

Music Leader Guide

Abraham and Sarah

Lower Elementary

Scripture Reference: Genesis 12:1–9; 18:1–15; 21:1–7
Workshop Focus: God makes us smile in many ways.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.
- Any diagrams and illustrations associated with activities in this lesson can be found in the PDF version of this guide.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Abraham and Sarah Storytelling

Spark Resources

- Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

- Hand drum for teacher
- Dry-erase board and marker
- Hand percussion instruments such as shakers (optional)

On a dry-erase board, write the verses from "Sarah's Laughing," as printed on the next page, so kids can follow along. If you decide to let kids use hand percussion, bring enough instruments to class so that everyone will have something to play. Place the instruments on a table in the classroom so students can see them when they arrive. Provide yourself with a djembe, bongo, or some other hand drum to lead the song.

As students gather, direct their attention to the table with hand percussion instruments.

Hello, class! Today we'll learn about Abraham and Sarah. Sarah was very old, and God made her laugh by promising her a baby. Do babies make you laugh? Why? Invite kids to share their responses. **If someone told your grandmother she was going**

to have a baby, how do you think she'd react? Why? Invite kids to share their responses.

Pass out Spark Story Bibles. Then invite them to turn to Abraham and Sarah's Visitors on pages 34–37. Before you read, pass out instruments (if used) and direct students' attention to the dry-erase board, and coach them through the lyrics to "Abraham and Sarah Laughing." You may sing this before or after the reading—your choice. **Now we are ready to sing a song about Abraham and Sarah to the tune of "Frere Jacques."** I'll go through it once to help you get the hang of it. The lyrics are on the dry-erase board.

**Sarah's laughing, Sarah's laughing.
Hee, hee, hee! Hee, hee, hee!
Sarah have a baby? She's an *o!!!!ddd* lady!
Wait and see . . . wait and see.**

**Sarah's laughing, Sarah's laughing.
Ho, ho, ho! Ho, ho, ho!
Can she have son? Sure, it can be done!
God said so . . . God said so.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Out-Silly Sarah!

Spark Resources

- None

Supplies

- Dry-erase board and marker
- Hand percussion instruments such as shakers (optional)

Set Up: On a dry-erase board, write the song ideas and suggestions as printed below, so kids can use them. If you decide to let kids use hand percussion, bring enough instruments to class so that everyone will have something to play. Place the instruments on a table in the classroom so students can see them.

Activity Instructions

Sarah likes to laugh, and laughter is God's gift to us to make others happy. So, what do you say we get silly right now? The object of this game is to make up a short song or poem that can make everyone in the class laugh. There are no rules, really! You can jump up and down, make faces, moo like a cow, whatever you think will work. The rest of you are encouraged to make lots of noise to support your zany classmates. If you need a good idea, I have some on the board here.

Call on students to share their songs or poems until everyone in the class has had a turn. These are some suggestions for topics or opening lines?

- My dog ate my homework, really! And not even my parents believe me . . .
- There's a duck in my lunchbox.
- My best friend is a bowling ball.
- I'm Pickleman, and I'm here to save the day.
- Ice cream for dinner? Wow, what a winner!
- When I grow up, I want to be a robot.
- I've always wanted to ride a hippo.
- Who put carrots between my toes? Who put raisins up my nose?
- I hid 100 Twinkies under my bed.
- There's a bug on the part of my back I can't scratch.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Spark Resources

- Family Pages

Supplies

- None

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up. **There are lots of things in the Bible that make people fear God—plagues, floods, thunder, fire. But God is incredibly loving, and loves to make us laugh, too. God also has other ways of making us smile besides humor—such as delivering on incredible promises.**

Prayer Time

Ask kids to gather in a circle. **Pray this prayer with me, repeating each line after me. That is, if you can!**

**Great and glorious and not-at-all-odd God of our forefathers:
 The sooner we fools make room for your humor to fuel us,
 the better to never forget rare Sarah and her so, so silly behavior. You cheered her
 with a chubby, cheeky child born before she knew it.
 You kept your incredible promise and purpose possible.
 Thank you for newness now and never let us forget it.
 You love it when we laugh and leap and look for your love.
 How nifty your newness refuses to lose us or set us loose,
 not like a noose but a goose golden with eggs to beg for surely this silliness slips
 away so sweetly when we say, Amen.**

Abraham and Sarah

Upper Elementary

Scripture Reference: Genesis 12:1–9; 18:1–15; 21:1–7

Workshop Focus: God loves when we welcome new people.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Abraham and Sarah Storytelling

Spark Resources

- Spark Bibles
- Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

- Pencils
- Paper

Pass out Spark Bibles. Ask the kids if they know where the book of Genesis is. Then invite them to turn to Genesis 12:1–9; 18:1–15; 21:1–7.

Pass out pencils and paper. **A big part of this Bible story involves how Abraham and Sarah welcome their strange visitors. God's promise to give them a child was fulfilled. As you hear the passages, write down a rhyming, two-line couplet that greets these visitors on behalf of Abraham and Sarah. When you are ready to sing it, stand and raise your hand. I'll call on you, and you may offer your warm welcome! Here's an example: "You traveled so far to be with us today. We'll feed you before you head off on your way."**

Go around the group, with each kid taking turns reading one verse, having kids randomly

stand and sing their welcoming couplets as they feel led. Invite kids to place an I Read It sticker in their Bibles. **In these passages, we see God, Abraham, and Sarah acting in harmony. God tells Abraham that he will be the father of a great nation; a faithful Abraham welcomes visitors to his new home; the visitors bring a wonderful message from God. And, of course, Sarah laughs to hear she will be a mom. But does Sarah ever dismiss God's promise? (No!) Why does she name her child Isaac? (because the name means "laughter")**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Lullaby or Laugh Track?

Spark Resources

- None

Supplies

- Dry-erase board and marker

Set Up: On a dry-erase board, write the song ideas and suggestions as printed below, so kids can use them.

Activity Instructions

Sarah may be old, wise, and full of experience. But when she has a baby, she's as much of a rookie as any new momma. So what do you say we help her out? I'd like each one of you to improvise a lullaby to sing to little Isaac. It can be serious or silly—your choice. Suggestions to help you get started are on the dry-erase board.

Call on students until everyone in the class has had a turn. Here are some suggestions for topics or opening lines?

- God made a promise, and here you are.
- Your name means laughter, so why won't you stop crying?
- Isaac, you-sac, we all-sac for Isaac!
- Go to sleep, little Isaac, cause Momma's dead tired.
- Please, baby Isaac, don't chew on my goatskin boots.
- Isaac don't be weepy, gotta go to sleepy.
- Isaac, Isaac, don't wet your diaper.
- Tiny tot Isaac, boy are you loud!
- Let's count the camels to sing you to sleep.
- We welcome you, Isaac, God's precious gift.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Spark Resources

- Family Pages

Supplies

- None

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up. **Because Abraham and Sarah had open hearts—and open doors—God could perform miracles in their lives. Let's remember that as we strive to help welcome guests in our own lives.**

Prayer Time

Ask kids to gather in a circle.

Let's do a repeating prayer today. Say each line after I do.

**Dear God,
Abraham and Sarah welcomed visitors.
And soon after, they welcomed a baby.
Help us reach out
to welcome those who need your love,
and to follow the example
of Abraham and Sarah.
We welcome you into our hearts.
Please welcome us into your promise
of love beyond all imagination.
In your name we pray.
Amen.**

Abraham and Sarah

All Kids

Scripture Reference: Genesis 12:1–9; 18:1–15; 21:1–7

Workshop Focus: God brings miracles through strangers, and with laughter.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Abraham and Sarah Storytelling

Spark Resources

- Spark Story Bibles
- Spark Bibles
- Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

- Hand percussion instruments
- Hand drum

Bring enough hand percussion instruments to class so that everyone will have something to play. Place the instruments on a table in the classroom so students can see them when they arrive. Provide yourself with a djembe, bongo, or some other hand drum to lead the instrument circle.

Pass out Spark Bibles and Spark Story Bibles. Invite upper elementary kids to turn to Genesis 12:1–9; 18:1–15; 21:1–7. Lower elementary kids can follow the action in their Spark Story Bibles, pages 34–37.

Invite kids to sit in a circle. **In these passages, God sends visitors to Abraham and Sarah with a special message. What do you think would happen to them if they**

ignored the visitors or sent them away? Invite kids to share their responses. **How does a great welcome change everything?** Invite kids to share their responses.

Before you read, pass out instruments. **Now we're going to pretend that we're greeting the three visitors at Abraham and Sarah's tent. Follow my drumbeat, and let's make some welcoming rhythm for them!** After playing for a few minutes, read the Spark Bible passages. Go around the group, with each kid taking turns reading one verse.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

We Welcome Your Talent

Spark Resources

- None

Supplies

- Bullhorn

Set Up: Make sure your bullhorn is working properly before class.

Activity Instructions

Abraham and Sarah extended a warm welcome to the three visitors, even though they didn't know them. We also know that laughter plays a big part in this story. So here's your chance to make up a welcome of your own, and make us laugh if you wish. Show us your talent. I'll cheer you on and emcee with this handy bullhorn here, and if you want to use the bullhorn, so much the better. Whether you want to be silly or sincere, we welcome your talent!

Give kids time to create their welcome. Call on kids to perform as individuals, or in small groups, if they prefer. Here are some ideas that you can share with them for showing their talents in an inviting way. Assure kids that it's okay to repeat if another performer gets to an idea first?

- Sing a favorite song you know.
- Perform a dance routine.
- Make up new words to a tune you already know.
- Recite a favorite poem.
- Recite a favorite Bible passage, and tell why you love it.
- Make up a completely new song for the class.

After each performance, have the class clap, cheer, and encourage each other. After the last performance, ask kids to respond to these questions: **How did it feel to hear and see these warm welcomes? How did you like providing a warm or funny welcome to others?**

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Spark Resources

- Family Pages

Supplies

- None

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up. **We can welcome visitors with a warm smile and joyous laughter. The Abraham and Sarah story reminds us that miracles come in many forms, and often with laughter. Sarah laughed because the news of a coming child seemed so incredible. But isn't that just like God? God is full of incredible promises.**

Prayer Time

Ask kids to gather in a circle. **We can welcome visitors with a warm smile and joyous laughter.**

Let's thank God. Repeat each line after me:

Gracious God,

Thank you for visitors with wonderful news.

Thank you for the laughter that comes with kept promises.

Thank you for the welcome others extend to us.

And thank you for showing us how to welcome others.

The miracles you bring

always surprise us and often delight us. Teach us to delight

in being your bearers of wonderful news and love that shines. In your name we pray.

Amen.