

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of September 24, 2017

Timeless Truth: God chooses unlikely and imperfect people to make His covenant, to fulfill His promises and to build our faith so that He gets the credit.

Bible Basis: Genesis 1-4, 6-9-9:17

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 2 – God Builds a Nation

Memory Verse: “I will give you all of the land you see....I will make your children like the dust of the earth. Can dust be counted?”

Genesis 13:15-16



TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

- Have you ever tried to do something that seemed really hard at first, maybe even impossible? What did you do? What made you decide to try to do it?
- What are some things that Abraham did that seemed really hard? (move to an unknown land, trust God that he and his wife would have a son in their old age) Why do you think he did those things?
- Why do you think God chose to “build a nation” using a married couple who were not only childless at the time, but were well past the age of being able to have children?
- Even after God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would become parents, they had to wait a REALLY long time before Sarah actually became pregnant. Have you had to wait a REALLY long time for something? Why is it sometimes so hard to wait?
- How do we know we can trust God? Is it sometimes hard to trust God? Why or why not?
- How does this part of God’s Big Story help us understand more about who God is and what He is like?

EXTRA MILE

Set up an obstacle course in your living room or outside. You can use pillow, containers, furniture, stuffed animals, etc. Have one person stand on one side of the obstacle course wearing a blindfold. Have another person stand on the other side of the course and call out verbal directions to guide their partner. Only verbal directions, such as “Two small steps forward,” “One step left,” or “Lift your foot really high and take a big step” are allowed. Take turns being blindfolded and giving directions, and always rearrange the obstacle course once a person has made it through.

- What was the hardest part about being blindfolded?
- Do you think Abraham may have felt the same way when God called him to go to Canaan?
- Is it harder to obey when you can see the destination or when you are walking blind?
- Read Hebrews 11:1 and discuss how playing this game can help us understand the meaning of faith.

PRAYER TIME

Dear God, You are amazing! Thank you for loving us. Thank you for desiring to be in relationship with us. Help us to trust you in everything we do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: Following God, pg 13 - top of pg 15 (blue-pg 23-24) (2 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: Genesis 12-13

Summary: Abram follows God and obeys Him even when he doesn't understand.

Do together: Plan a special treat for your family without telling anyone. It could be a favorite dessert or new coloring books. Give them a complicated set of directions to find this special item.

Think about: Discuss God's command to Abram to leave his home and go to a strange land. Ask the children how difficult it would be for them to leave the familiar and go somewhere strange. Examples are: leaving the familiarity of their own room to stay in a hotel while on vacation; leaving the familiarity of one school for a new school.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for the way you guide us every day – at home, at work, and at school. Help us to be a good example of faith and obedience. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 2

Reading: Faith and Trust, 2nd paragraph of pg 15 – break bottom of pg 15 (blue- pg 25-1st break on 26) (1 min)

This reading covers: Genesis 12-14

Summary: Abram demonstrates faith by trusting God.

Do together: God promised Abram that he would have as many descendants as the stars in the sky. Take your family outside and imagine what Abram would have felt. Try to count the number of stars that you can see. What would Abram have been thinking about God's promise?

Think about: Talk about the word "faith." What is its meaning and how it can be applied to daily life? Share a personal story of how faith has worked in your life. Then ask each child to share a personal story of faith.

Prayer: Lord, I believe in You and your promises. Please help me when I find it hard to believe. Help me to truly trust you each day for all my needs. Then, let me reap the benefits of that trust. I love you Jesus. Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: Promises – Bottom of pg 15 - end of chapter (blue- pg 26-end of chapter) (3 mins)

This reading covers: Genesis 21

Summary: God shows He keeps His promises.

Do together: Make a list of positive attributes of each family member. Let the children contribute their ideas to the list.

Think about: Talk about the babies in Abraham's line (Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob and Esau). Talk about wanting your own baby and how special your child's birth or adoption was to you. Let your child share a favorite moment from his/her early years. Abraham and Sarah enjoyed their baby Isaac. He came as a result of God's promise.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to appreciate our family more than we have in the past. Let us see the positives in each family member and overlook the negatives. Show us how to forgive each other as you have forgiven us. Give us each the goal of spreading your love to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.