

# The First Family

**Date: 03.08.26 | God Provided Isaac**  
**Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15 & 21:1-7**

## CENTRAL TRUTHS



### PRESCHOOL:

God can do anything, and He always keeps His promises.

### YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God promised Abraham and Sarah a son, and even when it seemed impossible, God kept His promise.

### OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

Nothing is too hard for the Lord—God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah by giving them a son when they were very old.

### STUDENTS:

God faithfully fulfilled His promise to Abraham and Sarah by giving them a son in their old age, showing that nothing is too hard for the Lord and that His word can be trusted, even when it seems impossible.

### ADULTS:

When the Lord declared that nothing is too hard for Him, He revealed His sovereign power and covenant faithfulness by fulfilling His promise to Abraham and Sarah. The birth of Isaac demonstrates that God accomplishes His purposes according to His timing and power, calling His people to trust His promises even when human circumstances make them seem impossible.

## MEMORY VERSE

*And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you, I will curse and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*  
*Genesis 12:2-3*



## DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

*Did God create us unable to keep his law? No, but because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen; we are all born in sin and guilt, corrupt in our nature and unable to keep God's law. - New City Catechism Question 14*

## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS



In the years following God's first promises in **Genesis 12**, Abraham and Sarah had many reasons to doubt. Time passed, and they only grew older. Decades went by, and they still had no son. Abraham knew that God's promises—to make him a great nation and to bless the world through his offspring—depended on having descendants. When Abraham questioned how this could be possible, God reassured him in a vision and reaffirmed His promise (**Genesis 15:1–6**). Abraham believed the Lord, and God counted that faith as righteousness.

At one point, however, Abraham and Sarah attempted to fulfill God's promise in their own way. Sarah convinced Abraham to have a child with her servant, Hagar (**Genesis 16**). The result was a son named Ishmael. Although Ishmael was Abraham's child, he was not the child God had promised. This moment revealed the tension between human impatience and divine faithfulness. Even so, God did not abandon Abraham or revoke His promises. Instead, He reaffirmed His covenant and changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning "father of many," and Sarai's name to Sarah, meaning "princess," signaling that they would indeed become parents of many nations (**Genesis 17**).

About one year before Isaac was born, God came to Abraham again—this time in a surprising and personal way. In **Genesis 18:1–15**, the Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre in the form of three visitors. Abraham welcomed them with hospitality, preparing food and resting with them under the tree. During this visit, the Lord restated His promise: Sarah would have a son within the year (**Genesis 18:10**).

Sarah, listening from inside the tent, laughed to herself. By this time, Abraham and Sarah were well beyond childbearing age, and Sarah

knew it. Her laughter was not joyful—it was skeptical. She wondered how such a thing could be possible. But the Lord responded with words that would echo throughout Scripture: “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (*Genesis 18:14*). God reminded Abraham and Sarah that His promises are not limited by human weakness, age, or impossibility.

This moment pointed back to an earlier, mysterious event in *Genesis 15*. There, God had made a covenant with Abraham in a dramatic vision. Abraham had been instructed to sacrifice animals and divide them in half. In the ancient world, covenant partners would walk together between the divided animals, symbolizing that they would suffer the same fate if they broke the covenant. But in Abraham’s vision, God alone passed between the pieces, appearing as a smoking firepot and a flaming torch (*Genesis 15*). By doing this, God bound Himself to both sides of the covenant. He committed not only to keep His promises, but also to bear the consequences if the covenant failed. God took full responsibility for bringing His promise to completion. God was binding himself to both the promises of *Genesis 12:2-3* and the obligation to bring the blessing to all the families on the earth.

Then, twenty-five years after God first called Abraham in *Genesis 12*, the impossible happened. “The Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as He had promised” (*Genesis 21:1*). Sarah conceived and gave birth to a son, Isaac, at the exact time God had promised (*Genesis 21:2*). Abraham was one hundred years old, and Sarah was ninety. God had done exactly what He said He would do.

Abraham named his son Isaac, which means “laughter.” But now the laughter was different. Sarah declared, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me” (*Genesis 21:6*). What once seemed impossible became a testimony to God’s faithfulness.

Isaac was the child through whom God would continue His promise. In the rest of Genesis, Isaac would have two sons, Jacob and Esau. Through Jacob, the promised family line would continue and grow into a nation—just as God had said. Although Abraham’s descendants would not receive the land immediately and would have to wait hundreds of years, even spending time in Egypt, God’s promise was secure. God was determined to bless His people in the land He would one day give them.

The final and greatest promise God made to Abraham was that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him (*Genesis 12:3*). As this promise unfolded, God revealed that He would be their God and they would be His people (*Genesis 17:7-8*). This promise echoed the blessing God had once given Adam and Eve—to live with His people in relationship and fellowship.

Ultimately, this promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the true offspring of Abraham through whom blessing comes to the entire world (*Galatians 3:16*). Just as Isaac's birth was humanly impossible, salvation through Christ is a work of God alone. The story of Isaac reminds us that God keeps His promises, that nothing is too hard for Him, and that His plan to restore relationships with His people will never fail.

## TELL THE STORY

*Genesis 18:1-15 & 21:1-7*



**Read directly from scripture, use the simple summary below, The Jesus Storybook Bible, or The Biggest Story Bible.**

- Jesus Story Book Bible - Son of Laughter (Genesis 12-21)
- The Biggest Story Bible - It's a Boy (Genesis 21-22)
- Hey-O! Stories of the Bible - God's Promises for Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 13:14-18; 15:1-6; 17:1-22; 18:1-15; 21:1-16)

After God made His promises to Abraham, many years passed. Abraham and Sarah grew very old, but they still had no child. Abraham wondered how God could keep His promise to bless the world through his family, but God reminded him to trust Him, and Abraham believed (*Genesis 15:1-6*).

At one point, Abraham and Sarah tried to make God's promise happen their own way. Sarah told Abraham to have a child with her servant, Hagar, and a son named Ishmael was born (Genesis 16). But this was not the child God had promised. Even when Abraham and Sarah made mistakes, God stayed faithful. He changed their names to Abraham ("father of many") and Sarah ("princess") to show that His promise would still come true (*Genesis 17*).

One day, the Lord came to Abraham as three visitors. Abraham welcomed them and served them food. The Lord said that Sarah

would have a son within a year. Sarah laughed because it seemed impossible. But the Lord asked, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (*Genesis 18:14*).

Soon after, God did exactly what He promised. Sarah became pregnant and had a son named Isaac, which means “laughter” (*Genesis 21:1–6*). This time, Sarah’s laughter was full of joy. Isaac was the child God promised, and through him God’s plan would continue.

God promised Abraham that through his family, all the families of the earth would be blessed (*Genesis 12:3*). This promise was fulfilled in Jesus, who came from Abraham’s family to save the world (*Galatians 3:16*). The story of Isaac reminds us that God always keeps His promises, and nothing is too hard for Him.

## REBUILD THE STORY



1. What problem caused Abraham and Sarah to wonder how God’s promise could come true? *Genesis 15:1–3*
2. How did Abraham respond when God reassured him of His promise? *Genesis 15:6*
3. What choice did Sarah and Abraham make when they tried to fulfill God’s promise their own way? *Genesis 16:1–4*
4. What was the name of the son born from this decision? *Genesis 16:15*
5. How did God show that His promise to Abraham and Sarah was still active and secure? *Genesis 17:5, 15–16*
6. How did the Lord appear to Abraham in *Genesis 18*, and how did Abraham respond? *Genesis 18:1–8*

7. What promise did God make to Abraham and Sarah during the visit by the tent? *Genesis 18:10*
8. How did Sarah react to God's promise, and what question did God ask her? *Genesis 18:12-14*
9. How and when did God fulfill His promise to Abraham and Sarah? *Genesis 21:1-2*
10. What did Abraham and Sarah name their son, and what did Sarah say about God's faithfulness? *Genesis 21:3, 6*
11. Where do you find it hardest to trust God when His promises feel delayed or uncertain in your own life?
12. In what ways are you tempted to "take matters into your own hands," like Abraham and Sarah did, instead of waiting on God?
13. How does God's question, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" challenge the limits you place on what God can do? What situations in your life feel impossible right now?
14. What does this story teach you about God's faithfulness when people act out of fear, impatience, or doubt?
15. How does seeing Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham shape the way you view God's long-term plan for your life and the world?

### **GOSPEL EMPHASIS**

Even though Abram and Sarai were very old and Sarai was barren, God chose them to begin a nation and to set apart a special people for His purposes. Their situation made it clear that God's plan did not depend on human strength, timing, or ability—only on His power



and faithfulness. When God promised a son, land, and blessing to the nations, He kept every word, even when it seemed impossible. This story points us to the heart of the gospel: God keeps His promises, and nothing is too hard for Him. Just as God brought life through Isaac when hope seemed lost, He brought salvation through Jesus—the promised offspring of Abraham—so that people from every nation could be forgiven, restored, and brought into a relationship with Him.

### **WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?**

Use your Attributes of God poster as a guide.

### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

God, thank You for always keeping Your promises to us. Please help us to trust You and put our faith in You, even when things don't make sense. Thank You for allowing us to be part of Your story of salvation.



### **THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING**

*Genesis 22-24*