

Abraham Has Three Visitors

Genesis 18:1–19:29

Five- and six-year-olds have a vibrant sense of wonder. They love discoveries, surprises, and learning about processes of the world around them. Use this lesson to invite kids to watch for the wonders of God all around them—in what they learn from the Bible and in the world today. Kids will learn that God does amazing things.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Can You Hear Me? Talk to each other with background noise.	Bible, items that can be used to make distracting noises (such as paper, toy dishes, pencils, and musical toys)	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a comic strip has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, age-appropriate comic strip Teacher Pack: CD	Place the comic strip in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Abraham's Visitors Gather inside a sheet tent, and pretend to greet three visitors.	Bible, 1 or 2 large sheets, tables, chairs	Drape sheets over tables or chairs to make a tent.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► **Bible Point**
God does amazing things.

Key Verse
“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will talk about amazing things God does and thank him.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Miracles Possible Draw pictures of their problems.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, shallow bowl of baby lotion, washable markers</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Awesome Apples Examine the seeds of an apple and marvel at all the things that begin with the tiny seeds.</p>	<p>apples, knife (for teacher's use only), napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Surprise Party Prepare a party scene, and talk about the surprise and excitement of when God does amazing things.</p>	<p>party decorations</p>	
	<p>Center 4: Amazing Joy Draw pictures of amazing things God has done in the Bible and in the world today.</p>	<p>1 sheet of paper per child, washable markers</p>	
<p>5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	
	<p>Amazing Prayer Tell something amazing that God does.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





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Genesis 18:1–19:29

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

A note about this lesson: You might be surprised that you've been asked to teach this Bible passage to children this age. For this age level, we cover only Genesis 18:1-15, the passage where the three visitors tell Abraham and Sarah that their long wait would soon be over—God's promise to them of a son would be fulfilled within the year.

Abraham: Father of Many

God changed Abram's name, which means "exalted father," to Abraham, "father of many." Abraham and all the males of his household then went through the covenant of circumcision. God also renamed Sarai. Her new name, Sarah, likely stressed that she was to be the mother of nations and kings.

Abraham Shows Hospitality

In Abraham's desert-dwelling culture, visitors were rare. A warm welcome and hospitality were requirements in the culture of that day, and Abraham knew what it was like to travel in the desert. Thus, he was ready to warmly welcome the travelers.

Many scholars believe that these travelers were angels (see Genesis 19:1). The fact that they knew Sarah's name may support this, and in Genesis 18:10, it is clear that at least one of them was speaking for God.

For many years, God had been promising Abraham a son. Now God predicted the time of the birth to 99-year-old Abraham and 89-year-old Sarah: Within one year, their son would be born. Sarah's laughter is understandable. Who would have thought that a 90-year-old woman could have a baby! God does truly amazing things!

Abraham Pleads With God

When God made it clear that his intent was to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham was horrified.

He'd likely done business with people there, and his nephew, Lot, lived there with his family. So Abraham pleaded with God to spare the few who were still faithful. God said the whole city would be saved if only 50 righteous people lived there. It's helpful to remember here God's definition of *righteous*. Abraham was declared righteous because of his faith, not because of a righteous lifestyle. As Abraham voiced his pleas ever more carefully, God promised to spare the city if just 10 righteous people were living there. But not even so small a number of faithful people could be found.

God did an amazing thing in sparing the lives of Lot and his family. Lot didn't appear to deserve it, just as we don't deserve the grace God gives to us. But we can be thankful that God is wonderfully merciful and still does amazing things for us.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus is God's most amazing miracle. He gave us eternal life when we were dead in sin. You can thank God for his precious Son and his greatest miracle.

Look for miracles all around you, not just in big, dramatic situations but also in "smaller" things: the beauty of the sunrise, the happy gleam in a baby's eyes, couples addressing their problems with forgiveness and love. Ask God to help individuals in your ministry to do the same. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Learning and
Laughing” (track 2),
“Rejoice in the Lord
Always” (Philippians
4:4) (track 29)


1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead the kids in doing the actions and singing “Learning and Laughing” (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of “Boom, Boom, Ain't It Great to Be Crazy?”

 **Boom, boom—** (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It's great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It's great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Learning and laughing with all my friends! (*twist in place*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It's great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS!** Amazing things are really good things that can make us say, “Wow!” We can feel joy when God does amazing things. Let's sing a song to show joy because our God does amazing things!

Sing “Rejoice in the Lord Always” (Philippians 4:4) (track 29 on the CD). As you sing, have children jump up with arms in the air for each “rejoice.”

 **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!

Say: **Amazing things give us joy because they can be surprising, interesting, and one of a kind. Nobody does amazing things like ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. Let's learn about one of the most amazing things God can do.**

2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

Can You Hear Me?

What You'll Do

Have sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Luke 11:9, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Luke 11:9, says, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." That means that we can ask and God will hear us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse after you: **Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9).**

Say: **Our Bible verse tells us that if we ask, God will hear us. That's so amazing! God can hear us no matter where we are, what we're doing, or even how loud we're talking! Just to give us an idea of how amazing that is, we're going to practice trying to hear each other.**

Have children form pairs and then form two lines with partners facing each other. Choose one line to go first in the game.

Say: **On the count of three, tell your partner what you had for breakfast. Then everyone on this side (motion toward the other line) will repeat what they heard.** Count to three. **How many of you could hear what your partner said?** Allow responses.

Let's try again. This time, everyone take a big step away from each other. We'll start with the other line this time. On the count of three, tell your partner your favorite color. After you count to three and as children are talking, make as much noise as you can with your voice and noisy items. **Could you hear what your partner said this time?** Allow responses. Then repeat the pattern two more times with partners moving farther apart each time. Make noise as kids try to talk, and ask, "What are you doing after church today?" and "What's your last name?"



Can You Hear Me? Supplies

Bible
items that can be used
to make distracting
noises (such as paper,
toy dishes, pencils,
musical toys)





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Was it easier to hear each other when you were closer or when you were farther away? Why?

Say: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS!** One amazing thing God can do is hear us all the time. God can hear us no matter where we are! God can also hear us no matter what we say, how quietly we say it, or how much noise is all around us. In fact, God can hear us even when we say things silently in our heads. Isn't that amazing? God wants you to talk to him. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time. Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9).**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
age-appropriate comic strip

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the comic strip in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

What You'll Do

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the comic strip around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, what do you like about comics and jokes?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this comic strip in the Surprise Box?

Theo: It's my favorite comic because it always makes me laugh!

Teacher: I like to laugh, too. Today we're going to learn from the Bible about a time Sarah laughed at God's promise because she thought it sounded impossible.

Theo: Somebody laughed in the Bible?

Teacher: That's right! She was surprised to discover ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.**

Friends, let's find out what happened!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, say goodbye to Theo.



Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time: Abraham's Visitors

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 18, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. A man named Abram and his wife, Sarai, had been on a long journey to the new home God had for them. God told them they'd have many children. Then God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah. Abraham and Sarah continued to believe God's promise that they'd have lots of children. Let's find out what amazing things happened to Abraham and Sarah.**

Let's pretend that we're with Abraham in his tent. Lead the children into the tent, and have them get comfortable. **Suddenly Abraham saw something outside his tent.** Peek your head out and look around. **Three special visitors appeared to Abraham. Have you ever had special guests visit your house? When?** Allow responses.

Let's hurry and get out of the tent so we can say hello to our visitors! Help the children come out of the tent saying, "Hello, hello!" Instruct three kids to bring three chairs, and then have everyone sit around the chairs. **Abraham was so excited! He told the visitors that they could rest, have their feet washed, and eat some yummy food. So the guests stayed, ate a lovely meal, and rested. Then one of the visitors told Abraham that Sarah would have a son the next year. Sarah was inside the tent listening.** Have the kids cup their hands behind their ears and lean forward as if they're listening. **Sarah laughed when she heard this because she thought she was too old to have a baby—she was older than your grandma. Sarah was very old. And so she laughed.** Lead the children in different styles of laughing, such as giggling, soft snickering, and loud belly laughs. **Sarah laughed because she thought it was impossible for her to have a baby. But remember, ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS!** Have the kids repeat the Bible Point.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about Abraham and Sarah's special visitors?
- Why would it be amazing to get a message from God?
- What's an amazing thing that's happened for your family—something that made you really happy?
- What did you like most about that amazing thing?



Bible Time: Abraham's Visitors Supplies

-
- Bible
- 1 or 2 large sheets
- tables
- chairs

Bible Time: Abraham's Visitors Easy Prep

-
- Drape sheets over
- tables or chairs to make
- a tent.





Center 1: Miracles Possible Supplies

My Bible Playground
shallow bowl of baby
lotion
washable markers

Center 1: Miracles Possible Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 11
pages from each My
Bible Playground student
book.

Say: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.** He kept his promise that Abraham and Sarah would have a baby. God blesses us and cares for us today, too. What an amazing God!

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Miracles Possible

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages.

Say: **Use the markers to draw pictures on the page of things that seem impossible to you, such as tying your shoes or riding a two-wheeled bicycle.** Allow time for kids to draw. **Now, dip a finger into the lotion and rub the lotion onto the picture of Sarah and the baby.** The smell of baby lotion can help us remember that God made it possible for Sarah and Abraham to have a baby. God can do amazing things—even impossible things! Nothing is impossible with God.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What impossible problem did you draw on your page?
- What can you tell God about the impossible thing you drew?

Say: **Smell the baby lotion and remember how God gave a baby to Sarah and Abraham. What seemed impossible was really possible!** ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.** You can trust God to help you with your problems, and give thanks for God's amazing help.



CENTER 2:

Awesome Apples

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Say: **We're learning that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. There are amazing things God's made or done all around us every day. For example, did you know that apples are amazing things God makes? What are some things made from apples?** Help kids think of and share food products made from apples.

So many things can be made with this small fruit! That's amazing! But it gets even more amazing when you look at where apples come from. Slice an apple and pull a few seeds out for the kids to look at and touch. **Apples and the trees they grow on come from these tiny seeds. God's done many amazing things in our world, and just one of them is the way God made trees and plants to grow from tiny seeds.**

Slice the rest of the apples, and serve the slices on napkins to children.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion as they enjoy their snack.

Ask:

- What can an apple show us about what God is like?
- What are other amazing things you've seen that God has made or done?

Say: **God did amazing things in the Bible during Abraham and Sarah's time, and he does amazing things in the world today! God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby when they were very old. God did amazing things for Abraham's family, and ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS for you and me.**

CENTER 3:

Surprise Party

What You'll Do

Set out items such as crepe paper streamers, party favors, party hats, and confetti. Let children pretend they're preparing for a surprise party.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do people plan surprise parties for others?
- What makes surprises amazing?
- What do you like about the way God surprises us with the amazing things he does?



Center 2: Awesome Apples Supplies

- apples
- knife (for teacher's use only)
- napkins
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Surprise Party Supplies

- party decorations





Center 4: Amazing Joy Supplies

1 sheet of paper per child
washable markers

Say: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS**, and when God sent three special visitors to Abraham and Sarah, that was a special surprise! Sometimes the amazing things God does are surprising, exciting, and make us very happy. We can thank God for all the ways he amazes us.

■ **CENTER 4:**

Amazing Joy

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids draw pictures of amazing things that they've seen, that have happened to their families, or that they've learned about from the Bible. Allow time and help kids think of amazing things to draw.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the amazing things you drew?**

Say: **When God does amazing things, we can be happy about what he's done. Sarah was so happy to hear God's promise of a son, even when that seemed impossible. Sarah believed God would do something amazing because nothing is impossible with God.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about God's promise to give Sarah a son even when it seemed impossible?**
- **What are things that seem impossible to you?**
- **What would you like to ask God about those impossible things?**

Say: **Abraham and Sarah knew that when God promised them a son, God would keep his promise. That's because they knew that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. The next time you feel like something's impossible, don't give up right away. Ask God for help to make the impossible, possible.**





5

LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to the circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. I'd like each of you to choose a way to watch for the amazing things God does and thank him this week.**

Read these three ideas for kids to choose from:

- **Have your mom or dad take you to a park. Point out all the amazing things that God made in the park.**
- **Have your mom or dad help you go on the Internet and look up something amazing that God has made, such as the Grand Canyon or the Great Barrier Reef.**
- **Ask your family members to each share something amazing they've seen this week and thank God for doing amazing things.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

Amazing Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Think about amazing things God has done, like making rainbows or making plants grow. As we pray, you can share your ideas of amazing things.** Help children say the following prayer and complete the sentence.

Pray: **Dear God, you're so amazing! Thank you for the amazing things that you do, such as...Have children mention their ideas. Thank you for doing impossible things for us, just as you did for Abraham and Sarah. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

