

Isaac Is Born

Genesis 21:1-6

irst- and second-graders know how it feels to be joyful and sad. They're susceptible to pain as they experiment with the emotions of friendship. They also like to laugh and have fun. Remind kids that God created laughter and fun. God wants them to enjoy the world he made. Use this lesson to help kids be thankful for God's gifts and to understand that only life with God brings true joy.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Favorite Gift (about 20 min.) Tell about their favorite presents and rejoice in the Lord!	paper, markers, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, "Party Time" stickers	
Bible Exploration	This Just In (about 20 min.) Participate in a newscast that reports the birth of Isaac as described in Genesis 21:1-6.	Bible, pen, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





► Bible Point
Thank God for his gifts.

Key Verse "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

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Weaving Faith Into Life Children will thank God for the gifts in their life.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Weaving Faith Into Life	"Thank You, God" Mobile (about 15 min.) Make a mobile of pictures of things that bring them joy.	My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, string, markers, construction paper, tape	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
4	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Isaac Is Born

Genesis 21:1-6



God Promises a Child to Abraham and Sarah

God keeps his promises. In the first two verses of this passage, three times we read that God did what he said he would do. For Abraham and Sarah, it was the miraculous fulfillment of an amazing promise: the birth of a son to 90- and 100-year-old parents who had never before been able to have a child! And it was really their child—the son of both Abraham and Sarah—as confirmed in Genesis 21:2-3. The shame of childlessness that had haunted them for decades was finally erased. God brought a kind of joy to Abraham and Sarah that they had never known.

Isaac Means "He Laughs"

Isaac, the name Abraham gave his son, means "he laughs." God had told Abraham to give the child that name a year or more earlier (Genesis 17:19).

The circumcision of Isaac when he was eight days old wasn't done just in obedience to God's command. It was a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham, a sign that this child was one of God's chosen people (Genesis 17:10-14).

Genesis 21:6 contains a play on words that's pretty obvious even in English. Through the child named "he laughs," God had brought laughter to Sarah and to all who knew her. In those days, any birth of a healthy child brought great joy, even more so if it was a boy. But a firstborn son, born to such elderly parents, was certainly a laughing matter! Sarah could hardly contain her happiness. Who could blame her?

Twenty-five years had passed since Abraham had left his home in Haran to follow God and since God first promised to make Abraham's descendants into a great nation. Twenty-five years had passed since a childless couple of 65 and 75 years of age first believed God's promise that they would have

descendants. What a fantastic mountaintop in Abraham and Sarah's faith journey! "He laughs" was born!

The Jesus Connection

Jesus' mission was serious, but he knew how to have joy, too. He never doubted God's gifts. As God's Son, he would know best!

Recall some gifts God has given you. How did they bring joy? Perhaps they were answers to prayers or things you never even asked for. Write down those gifts and a prayer of joy. You can write your prayer here.

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Favorite Gift Supplies

paper markers CD player copies of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 24) "Party Time" stickers



Favorite Gift

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and give each child a "Party Time" sticker to wear. As you give each child a sticker, say: **You're invited to a celebration!**

Say: Today we're having a "Thanks to God" celebration. Look at the sticker I gave you, and think of something God does that's related to the words on the sticker. Allow time, helping with reading as needed. Then when kids are ready, say: Sometimes people shout with excitement at celebrations. So when I say "celebrate," shout out the thing you thought of—we'll do it all at once. Check for understanding, then say: Celebrate!

It's fun to celebrate with excitement! At celebrations, people also play games.

Have kids take turns drawing their favorite gifts on a piece of paper for the group, while the others guess what each drawing is.

Say: God has given us so many wonderful things to be thankful for! But sometimes we're not sure how to respond to those gifts. Today we'll learn to ▶ THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS. That's what our Key Verse, Philippians 4:4, tells us. Let's play a silly game to help us remember to "rejoice in the Lord always."

Have the children stand in a circle.

Ask:

What do you think it means to "rejoice in the Lord always"? Allow time.

Say: This verse means that no matter what problems we encounter in our lives, we can be happy because God gives us his care, his protection, and his love. God gives us so many things! And we can ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS. We can rejoice!

Tell the children to think about different ways to rejoice in the Lord.

Hand out copies of the lyrics page, and play "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 24 on the CD). Have the children walk in a circle while they sing along. Tell the children that when you stop the music, everyone will freeze in a silly pose and yell out a way to rejoice. For example, children might yell "pray," "sing," "smile," or "serve someone." Stop the CD a number of times throughout the song. Afterward, ask children to share specific ways of rejoicing with the rest of the group.



Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say rejoice! Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say rejoice!

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice! And again I say rejoice! And again I say rejoice!

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things you have that you can thank God for?
- Tell about your favorite way to "rejoice in the Lord."
- Why is that a way to show that you're thanking God?

Say: Two people from the Bible, Sarah and Abraham, were joyful and thankful for what God gave them. Just like they thanked God, we ▶ THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS. Let's see how.



EXPLORATION

This Just In

What You'll Do

Say: Today, to learn about the birth of Isaac, we'll transform the room into a TV news station.

Open your Bible to Genesis 21:1-6 and show kids the passage. Invite one child to point to the place on the Bible Timeline that indicates when Isaac was born.

Say: Let's hear a newscast about Abraham and Sarah. Listen carefully because



This Just In Supplies

Bible pen CD nl

. CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Newscast" (track 25)

Bible Timeline



after the newscast, you'll think of what questions you'd want to ask Abraham and Sarah if you were interviewing them on the news.

When all the kids understand their roles, play "Newscast" (track 25 on the CD). When the newscast is over, allow time for kids to tell the questions they'd want to ask Abraham and Sarah if they could.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's so surprising about Sarah having a baby?
- Tell about a good surprise you've experienced.
- How do you thank God for a good surprise?

Say: Our Bible Point tells us to ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS. Sarah responded with laughter and rejoicing because God gave her a child. Our Key Verse, Philippians 4:4, can help us remember Sarah's response. Let's say it together: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). Have kids repeat the verse with you.



WEAVING FAITH

INTO LIFE

"Thank You, God" Mobile

What You'll Do

Give kids the My Bible Fun pages, and point out the "Making a Mobile" activity. Hand out scissors, construction paper, string, markers, and tape.

Say: Let's make mobiles that show things we're thankful or joyful for. Have children cut out the two arms of the mobile from the middle of the page. Then have them cut out pictures of things they like on the bottom of the page, or encourage them to draw pictures of other things that they are thankful for or joyful about on construction paper and cut them out.

Tell children to tape each picture to one end of a piece of string and then to tape the other end of the string to one of the mobile arms. Show them how to make the arms fit together, and have them tape string in the center of their mobiles so they can hang the mobiles at home.

Tell the children that on the back of the pictures from the My Bible Fun pages are suggestions for things they can do or talk about with their families.

"Thank You, God" Mobile Supplies

My Bible Fun several pairs of scissors string markers construction paper tape

"Thank You, God" Mobile Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What things make you happy and joyful?
- How do you show other people you're thankful to God?

Say: It's fun to learn about the time we were little babies. When you take your mobile home, ask your parents to tell you about your birth or adoption. They can talk about the things mentioned on the back of your pictures or tell you about other memories they have of you when you were new to the family. I'll bet your family was as excited about your arrival as Sarah and Abraham were when Isaac was born! Like Abraham and Sarah, we THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS!



LASTING

IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how we can ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS this week.

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

- Pray and thank God for each of your friends.
- Make up motions to a praise song, and praise God for his gifts by singing the song.
- Hang your mobile above your bed, and each morning when you wake up thank God for one thing you'll be doing that day.

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: God gave Abraham and Sarah the gift of a son. One very important gift that God has given us is his Son, Jesus. We want to respond with joy and thank God for this precious gift—our Savior! Jesus is a gift, and we ▶ THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS. Let's celebrate God's gifts as we follow through with our Daily Challenges this week.



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun



Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we thank God for his gifts. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun 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. Pray: God, we thank you for all of the things that we put on our mobiles. Just like Sarah and Abraham, we thank you for the joy, the love, and the promises you give us. And we thank you for the greatest gift of all, your Son, Jesus. Help us to remember to rejoice in you always and to share that joy with our families. In Jesus' name, amen.



Lyrics

Rejoice in the Lord Always

(Philippians 4:4)

Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say rejoice! Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say rejoice!

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice! And again I say rejoice! And again I say rejoice!



