




# Isaac Is Born

Genesis 21:1-6

Fifth- and sixth-graders love to laugh, have fun, and enjoy life. They're young enough to still easily experience joy when they receive gifts. They can also begin to understand that the gift of God's joy is more than just happiness, more than just laughing and having fun—a lasting joy that comes from God's spirit alive in us. Use this lesson to point out some of God's gifts and how we can thank God for joy he gives us.



► **Bible Point**  
Thank God for his gifts.

LESSON	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Stand-Up Routine</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Laugh together to start uncovering ways to express joy for the gifts God gives us.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, 1 copy per child of the "Stand-Up Comedian Jokes" sheet</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>Worship Joy!</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Read Genesis 21: 1-6, and sing a song to rejoice.</p>	<p>Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson), 1 copy per child of the "Cube" handout (at the end of this lesson), pens, several pairs of scissors, washable markers, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, Bible Timeline</p> 	

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

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will thank God for the gifts he's placed in their lives.

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



LESSON	WHAT STUDENTS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Parental Joy</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> List the gifts their parents have given them.	Bible Buzz, pens	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	<b>Birth of Joy Party</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Draw a picture of the party they'd organize to celebrate the joy they feel because of God's gifts to them.	Bible Buzz, CD player, colored pencils <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> 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

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## God Promises a Child to Abraham and Sarah

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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”

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*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

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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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### Stand-Up Routine Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: “Laugh Track”  
(track 22)

1 copy per child of the  
“Stand-Up Comedian  
Jokes” sheet

# 1

## GETTING STARTED

### Stand-Up Routine



**Tip** When inviting kids to tell their own jokes, be mindful of children you think might not obey the rules and keep the jokes clean. If you’re worried about a joke a child might tell, have him or her whisper it to you first before it’s shared with the group.

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

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

Give each child a copy of the “Stand-Up Comedian Jokes” sheet, and invite a willing child to stand up to read a joke. Say: **You can also recite your own clean jokes for the group. Ham it up and have fun with this. Please respect those telling jokes. This is a time to laugh together, not a time for hurt feelings.** Allow five minutes.

To add to the fun, play a portion of the “Laugh Track” (track 22 on the CD) after each joke—whether kids laugh or not. Continue until all the jokes have been read or five minutes have passed. Then lead everyone in a round of applause for your budding comedians.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you enjoy sharing jokes and laughing with friends?
- What makes laughter a sign of joy?

Say: **Joy is a wonderful thing and it’s something we can have with God, no matter the circumstances in our lives. God’s gifts bring us joy. One of the most important ways we can ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS is to be joyful over what God’s given us. Let’s take a look at what some people in the Bible did when God blessed them with an incredible gift.**



**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Worship Joy!

### What You'll Do

Have kids form trios, and give each group a Bible. Have groups open their Bibles to Genesis 21.

Say: **To help us discover how we can respond to God's gifts, let's take a look at how some people in the Bible responded when they received a special gift from God in the birth of their son.** Point to the "Isaac is Born" section on the Bible Timeline, and give each child a "Cube" handout.


Say: **With your trio, read Genesis 21:1-6. As you read, write on your cube reasons you think Isaac was a great gift from God.** Allow three minutes.

**Now cut out your cube. On the other side, write about or draw a picture of Sarah's joy at Isaac's birth. You can reread the verses if you need to. Decorate that side like wrapping paper, and tape your cube together to look like a gift.** Allow five minutes.

**Share some of the things you wrote or drew on your cubes and why.** Allow two minutes for groups to share with everyone.

**Sarah's laughter showed her joy for the gift God had given her. As she laughed, she rejoiced. Let's sing a song to rejoice and to ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS.**

Have kids stand in a circle. Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 21 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along.

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



### Worship Joy! Supplies

- 
- Bibles
  - CD player
  - copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
  - 1 copy per child of the "Cube" handout (at the end of this lesson)
  - pens
  - several pairs of scissors
  - washable markers
  - tape
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 21)
  - Bible Timeline





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

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What emotions does singing bring out in you? Why?
- In what ways did singing this song help you show God you're thankful?
- How can other people tell when you're joyful? thankful? What's similar or different about being joyful and thankful?
- What are other ways you show your thanks?

Say: **God gives us many good gifts. Just as God gave Abraham and Sarah Isaac, God's gifts to us often come in the form of other people or from other people—such as our parents. No matter the source, we can still ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS. Let's consider the gifts from God in our lives.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Parental Joy

#### Parental Joy Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens

#### Parental Joy Easy Prep

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

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz page, and have kids find the Key Verse, Philippians 4:4. Invite a willing child to read it aloud: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Ask:

- What do you think it means to rejoice?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "never" and 10 being "always," which number do you think represents the way you live the words of the Key Verse and song? Why?
- What are some things in your life that bring you joy?

Have kids find the "Parental Joy" section on their Bible Buzz page.

Say: **It's important that we ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS. In the same way, it's important that we share our joy with others so they can rejoice with us. Let's share our joy with others in our lives. Take two minutes to write some gifts in this section of your Bible Buzz page so you can share your joy with your parents or some other significant adults in your life. They'll be happy to share in your joy and will appreciate your willingness to share your feelings with them.**



After kids have written a few things, say: **When you hear a gift category that fits a gift you wrote about, run to the corner of the room I point to. We'll see how many gifts we have in common. Ready?** Pause. **If you wrote anything related to having food to eat, run there** (point to a corner of your room) **and tell others what you wrote.** Allow 30 seconds. **If you wrote anything about clothing or shoes, run over there** (point to a new corner of your room) **and tell about what you wrote.** Allow 30 seconds. Continue this pattern with gift categories such as tech gadgets, books, a home, travel opportunities, love, siblings, surprise parties, school supplies, sports equipment, and anything else. Continue for two more minutes. Then have kids sit in a circle.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Tell about a time you received one of the gifts or good things you shared about when you ran to a corner.**
- **What do you like about sharing joy as a way to thank God for his gifts?**

Say: **Being joyful and thankful is contagious! When we ► THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS and rejoice in the Lord, others will join in. Sarah knew others would be joyful with her when Isaac was born, and she and Abraham even gave him a name that means “he laughs.” Their joy definitely was obvious and contagious. Let’s explore this kind of joy more.**

## Birth of Joy Party

### What You’ll Do

Have kids find the “Birth of Joy Party” section on their Bible Buzz page, and have colored pencils available for kids to share.

Say: **When babies are born, parents often have a party to welcome the new baby and celebrate their joy over this new gift in their lives. Based on some of the gifts you’ve identified in your lives today, draw a picture of the party you’d put together to celebrate your joy for those gifts. What decorations, games, music, and people would you include in your celebration? Include all of those things in your drawing.**

Play the song “God Is Our Help” (Psalm 33:20) (track 6 on the CD) in the background while kids work.

When kids have finished, say: **Tell a partner about what you included in the picture of your party, and why.** Allow time.



### Birth of Joy Party Supplies

- 
- Bible Buzz
  - CD player
  - colored pencils
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: “God Is Our Help”  
(Psalm 33:20) (track 6)





## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead everyone in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think it's important to celebrate the good things and people God places in our lives?
- What are other things you could do to celebrate God's gifts?
- What does God's gift-giving tell us about the way God feels toward us?

Say: When you get home, place the picture you drew near your bed or set it on a table or nightstand where you'll see it. Then, every night this week, look at your picture before you go to sleep, and review it again when you first wake up. You'll be surprised over how much joy you can feel just by thinking about something wonderful God's given you. You can laugh as Sarah did in her joy or you can ► **THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS** in whatever way best expresses your joy.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's consider ways we can ► **THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS** this week.

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

- Write God a thank-you note thanking him for several specific gifts he's given you.
- Spend time in thankful worship singing and praying to God as you thank him for the gifts he's given you.
- Say a prayer before a meal thanking God for the food and gifts he's given to you and your family.

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: Let's share our joy as Sarah did with her contagious laughter over Isaac's birth and ► **THANK GOD FOR HIS GIFTS** 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 joy and thanking God for his gifts. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Say: **Let’s make one big, loud, joyful noise to God as a way to say thanks for all the gifts he’s given us. Think of what you’d like to do when I count to three. You could jump for joy, shout with joy, sing, laugh, anything that expresses your joy.** Allow time for kids to think. **Ready? One... two... three...** (have everyone make their noise). **Psalm 100:1 tells us to “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.” I’d say we just did that! Pray: God, we thank you and our joyful noise is for you and all the gifts you’ve given us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



**Lyrics** ■■■■**Rejoice in the Lord Always****(Philippians 4:4)**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
And again I say rejoice!  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
And 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.)*

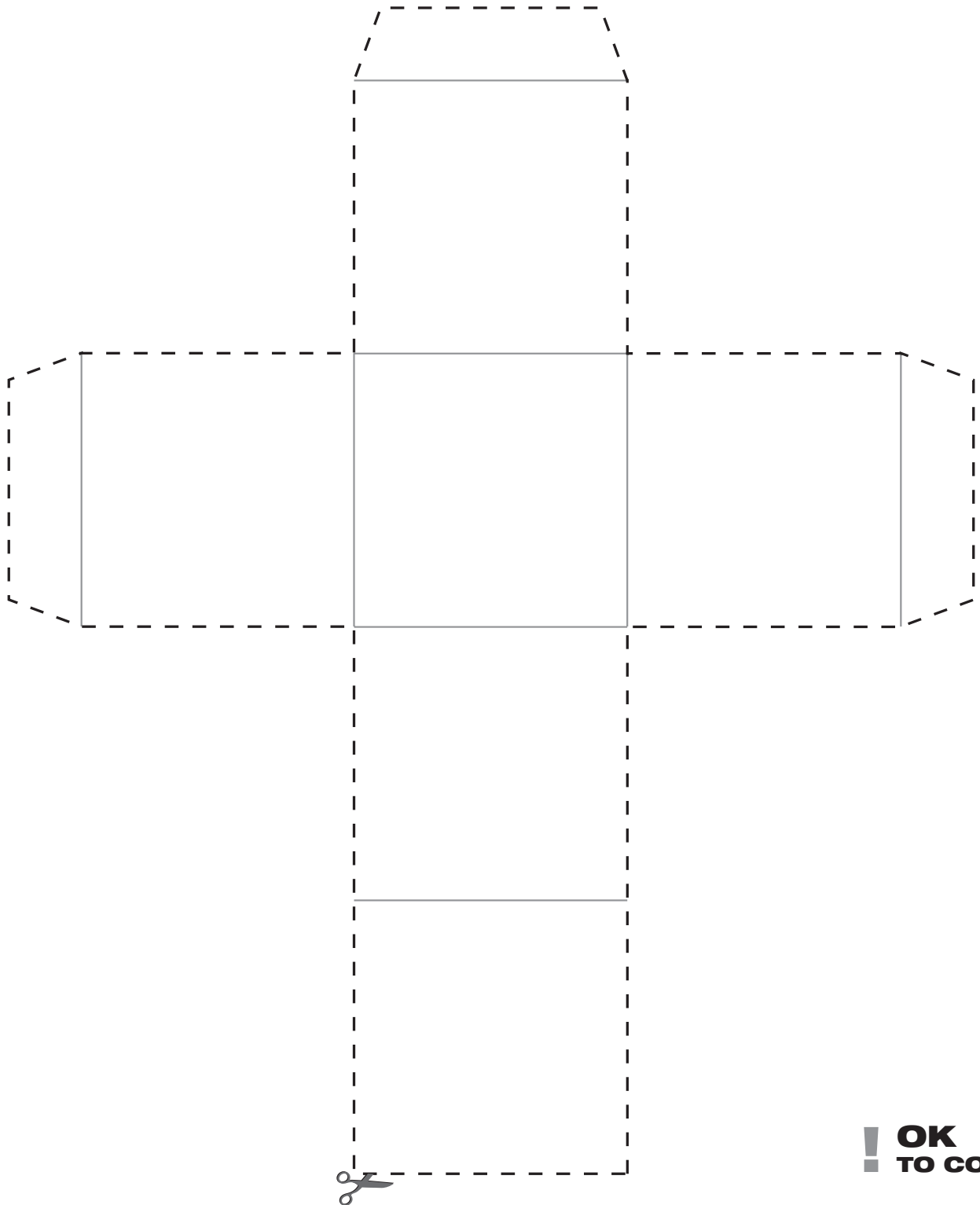
**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
And again I say rejoice!  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
And again I say rejoice!**

**And again I say rejoice!  
And again I say rejoice!**

**! OK  
■ TO COPY**



# Cube



**OK**  
**TO COPY**



