

The Birth of Isaac

Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe the promise that God made to Abraham.
- The students will explain two ways in which Abraham kept faith in God's promise.
- The students will tell how they should respond to God's promises.

Lesson Text

Genesis 12-21

Scripture Memory Verse

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...

Ephesians 3:20

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: My Time Line

Welcome and Singing

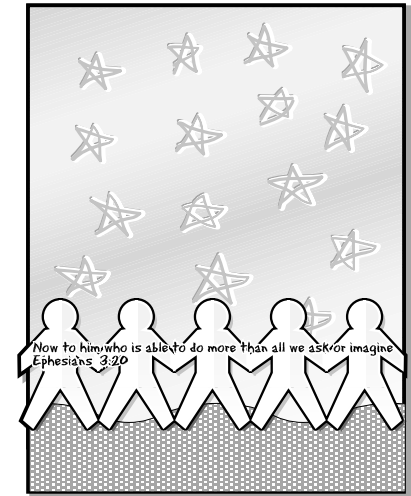
Centers:

Bible Story: In His Steps

Craft: Sand and Stars

Scripture Memory: Sand Writing

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



The Birth of Isaac

My Time Line

This activity is designed to help the students better understand the concept of twenty-five years.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- crayons or colored pencils

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Make a time line of your own life events from birth to age twenty-five using the model provided on your copy of Page A.

Instructions

1. Distribute copies of Page A and pencils to the students as they arrive.
2. Explain that they are going to imagine some of the things that may happen in their lives over the next ten to fifteen years.
3. Provide your time line as an example to show the students.
4. Circulate among the students to offer assistance.
5. The students may color or decorate their time lines when they have finished. Be sure they write their names on their time lines.

Teacher Tips

- If you have a large class, you may want to write your time line on a large writing surface so that all the students can see it.

My Time Line

Today I am _____ years old.

I was born on _____

**I
D
E
A
S**

- How old do you think you will be when you graduate from high school?
- How old do you think you will be when you become a Christian?
- If you choose to go to college, how old do you think you will be when you graduate?
- How old do you think you will be when you get a job?
- How old do you think you will be when you get married?

The Birth of Isaac

In His Steps

The students will hear the remarkable story of how God kept his promise to give Abraham a son as they retrace the twenty-five years leading up to Isaac's birth.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 5 index cards, 3" x 5"
- 1 black felt-tip marker
- 1 glue stick
- 5 pieces of black construction paper, 5" x 7"
- 1 very large pair of men's shoes
- patriarch costume: 2 plain or striped bed sheets, 1 brown blanket or afghan, 6' of rope for a belt, 2 large square-shaped scarves

Preparation

1. On each of the five index cards write one of the following numbers: 75, 85, 86, 99, 100. Center each card on a piece of black construction paper and attach them with the glue stick.
2. Practice telling the story prior to class.
3. Prepare the costume as follows:
 - A. Wrap one sheet around your body.
 - B. Place the other sheet over one shoulder.
 - C. Cover your head with one scarf.
 - D. Twist the second scarf lengthwise and place it across your forehead, tying it in the back.
 - E. Place the blanket over your shoulders.

Introducing the Bible Story

Seat the students in a circle. Tell them how excited you are about today's Bible Story. Explain that you are wearing a costume that may be typical of the way people dressed in the time when Abraham lived. Remind the students that Abraham was chosen by God to receive many great blessings. Today they are going to hear about one of Abraham's most exciting blessings, one that he had to wait twenty-five years to receive!

In His Steps

Present the Bible Story, saying: *Today we are going to take a very special journey as I tell you the story of Abraham. I brought this*

very large pair of shoes so that each of you can take a turn pretending to walk in Abraham's steps. Listen carefully to the story and then you will walk in Abraham's footsteps. Open your Bible to Genesis. Today we are going to begin our journey in Genesis 12.

Hold up the card marked "75," saying: *Abram was seventy-five years old when God told him to leave his country, his people and his father's household and go to a new land. God told Abram that he would become a great nation. That means that Abram would have many descendants or children. Abram did not have any children, but he believed God and looked forward to God's blessing. At the age of seventy-five, Abram received the promise from God. Give the card to a student and tell him to remember what happened when Abram was seventy-five.*

Turn to Genesis 16 and hold up the card marked "85." *Now our journey takes us to Genesis 16. After ten years, Abram and Sarai still did not have a child. Sarai told Abram that he should take another wife who could perhaps give him a child. She thought that God could not give her a baby because she was too old. In those days, some people had more than one wife and so Abram agreed. Sarai had a servant named Hagar. At the age of eighty-five, Abram took Hagar to be his wife. Give the card to a student and tell her to remember what happened when Abram was eighty-five.*

Hold up the card marked "86." *The next year, when Abram was eighty-six years old, Hagar had a baby! They named him Ishmael. Sarai was not very happy that Hagar could have a baby since she could not. She was not kind to Hagar, which made Hagar sad. At the age of eighty-six, Abram became the father of Ishmael. Give the card to a student and tell him to remember what happened when Abram was eighty-six.*

Turn to Genesis 17 and hold up the card marked "99." *Now our journey takes us to Genesis 17. After thirteen years, when Abram was ninety-nine years old, God spoke to Abram again. He told Abram once more about the blessing he would receive. God told Abram that he would be the father of many nations. He told Abram that Sarai was going to have a baby! God changed Abram's name to Abraham—which means "father of many nations." God told Abraham to look up to heaven and count the stars because he would have that many*

The Birth of Isaac

children. God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. Later on, when Sarah heard that God said she would have a baby, she laughed. Sarah did not think that she could have a baby at her age. At the age of ninety-nine, Abraham believed that he and Sarah would have a baby. Give the card to a student and tell him to remember what happened when Abraham was ninety-nine.

Turn to Genesis 21 and hold up the card marked "100." *We will end our journey today in Genesis 21. The next year Abraham turned one hundred years old and it happened! Sarah had a baby! She was ninety years old. It was incredible. They named the baby, Isaac—which means "he laughs." At the age of one hundred, Abraham became the father of Isaac! Abraham waited twenty-five years for God to give him and Sarah their very own son.* Give the card to a student and tell him to remember what happened when Abraham was one hundred.

Reviewing His Steps

Take the large shoes and give them to the student holding "75." Ask the student to put on the shoes, stand up and tell the group what happened to Abraham when he was seventy-five. Have the student walk—with the shoes on—to the student holding "85." That student will put the shoes on and tell the group what happened to Abraham when he was eighty-five. Continue until all five students have walked in the shoes. Then give the five cards to other students who have not yet had a chance. Repeat the review until all the students have participated.

- Ask the students to describe the promise that God made to Abraham. (God promised to bless him with many children, to make him into a great nation, and to bless other people through him.)
- Ask the students to explain ways in which God encouraged Abraham to stay faithful. (God told him to look up at the stars to see how many descendants he would have, changed his name to mean "father of many nations," and reminded him again of the promise after many years.)

Sharing with Others

One way we can be like Abraham is to have great faith in God's promises. God promises that he will help us if we share our faith with others. Can you think of someone you know who has been waiting for something for a long time? Maybe a new bike or a new

baby sister? Let's tell our friends this week about Abraham and the way God blessed his patience and faith.

Close with a prayer.

Teacher Tips

- Make sure that the shoes are big enough for the students to slip on and off easily without having to remove their shoes.
NOTE: If students must remove their shoes, they should not remove their socks for sanitary reasons.



C

R

A

F

T

The Birth of Isaac

Sand and Stars

The students will create pictures that will remind them of God's promise to Abraham.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 piece of poster board, approximately 8" x 11"
- 1 piece of sandpaper, 2" x 8"
- 1 piece of aluminum foil, 11" x 11"
- 1 glue stick
- pencil

For the teacher:

- strips of white construction paper, 3" x 8" (1 for each student's paper doll)
- scissors
- pencil
- newspaper to cover the students' workspace

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Make a paper-doll chain for each student:
 - A. Using the stencil provided on your copy of Page B, fold the strip of white paper seven times in an accordion style.
 - B. Cut along the lines provided on the stencil.
 - C. Open the paper-doll chain and write the memory verse across the chain.
2. Cut the aluminum for each student.
3. Cut the sandpaper into strips as shown in Figure B.
4. Make a model of the craft to show the students.

Instructions

NOTE: Be sure to cover the workspace with newspaper.

1. Show the students your model and tell them that this picture reminds you of God's promise to Abraham. God told Abraham that he would bless him with so many descendants—which means children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren—that it would be like the sand on the shore or the stars in the sky, which are too many to count. That was more than Abraham could imagine because at that time he did not have any children!

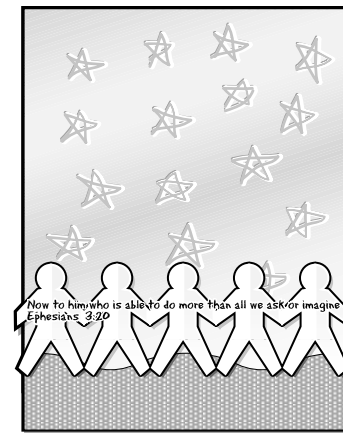
2. Hand out the poster board, the sandpaper strips, the aluminum foil and the glue sticks to the students. Have the students write their names on the backs of the pieces of poster board.
3. Have the students lay their foil down on their pieces of poster board as shown in Figure A. Have them fold the edges over and glue them in place.
4. Have the students each glue their sandpaper strips on the bottom as shown in Figure B.
5. Have the students make stars on the foil by using a pencil to "engrave" them as shown in Figure C.
6. Distribute the paper-doll chains to the students to glue over their pictures as shown in Figure D.

Conclusion

Go around in a circle and ask each student: *What was the promise that God made to Abraham? Why do you think that promise made Abraham happy?* Close with a prayer thanking God for his great promises.

Teacher Tips

- You may substitute cardboard for poster board. Contact a local dry cleaner or men's store to see if they will donate cardboard from shirt packaging.



The Birth of Isaac

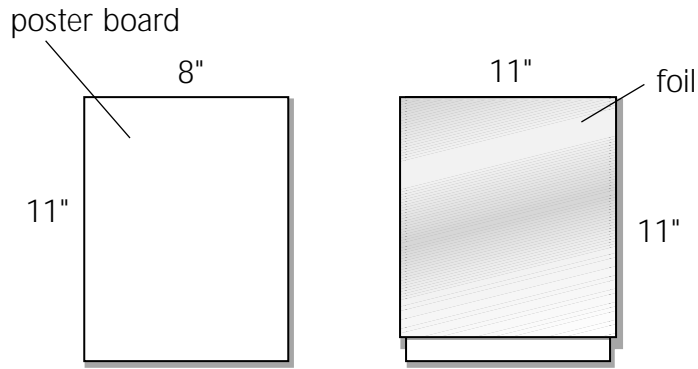


Figure A

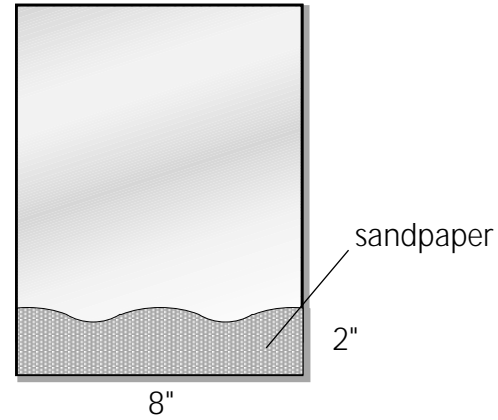


Figure B

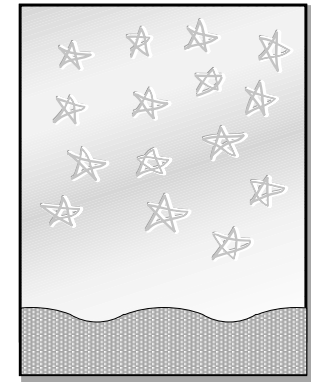
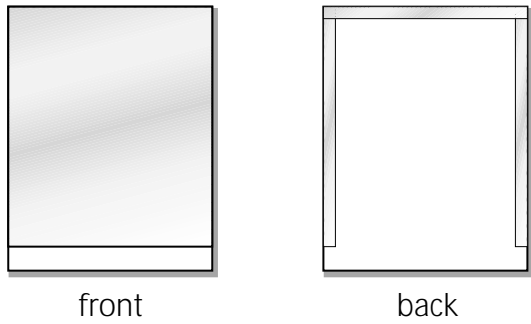


Figure C



front

back

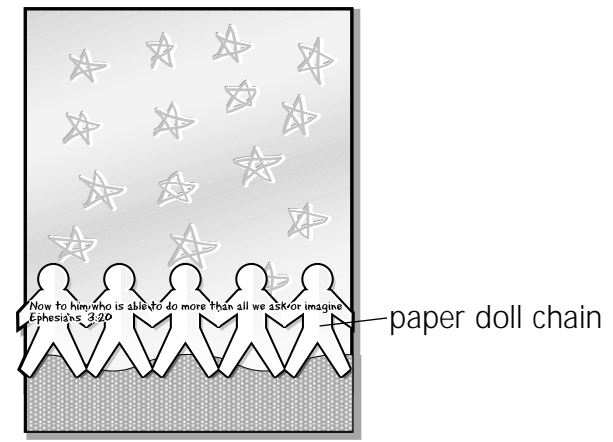


Figure D

The Birth of Isaac

Sand Writing

The students will simulate the experience of writing in the sand as they learn the memory verse.

Scripture Memory Verse

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...

Ephesians 3:20

Materials

For each student:

- 1 gift-box top, at least 9" x 11" x 1½"
- ⅛ cup salt
- glue
- crayons or colored pencils
- 1 small paper cup

For the teacher:

- newspaper to cover the students' workspace

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. Measure ⅛ cup of salt for each student into the small paper cups.
2. Prepare one sample of the activity to show to the students.

Instructions

1. Introduce the memory verse by reading it aloud. Explain that "immeasurably" means more than you can measure. That's a lot! Tell the students that God did something for Abraham that was more than Abraham could ask or imagine, and God is still blessing people today because of Abraham's faith!
2. Distribute the gift-box lids and copies of Page C to the students. Have the students each place their copies of Page C inside their box lids, facing up. Read the verse slowly as they "write" over the letters with their fingers.
3. Distribute the salt to the students. Have them sprinkle the salt on the page and shake it to cover the page. Have them write over the letters again with their fingers, this time as if writing in the sand. Say the verse slowly with them as they do this.

4. Have the students repeat Step Three two more times. Have them remove their page from the box, shaking off the salt, to color or decorate the verse.

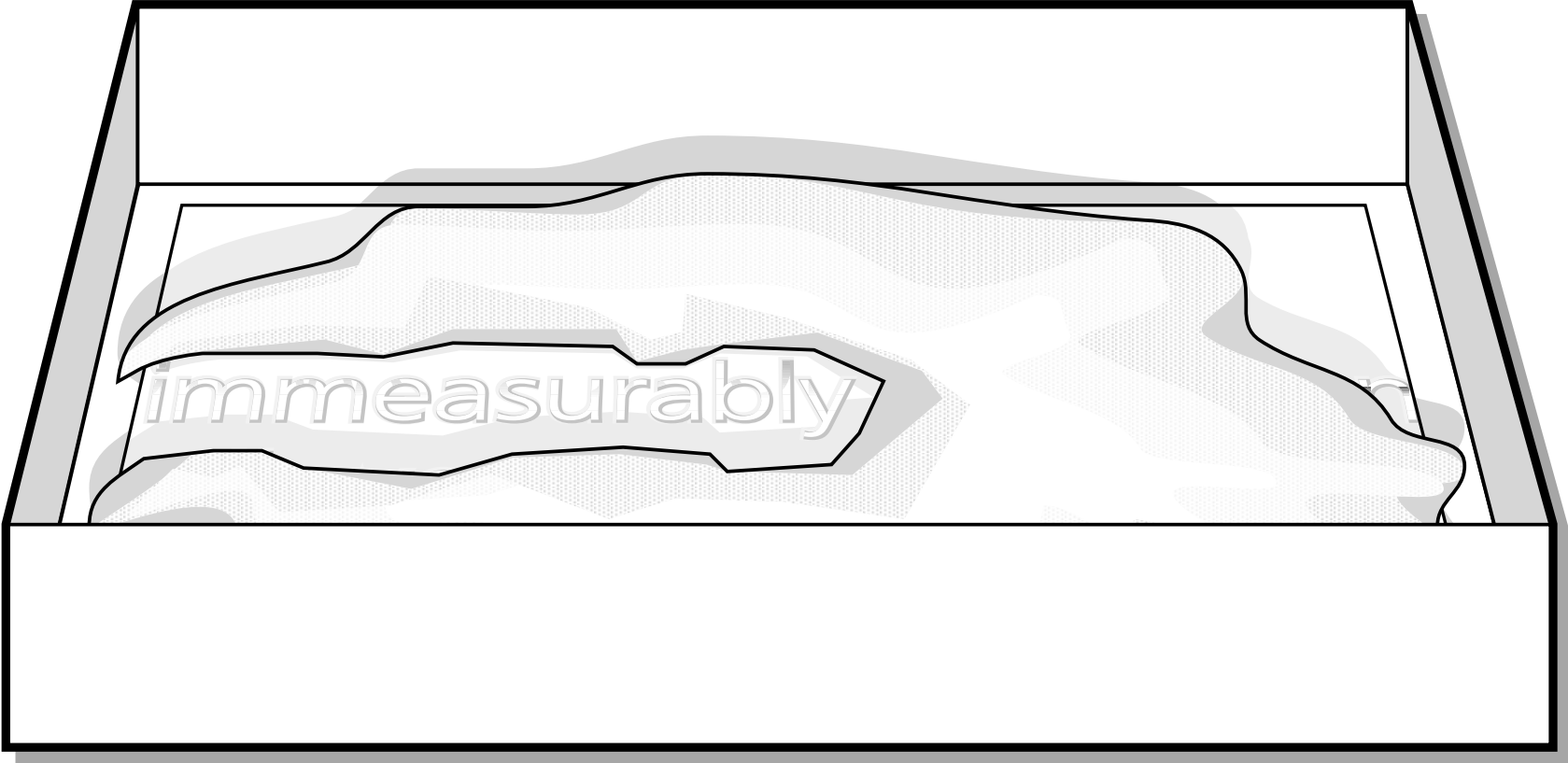
Conclusion

Say to the students: *Let's pretend that I am Abraham telling my children about the awesome promise that God made to me. Say the memory verse as you think that Abraham would have said it to his children, with enthusiasm and great conviction. Let the students take turns after you doing the same thing. Close with a prayer thanking God for all the good things he does.*

Teacher Tips

- This activity may get messy! Be sure to cover the students' workspace.

The Birth of Isaac



Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe the promise that God made to Abraham.
- The students will explain two ways in which Abraham kept faith in God's promise.
- The students will tell how they should respond to God's promises.

Lesson Text

Genesis 12-21

Scripture Memory Verse

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...
Ephesians 3:20

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Promises, Promises

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Possible Dreams

Game: The Waiting Game

Bible Skills: Abraham's Timeline

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Promises, Promises

Fill in the blank with the correct word on the right.

How old was Abraham when God told him to leave his country? _____	Isaac
God told Abraham to look up at the heavens and count the _____	laughed
Abraham took another wife named _____	many nations
Hagar had a baby for Abraham named _____	Sarah
Sarah _____ when God said that she would have a baby.	seventy-five
God changed Abram's name to Abraham which means "father of _____"	stars
God changed Sarah's name to _____	Hagar
Abraham and Sarah named their son _____	Ishmael
Abraham was _____ years old when Isaac was born.	one hundred
Sarah was _____ years old when Isaac was born.	ninety

What would you do?

What would you do if God came to you and made the same promises that he made to Abraham? Think about it and write your answers in the spaces:

- What would you do if God told you to move to a new country?
I would _____
- What would you do if God told you that you would have so many children that you would not be able to count them all?
I would _____
- What would you do if God changed your name?
I would _____
- What would you do if God said that one of your children would be a great king?
I would _____

PRECLASS

Promises, Promises

The students will review the promises God made to Abraham as they think about how they would have responded to those same promises.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- Bible

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete the activity yourself prior to class.

Instructions

1. Distribute copies of Page D and pencils to the students as they arrive. Encourage them to work in pairs.
2. Circulate among the students to offer assistance and to discuss the different promises on the worksheet.
3. Be sure that their names are on their sheets.

Teacher Tips

- Pair the students who did not hear this week's Bible Story with those who did.



3rd and 4th Grades

Possible Dreams

The students will imagine dreams for their lives that will only be possible with God.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil or pen
- scissors

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- 1 large sheet of black poster board
- 1 glue stick or invisible tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each student—photocopied on bright yellow paper

Preparation

1. On the top of the writing surface, write: Possible Dreams with God.
2. Complete one of the stars from your copy of Page E as an example for the students.

Introducing Possible Dreams

Review this week's Bible Story, saying: *This week we learned about the amazing way that God kept his promise to Abraham. Who remembers what happened to Abraham and Sarah? (They had a baby.) God gave them a baby when they were very, very old! That is really incredible. In fact, most people would say that it is impossible. The Bible tells us that nothing is impossible for God. Abraham waited very patiently for God to keep his promise. Does anyone remember how long Abraham had to wait for a son? (twenty-five years.) Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born. He waited twenty-five years. The Bible says that Abraham believed God even though things looked impossible. He had great faith. Today, you are going to be like Abraham. You are going to think of dreams for your lives that will only be possible with God. We are going to write them down and then pray about them. You must decide that you are going to wait patiently for God to show you his plan.*

Making Life Applications

Ask the students to tell you some of their dreams for their lives. Offer ideas such as becoming disciples, having family members become disciples, becoming missionaries, helping many people become Christians, having awesome Christian families, becoming doctors or nurses, etc. Keep the focus on spiritual dreams. As students share their ideas, write down their names and their dreams where the group can see them. When all the students have shared, distribute the Possible Dream Stars from copies of Page E. Have the students write their names and their dreams in the spaces provided. They may copy from the list you made. Have them cut out their stars when they are finished.

Conclusion

Have the students sit in a circle, each with their stars in front of them. Lead them in a prayer in which each student prays for the person to his right. Begin the prayer for them, saying for example: *Thank you God, for Marcel! I pray that you will help him reach his dream to be a doctor. Help him be patient like Abraham. In Jesus' name, Amen.* Go around the circle until each student has prayed a short prayer. After the prayer, glue each star onto the large piece of black poster board. Allow room for all of the stars. Display the poster where students can see it throughout the class.

Teacher Tips

- Find a place where you can display the star poster for students and parents to see throughout the remaining weeks of Unit 2. Encourage the students to visit it each time they come to class.



The Waiting Game

The students will think about the ways in which Abraham stayed faithful to God while he was waiting for the fulfillment of God's promise.

Materials

For the teacher:

- game board on the reverse side of this card
- 2 sets of 24 small game pieces, i.e. pennies, dimes
- pen or pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Prepare two sets of small tokens, one for each team. For example, one team may have pennies and the other team may have dimes. Tokens must be small enough to fit in the spaces provided on the game board.
2. Familiarize yourself with the Game Questions provided on your copy of Page F.
3. Practice playing the game prior to class.

Instructions

1. Divide the students into two teams and let them choose team names. Assign each team a set of tokens and place the tokens on either side of the hourglass.
2. Choose the team that will go first. Have the team place one token on one of the star spaces at the top of the hourglass. The numbers on the stars refer to the point values and difficulty of the questions. Read a question of the same value from the Game Questions on your copy of Page F. The students have one minute to answer the question.

NOTE: Questions indicate whether or not the students may use the Bible to find the answer.



3. If the playing team answers incorrectly, the opposing team has ten seconds to give an answer. If neither team answers correctly, you read the answer and discard the question.
4. If a team answers correctly, it may place another token on the bottom of the hourglass, on a space of equal value. For example, if Team One answers a ten-point question correctly, it may place another token on a ten-point space on the bottom of the hourglass. Do not remove the first token from the star space.
5. Play continues until all of the questions have been asked. The teams total the value of their correct answers by adding the values covered by their tokens on the bottom of the hourglass. The team with the most points wins.

Conclusion

Remind the students that although Abraham had to wait a long time for God to fulfill his promise, Abraham never stopped believing. Close with a prayer for the students to wait patiently for God to fulfill his promises.

Teacher Tips

- Be sure to mix the students who did not hear the Bible Story with those who did.

Team One
Place Tokens Here

Team Two
Place Tokens Here

Team One tokens: 5, 10, 15 (stars)

Team Two tokens: 5, 10, 15 (circles)



Abraham's Time Line

The students will sequence the events of Abraham's life, from age seventy-five to age one hundred, while he was waiting for God to fulfill his promise.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- Bible
- crayons, colored pencils or markers
- star stickers

For the teacher:

- 1 roll of craft or banner paper, approximately 16' to 20' long
- 1 black marker
- scissors
- masking tape

Preparation

1. Cut a piece of banner paper for each group. Make each piece 4' in length.
2. Prepare a timeline on each piece following the example provided on the back of this card.

Instructions

1. Tape each time line to a long table or onto the floor.
2. Introduce the activity by telling the students that they are going to map out the events of Abraham's life from the ages of seventy-five to one hundred.
3. Show the students the time line that you have outlined for them. Tell them that they are going to fill in the spaces by looking up passages in the Bible.
4. Have the students work in pairs for the activity. Assign each pair of students one Bible passage to look up and write on the time line. Have each pair try to draw a picture of the events mentioned in their Bible passages.
5. When they have finished, have the students write their names by the places on the time line where they worked.

Conclusion

Ask each student to look at the time line and tell about one way in which God encouraged Abraham during the years that he was waiting for the promise. Have them each place a star by the event on the timeline. Close with a prayer thanking God for his encouragement.

NOTE: Tell the students that they will have a review quiz next week on the books of the Old Testament.

Teacher Tips

- Do not use masking tape on wallpaper or carpet.

B
I
B
L
E
S
K
I
L
L
S

Abraham's Time Line

Genesis 12:1-4 _____

Genesis 17:1-2 _____

Genesis 17:5 _____

Genesis 17:15-16 _____

75

85

86

99

100

Genesis 16:1 _____

Genesis 16:3 _____

Genesis 16:15 _____

Genesis 16:16 _____

Genesis 21:5 _____



3rd and 4th Grades

Core/Preclass
1 copy for each student

My Time Line

Patriarchs 1
Lesson 2

Today I am _____ years old.

I was born on _____

I
D
E
A
B
O
X

- How old do you think you will be when you graduate from high school?
- How old do you think you will be when you become a Christian?
- If you choose to go to college, how old do you think you will be when you graduate?
- How old do you think you will be when you get a job?
- How old do you think you will be when you get married?



3rd and 4th Grades

Reproduction

page

B

Core/Craft

1 copy for the teacher



Now to him
who is able to do
immeasurably more than
all we ask or imagine...

Ephesians 3:20

This page intentionally left blank



Supplement/Preclass

1 copy for each student

Promises, Promises

Fill in the blank with the correct word on the right:

How old was Abraham when God told him to leave his country? _____
 God told Abraham to look up at the heavens and count the _____
 Abraham took another wife named _____
 Hagar had a baby for Abraham named _____
 Sarah _____ when God said that she would have a baby.
 God changed Abram's name to Abraham which means "father of _____"
 God changed Sarai's name to _____
 Abraham and Sarah named their son _____
 Abraham was _____ years old when Isaac was born.
 Sarah was _____ years old when Isaac was born.

- Isaac
- laughed
- many nations
- Sarah
- seventy-five
- stars
- Hagar
- Ishmael
- one hundred
- ninety

What would you do?

What would you do if God came to you and made the same promises that he made to Abraham?
 Think about it and write your answers in the spaces:

- What would you do if God told you to move to a new country?
 I would _____
- What would you do if God told you that you would have so many children that you would not be able to count them all?
 I would _____
- What would you do if God changed your name?
 I would _____
- What would you do if God said that one of your children would be a great king?
 I would _____

Supplement/Life Application

1 copy for each student (on bright yellow paper)



Supplement/Game

1 copy for the teacher

The Waiting Game

NOTE: If a Bible reference is not given, the students may not use their Bibles to find the answer.

Five-point Questions

- How old was Abraham when God told him to leave his country and go to a new land? (seventy-five years old)
Reference: Genesis 12:4
- Fill in the blank: God told Abraham to look up at the heavens and count the _____. (stars)
Reference: Genesis 15:5
- True/False: God changed Sarai's name to Abraham. (False)
- True/False: When God told Abraham and Sarah that they would have a child in their old age, Sarah laughed. (True)
Reference: Genesis 18:12

Ten-point Questions

- True/False: Abraham's wife Sarah told Abraham to take another wife who could have a baby for him. (True)
- Fill in the blank: The name of Abraham's second wife was _____. (Hagar)
- Hagar had a son for Abraham. What was his name? _____. (Ishmael) Reference: Genesis 16:15
- When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God changed his name. What was the new name? (Abraham)
Reference: Genesis 17:5

Fifteen-point questions

- Fill in the blank: The name Abraham means "father of _____." (many nations) Reference: Genesis 17:5
- How old was Abraham when Ishmael was born? (eighty-six years old) Reference: Genesis 16:16
- What was the name of Abraham and Sarah's son? (Isaac) Reference: Genesis 21:3
- Abraham and Sarah finally had a baby when they were very old. How old were they? (Abraham was one hundred and Sarah was ninety.)

The Waiting Game Score Pad

Team One	Team Two



3rd and 4th Grades