

Abraham's Visitors/Sodom and Gomorrah Genesis 18:1–19:29

Children in the middle elementary ages can begin to understand that God's amazing feats are an outflow of his character. Help your third- and fourth-graders begin to understand what God's amazing power and presence means for their lives. Use this lesson to introduce kids to the amazing things God does, and tell kids that they can watch for those things every day.



► Bible Point
God does amazing things.

Key Verse
"For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will watch for God to do amazing things.

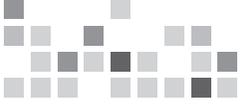
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Amazing Feats <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Attempt to keep a partner in a chair with one finger.	chairs	
2 Bible Exploration	Believe It or Not! <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Pantomime the Bible passage in groups along with the CD.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, pens Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Mission Impossible <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw pictures of amazing things God has done.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, several pairs of scissors, washable markers, tape Teacher Pack: "Nothing Is Impossible With God!" poster 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Praise Pennants <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make pennants that show amazing things God does.</p>	<p>sheets of construction paper, several pairs of scissors, rulers, tape, washable markers, 1 drinking straw per child, glitter glue</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>Praise Pennants from the "Praise Pennants" activity</p>	

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



Amazing Feats Supplies

chairs

1

GETTING STARTED

Amazing Feats

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Help kids form pairs, with partners being similar in size.

Say: **Today we're going to begin with something really amazing. You're going to keep a friend from getting up out of a chair—using only one finger! Turn to your partner, and discuss why you think it's possible or impossible.**

Give kids a few moments to discuss. Then ask pairs to share their thoughts with the rest of the group.

Say: **I want one person in each pair to sit in a chair. Then I'll give you instructions about how to do this amazing thing I've told you about.** Give kids a few moments to get into position.

Are you ready to be amazed? Here's how! If you're the partner sitting in the chair, tilt your chin up and your head back. If you're the person standing up, place your right index finger against your partner's forehead and gently press. Now tell your partner to try to stand up. Tell sitting kids to sit way back in the chair.

Pause while kids try this experiment. Then have kids in each pair switch places and do the experiment again. After everyone's had a chance to be in both roles of the experiment, have kids sit in a circle.

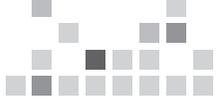
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What surprised you when you tried to stand up?**
- **Explain whether or not you'd call this experiment amazing.**
- **Tell about some other amazing tricks you know.**

Say: **Keeping your partner in the chair was pretty incredible, but not like what God can do— ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS! In the Bible today, we'll hear about an amazing thing God did for a man named Abraham and his wife, Sarah.**



2

**BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

Believe It or Not!

What You'll Do

Have kids form groups of four. Distribute pens and today's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and give each group a Bible.

Say: **In your group, invite a willing person to read aloud the verses in Genesis 18:1-5.** Allow kids time to read in their groups. **Now find the "Believe it or Not!" section on your Bible Truth Sleuth page. In the section for "Scene One," follow the directions there to write directions for pantomiming the actions of what you've just heard from the Bible. Pantomiming means you'll act it out with motions, not words. You can look at the Bible verses again to help you write your acting notes.** Give kids several minutes to work.

Now we're going to act out what we've read in the Bible along with the CD. Have groups stand in the center of the room. Play the track as kids silently act out their role for "Scene One." Pause the CD when instructed.

Ask:

- **What seems amazing or ordinary about Abraham and Sarah's special guests?**

Say: **Move back into your groups and we'll find out what happened next. Invite another willing person in your group to read aloud Genesis 18:6-10.** Allow time. **Now find the "Scene Two" section on your Bible Sleuth Truth page and follow the directions as you did for "Scene One." Then we'll act out the Bible passage along with the CD again.** Allow kids time to work.

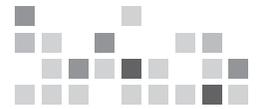
Play the CD, pausing again when prompted.

Ask:

- **What seems amazing or ordinary about God telling Abraham and Sarah they'd have a baby in the next year?**
- **Sarah thought what God said was too amazing to be true. What's something you've experienced that seemed too good to be true?**

Say: **Move back into your groups one more time for "Scene Three." Invite a willing person in your group to read aloud Genesis 18:11-15.** Allow time. **Find the "Scene Three" section on your Bible Truth Sleuth page and follow the directions again for writing your acting notes. Then we'll finish the final scene with the CD.** Allow kids time to write.

Play the CD and stop it after the track ends. Then have kids sit in a circle.



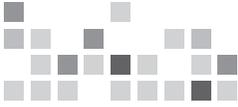
Believe It or Not! Supplies

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- Bibles
 - Bible Truth Sleuth
 - CD player
 - pens
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Believe It or Not!"
(track 21)

Believe It or Not! Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth book.





Mission Impossible Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
several pairs of scissors
washable markers
tape

Teacher Pack
“Nothing Is Impossible With God!” poster

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What seems amazing or ordinary to you about God’s visit to Abraham and Sarah and the promise he made?
- Tell about a time you were very surprised.
- What makes it difficult or easy for you to believe God does amazing things?

Say: **The things God did for Abraham and Sarah are amazing! The Bible is full of examples of how ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS! And those amazing things tell us something very important about God: “For nothing is impossible with God” (Luke 1:37). That’s our Key Verse today. Let’s find out more about why nothing is impossible with God.**

Mission Impossible

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Have kids form pairs, give each pair a Bible, and help kids find Luke 1:37. Invite a willing child in each pair to read the verse aloud. As kids read, tape up the “Nothing Is Impossible With God!” poster, and set out the scissors, markers, and tape.

Say: **Today’s Key Verse tells us that nothing is impossible with God. We’re going to create a poster to remind us of just how amazing God is!**

Have kids find the “Nothing Is Impossible With God!” section on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Say: **Read the directions with your partner, and then cut out and complete your pictures.**

As kids work, circulate to offer help as needed. If kids seem stumped about what to draw, encourage them to think about things they’ve seen that only God could do. For example, kids might draw something amazing from nature, such as a rainbow or a storm. Or they might draw about a personal experience, such as when a friend or family member was healed or saved from harm. Or they might draw a picture of a favorite amazing thing from the Bible.

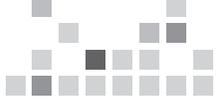
Allow kids about five minutes to complete their pictures and captions. Invite kids to come up to the poster one at a time to tape their drawings to the spaces on the poster. If your poster fills up, kids can tape their drawings around the edges of the poster.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

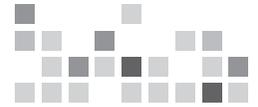
As kids tape their drawings to the poster, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about what you drew in your picture frame.
- Why is that an amazing thing to you?



Say: **Just look at all the examples that show ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS! The Bible's right—nothing is impossible with God! He even made a very old couple have a baby! Let's say the verse together again: "For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). That can be hard to remember when we're in difficult situations. Let's make something that'll help us remember that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.**



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Praise Pennants

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we've learned more about how amazing our God is. God did an incredible thing when he visited Abraham and Sarah and promised them a son—especially because that promise seemed impossible. We're going to make reminders to help us remember that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS for us, too.**

Have kids form pairs. Give each pair a sheet of construction paper and two drinking straws.

Say: **Choose one person in your pair to use a marker and a ruler to draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the sheet of construction paper.** Allow time, and help kids as needed. Say: **The other partner in your pair can cut along the diagonal line to form two triangular pieces.** Allow time and help kids as needed.

Show kids how to tape the short edge of the construction paper triangle to the straw to form a pennant. Say: **You can use the art supplies to decorate both sides of your pennants. Be creative in your decorations. Leave room to add more decorations to your pennants this week when you see something amazing.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

When kids have finished making their pennants, gather everyone in a circle. Lead kids in this discussion.

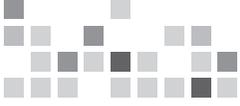
Ask:

- **What things did you draw or add to your pennant to help you remember to watch for the amazing things God does? Why did you include those things?**
- **Pennants are often waved at sporting events to cheer on the team. Tell about an exciting sports game you've seen. What amazing things happened there?**
- **Why is God even more amazing than the people who played in those games?**
- **What are amazing things you'll be watching for God to do this week?**

Praise Pennants Supplies

- sheets of construction paper
- several pairs of scissors
- rulers
- tape
- washable markers
- 1 drinking straw per child
- glitter glue





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Say: **Take your pennant home, and hang it in your room to remind you that nothing is impossible with God! Just think of the amazing things Abraham could put on a pennant! When you experience something amazing, even something God does all the time (like a beautiful sunrise), draw a symbol of that amazing thing on your pennant. Keep adding to your pennant as you continue to discover that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can watch for God and thank him as ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS this week.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Write down or draw on your Praise Pennant three amazing things you witness. These can be anything from a sunset to someone's life being saved—whatever seems amazing to you!**
- **Point out an amazing thing to a friend or family member, and then share what it shows you about God.**
- **Thank God for an amazing thing he's done in your life.**

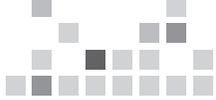
Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.**

Say: **Sarah may have laughed at the idea that God could do something as amazing as giving her and Abraham a baby, but God came through! They had their baby boy. We can believe that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS, and we can watch for those things as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

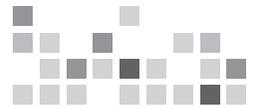


Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about the amazing things God does. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for doing amazing things. As you pray, invite kids to thank God for the amazing things they drew on their Praise Pennants and wave them in the air. Close with: **in Jesus’ name, amen.**



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

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Praise Pennants from the “Praise Pennants” activity



