abraham will have to put it on using the hands of the child in back.

Finally, have a child bring up the glasses and give those to Sarah to put on.

Say: **Okay, we're ready to get started!**

**One day, Abraham was at the entrance to his tent. It was the hottest part of the day, so maybe he was fanning himself.** Have a child in the audience bring Abraham a fan, and have Abraham fan himself.

Say: **When Abraham looked up** (pause), **he noticed three men nearby. Two were angels, and one was the Lord!** Point to the pair of guests who'll play the Lord. **Abraham didn't know that, but he wanted to be kind anyway. He bowed before them.** Pause.

**Abraham offered to let his guests rest in the shade of a tree. While they rested, he washed their feet.** Have a child from the audience bring Abraham a basin of water and a washcloth. Have Abraham try to wash the guests' feet, still only using the hands of the child in back.

Say: **Abraham also wanted to make food for the guests, and he asked Sarah to help. He had her make some bread. First, she had to knead the dough.** Have a child bring Sarah some modeling dough to knead. Then have her try to shape it into bread.

Say: **Abraham also made yogurt! He had to stir it.** Have a child bring Abraham a bowl and spoon, and have Abraham hold it and make stirring motions in the bowl.

Say: **Finally, the food was ready to eat!** Bring out your snacks, and have kids from the audience serve them to the guests. As the guests try to eat the snacks, it will be a funny sight! If you have enough snacks, let all the kids enjoy a treat.

Say: **After they finished eating, the guests asked where Sarah was. She was eavesdropping from inside the tent. Maybe she had a hand to her ear to listen in.** Pause.

**One of the guests said to Abraham, "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!"**

**When Sarah heard that, she laughed.** Pause. **She was too old to have a son. She laughed so hard her hands flailed in the air!** Pause. **Okay...maybe not *that* hard. The Bible says she laughed silently to herself.** Pause. **But even though it was silent, the guests heard it. One guest, the one who was the Lord, asked, "Why did Sarah laugh? God can do anything!"**

**Sarah was afraid, so she shook her head** (pause) **and said, "I didn't laugh."**

**The Lord nodded** (pause) **and said, "Yes you did!"**

**And in the following year, Sarah did have a baby and named him Isaac.** Have the Isaac pair sit in front of Sarah. The front child will sit, and the back child will kneel. Have Isaac cry and flail his arms like a

baby. (Alternatively, have a child from the audience bring the doll to Sarah, and she can hold it.)

Say: **Sarah was amazed by how God kept his promise. You could see it in her face.** Pause. **Even though she laughed at the idea that she would have a baby when she was 90 years old, she did! She named the baby Isaac because it means “laughter.”** Have a child bring Sarah the name tag, and have Sarah stick it on Isaac’s chest.

Say: **Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me.”** Have all the actors laugh. Then have all the actors bow as the audience gives a round of applause.

### **Talk About It**

Have everyone take a seat.

Ask: • **What was the funniest part of our play?**

• **What are some things that make you laugh?**

Say: **When we think of laughing, we think of things being funny. That’s how it started for Sarah. It was funny to think of becoming a mom when she was so old. But when Isaac was born, it was a different kind of laughter. She laughed out of joy! God brings us laughter because he gives us a sense of humor. And God also brings us laughter when he brings joy into our lives.**

Ask: • **How has God brought you joy?**

Say: **Because God brings us laughter, let’s end our Bible time with a laughing party. Let’s all laugh as hard as we can! Allow time for laughter. When it dies down, pray: God, thank you for bringing us laughter and joy, just as you did for Sarah. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

**Supplies**

- empty soda cans (1 for every 2-4 kids)
- mugs (soda cans should be able to fit inside) (2 for every 2-4 kids)

**Tips**

- Practice ahead of time so you can demonstrate if needed.
- We found that the key is to blow between the side of the can and the mug, rather than across the top of the mug.

**Arrange Mugs**

Form mixed-age groups of two to four kids. Give each group two mugs and a can. Have groups each place one mug directly in front of the other and place the can inside the front mug.

Say: **I have a prediction for you: You'll be able to move the can to the other mug without touching it. Sound impossible? Well, there is a way!**

**Blow Between the Can and Mug**

Demonstrate how to blow air between the side of the soda can and the mug. The air will make the can "jump" and flip into the empty mug. Adjust the distance between the two mugs as needed. Kids may feel silly as they blow on the cans, so allow for lots of laughter and experimentation, and encourage all team members to give it a try.

**Talk About It**

Ask: • **Explain how you felt as you blew on the can. Why did you feel that way?**

Say: **Hearing that the can would flip may have sounded impossible. But sure enough, you created enough air pressure to flip the can right out of the mug.**

Ask: • **How was my prediction that the can would flip similar to God's message to Sarah?**

Say: **God brings us laughter—sometimes in unexpected ways. In our Bible story, Sarah laughed because at her age, the thought of having a baby sounded impossible. But God flipped Sarah's sadness about not having children into joy, bringing Isaac—which means "laughter"—into her life.**



## Supplies

- magazines with pictures of people
- scissors
- 8-ounce foam cups (1 per child)
- toothpicks (at least 20 per child)
- transparent tape

## Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



## Make Funny Faces

Say: **God brings us laughter! Let's make a craft that will make us laugh.**

Hand out magazines, and have kids follow these steps:

- Cut out ears, eyes, noses, faces, and hair. (Kids can have a mix of real photos and cartoons, or even include animal facial features. Each child should cut out approximately 20 facial features. Preschoolers can rip out the pages with parts they want, and older kids can help cut them out. Allow about eight minutes for this step.)
- Tape toothpicks to the back of each facial feature. (Older kids can help younger kids as needed.)
- Stick the toothpicks into a foam cup at a diagonal so the facial features stick up. Mix up features so that there's an ear where an eye should be, a mouth where a nose should be, and facial parts from different animals or cartoons mixed in.

Allow time for kids to show off their funny faces and laugh together.

## Talk About It

Ask: • **What's mixed up about your faces?**

• **Why is that so funny?**

Say: **Sarah laughed when she heard she was going to have a baby because it sounded all mixed up. She was too old to have a baby! But God brings us laughter, and he brought Sarah joyful laughter when she had baby Isaac.**

To make the faces more transportable, kids can pull the toothpicks out of the holes and put all their face parts inside the cup. Encourage kids to take their crafts home and let friends and family rearrange parts to make funny faces and laugh.



## MUSIC VIDEO

### I Won't Be Afraid

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[10 min]

#### Supplies

- "I Won't Be Afraid" (watch or download [here](#))
- "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (watch or download [here](#))
- "Made for This" (watch or download [here](#))

#### Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

#### Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



## Supplies

- “Smile Awhile” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

## Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](#).

## Discuss and Watch “Smile Awhile”

Say: **We’ve been learning that God brings us laughter. God brought Sarah laughter because she was so happy to have a baby boy. Let’s watch a video with some people—and animals—that look happy.**

Watch “Smile Awhile.”

Ask: • **Which smiles made *you* laugh or smile? Why?**

• **What always brings a smile to your face?** Share your own example first.

Say: **God brings us laughter! Sometimes laughter is contagious. Seeing other people smile or laugh can make *us* smile and laugh. Aren’t you glad God brings joy and laughter?**



## TAKE-HOME

### Dig In @ Home

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#### Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

#### Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week



**Supplies**

- washable markers

**Thank God for Laughter**

Have kids form pairs and share funny things that made them laugh in the last week. Then have partners thank God for those things.

Pray: **God, thank you for the laughter you've brought us in the last week.**

**Draw a Face**

Say: **Let's make reminders that God brings us laughter. When you laugh this week, that can be one way you see God at work in your life.**

Have kids each draw a face on the side of their fists, with the eyes on their index fingers and the mouth on their thumbs (see photo). Older kids can draw this for preschoolers.



Say: **You can use your hand puppet to make other people laugh. And whenever you see it, it can remind you that God brings us laughter.**

Pray: **Thank you, God, for the laughter you'll bring us this week.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week and tell you about funny things that made them laugh.