

# God Promises Sarah a Son

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-6

# 5

Lesson



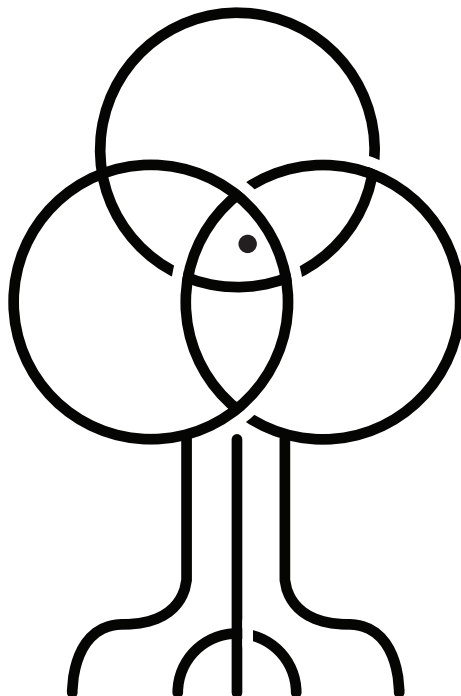
## Teacher Background

**What Happens:** God and two angels visit Abraham and Sarah. Sarah hears God promise she'll have a son within the next year. Sarah is very old, so she laughs at the idea that she could have a baby. But by the next year, she has a son. She names him Isaac, which means "laughter," because God brought her laughter. God brings us laughter, too.

**Why It Matters:** Kids love to laugh! They'll experience a lot of laughter throughout this lesson. Help them see that whenever they laugh, the joy they feel is a gift from God. Let laughter remind them of the joy God brings to our lives.

**Think About:** What's the last thing you laughed about? Thank God for that laughter.

**Pray** that God will bring joy and laughter to hard situations your kids might be facing.



### Point

God brings us laughter.



### Key Verse

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:1

### QUICK TIP

Here's a counterintuitive tip: It may seem friendly to ask kids where they were last week if they weren't in class. But it can be awkward and embarrassing depending on family situations. Simply share your joy when you see kids come to class. Say, "I'm so glad you're here, Aiden," or "I love it when you're here, Savannah!"

# This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER	SUPPLIES
<b>SET THE STAGE</b> Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.	
<b>EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE</b> Laugh different ways to show Sarah's emotions.	The different kinds of laughter God can bring us.	Bible Play dough
<b>PLAY A GAME</b> Have fun trying to keep a ball in the air.	How fun it is to laugh with friends.	Beach ball Upbeat music (optional)
<b>ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE</b> Find mistakes in a picture.	How God has a sense of humor.	<i>Activity Pages, 1/Kid</i> Crayons, Pencils
<b>PRAY TOGETHER</b> Pray with a friend about specific needs.	How friends can pray with us about happy or sad things.	



## CELEBRATE SMALL

With a smaller group of kids, you have the best opportunity to build relationships! As you check in with kids about their weeks and laugh together, you're helping kids feel seen and known.



## SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

**SAY:** Today we're going to learn that ➡ **God brings us laughter.** Let's start by making each other laugh.

**ASK:** What's the funniest joke you know? Share your own quick joke first, and then let everyone share! Here are some examples:

**Why don't crabs like to share with their friends? They're a little shellfish.**

**How do dolphins make a decision? They flipper coin!**

**Why did the builder fall asleep on the job? He was board.**

**SAY:** ➡ **God brings us laughter.** Let's see what kind of laughter and joy he brought to Sarah in the Bible.



## EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



### SUPPLIES

- Bible
- play dough

### MAKE A SCOFFING LAUGH

**SAY:** Today we're going to learn that ➡ **God brings us laughter.** Today's Bible story involves a lot of laughter!

You see, Abraham and Sarah were very, very old. They'd never had children, which made them sad. They needed God to bring them laughter.

One day, three visitors came to see them. Abraham and Sarah let the visitors rest in the shade while they washed their feet and made them food.

**Pretend to wash your feet.** Pause.

**Now pretend to wash your hands.** Pause.

**Good! We don't want our stinky foot smell on our hands as we make dinner. Now let's knead dough for a loaf of bread.** Pause.

Distribute play dough and let kids knead that and shape it into bread. Then collect it.

**SAY:** While the visitors ate, Sarah was inside the tent, listening. Cup your ear like you're eavesdropping. Pause.

**This is what Sarah heard.**



Read Genesis 18:10.

**SAY:** Have you ever heard something that sounded so impossible that you laughed? You didn't think it was *funny*, but it just seemed so silly that you laughed. Something like this.

Make a scoffing sound.

**SAY:** Laugh like that. Pause.

## MAKE A NERVOUS LAUGH


**SAY:** Unfortunately for Sarah, tents have thin walls. The visitors heard Sarah laugh, and they didn't think she should doubt God's promise.

 Read Genesis 18:13-15.

**SAY:** Have you ever laughed kind of nervously because you weren't sure what to say? Maybe that's the kind of laughter Sarah had when she got caught. Let's all do a nervous laugh.

Demonstrate, and have kids join you.

## MAKE A JOYFUL LAUGH

**SAY:** So far we've seen Sarah laugh in disbelief and with nervousness. But  **God brings us laughter.** Real, joyful laughter. So let's see how he did that for Sarah.

 Read Genesis 21:1-3.

**SAY:** Sarah was full of joy! Laugh your most joyful, happiest laugh.


Lead kids in laughter. It may start out feeling awkward, but kids will begin to laugh genuinely as the laughter progresses.

**ASK:** Tell about something that made you so happy that you laughed with delight. Have kids share with a partner. Then ask a few kids to share with everyone.

**SAY:** Let's see what Sarah said about how  **God brings us laughter.**

 Read Genesis 21:6-7.

**SAY:** We've seen how God brought laughter to Sarah. And you know who else laughs? Babies! Babies have the cutest little laughs. And the name Isaac means "he laughs"! Let's see if you can laugh like baby Isaac. Allow time.

Laughter is good for our hearts. Life doesn't always go the way we plan, but we can trust in God's plan. And  **God brings us laughter.**



### QUICK TIP

This experience is great for mixed-age groups because all kids love to laugh! Challenge your older kids to be role models for the younger ones—that will help them get past any awkwardness and feel like leaders.



## KEEP THE BALL IN THE AIR

- Gather kids together.
- Show kids the beach ball, and tell them the object of the game is to keep the ball in the air using only their hands and feet.
- Throw the ball into the group, and challenge kids to keep the ball in the air for one minute. Then stop the game and hold the ball.

**SAY:** Today we discovered that Sarah laughed because it seemed upside down that she could have a baby in her old age. Let's try this game again. This time, let's play it upside down and see how it changes what we think of the game.

- Have kids lie down in a circle with their heads toward the middle of the circle, close together.
- Explain to kids that they again need to keep the ball in the air using only their hands and feet, pretending they're babies who can't walk yet.
- Throw the ball into the circle and have kids begin playing.
- As kids play the game upside down, there will probably be laughter. Encourage the laughter while also reminding kids to keep the ball in the air.
- If you'd like, play music as kids play.

## TALK ABOUT IT

**ASK:** How did playing this game upside down change the game?

**ASK:** When did something unexpected make you laugh?

**SAY:** It seemed completely upside down and made no sense when God promised Sarah that she would have a baby in her old age. Sarah even laughed when she heard the news. But God brought real laughter and joy to Sarah when he gave her a son, just as he had promised. When we played the game upside down, it made us laugh. Sometimes ➔ **God unexpectedly brings us laughter**, even when our lives feel upside down.

## SUPPLIES

- beach ball
- upbeat music (optional)



## CELEBRATE SMALL

Games like this level the playing field for smaller, mixed-age groups. No one will be a star athlete in this unusual game!



## ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE (10 MINUTES)



### SUPPLIES

- God Promises Activity Page, 1/ Kid
- Pencils
- Crayons

Distribute activity pages and pencils.

**SAY:** ➡ **God brings us laughter.** At first, Sarah laughed because God's promise sounded silly. Let's see if you can spot all the silly things in this sketch. There are eight mistakes.

Have kids circle all the mistakes in the picture.

**ASK:** What's something silly you've seen or heard in real life?

**SAY:** Silly things make us laugh, and God's promise sounded silly to Sarah. But God kept his promise, and eventually Sarah was laughing with joy! God gave her a baby!

Answer key on page 164.

### QUICK TIP

For younger kids, provide the Coloring Page and crayons as an alternative.



## PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



**SAY:** It's true! ➡ **God brings us laughter.** It's so fun to laugh and joke with a friend. Let's do that now. Find a partner and try to make that person laugh.

Give about 30 seconds for kids to find and giggle with a partner.

But sometimes we don't feel like laughing with friends. Instead, we feel upset about something in our lives, like before Sarah had her baby. When that happens, it's good to tell a friend about what's on your mind. That friend may not be able to make it better, but together you can pray and trust God.

Let's pray with a friend right now! Take turns telling your partner about a need you have or a need someone you know has. Maybe you need help with math homework or help being brave when your grown-ups aren't around. Or perhaps someone you love is sick or hurt. First, tell your friend about that need.

Then your friend will pray for you. Together you'll close your eyes, and your friend will talk with God about your need. He or she might say something like "Dear God, please help my friend feel better." Don't worry about saying the right words—just talk to God like you'd talk with anyone else.

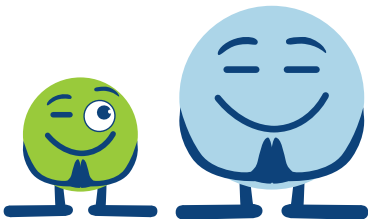
Ready? Decide who will share a need and who will pray, then let's pray.

Allow about one minute. Then tell kids it's time to switch. The child who prayed will now share a request and the other child will pray.

**SAY:** Faithful, praying friends remind us that God loves us. With a friend by our side, even in tough times, ➡ **God brings us laughter.**

### QUICK TIP

When forming pairs, it's a great idea to pair younger kids with older kids. Older kids can lead the activity and keep the little ones on track.



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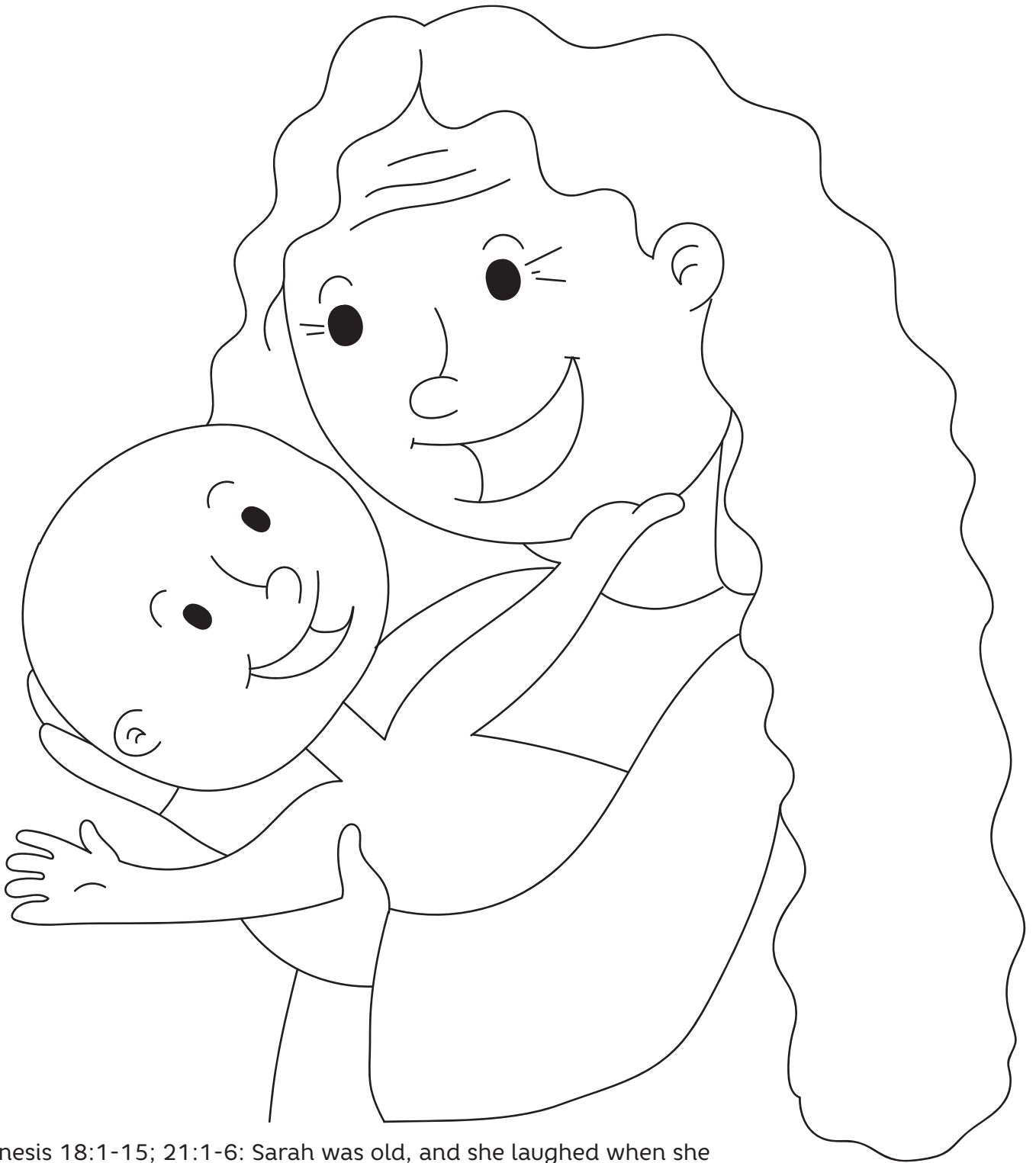
## Activity Page

How silly! There are eight things wrong with this picture. Can you find them all?



# God Promises Sarah a Son

## Coloring Page



Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-6: Sarah was old, and she laughed when she heard a promise that she would have a baby. Then she felt nervous when God asked why she laughed. *But God brings us laughter.* Soon, Sarah was laughing with real laughter of joy because she had a baby! And just imagine her joy when baby Isaac laughed for the first time.

Lesson 5:

