




# Isaac Is Born

Genesis 21:1-6

Five- and six-year-olds are full of fun and energy, yet they're quite capable of having mood swings. One minute they're laughing as they play outside; the next minute they're sad because it's time to come inside for supper. At this age, children understand happiness as "what I'm feeling right now." Use this lesson to teach kids that God gives happiness that lasts forever—even when things aren't going our way.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Make a Happy Sound!</b> Think of ways to make happy noises for God.	Bible	
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a baby toy has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, noise-making baby toy <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Place the baby toy in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Isaac Is Born</b> Learn about the great joy God brought to Sarah and Abraham.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Sarah" poster, Baby Isaac" picture, sticker sheet 	

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



► **Bible Point**  
God makes us happy.

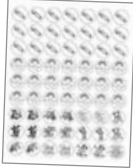
## Key Verse

"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 thank God for making them happy.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Joy! Joy! Everywhere</b> Wrap pictures of baby Isaac, and tell others about things that bring them joy.	My Bible Playground, washable markers <b>Teacher Pack:</b> sticker sheet 	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Big and Little</b> Taste “big-” and “baby-” size foods.	regular and mini sizes of pretzels and marshmallows, 4 bowls, 1 paper plate per child, antibacterial gel (optional)	Separate the food into bowls by size.
	<b>Center 3: Isaac’s Shower</b> Pretend to have a baby shower for baby Isaac.	box wrapped in baby-shower wrapping paper, scissors, 1 baby item per child (borrow from the church nursery, if possible)	Cut a hole on top of the wrapped box large enough for children to reach inside and pull out items.
	<b>Center 4: Handprints</b> Make a handprint picture.	1 copy per child of the “Thank You for Being My Parents!” handout (at the end of this lesson), washable finger paint, paper towels, paper plates, wet wipes	Pour the paint onto paper plates.
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>“Shake, Rattle, and Remember” Prayer</b> Make a noise with a baby toy and say a prayer of thanks.	baby toy from “Theo’s News”	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> 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.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



## 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 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: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY.** Today we'll learn about Abraham and his wife, Sarah, and how God gave them a baby boy. What joy! When people are full of joy, they're very happy and we say that they're rejoicing! Let's sing this song and rejoice!

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: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY**, and when we're happy we rejoice. Let's rejoice some more and make happy sounds.

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**2**

## KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

# Make a Happy Sound!

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children 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 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 Key Verse tells us that God will always hear us when we talk to him. We can be happy because God loves us and hears us, not just every now and then, but *always*!**

Ask:

- Tell about a time you asked God for something.
- What happened after you asked God?

Say: **God heard Abraham and Sarah when they asked him for a child. God gave them a son and that made them very happy! ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY, too! We can thank God because he hears us and listens to us. One way to thank God is by making a happy noise. When we make our happy noise, we know that God will hear us!**

Invite a child to think of a happy noise such as singing, laughing, or clapping. Have the children repeat the sound and spread the joyful noise (like a wave) as fast as they can around the circle, making sure that everyone can join in. Let several other children think of happy noises that they can send around the circle.



### Make a Happy Sound! Supplies

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Bible





### Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box  
will do)  
Theo puppet  
CD player  
noise-making baby toy  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 5)

### Theo's News Easy Prep

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

Say: **God heard our happy noises. We can be sure that no matter where we are, what we say, or how we say it, God will hear us. 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

## What You'll Do

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

Have 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 baby toy 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 think a baby toy has to do with the Bible?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide this toy in the Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Because babies play with it.

**Teacher:** That's right, Theo, babies do play with toys like this. But why did you bring a baby toy today?

**Theo:** I heard something very special happened with a baby in the Bible.

**Teacher:** That's right, Theo. ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY**, and this week we'll find out how God made Abraham and Sarah very happy!

**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: Isaac Is Born

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 21, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY. God had told Abraham and Sarah that they'd have a baby. But they were older than most of your grandparents or great-grandparents! They were very old.** Lay the poster of Sarah on the floor so kids can see it.

Ask:

- Tell about someone you know who's very old.

Say: **People usually don't have babies when they're very old! But God did something amazing for Abraham and Sarah. And God does amazing things for us when ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY. God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy.** Bring out the "Baby Isaac" picture. **Abraham and Sarah were very happy!**

Ask:

- Tell about any families you know who've just had a baby.
- What do parents do to care for new babies?

Invite a child to help you fold in the three corners of the picture of baby Isaac so it looks like he's being wrapped in a blanket.

Say: **Happy parents might wrap their baby in a blanket to make sure the baby is warm.** Invite another child to stick a baby-pin sticker on the picture to secure the "blanket." **Abraham and Sarah loved their new baby and happily cared for him.** Pass the Isaac picture carefully around the circle, like a real baby. **God made Abraham and Sarah very happy.** Lay the wrapped baby Isaac in Sarah's arms on the poster.

**Sarah said that God made her happy, and everyone who heard about her happiness at having a baby would laugh with her. Abraham and Sarah named the baby Isaac, which means "he laughs."**

Ask:

- Why do you think Sarah was so happy?
- When have you been very happy?
- What do you do when you're happy?

Say: **When people are really happy or filled with joy, they might laugh, just as Sarah laughed when God finally gave her a baby boy.** Pick up the baby picture, and have the children pass it around the circle again. The first child who holds the picture will say "Ha," the next child will say "Ha-ha," the third one will say "Ha-ha-ha," and so on. The kids will be laughing before the picture gets around the circle!



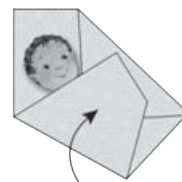
### Bible Time: Isaac Is Born Supplies

Bible

Teacher Pack

"Sarah" poster

"Baby Isaac" picture sticker sheet





Say: It feels good to laugh! Abraham and Sarah felt so happy about their baby. That kind of happiness is called *joy*—a feeling deep down inside that comes from God. We feel joy because ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY!**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about the amazing thing God did?
- What can you do to thank God the next time you're laughing and happy?

Say: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY!** And we can thank God every time something makes us smile and laugh.

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## 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:

## Joy! Joy! Everywhere

### What You'll Do ■■■■

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

Say: **Isaac's birth made his parents very happy! Draw on the sides of your pages two things God's given you that make you happy. You might draw favorite foods, stuffed toys, or friends.**

After children are finished drawing, help them fold their pages to wrap baby Isaac in a blanket and secure each "blanket" with a baby-pin sticker.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about the things you drew on your picture.
- Why do those things make you happy?

#### Center 1: Joy! Joy! Everywhere Supplies

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My Bible Playground  
washable markers

Teacher Pack  
sticker sheet

#### Center 1: Joy! Joy! Everywhere Easy Prep

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Remove the Lesson 12  
pages from each My  
Bible Playground student  
book.







Say: God loved Abraham and Sarah, and he gave them baby Isaac. ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY** with blessings, too. We can thank God for making us happy.

## CENTER 2:

# Big and Little

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then say: **A baby is smaller than a grown-up, but sometimes a baby looks a lot like someone else. Many families spend a lot of time guessing what their new baby will look like. They wonder what color hair and eyes the baby will have. They wonder what the baby's nose will look like. They wonder if the baby will look like them or someone else they know.**

Show children the food items and talk about how the miniature items look just like the big items, only smaller. Say: **Take a few of each item in the bowls. As you eat, match the regular and mini items to each other or sort out all the regular size items into one pile and all the minis into another pile. Before we enjoy our snack, let's pray.**

Pray: **God, thank you for making us happy. Thank you for our snack. In Jesus' name, amen.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

As children eat, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- Talk about a person people say you look like—maybe your mom or dad.
- Why do you think you look so much like that person?

Say: **It's fun to guess what babies will look like. God makes each of us special, and God gives us families and people around us to love us and who can make us happy. God gave Abraham and Sarah a family the day that Isaac was born, and they were happy. ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY, too.**

## CENTER 3:

# Isaac's Shower

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Often when a baby is born, people have a party to "shower" the baby's parents with gifts. Let's pretend that we're at a baby shower for baby Isaac! I'll ask one of you to close your eyes and pull something out of the box. Then you can feel the item and guess what it is. When you guess correctly, the other children will all shout: ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY!**



### Center 2: Big and Little Supplies

regular and mini sizes of pretzels and marshmallows  
4 bowls  
1 paper plate per child  
antibacterial gel (optional)

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Center 2: Big and Little Easy Prep

Separate the food into bowls by size.

### Center 3: Isaac's Shower Supplies

box wrapped in baby-shower wrapping paper  
scissors  
1 baby item per child (borrow from the church nursery, if possible)

### Center 3: Isaac's Shower Easy Prep

Cut a hole on top of the wrapped box large enough for children to reach inside and pull out items.





#### Center 4: Handprints Supplies

1 copy per child of the  
“Thank You for Being  
My Parents!” handout  
(at the end of this  
lesson)  
washable finger paint  
paper towels  
paper plates  
wet wipes

#### Center 4: Handprints Easy Prep

Pour the paint onto  
paper plates.

Invite a child to go first. Say: **Close your eyes and keep them closed while you reach into the box. Pull out one item and guess what it is by the way it feels in your hands. Everyone else, stay quiet until there’s a correct guess.**

When the child guesses correctly, have all the children shout the Bible Point. Let each child have a chance to pull an item out of the box.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do babies make families so happy?**
- **Tell about other good things that make your family happy.**

Say: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY.** God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy named Isaac. God gives us our families to love us and that makes us happy, too.

#### ■ **CENTER 4:**

## Handprints

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY.** Just like Abraham and Sarah were happy the day Isaac was born, your parents were very happy when you were born. At the hospital, the nurses made prints of your feet. Sometimes people make handprints of their babies, too. Today we’re going to make your handprints for your parents.

Help children dip their hands into the finger paint and then make handprints on the handout pages. Use wet wipes to wash children’s hands. Set aside the pictures to dry.

Say: **The words at the top of the page say “Thank you for being my parents!” Give your picture to your mom or dad to say thank you for taking such good care of you.**

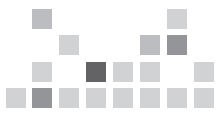
#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What things besides your handprints were you born with that make you special?**
- **What do you do now to celebrate your birthday and make it a happy day each year?**

Say: **The day Isaac was born was a happy day for Abraham and Sarah. The day you were born was a happy day for your parents. This month we celebrate Thanksgiving, so you can give your handprint picture to your parents on Thanksgiving and tell them you’re so thankful that God chose them to be your**



parents. You can also say you're thankful for all the reasons your family is happy! Then, together, you can thank God because ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY.**

**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 MAKES US HAPPY. I'd like each of you to choose a way to thank God when you feel happy this week.**

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- **Ask your family to play your favorite game with you. When you finish playing, thank God for the happiness he gives you through your family!**
- **With your mom or dad, go through each room in your house and talk about a happy memory you have about that room. Thank God for filling your house with happiness!**
- **Have your mom or dad help you make a dessert for your family. Before you give it to them, thank God for helping you bring happiness to your family.**

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!

## “Shake, Rattle, and Remember” Prayer

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: **Think of good things that God has given you.** Have each child take a turn making noise with the toy from “Theo's News” and completing the sentence in the following prayer.

**Daily Challenges  
Supplies**

My Bible Playground

**“Shake, Rattle, and  
Remember” Prayer  
Supplies**

baby toy from “Theo's  
News”





Pray: **Dear God, You make us so happy! We're thankful for all the good things you've given us, especially...** Have the children make noise with the toy and say what they're thankful for. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

## 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](http://group.com/digital).





# Thank You for Being My Parents!

 **OK**  
 **TO COPY**



